



September 23, 2022

Michiko Martin, Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service
333 Broadway Blvd. SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Re: Tonto National Forest Plan Interested Person Request

Regional Forester Martin:

Please accept this request for “interested person” status pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 219.57 concerning the following-described objections to the Tonto National Forest Plan Revision.

This request is made on behalf of Center for Biological Diversity by:

Brian Nowicki
P.O. Box 1178
Flagstaff, AZ 86002-1178
505-917-5611
bnowicki@biologicaldiversity.org

As demonstrated by Center for Biological Diversity’s comments submitted on the Tonto Forest Plan Revision Draft EIS in 2020, and our objections to the Proposed Forest Plan Revision and Final EIS in September 2022, Center for Biological Diversity has an interest in issues addressed by the proposed plan, including but not limited to livestock grazing, vegetation management, protection of wildlife species and habitats, wilderness designation, motorized recreation, road management, and water resources.

Each of the following objections, to which we request interested person status, raises one or more of these issues, and implicates the Center for Biological Diversity’s interests in management of the Tonto National Forest:

Objection of the Sierra Club, et al. (dated September 6, 2022), which raises issues of interest to Center for Biological Diversity regarding the management of, and the Plan Revision FEIS’s analysis of, livestock grazing, and wildlife impacted by such grazing. Center for Biological Diversity contributed to this objection and supports it.

Objection of Jeffrey Burgess (dated August 31, 2022), which raises issues related to the Plan's management of livestock grazing. Center for Biological Diversity is supportive of this objection.

Objection of Clayton Crowder, AZ Game and Fish Department, (dated July 13, 2022), which raises issues related to the Plan's management of recommended wilderness, fish barriers, motorized access, wildlife translocation, motorized big game retrieval, and Wild and Scenic Rivers. Center for Biological Diversity has questions and concerns regarding this objection.

Objection of Bill Brake, AZ Game and Fish Commission, (dated July 13, 2022), which raises issues related to the Plan's management of recommended wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and motorized uses in RWAs and Wilderness Areas. Center for Biological Diversity has questions and concerns regarding this objection.

Objection of Greg Warren, Recreation Access Fund, (dated August 6, 2022), which raises issues related to the Plan's management of wildlife, water, recreation, and wilderness. Center for Biological Diversity has questions and concerns regarding this objection.

Objection of Dawn Meidinger, Pinto Valley Mining Corp., (dated September 6, 2022), which raises issues related to the Plan's management of mining, water resources, and wildlife. Center for Biological Diversity has questions and concerns regarding this objection.

Objection of Francis McAllister, Freeport-McMoRan Inc., (dated September 2, 2022), which raises issues related to the Plan's management of mining, water resources, and wildlife. Center for Biological Diversity has questions and concerns regarding this objection.

Objection of Steve Trussell, Arizona Mining Association, (dated September 2, 2022), which raises issues related to the Plan's management of mining, water resources, and wildlife. Center for Biological Diversity has questions and concerns regarding this objection.

Objection of Jim Unmacht, Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation, (dated August 17, 2022), which raises issues related to the Plan's management of wildlife. Center for Biological Diversity has questions and concerns regarding this objection.

Objection of Rebecca Antle, Arizona State Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs, (dated September 6, 2022), which raises issues related to the Plan's management of motorized roads/trails, off-road vehicle use, and recommended wilderness areas. Center for Biological Diversity has questions and concerns regarding this objection.

Objection of Richard Smith, Tonto Recreation Alliance, (dated August 26, 2022), which raises issues related to the Plan's management of recommended wilderness

areas. Center for Biological Diversity has questions and concerns regarding this objection.

Objection of Stanley Lutz, Salt River Project, (dated September 6, 2022), which raises issues related to the Plan's management of recommended wilderness areas and water management. Center for Biological Diversity has questions and concerns regarding this objection.

Please contact me if you have questions about the information above. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Nowicki".

Brian Nowicki

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Flagstaff, AZ 86002-1178

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