# Custer Gallatin Land Management Plan Revision Objection Template

**Objector’s name**:               Sabrina Commisso

**Address**:  78 Parkridge Dr. Pittsford NY 14534

**Phone # or email**:       sabrinasandcomm@gmail.com

**Name of lead objector (if more than one)**:             Sabrina Commisso

**Please specify whether this objection is to the Custer Gallatin Land Management Plan or the Regional Forester’s list of species of conservation concern (SCC) by checking the applicable box:**

**X Land Management Plan**

**X Regional Forester’s List of SCC**

**Statement of issues and/or parts of the plan revision to which the objection applies:**

I file my objections to Custer Gallatin Forest Supervisor Mary C. Erickson’s decision for failing to provide standards in the land management plan, and Northern Region Regional Forester Leanne M. Marten’s decision for failing to make legal designations securing habitat for viable American bison herds on our National Forests.

**Concise statement explaining the objection and suggestion how the proposed plan should be improved:**

Supervisor Erickson’s Final EIS does not refer to the best scientific information for maintaining a genetic diverse bison population.

* **The reasons for this objection are:**

Alternative F does not secure provisions for conserving habitat for genetically distinct and unique American bison subpopulations on our National Forests, including the Central bison herd which is jeopardized under state and federal management.

Alternative F does not remove Custer Gallatin permitted barriers in migration corridors – a damaging condition thwarting American bison’s connectivity to habitat despite the National Forest planning rule requirement for restoring connectivity.

The Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, and the Montana Natural Heritage Program identify American bison as a species of concern but the Federal government has ignored this science based designation.

*S.M. Adams & A.R. Dood, Background Information on Issues of Concern for Montana: Plains Bison Ecology, Management, and Conservation, page 32 (Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, Bozeman, MT June 2011)*.

* **Proposed Solution:**

The final alternative for the Custer Gallatin National Forest land management plan must include habitat standards for the American bison, as well as the designation as a species of conservation concern.

Bison are one of only a few native animals species that are so minutely “managed” by the local and federal governments. They are treated as though they were invasive in Wyoming and Montana but it is the westward settlers that put them in such a tenuous, contentious position. They are an iconic, keystone species. I marveled at their force and resilience when I first saw them at Yellowstone. They are not to be harassed and slaughtered in order to keep them within migration blind fragmented boundaries. Treat them with the dignity that we give the Bald Eagle, another keystone species. They are not cattle to be culled to appease livestockers fears. Bison don’t spread brucellosis, elk do.

*Transmission of Brucellosis from Elk to Cattle and Bison, Greater Yellowstone Area, USA, 2002–2012*

*Jack C. Rhyan, Pauline Nol, Christine Quance, Arnold Gertonson, John Belfrage, Lauren Harris, Kelly Straka, and Suelee Robbe-Austerman*

**Statement demonstrating the link between objection and prior formal comments:**

I was a signatory to the submitted report “American bison: species of conservation concern”. I also previously emailed Forest Supervisor Mary C. Erickson.

**Signature:                Sabrina Commisso X**

**Send written objections to:** USDA Forest Service, Objection Reviewing Officer, Northern Region, 26 Fort Missoula Road, Missoula, MT 59804.

Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding Federal holidays. Given current health and safety guidelines an appointment must be made in advance.

**Send objection online at: https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=50185** Electronic submissions must be submitted in a format that is readable with optical character recognition software (e.g., Word, PDF, Rich Text) and must be searchable. An automated response will confirm that your electronic objection has been received.

**Send faxed objections to:** (406) 329-3411.

The fax coversheet must include a subject line with “Custer Gallatin Land Management Plan Objection,” or “Custer Gallatin Species of Conservation Concern” and should specify the number of pages being submitted.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, Monday through Friday.