

## Revised Forest Plan Objections

The objection process is an opportunity for members of the public who have participated in public involvement provided throughout the planning process to have any unresolved concerns receive a review by the Forest Service prior to a final decision being made by the responsible official. Only those who provided substantive formal comments during opportunities for public comment are eligible to file an objection pursuant to regulation 36 CFR 219 subpart B which defines substantive formal comments as:

*Written comments submitted to, or oral comments recorded by, the responsible official or his designee during an opportunity for public participation provided during the planning process, and attributed to the individual or entity providing them. Comments are considered substantive when they are within the scope of the proposal, are specific to the proposal, have a direct relationship to the proposal, and include supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider.*

### How to File an Objection

Mailed, emailed, faxed or hand-delivered objections concerning this action will be accepted for 60 calendar days following the publication of this notice in the newspaper of record. The publication date is the exclusive means for calculating the objection filing period. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. 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.

Objections must be submitted to the reviewing officer at Thomas Tidwell, Chief, USDA Forest Service, Attn: EMC – Administrative Reviews, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Mailstop 1104, Washington, DC 20250-1104. Objections may be mailed electronically to [objections-chief@fs.fed.us](mailto:objections-chief@fs.fed.us) or by facsimile to 703.235.0138. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered objections are: 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays. Electronic objections must be submitted in a commonly used format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc). In cases where no identifiable name is attached to an objection, a verification of identity will be requested confirming objection eligibility. If the objection is supported by documents, with the exceptions listed in 36 CFR 219.54(b), all documents must be provided with the objection; a bibliography is not sufficient.

At a minimum 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;
- (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 if requested;
- (4) The name of the plan, plan amendment, or plan revision being objected to, and the name and title of the responsible official;
- (5) A statement of the issues and/or the parts of the plan, plan amendment, or 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 applicable, the objector should identify how the objector believes that the plan, plan amendment or plan revision is inconsistent with law, regulation, or policy; and
- (7) A statement that demonstrates the link between prior substantive formal comments attributed to the objector and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for formal comment.

All objections are open to public inspection and will be posted to the Forest Service website.