# 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**:             Monica Gray

**Address**:                                       2326 North Flores, Tucson, AZ

**Phone # or email**:                                                             (406) 556 8118

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

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

*I have listened to the online forums that discuss the ‘progress’ of logging in Montana. I am wholly against logging and resource extraction of this last best place. The Forest Service should not sell the public short. Public Lands are being litigated and ran by a few affiliated parties, and the public often has little no chance to speak up and comment before these resource extraction/”access”projects go underway, mostly because our communities are disbanded and no longer together on things, misinformed. Economy is the only thing that matters in capitalist system, and the forest has no importance to our ‘community’ until it is cut down and liquidated.*

**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):**

*The non-substantive online meetings that I have witnessed due to my mother’s involvement are frustrating. The orators rarely say anything in ordinary language, making it difficult for 3rd parties of the community to share thoughts and concerns. How can we sit here and define progress as though that were the real misunderstanding among all of these associates? How can these people, loggers, GYC and other groups perpetuating the land grant institutionalism and the expansion of Big Scar Resort et al. come together, virtually, and talk about ‘progress’, when exponential human population growth is the reason for the forest fires, when exorbitant consumerism is the only real reason they would cut down our old-growth wilderness? These folks are not hopeless, but they do indeed seem totally inept in their willingness to decimate the ecosystem as fast as they can. Look at the satellite photos of the land bordering the National Forest. We see swimming pools, excessively huge houses that people live in 3 months out of the year, we see long driveways and heli pads. Now that the pandemic has made the public dominion an exclusive place of rich, white citizens, should the last of the forest be cut down too, to build their bomb shelters and bunkers? Should we commodify our public lands and turn them into zoos (if they didn’t already resemble a zoo) and islands of recreational prospects for mechanized abuse and consumption? I say let the forest burn down on its own, as the ecosystem will recuperate with or without human participation.*

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

**I commented in early September and other times previously.**

**Signature:                                                                                        Monica C Gray**

**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.