

June 4, 2021

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

RE: Beaverhead Deerlodge Working Group Objection Letter to Pintler Face Draft Decision

Objection Reviewing Officer,

Pursuant to 36CFR[sect] 218 Subpart (A) and (B), the Beaverhead Deerlodge Working Group (BDWG) is submitting this Objection in support of the Pintler Face Draft Decision on the Wisdom Ranger District of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest (BDNF).

The BDWG membership is well represented by various conservation groups, hunting and fishing interests, motorized recreation, industry, ranchers, county commissioners and other parties interested in the management of the BDNF. The purpose of the BDWG is to develop agreement around priority areas and approaches for project work on the BDNF and to help facilitate completion of those projects. To that end, we are writing to formally support the Pintler Face project and the selected alternative in the Draft Decision Notice to help move this project forward to implementation.

The BDWG supports the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest's landscape-level and integrated approach to restoration in the Pintler Face project area. We also support the proposed treatments to improve resilience to insects, disease and wildfire, reduce conifer encroachment and increase the aspen vegetation type, improve elk habitat, reduce road densities to work toward achieving forest plan objectives, and generate commercial timber with benefits to local economies and mills.

The BDWG has been working with the BDNF on the Pintler Face project since it was initially proposed in 2008. In addition to several field trips to the project area with BDNF staff and specialists the BDWG submitted formal comments on 12-11-17. We are excited to see this project implemented and some of our concerns in the area addressed.

The BDWG is also concerned with potential adjustments to the proposed action bought up by other objectors whose intentions would be to reduce the treatments being proposed and the beneficial outcomes the BDWG has worked hard to achieve through collaboration. Therefore, we formally request to participate in the objections resolution process.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to participate during the objection period for Pintler Face.

Regards,

/s/ Darcie Warden, Co-Chair

/s/ Anthony Colter, Co-Chair