# 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).

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 Custer Gallatin National Forest 2020 Land Management Plan or the regional forester’s list of species of conservation concern (SCC).

**Name**:       Jon Hudson

**Address**:  1065 Summer Ridge Road Bozeman, Montana 59715

**Phone # or email**:                    406-539-0578 jph@littleappletech.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:** Based upon my reading of the Forest Plan Revision, I believe that the Plan is inconsistent with USFS national policy and practice regarding general and recreational aviation access to public lands. The Plan, as presented, fails to recognize and acknowledge the long-term and productive partnerships the aviation community and Forest Service (and other Federal agencies) have already developed and enjoyed. As presented, the Plan Revision places unnecessary and poorly supported burdens on recreational airstrip use, operation, maintenance, and construction not consistent with Forest Service policy and actual practice.

**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):** My wife and I have enjoyed accessing public lands by light aircraft for over fifteen years. We have helped, as volunteers, maintain (and in one case construct) public-use airstrips in a number of states, but particularly in Montana. We have actively participated with Forest Service personnel in these activities, and in several Forest Plan Revision processes. The current Custer-Gallatin National Forest Plan Revision does not draw upon other National Forest revised plans which acknowledge the equality of public lands access by light aircraft.

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

I have participated in public meetings since 2017 regarding the Forest Plan Revision. I have attended meetings predominantly in Bozeman, and also Billings and Columbus. My written comments have been submitted during each phase of the public participation process.

**Signature:**

**Send written letters requesting recognition as an interested party 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 to the office you wish to drop your hardcopy at.

**Send an electronic submission requesting recognition as an interested party to**: [https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=50185](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 letters requesting recognition as an interested party to**: (406) 329-3411. The fax coversheet must include “Custer Gallatin National Forest Land Management Plan Interested Person” in the subject line 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.