

RE: Opportunity to Object, Canada Lynx Habitat Forest Plan Amendment EA, Draft FONSI, and Draft DN

Beaverhead-Deerlodge Working Group

PO Box 1055, Whitehall, MT, 59759

October 12, 2025

Forest Supervisor Corey Lewellen
Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest
420 Barrett Street
Dillon, MT 59725

Dear Supervisor Lewellen,

On behalf of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Working Group (BDWG), thank you for the opportunity to object to the proposed amendment to the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest Plan regarding updated lynx habitat mapping and the delineation of Lynx Analysis Units (LAUs).

The BDWG is a collaborative, consensus-based group representing a diverse range of stakeholders—including conservationists, county commissioners, recreationists, timber interests, and community members—who work together to advance responsible and sustainable forest management across the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

We respectfully offer points that uphold our comments dated April 7 and June 24, 2025:

1. Finding of No Significant Impact

We agree that this action to update lynx habitat maps and LAUs considers the anticipated effects to lynx, will not have a significant impact on the human environment, and does not require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

2. Use of Best Available Science

We feel that the Forest Service has relied on a sound and science-based approach incorporating improved data sources to refine the precision of lynx habitat maps through an updated mapping and LAU delineation process.

3. Support for Alternative 2

We support the decision to implement Alternative 2 which would replace the 2000 lynx habitat and LAU maps with the 2020 updated maps. This alternative fulfills a need for the Forest Plan to more accurately identify lynx habitat based on current conditions and aligns with regional standards for lynx conservation. Implementation will enhance appropriate context for adaptive, scientifically credible Forest planning.

We value the Forest's commitment to understanding lynx habitat and species needs while fulfilling its obligations under the Northern Rockies Lynx Management Direction (NRLMD). Thank you for this opportunity to summarize our input and continue collaboration on issues affecting the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest.

Sincerely,

Vaia Errett and Sean Steinebach, Co-Chairs (lead objectors)

On behalf of the Beaverhead-Deerlodge Working Group