



Oct. 6, 2026

Public Scoping for Gallatin Wildlife Management Area Management Plan and Human Use EA

Introduction: Montana's Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) are lands owned and managed by FWP to benefit a diversity of wildlife species on behalf of the public and provide compatible public access for fish and wildlife related recreation. FWP is developing a management plan for the Gallatin Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in the Big Sky area. The Gallatin WMA includes 8,611 acres of land purchased with hunter license, Pittman-Robertson, and Habitat Montana funds for the purpose of conserving elk winter range and wildlife habitat protection.

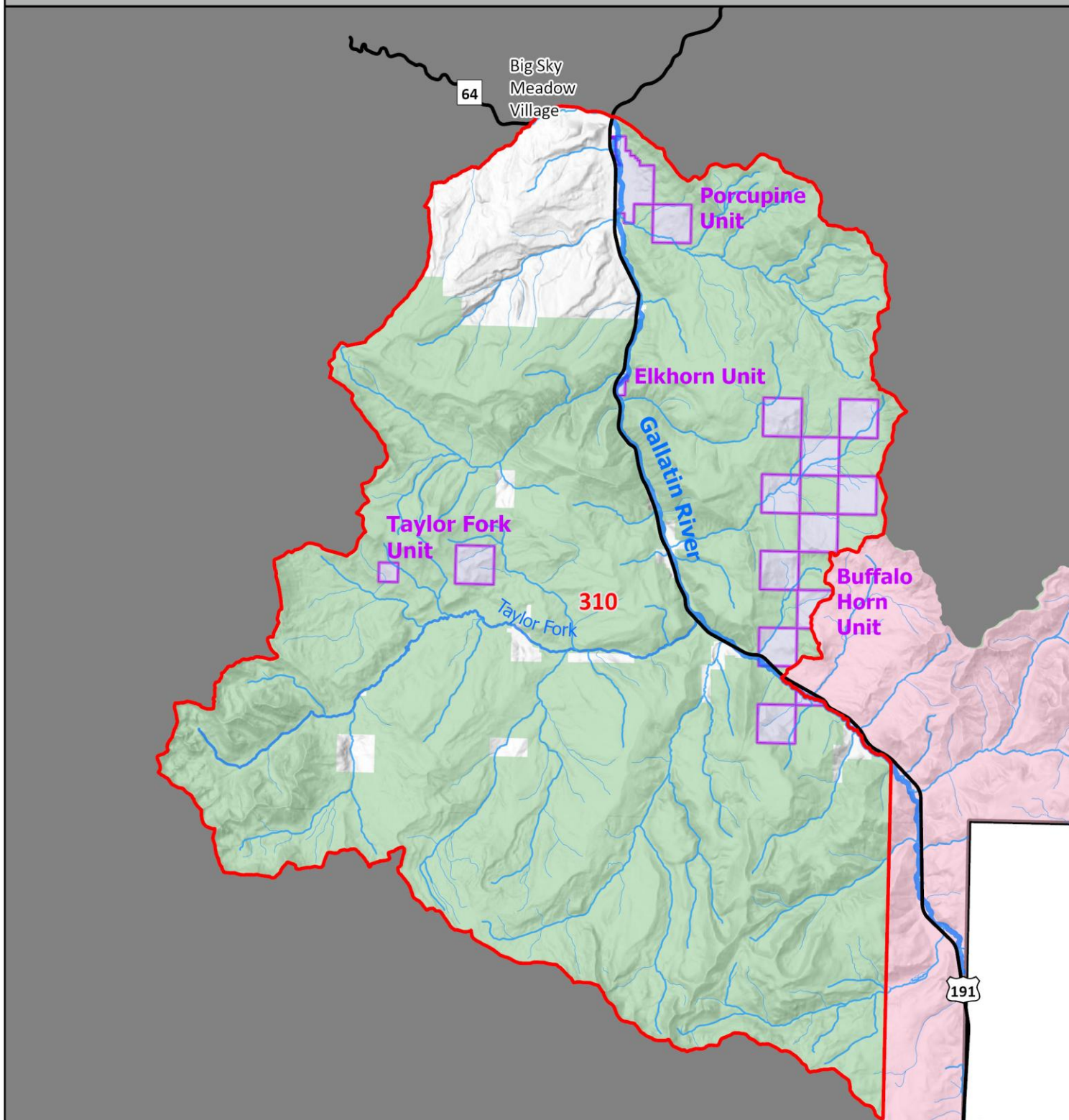
The WMA management plan will identify three major management priorities: 1) habitat management, 2) infrastructure management, and 3) human use management. Habitat management goals include maintaining seasonal closures for wildlife protection, completing wildlife habitat improvement projects including forestry to encourage aspen regrowth and managing weeds. Infrastructure management goals include maintaining roads, parking areas, creek crossings, signage, and the existing workstation. Human use management goals include rehabilitating unauthorized routes that have negatively impacted wildlife habitat on portions of the WMA and managing human uses of the WMA to ensure wildlife security and habitat conservation. The human use management portion of the WMA management plan will require development of an Environmental Assessment (EA).

Purpose and benefits: The purpose of the Gallatin WMA management plan is to define management goals for properties. The purpose of the human use management EA is to ensure long-term protection of wildlife security and habitat on the Gallatin WMA while allowing sustainable human use. The anticipated benefits will include improved habitat stewardship for elk and other wildlife through improved security, prevention of weed spread, and reduction of areas impacted by unauthorized routes and human use.

Alternatives: The "No Action" alternative would remove the human use plan from the WMA management plan, and the management plan would move forward with only habitat and infrastructure priorities. Alternative 2 integrates the human use plan into the WMA plan, acknowledging human use planning is important to meet the habitat goals for the WMA.

Timeline: This scoping notice will allow 30 days for the public to send feedback to issues they would like to see FWP consider in constructing the management plan and/or EA related to human use. After this time, the EA will be completed and distributed for public comment.

Public participation: Please submit any feedback on the Gallatin WMA management plan or the human use management EA by 5 p.m. on Nov. 6 to Julie Cunningham at juliecunningham@mt.gov or at 1400 S. 19th Ave, Bozeman MT 59718. If you are interested in being notified when the EA is published, please sign up for FWP news and information updates at: [ABOUT FWP :: Public Comment Opportunities | Montana FWP](#)



- Yellowstone National Park
- US Forest Service
- Gallatin WMA, FWP
- Hunting Districts (Deer, Elk, Lion)



Area of Interest



0 5 10
Miles