



Nez Perce

TRIBAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

P.O. BOX 305 • LAPWAI, IDAHO 83540 • (208) 843-2253

September 23, 2020

Submitted online only at:

<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=50185>

USDA Forest Service
Objection Reviewing Officer
Northern Region
26 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, MT 59804

Re: Nez Perce Tribe Participation as Interested Person Concerning the Custer-Gallatin 2020 Land Management Plan, draft Record of Decision, Summary and Final Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Objection Reviewing Officer:

By this letter, and in accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 219.57(a), the Nez Perce Tribe ("Tribe") provides notification of its intent to participate as an "interested person" in resolution discussions with the objector(s), reviewing official, and other interested person(s) concerning the Custer-Gallatin 2020 Land Management Plan, draft Record of Decision, Summary and Final Environmental Impact Statement (collectively "Plan"). As the Forest Service is aware, the Tribe provided substantive comments and consulted formally with the Custer-Gallatin National Forest in 2019 and 2020 on the Plan.

The Tribe has reviewed the Preliminary Summary of Custer Gallatin National Forest Land Management Plan Revision Objection issues ("Preliminary Summary")(attached) published on the Forest Service's website, and seeks participation in any objection resolution discussions regarding the following issues:

1. Land management plan direction and use of best available scientific information for wildlife including:
 - Bison habitat and management
 - Bighorn sheep disease transmission
 - Connectivity

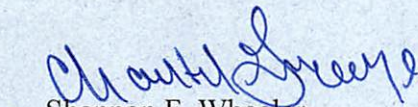
Objection Reviewing Officer
September 23, 2020
Page 2

- Providing for diversity of all native species; recovery and conservation of federally identified species grizzly bear, lynx, and wolverine
 - Identification of species of conservation concern
2. Land management plan direction and use of best available scientific information for motorized recreation, recreation opportunity spectrum, pack goats, fire and fuels management, air quality soils, aquatic and riparian resources, vegetation, invasive species, livestock grazing, climate change, and carbon sequestration.
 3. Monitoring program questions and indicators

The Tribe also reserves the right to notify the Forest Service of its interest in participating in other issues that the agency made include in the Preliminary Summary but which are not currently identified on that published list.

Please contact Mike Lopez, Nez Perce Tribe Office of Legal Counsel, at (208) 843-7355 or mlopez@nezperce.org with questions or for assistance related to the Tribe's request.

Sincerely,


for Shannon F. Wheeler
Chairman

Preliminary Summary of Custer Gallatin National Forest Land Management Plan Revision Objection Issues

Areas recommended for wilderness designation, location and boundaries of backcountry areas and recreation emphasis areas, and wild and scenic river eligibility.

Designated area and plan allocation land management plan direction (wilderness, wilderness study area, recommended wilderness, inventoried roadless areas, backcountry areas, recreation emphasis areas, key linkage areas and the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail).

Motorized and/or mechanized recreation access and suitability determinations in recommended wilderness, roadless areas, key linkage areas, and backcountry areas.

Land management plan direction and use of best available scientific information for motorized recreation, recreation opportunity spectrum, pack goats, fire and fuels management, air quality soils, aquatic and riparian resources, vegetation, invasive species, livestock grazing, climate change, and carbon sequestration.

Managing for population growth, increased recreation pressure, and user conflict.

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

- Bison habitat and management
- Bighorn sheep disease transmission
- Connectivity
- Providing for diversity of all native species; recovery and conservation of federally identified species grizzly bear, lynx, and wolverine
- Identification of species of conservation concern

The projected timber sale quantity and sustained yield limit and the areas suitable for timber production and/or timber harvest.

Compliance with the travel management rule at 36 CFR 212.

Land management plan direction for airfields and landing strips.

Monitoring program questions and indicators.

Coordination with other land use planning and plan alignment with Department of Agriculture Strategic Goals.

Compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act regarding environmental analysis, range of alternatives, environmentally preferred alternative, public engagement, and response to comments.

Compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.