

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: The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead

Reservation

Address: P.O. Box 278 Pablo, Montana 59855-
0278

Phone # or email: 406-675-
2700

Name of lead interested person (if more than one): CSKT Contacts: Tom McDonald, Division
Manager, CSKT Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation; or John Harrison, Staff
Attorney, CSKT Legal Department

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

The CSKT is a federally recognized tribe with off-reservation treaty reserved rights within the Custer-Gallatin National Forest and has been a cooperating government in the CGNF planning process. The CSKT is interested in any objection that could impact the Tribes' interest, with a specific interest in the following listed objection issues:

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).

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*

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):

See above.

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

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes participated as a cooperating government in the CGNF planning process, including several consultation meetings between the CGNF planning staff leadership and CSKT staff and leadership. The Tribes submitted written comments on the draft plan in 2019 and had a government-to-government consultation between the CGNF and the CSKT Tribal Council in August of 2020.

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> 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.