



[3411-15-P]

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest; Montana; Revision of the Land

Management Plan for the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of opportunity to object to the revised land management plan for the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is revising the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest's 1986 Land and Resource Management Plans. The Forest Service has prepared a final environmental impact statement (final EIS) for the revised land management plan, and a draft record of decision (ROD). This notice is to inform the public that a 60-day period is being initiated where individuals or entities with specific concerns about the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest's revised land management plan and associated final EIS may file objections for Forest Service review prior to approval of the revised land management plan. This is also an opportunity to object to the Regional Forester's list of species of conservation concern (SCC) for the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest.

DATES: The publication date of the legal notice in the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest's newspaper of record, the Helena Independent Record, initiates the 60-day objection period and is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection (36 CFR 219.52(c)(5)). An electronic scan of the legal notice with the publication date will be posted at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/hlc/forestplanrevision.

ADDRESSES: The Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest’s revised land management plan, final EIS, draft ROD, and other supporting information will be available for review at: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/hlc/forestplanrevision. The Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest’s list of species of conservation concern and other supporting information will be available for review at: <http://bit.ly/NorthernRegion-SCC>. These web addresses include an objection template as an aid to providing the required information. Please be explicit as to whether the objection is for the land management plan or the species of conservation concern.

Electronic objections must be submitted to the Objection Reviewing Officer via the CARA objection webform at <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?project=44589>. Electronic submissions must be submitted in a format (e.g. Word, PDF, Rich Text) that is readable with optical character recognition software and be searchable.

The following address should be used for objections submitted by regular mail, private carrier, or hand delivery: Objection Reviewing Officer, USDA Forest Service, 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. Objections can be faxed to the Objection Reviewing Officer at (406) 329–3411. The fax coversheet must include a subject line with “Helena-Lewis and Clark Forest Plan Objection” or “Helena-Lewis and Clark Species of Conservation Concern” and should specify the number of pages being submitted.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Project Leader, Deb Entwistle, 2880 Skyway Dr., Helena, MT, 59602 (406) 449-5201.

Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday. Additional information concerning the draft RODs may be obtained on the internet at the websites listed in the ADDRESSES section of this document.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The decision to approve the revised land management plan for the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest and the Regional Forester's identification of species of conservation concern will be subject to the objection process identified in 36 CFR part 219 subpart B (219.50 to 219.62). An objection must include the following (36 CFR 219.54(c)):

(1) The objector's name and address along with a telephone number or email address if available. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to an objection, the Forest Service will attempt to verify the identity of the objector to confirm objection eligibility;

(2) Signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection);

(3) Identification of the lead objector, when multiple names are listed on an objection. The Forest Service will communicate to all parties to an objection through the lead objector. Verification of the identity of the lead objector must also be provided if requested;

(4) The name of the plan revision being objected to, and the name and title of the responsible official;

(5) A statement of the issues and/or parts of the plan revision to which the

objection applies;

(6) A concise statement explaining the objection and suggesting how the proposed plan decision may be improved. If the objector believes that the plan revision is inconsistent with law, regulation, or policy, an explanation should be included;

(7) A statement that demonstrates the link between the objector's prior substantive formal comments and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for formal comment; and

(8) All documents referenced in the objection (a bibliography is not sufficient), except that the following need not be provided:

- a. All or any part of a Federal law or regulation,
- b. Forest Service Directive System documents and land management plans or other published Forest Service documents,
- c. Documents referenced by the Forest Service in the planning documentation related to the proposal subject to objection, and
- d. Formal comments previously provided to the Forest Service by the objector during the plan revision comment period.

It is the responsibility of the objector to ensure that the reviewing officer receives the objection in a timely manner. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the objection filing period.

Responsible Officials

The responsible official who will approve the record of decision for the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest revised land management plan is William Avey, Forest Supervisor for the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest. The responsible official for

the identification of the species of conservation concern for the Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest is Leanne Marten, Northern Region Regional Forester.

The Regional Forester is the reviewing officer for the revised land management plan since the Forest Supervisor is the deciding official (36 CFR 219.56(e)(2)). Objection review of the list of species of conservation concern will be subject to a separate objection process than the land management plan approval. The Chief of the Forest Service is the reviewing officer for the list of species of conservation concern as the Regional Forester is the responsible official (36 CFR 219.56(e)(2)).

Allen Rowley,
Associate Deputy Chief,
National Forest System.

[FR Doc. 2020-10957 Filed: 5/20/2020 8:45 am; Publication Date: 5/21/2020]