

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: Barb Cestero, Gallatin Forest Partnership

Address: 503 W. Mendenhall, Bozeman, MT 59715

Phone # or email: 406-579-0713; barb_cestero@tws.org

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:

- 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:
 - Connectivity
- 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.

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 Gallatin Forest Partnership's objection touches on several of the issues identified above, especially the first four. However, the GFP agreement as a whole includes recommendations regarding all of these issues, and some objectors raised points related to these topics that our objection does not specifically address. As a result, my intent in filing as an interested party is to ensure that I can participate in each topic discussion on behalf of the Gallatin Forest Partnership.

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

The Gallatin Forest Partnership submitted comments during scoping and on the draft EIS, and recently submitted an objection to the FEIS and draft ROD.

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.