



File Code: 1920
Date: May 5, 2025

Dear Objectors and Interested Persons:

As the objection reviewing officer for the Regional Forester's list of species of conservation concern for the Gila National Forest, I am providing my final written response to the SCC objections (36 CFR 219.50, Subpart B). Acting Deputy Regional Forester Jake Nuttall, is the reviewing officer for objections filed on the Gila National Forest Land Management Plan revision and he will provide a separate written response to those objections.

The legal notice of the objection period for the Regional Forester's list of species of conservation concern and the land management plan for the Gila National Forest was published on July 30, 2024, initiating a 60-day objection filing period. The objection period closed on September 30, 2024. The enclosed written response is the final determination of the U.S. Department of Agriculture on these objections (36 CFR 219.57(b)(3)).

I conducted my review in accordance with the predecisional administrative review process described at 36 CFR 219 subpart B. A review team, made up of Forest Service subject matter experts from across the Agency, reviewed your objections and proposed remedies. They evaluated the planning record to ensure it meets current laws, regulations, and policies, and provided me with their recommendations for addressing any inconsistencies. I appreciate your attendance at the resolution meeting on January 22, 2025, to discuss your concerns as an objector and/or as an interested person. The discussion improved my understanding of the issues and requested remedies and helped inform my decision.

The enclosed objection response includes a summary of each objection issue and the proposed remedies, my findings regarding the adequacy of the planning record to address the issue, and an assessment with more details to support my findings. Where needed, I am providing instructions to the responsible official that must be completed prior to making a final decision on the Land Management Plan for the Gila National Forest. My response is also available on the forest plan revision website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r03/gila/planning/forest-plan-revision>.



If you have any questions regarding my objection response, please contact Heather Luczak, National Forest Plan Objection Review Team, at heather.luczak@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

ELLEN

SHULTZABARGER

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SHULTZABARGER

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ELLEN SHULTZABARGER
Reviewing Officer for the Chief

Enclosure (1)

cc: Michiko Martin; Jacob Nuttall; Camille Howes; Linda Walker; Christina Milos; Wendy Haskins; Ariel Leonard; Heather Luczak; Jeffrey Shearer; Lisa Mizuno



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Southwestern Region

April 2025

Enclosure: Objection Response Southwest Regional Forester's List of Species of Conservation Concern for the Gila National Forest



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

For more information about this objection response, please contact

Heather Luczak, Objection Coordinator, heather.luczak@usda.gov

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OVERVIEW

Species of conservation concern (SCC) are species other than federally recognized threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate species that are known to occur in the plan area for which the regional forester has determined—through best available scientific information—that there is substantial concern about the species’ capability to persist over the long-term in the plan area (36 CFR 219.9). The Forest Service received five objections to the Southwestern Regional Forester’s list of SCC for the Gila National Forest. An independent team of Forest Service subject matter experts assisted me in the review and resolution of these objections. They read the letters, identified substantive issues, and assessed the adequacy of the planning record in responding to these issues. In some cases, the review team found deficiencies in the planning record related to the issues. In those cases, I issued instructions to the responsible official to address the deficiencies. My instructions must be completed before a final decision is issued on the revised Land Management Plan for the Gila National Forest.

Resolution Meeting

The objection resolution meeting for SCC was held on January 22, 2025 (per 36 CFR 219.57(a)) in Silver City, New Mexico, and included an option to attend virtually via Microsoft Teams or through a call-in number. Although we only discussed four of the five species/species group specific objections, all five SCC objectors participated in the meeting. Two objectors attended in person, while the others attended virtually. We also had three interested persons participate and a few members of the public observed. The meeting focused on the areas where I was seeking greater clarity in my understanding of the issues raised and remedies proposed by the objectors. The dialog we had helped improve my understanding of



the issues and remedies, and the discussion benefited from both the objectors and interested persons sharing their perspectives. I appreciated participants engaging in this dialog as the conversation provided me with additional context and helped inform my response, including my instructions.

Objection Response Reading Guide

My responses to the SCC objections include a response to concerns about the adequacy of the overall SCC framework used by the forest to assess potential SCC and species or species group specific issues. Each issue includes: the title of the issue, a summary of the objection, any remedies proposed by the objector, and my findings and instructions followed by an assessment of the planning record that is anchored in applicable laws, regulations and policy. For ease of discussion throughout this document, the Gila National Forest will be referred to as “the forest.” The Gila National Forest Land Management Plan will be referred to as “the forest plan” or “the land management plan” depending on the context of the discussion. The March 2017 Final Assessment Report of Ecological/Social/Economic Sustainability Conditions and Trends will be referred to as “the assessment”. Unless otherwise specified, cited page numbers and plan components refer to the final forest plan, final environmental impact statement (EIS), draft record of decision (ROD) and their associated appendices that were released at the start of the objection period on July 30, 2024. A list of references cited is provided at the end of this document.

- CFR – Code of Federal Regulations
- EIS – environmental impact statement
- FSH – Forest Service Handbook
- FSM – Forest Service Manual
- ROD – Record of Decision
- SCC – Species of Conservation Concern
- USDA – United States Department of Agriculture



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ISSUE RESPONSE

Framework for Evaluating Potential Species of Conservation Concern

Objection Summary

Objectors brought up general concerns about the SCC assessment framework.

Objector's Proposed Remedies

See species/species group specific issues for objectors' proposed remedies.

Findings

After careful review of the planning record, I find that the framework and criteria used to identify SCC for the Gila National Forest was consistent with law, regulation, and policy (36 CFR 219.3, 36 CFR 219.9), and the responsible official's determination was based on best available scientific information (1909.12).

Assessment

The March 2017 Final Assessment Report of Ecological/Social/Economic Sustainability Conditions and Trends outlines the regulation, policy and decision-making processes used by the forest to assess potential SCC (36 CFR 219.9, FSH 1909.12.52, FSH 1909.21.22). The assessment includes a description of the requirements by which species were identified as potential SCC (pp. 367-371). Species were first assessed to determine if they occurred within the plan area and met one or more of the following categories:

- Species with status ranks of G or T 1, 2, or 3 and S 1 and 2
- Species that are identified as recently delisted or have a positive 90-day finding by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Species listed as threatened or endangered by New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and State Forestry Division
- Species on the Southwestern Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List
- Species identified as those of greatest conservation need by the 2016 New Mexico Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy
- Rare plants as identified by the New Mexico Rare Plants Technical Council
- Birds of Conservation Concern List by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- New Mexico Avian Conservation Partners Bird Conservation Plan 2.1 bird list

Each potential SCC was further evaluated using best available scientific information to determine if it met one or more of the following criteria. Species meeting the criteria could be removed from the list of SCC (Assessment Report, pp. 379-380):

- (1) "transient" (e.g. northern harrier) or "vagrant" (e.g. elegant trogon) species (also called "accidental" species) are species that have been documented to use the Gila NF, but only occasionally for foraging;



- (2) species inhabit areas not known to be affected by threats;
- (3) there is insufficient information to evaluate whether or not the species is at risk for persistence within the plan area;
- (4) species has a stable to upward population or habitat trend on the Gila NF;
- (5) is a “game” species according to New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

The public had opportunities to review and comment on the assessment, evaluation process, and SCC determinations.

Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep as a Species of Conservation Concern

Objection Summary

The objector disagrees with bighorn sheep not being identified as an SCC. They believe the taxonomic classification used to assess bighorn sheep as a potential SCC was inaccurate because 1) it appeared that the analysis only considered the species *Ovis canadensis*, and 2) it was not clear how the subspecies *O.canadensis canadensis* and *O.candadensis mexicana* were considered. They believe this resulted in a lack of clarity about the species status in the forest plan.

The objector contends that best available science was not used to assess bighorn sheep as a SCC, arguing that threats to the species, including fluctuating populations and the presence of pathogens in bighorn sheep populations on the Gila National Forest and the neighboring Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest were not adequately considered. They also believe that criteria (5) “is a “game” species according to New Mexico Department of Game and Fish” is not a valid criterion for removing a species from the SCC list and that the use of this criteria is inconsistent with the Grand Mesa Uncompahgre National Forest Species-At-Risk Assessment.

The objector contends that failure to designate bighorn sheep as an SCC is arbitrary and capricious, as is the use of game species status (criteria 5) as an indicator that the population is secure. They note that “while the Regional Forester has the authority to determine the criteria and evaluation process for SCC (36 CFR 219.7(c)(3)), it is also incumbent to explain why the criteria are valid and how they were determined, as any such rationale is currently lacking.”

Objector’s Proposed Remedy

Clarify the taxonomy of bighorn sheep under consideration for the Gila National Forest, conduct a separate analysis for *O.canadensis canadensis* and *O.candadensis Mexicana*, and do not include whether the species is hunted as a criterion. Update best available scientific information to include threats to the species including fluctuating populations and the presence of pathogens. Identify bighorn sheep as a Regional Forester’s SCC and clarify bighorn sheep’s status in the Forest Plan.

Findings and Instructions

The Regional Forester considered Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis canadensis*) and provided sufficient rationale for why it was not included as an SCC; however, the taxonomy and rationale is not clearly and consistently communicated in the planning record.



I instruction the Regional Forester to clarify in the planning record that Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep is the subspecies that occurs in the plan area and was evaluated as a potential SCC and provide clear documentation and rationale for why it was not identified as an SCC.

Assessment

Only species native to and known to occur in the plan area shall be considered when identifying potential SCC (FSH 1909.12.52d). Desert bighorn sheep (*O. canadensis mexicana*) is the subspecies that historically occurred on the Gila National Forest. Due to increasing scarcity of desert bighorn sheep, and a desire to have bighorn sheep on the landscape, the subspecies Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep (*O. canadensis canadensis*) was introduced on the Gila National Forest (New Mexico Department of Game and Fish 1967). Desert bighorn sheep have been extirpated from the forest for more than 50 years. Rocky mountain bighorn sheep are not native to the plan area and their presence on the forest is the result of introduction and continued management by the State of New Mexico. Therefore, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep do not meet the SCC criteria.

Table 175 of the assessment (p. 279) includes bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) as a species that is carried forward for further assessment based on it being identified as a species of greatest conservation need by the State of New Mexico (CN) and NatureServe ranking of critically imperiled within the State of New Mexico (S1 NatureServe ranking). However, the correct ranking for Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep is G4/T4, indicating the subspecies is “apparently secure” globally and taxonomically (NatureServe 2024).

Table 176 of the assessment (p. 383) includes “bighorn sheep” as the common name, but the rationale for removing the species from SCC focuses on Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep (*O. canadensis canadensis*) making it clear that this was the subspecies under consideration. The rationale for why Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep was not identified as SCC includes both criteria 4 (data shows an upward population trend), and criteria 5 (is a game species according to New Mexico Department of Game and Fish). Additional rationale is provided in appendix G (p. 911) which includes the lack of threats from the spread of disease given that the forest does not permit domestic sheep or goat grazing.

In the response to comments, the Forest indicates that it reassessed Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep as a potential SCC in 2019 (final EIS Vol 3 p. A-448). The reassessment data showed an upward population trend and documented a lack of threats. Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep inhabit areas of the forest not known to be affected by threats from disease transmission through contact with domestic sheep and goats. There aren’t any domestic sheep or goat allotments on the forest and the forest plan does not allow permit conversions to domestic sheep or goats, nor does it allow domestic sheep or goats to be used to control invasive plant species. The forest plan also addresses the recreational use of domestic pack goats in areas known to be currently occupied by Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep.

Although the assessment identifies Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep as a game species, the rationale for not identifying it as a SCC is based on it not being native to the plan area and the best available science does not suggest a substantial concern for the ability of the subspecies to persist in the long-term within the plan area.



See [Framework for Evaluating Potential Species of Conservation Concern](#) for a discussion regarding the consistency of the SCC evaluation framework and criteria with law, regulation, and policy.

Pinyon Jay as a Species of Conservation Concern

Objection Summary

The objector contends that the forest does not have sufficient survey data to justify adding Pinyon Jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*) to the list of SCC for the Gila National Forest, and that the forest's identification of tree removal and grazing pressure as a threat to Pinyon Jay habitat is harmful to their mission to facilitate farmland and rangeland restoration.

Objector's Proposed Remedies

Remove Pinyon Jay from the SCC list and delete "removal of trees to accomplish other management priorities and continued grazing pressure that reduces habitat" from the list of threats to this species.

Findings and Instructions

Although, the planning record includes rationale for why the 2023 reassessment resulted in Pinyon Jay being identified as a SCC, I found it unclear how some of the data was used to inform that determination. Two key studies referenced in the rationale for including Pinyon Jay as an SCC (Johnson et al., 2023 and Somershoe et al., 2020) have limited data or note a degree of uncertainty regarding potential threats. While these studies constitute best available scientific information (36 CFR 219.12), and the use of these studies is consistent with the requirements for assessing potential SCC, it is unclear how these studies were used to inform the determination.

I instruct the Regional Forester to update the planning record to clearly document the factors that led to the decision to list Pinyon Jay as an SCC, including consideration of the objector's concerns related to Pinyon Jay threats. This includes clarifying how Johnson et al. (2023) and Somershoe et al., 2020 were used to inform the determination, adding reference to the August 2023 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service finding, and clarifying threats.

Assessment

The Pinyon Jay was not initially identified as an SCC for the forest. Table 175 of the assessment (p. 372) documents that Pinyon Jay met the requirements for consideration as a potential SCC because it was identified as a species of greatest conservation need in the 2016 New Mexico Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy Report. Upon further review of the best available science at the time, Pinyon Jay did not meet the SCC criteria (Table 176 p. 381). Pinyon Jay was widely distributed across the forest, commonly found, and predominant threats were associated with legacy actions no longer in practice on the forest. Appendix G of the assessment provided additional rationale for not identifying Pinyon Jay as an SCC, acknowledging that while the species was experiencing range-wide declines, it was secure on the forest. Best available science in 2017 did not suggest a substantial concern for the ability of the species to persist in the long-term within the Gila National Forest plan area (2017 Final Assessment appendix G p. 903).



A reassessment of Pinyon Jay was conducted in January 2023 using new information that became available after the public comment period for the draft EIS and draft plan. Based on the reassessment, it was determined that Pinyon Jay met the SCC criteria (pp. 4-5 approved January 2023 SCC update; final EIS appendix A p. A-461). The new information included Pinyon Jay's NatureServe ranking decreasing between 2017 when it was ranked as G5- globally secure to 2023 when it was ranked as G3-globally vulnerable. It's ranking decreased from S3-vulnerable to S2-imperiled during that same timeframe.

During the reassessment, the US Fish and Wildlife Service was completing a reviewing of an April 2022 petition to list the species under the Endangered Species Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published their 90-day finding on the petition to add Pinyon Jay to the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 in August 2023 (88 FR 55991). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found that the petition to list Pinyon Jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*) present substantial scientific and/or commercial information indicating that the petitioned actions may be warranted and that they were initiating a review to determine whether the petitioned actions are warranted.

The rationale for including Pinyon Jay as an SCC included survey data from Johnson et al. (2023) indicating some degree of scarcity within parts of the forest, however, the planning record was unclear on how the forest considered these data. The forest also included potential threats to the species, citing Somershoe et al. (2020). These threats included removal of trees and grazing as range-wide threats rather than direct statements specific to the Gila National Forest. The rationale for listing Pinyon Jay as a SCC also included the forest's large size and habitat quality as giving it considerable value for managing the species.

See [Framework for Evaluating Potential Species of Conservation Concern](#) for a discussion regarding the consistency of the SCC evaluation framework and criteria with law, regulation, and policy.

Avian Species as Species of Conservation Concern

Objection Summary

The objector contends that the list of SCC should include more avian species, including those with state listings, New Mexico species of greatest conservation need, and those ranked S1B-S3B/S1N-S3N. They assert that the forest did not use best available science when assessing avian species and did not provide sufficient documentation to support the rationale for excluding species, including those provided by the objector during the public comment period.

Objector's Proposed Remedies

The objector requests that the Gila National Forest revisit the SCC list, address the list of avian species provided, and document their determinations.

Findings and Instructions

Although the framework used by the Gila National Forest to identify and evaluate SCC was consistent with law, regulation, and policy, it is not clear how that process was applied to some of the avian species that were recommended by the objector during the public comment period.



I instruct the Regional Forester to clarify the application of the SCC evaluation framework used by the Gila National Forest to assess the list of avian species provided by the objector and to document the determinations for those avian species.

Assessment

The objection raises the issue of including species with NatureServe rankings beyond those required by the Forest Service Handbook. Many of the species included in Attachment A of their objection were evaluated due to their classification as species of greatest conservation concern in the New Mexico State Wildlife Action Plan and the New Mexico Avian Conservation Partners Bird Conservation Plan 2.1 bird list, even though that is not required by the handbook.

The assessment indicates that 317 bird species were evaluated as potential SCC (Assessment p. 370). The assessment documents that species were then removed from the potential SCC list if they did not occur on the Gila NF, or if they did not meet criteria outlined in the directives for inclusion as an SCC. Documentation in the planning record indicates why individual species were not further considered as potential SCC, however, the assessment report does not identify why some individual bird species were removed the list. Three of the species have detailed analysis in the final assessment report that is consistent with the Gila SCC evaluation framework. For the remaining species, it is difficult to ascertain why they were eliminated, therefore making it difficult to conclude that their assessment was consistent with the framework.

See [Framework for Evaluating Potential Species of Conservation Concern](#) for a discussion regarding the consistency of the SCC evaluation framework and criteria with law, regulation, and policy.

Invertebrate Species as Species of Conservation Concern

Objection Summary

The objector provided a list of 15 invertebrate species for consideration as SCC. Fourteen invertebrate species they recommended for including as SCC and one invertebrate species they suggested removing from the list. The recommendations were based on the draft update to the New Mexico list of species of greatest conservation need and draft 2025 revision of the State Wildlife Action Plan. They suggested adding:

- Andrenid Bee, *Andrena mimbresensis*
- Andrenid Bee, *Andrena neffi*
- Andrenid Bee, *Andrena vogleri*
- Beavertail Fairy Shrimp, *Thamnocephalus platyurus*
- Burnt Corral Pyrg, *Pyrgulopsis similis*
- Dry Creek Woodlandsnail, *Ashmunella tetrodon tetrodon*
- False Marsh Slug, *Deroceras heterura*
- Jordan Spring Pyrg, *Pyrgulopsis marilynae*
- Monarch, *Danaus plexippus*
- Nokomis Great Basin Silverspot, *Argynnis nokomis nokomis*
- Pinos Altos Mountainsnail, *Oreohelix confragosa*



- Sonoran Snaggletooth Snail, *Gastrocopta prototypus*
- Subalpine Mountainsnail, *Oreohelix subrudis*
- Vertigo Snail, *Vertigo concinnula*

They suggest removing the Southwestern Great Basin Silverspot (*Argynnis nokomis nitocris*) based on a lack of recent state occurrence data in the plan area.

Objector's Proposed Remedies

Assess the provided list of invertebrate species to determine if they should be including on the Regional Forester's list of SCC for the Gila National Forest.

Findings

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish provided suggestions for further SCC evaluation based on information they compiled during the preparation of their draft 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan. The 15 species identified in the objection were not raised in previous comments related to Gila National Forest SCC and the State's species of greatest conservation need and 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan are still in draft form. The drafts were published by New Mexico Department of Game and Fish in October 2024. Identifying SCCs usually occurs during the planning phase but may occur at any time. Once the State finalizes their 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan and updates the list of species of greatest conservation need, the forest may evaluate any new information and develop a recommendation to the Regional Forester with rationale if they determine a change to the list of SCC is warranted.

Assessment

Of the 15 species suggested for consideration by the objectors, two are identified as SCC for the Gila National Forest: *Deroceras heteruna* and *Gastrocopta protypus*. For two butterflies, *Speyeria nokomis nitocris* and *Speyeria nokomis nokomis*, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish provided new taxonomy information (and in March 2024, *S. nokomis nokomis* was listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act). One species, monarch butterfly (*Dannus plexippus*) is not eligible for SCC status due to being proposed for listing under the federal Endangered Species Act (36 CFR 219.9(c)). For the ten remaining species, four were previously evaluated and found not to meet the SCC criteria, and six were not evaluated because they had not previously been identified as species of greatest conservation concern; all these species have been classified as "data needs species" by New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

See [Framework for Evaluating Potential Species of Conservation Concern](#) for a discussion regarding the consistency of the SCC evaluation framework and criteria with law, regulation, and policy.

***Rumex orthoneurus* and *Erigeron scopulinus* as Species of Conservation Concern**

Objection Summary

The objector contends that two plant species, *Rumex orthoneurus* and *Erigeron scopulinus*, should be identified as SCC. They assert that the Forest Service failed to use best available science, and did not



adequately document how the SCC determination for these two species was made. They also argue that the assessment report included inaccurate habitat information for *Rumex orthoneurus*.

Objector's Proposed Remedies

The Forest Service must provide an analysis for determining that these rare plant species do not warrant inclusion on the list of SCC and must use the best available science in evaluating SCC.

Findings

The planning record provides sufficient documentation showing how the SCC evaluation framework and best available science were used to determine that *Erigeron scopulinus* and *Rumex orthoneurus* did not meet the criteria for identification as SCC and the forest's rationale is adequate.

Assessment

Table 176 of the assessment provides the rationale for removing *Rumex orthoneurus* (p. 384) and *Erigeron scopulinus* (p. 385) from the potential SCC list. Appendix G of the assessment provides additional information indicating there is not substantial concern about the two species' capability to persist over the long term in the plan area. Justification for *Erigeron scopulinus* is found on page 908 and justification for *Rumex orthoneurus* is found on page 910. Based on public comments on the assessment, the forest reevaluated several species and considered additional species to determine if they met the SCC criteria. The update to the initial SCC determination (dated 6/24/2019) documents reconsideration of numerous species, including findings that *Erigeron scopulinus* and *Rumex orthoneurus* did not meet the criteria.

Appendix G of the final assessment includes an accurate description of habitat and threats based on best available scientific information—Winn Falls Fleabane (*Erigeron scopulinus*) is discussed on page 908 and Blumer's Dock (*Rumex orthoneurus*) is discussed on page 910.

The objector claims that the "New Mexico Rare Plant Council" considers *Rumex orthoneurus* imperiled, but data the New Mexico Rare Plants page for *Rumex orthoneurus* shows that the New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council dropped (marked "D" in the table) this species from the list of New Mexico rare plants. They state that the species "occurs near perennial springs, in wet meadows or along stream sides in canyons, in moist, organic soils. Fire seems to not have impacted the species in the Gila National Forest due to its preferred habitat along moist stream and in wet meadows. The range has expanded as plants previously thought to have been *Rumex occidentalis* were identified as *Rumex orthoneurus*."

The New Mexico Rare Plants page for *Erigeron scopulinus* shows that the New Mexico Rare Plant Technical Council determined the species is effectively conserved, remarking "populations of this species are sporadic and disjunct, but can be locally very abundant..." and noting for conservation considerations, "the cliff face habitats in often remote areas effectively remove this rare plant from potential impacts of most land uses. Minerals exploration and development could impact some populations."



The objector states in their suggested remedy that “the conservation community has repeatedly presented valuable and accurate data and information to the Forest Service which has been ignored or under-utilized.” The objector did not specify any data that would inform review of this objection point.

See [Framework for Evaluating Potential Species of Conservation Concern](#) for a discussion regarding the consistency of the SCC evaluation framework and criteria with law, regulation, and policy.

OBJECTORS AND INTERESTED PERSONS

Eligible Objectors

There were five objections to the Regional Forester’s SCC list for the Gila National Forest, filed by:

- Bird Alliance of Southwestern New Mexico
- Center For Biological Diversity et. al
- Grant Soil and Water Conservation District
- New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
- Western Watersheds Project et. al

Interested Persons

The following five individuals and organizations requested and were determined eligible to participate as interested persons during discussions associated with SCC issues: New Mexico Cattle Growers’ Association, New Mexico Dept of Agriculture, New Mexico Federal Lands Council, San Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District, Caren Cowan

REFERENCES CITED

Statutes such as the National Forest Management Act and National Environmental Policy Act are available at <https://uscode.house.gov/>

CFR references are available at www.ecfr.gov

Gila National Forest, Forest plan revision documents such as the final EIS, forest plan, and assessment are available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=51887>

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Southwest Environmental Information Network. Biodiversity occurrence data published by: SEINet Portal Network (accessed through the SEINet Portal Network Portal, <https://swbiodiversity.org/seinet>, 2016)

USDA Forest Service directives (manuals and handbooks) are available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/regulations-policies>

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USDA Forest Service. 2015. FSH 1909.12 – Land Management Planning Handbook, Chapter 50 – Objection Process. Available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/regulations-policies>

USDA Forest Service. 2015. FSM 1900 – Planning, Chapter 1920 – Land Management Planning. Available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/regulations-policies>