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First name: David

Last name: Reid

Organization: Sierra Club

Title: National Forests Issue Chair

Comments: Please find attached the pdf of my letter of objection.

March 22, 2022

Ken Arney

Reviewing Officer for Land and Resource Management Plan Responsible Official for Species of Conservation Concern Regional Forester

U.S. Forest Service, Southern Region

James Melonas

Responsible Official for Land and Resource Management Plan Forest Supervisor

National Forests in North Carolina

Randy Moore

Reviewing Officer for Species of Conservation Concern Chief

U.S. Forest Service

Submitted electronically via CARA Online Portal:

<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=43545>

Notice of Objection to the Final Land Management Plan for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests

I am filing this objection to the Final Land Management Plan for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests, the Final Environmental Impact Statement, and Draft Record of Decision on behalf of the Sierra Club. James Melonas is the Responsible Official for Land and Resource Management Plan and Ken Arney is Responsible Official for Species of Conservation Concern. My address, telephone number, and email address are: 743 Bee Tree Road, Swannanoa, NC 28778, 828-713-1607, daviddbreid@charter.net. I designated myself as the lead objector on behalf of the Sierra Club.

As a volunteer representative for the Sierra Club, NC Chapter, I have participated in both the collaborative efforts of the Pisgah Nantahala Stakeholders Forum, and the Pisgah Nantahala Forest Partnership for the past approximately 7 years. In this role I have represented the interests of the over 90,000 members and supporters of the Sierra Club's NC Chapter, which is not separate from the Sierra Club as a whole.

Statement of reasons for objecting

The Sierra Club submitted separate detailed comments during the NEPA public comment period which ended June 30, 2020. I am objecting today to advocate for improvements to the Plan as released on January 21 of this year. Such sought for improvements include adjustments to MA allocations more protective of Wilderness Inventory Areas currently in Matrix or Interface, weaknesses in the wilderness evaluation process, advocacy for areas included in wilderness recommendations in Alternative B or D, but not brought forward into Alternative E, strengthening for how the Plan deals with climate change, and other issues as set forth by the multi-group SELC objection as included below.

As my statement of reasons for objecting, suggested remedies, and demonstration of the link between my prior substantive comments and the content of my objection, I am incorporating the objection filed today by the Southern Environmental Law Center on behalf of The Wilderness Society, MountainTrue, Defenders of Wildlife, and Sierra Club. In the past when groups have joined in a single objection, the Forest Service has only allowed one member of the group to participate in objection resolution meetings. This is unfair[mdash]particularly here, where I have been working on the forest plan revision for over seven years. I am filing this additional objection to preserve my ability to participate in the objection resolution meeting.

Sincerely,

David D. Reid, National Forest Issues Chair NC Chapter, The Sierra Club