# Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest Land Management Plan Revision Objection Template

**Objector’s name**:     EA Andy Johnson

**Address**:     3470 Quincy St. Butte Mt. 59701

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

**Please specify whether this objection is to the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest Land Management Plan or the Regional Forester’s list of species of conservation concern (SCC) by checking the applicable box:**

**X Land Management Plan**

* **Regional Forester’s List of SCC**

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

Riparian Management Zones, Pg. 20, Guideline 07, “New sand and gravel borrow pit development or gravel mining should not occur within RMZs to minimize ground disturbance and sediment inputs.”

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

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

Gravel mining (a leasable option by USFS) could be interpreted by a District Ranger or Forest Supervisor to include gold or platinum placer mining in stream beds. However, placer mining of stream beds remains lawful in accordance with the 1872 Mining Law, thus not an option for USFS consideration. It is hard to imagine someone going on Forest Reserves to “mine” gravel when much better deposits are available in downstream gravel benches adjacent to the mountains.

* **Proposed Solution:**

Remove “or gravel mining” from guideline 07. Include statement that gold and other metal placer deposits will be allowed in riparian areas but, as per previous Gallatin NF Desired Condition “When authorizing or reauthorizing mineral development and operations, --- If the RMZ cannot be avoided, then ensure operatios take all practicable measures to maintain, protect, and rehabilitate water quality and habitat for fish and wildlife and other riparian associated resources ---.”

**EA Andy Johnson**

**Page 2.**

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

I reported this concern in my comments to 2018 Draft Management Plan, and it is reproduced as R in FEIS Appendix G Supplemental, under Geology, Minerals and Energy.

**Signature:     EA Andy Johnson**

**Send electronic objections via:** the CARA objection webform at <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?project=44589>. Electronic submissions must be submitted in a format (e.g. Word, PDF, Rich Text) that is readable with optical character recognition software and be searchable.

**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.

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

The fax coversheet must include a subject line with “Helena – Lewis and Clark Land Management Plan Objection,” or “Helena – Lewis and Clark 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.