# 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**:    Cara Chamberlain

**Address**:    933 Yale Avenue, Billings, MT 59102

**Phone # or email**:   caraleechamberlain@gmail.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:**

*Wildlife diversity; backcountry area designation v. recommended wilderness study area*

**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 original letter mentioned two major concerns: the ongoing mass extinction and climate change. I mentioned how preserving wilderness can be an integral part of combating/ameliorating both of these crises. With only three species of concern listed in the new Plan, I am extraordinarily concerned that the USFS is not responding with sufficient interest to the extinction crisis. And, as I noted earlier, BCAs are simply not a substitute for RWAs.as they leave too much “administrative flexibility” regarding motorized travel and other uses.*

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

May 10, 2020

**Signature:    Cara Chamberlain**

**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.