Filing as an Interested Person in the Land Management Plan Objection Phase

The Forest Service objection process allows the Agency to consider public concerns early on, before a decision is made, aligning with the Forest Service’s collaborative approach to forest management and increasing the likelihood of resolving ongoing concerns.

In order to ensure potential objection resolution discussions are open and transparent, interested persons may participate in those discussions. To be formally recognized as an interested person and participate in the objection resolution discussions with the objector(s) and the reviewing official, you must request this status within 10 days of the legal notice listing the objections. You do not need to have objected to the plan decision to request to be an interested person. However, you must have provided substantive comment during the opportunities provided during the planning process.

Interested person requests must include:

1. name and affiliation, if any, of the requester;
2. mailing address, phone number, and email address (if available) for the requester;
3. the objection issues the requester has an interest in; a brief explanation of the requester’s interest in the objection(s) and any specific concern(s), including a description of support or opposition to the objection(s); and
4. a statement demonstrating the requester’s previous participation in the planning process (e.g., identifying when the requester submitted comments or attended meetings.

Cooperating agencies and governments of federally recognized tribes may participate in any objection without formal request. However, they must notify the reviewing officer of their interest in specific objections and intent to participate so that the reviewing officer is able to provide notification of relevant meetings or calls.

Please use the attached template to request status as an interested person.

## **Interested Person Request**

I would like to participate as an interested person in the objection resolution discussions for one or more of the identified objection issues for the Helena-Lewis and Clark Land Management Plan or the regional forester’s list of species of conservation concern (SCC).

**Name**: Rick Kerr

**Address**: P.O. Box 1276 Choteau, MT 59422

**Phone # or email**:   wildlifewatcher@hotmail.com

**Name of lead interested person (if more than one)**:

**I am interested in participating in any resolution discussions between the objector(s) and the reviewing official for the following objection issues:**

**Geographic area land management direction for the Badger Two Medicine area, the Crazy Mountains, and the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.**

**Motorized and/or mechanized recreation access and suitability determinations in recommended wilderness, primitive recreation opportunity spectrum settings, the Badger Two Medicine Area, and the Elkhorns Wildlife Management Unit.**

**Land management plan direction related wilderness, wilderness study areas, recommended wilderness, and inventoried roadless areas.**

**Areas recommended for wilderness designation.**

**Land management plan direction and use of best available scientific information for wildlife including:**

**• Elk and big game habitat and use of best available scientific information**

**• Viability of all native species recovery and conservation of federally recognized species (under**

**the Endangered Species Act)**

**• Connectivity**

**• Identification of species of conservation concern**

**Land management plan direction and use of best available scientific information for aquatic and riparian resources, invasive species, livestock grazing, and climate change**

**Please provide a brief explanation of your interest in the objection(s) and any specific concern(s), including a description of your support or opposition to the objection(s):**

**I am a strong advocate for wilderness designation in central Montana. There are currently NO designated wilderness areas in central Montana, but there are numerous areas that qualify as wilderness.**

**Motorized and/or mechanized recreation access has no place in recommended wilderness, the Badger Two Medicine Area, and the Elkhorns Wildlife Management Unit.**

**I have a strong background in wildlife management including wildlife security provisions.**

**The lack of serious actions to arrest climate change, as currently understood by the best available scientific information, will affect even the best of land management plans going forward.**

**Please identify when you commented during the planning process (scoping, draft EIS, and/or final EIS):**

**I have been involved and have commented throughout each planning process step.**

**Signature: Rick Kerr**

Send electronic letters requesting recognition as an interested party to: [https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?project=44589](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%253A%252F%252Fcara.ecosystem-management.org%252FPublic%252FCommentInput%253Fproject%253D44589&data=02%257C01%257C%257C6cbbc7151a874f1f844b08d82d975a30%257Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%257C0%257C0%257C637309475515460003&sdata=fa46L8H%252B1gqMoNAtBNOTA08d5v%252FsUb2r5c4%252Big8SgMA%253D&reserved=0). 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.

Faxed requests must be submitted to (406) 329-3411 The subject line needs to include “Helena – Lewis and Clark Plan Revision Interested Persons” and should specify the number of pages being submitted.

Written requests submitted via USPS, FedEx, UPS, or other courier should be mailed to: Leanne Marten, Reviewing Officer, USDA Forest Service, Attn: Helena – Lewis and Clark Planning Objections, 26 Fort Missoula Road, Missoula, MT  59804.

If you are unable to submit electronic, fax, or postal requests and must submit them by hand to the Northern Regional Office, please refer to signage at the front door regarding the delivery of hand delivered items, which will include a phone number to arrange delivery of your objection. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding Federal holidays.

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.