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Comments: It is not transparent how Regional Forester Marten's assessment and evaluation for listing American bison as a species of conservation concern considered all public comment, and the best available scientific information, and what her rationale is for not listing American bison.

Regional Forester Marten's consideration of all public comments received, review of the best available scientific information, and rationale is not transparent in the public record.

Regional Forester Marten's decision must conform to National Forest planning rules requiring consideration of all public comment, documenting "the use of the best available scientific information," and ensuring "the rationale for decisions is transparent to the public." 36 CFR § 219.3, National Forest System Land Management Planning final rule and record of decision, 77 Fed. Reg. 21162, 21192 (Apr. 9, 2012).

Regional Forester Marten's decision must be reversed, and her assessment and evaluation of the best available scientific information for listing American bison as a species of conservation concern publicly disclosed.

* Regional Forester Marten's evaluation of the best available scientific information and rationale for not listing American bison as a species of conservation concern is missing from the Forest Service's decision and analysis documents.

Only the generic criteria and process are disclosed; the assessment and evaluation for American bison is not.

Regional Forester, Animal Species of Conservation Concern Identification Process for the Custer Gallatin National Forest's Revised Forest Plan (Final Environmental Impact Statement) (April 2020); Regional Forester, Rationale (species evaluations) used to select animal and plant species as SCC for CGNF final plan and final environmental impact statement (undated).

It is not transparent how Regional Forester Marten addressed the best available scientific information including the signatories' report, American bison a species of conservation concern, submitted March 5, 2018 by , and Buffalo Field Campaign.

The Northern Cheyenne Tribe (May 28, 2019) and the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council (May 31, 2019) also requested American bison be listed as a species of conservation concern.

The public comment record demonstrates a broad section of Tribes, groups, businesses, and individuals from around the country requested and submitted evidence in support of listing American bison as a species of conservation concern. Public comments on the Custer Gallatin National Forest plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (June 2019) 637MB zip file online: <https://www.buffalofieldcampaign.org/species-of-conservation-concern>.

The responsible official's assessment, evaluation, and rationale for not listing American bison as a species of conservation concern must be transparent, and the final decision must conform to the National Forest planning rule.