

Legal

60-DAY NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO OBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING:

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Revised Land Management Plan and Southwestern Regional Forester's list of species of conservation concern for the Gila National Forest.

This legal notice published in the Silver City Daily Press initiates the 60-day period of opportunity to object on the revised Land Management Plan and the Southwestern Regional Forester's list of species of conservation concern for the Gila National Forest. The decision to approve the revised Plan and the Southwestern Regional Forester's list of species of conservation concern for the Gila National Forest are subject to the objection process identified in 36 CFR part 219 Subpart B (219.50 to 219.62). The publication date of this notice is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection (36 CFR 219.52(c)(5)).

A copy of this legal notice with the publication date, along with copies of the revised Land Management Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement, draft Record of Decision, and Regional Forester's list of species of conservation concern are available electronically at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/gila/?project=51887>. For those with slow or unreliable internet connections, electronic copies on flash drives can be obtained from the Gila Forest Supervisor's Office, 3005 E. Camino del Bosque, Silver City, New Mexico 88061 and District Offices 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mountain Standard Time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays. Local Forest Service offices and the following community locations have paper copies available for review:

Luna Community Center
Quemado School
Village of Reserve Library
Glenwood Community Library
Mule Creek Post Office
Gila Valley Library
Silver City Public Library
Western New Mexico University Miller Library
Bayard Public Library
Hillsboro Community Center
Truth or Consequences Public Library
Winston General Store

A limited number of paper copies are being held in reserve at the Forest Supervisor's office for those that self-identify as having accessibility needs. These can be requested through the Forest Supervisor's office, by calling 575-388-8201.

Who can object and how do you file an objection?

Only individuals and entities who have submitted substantive formal comments related to the plan revision during opportunities for public comment, that are attributable to the objector, may file an objection; unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for formal comment (36 CFR 219.53).

Submit written objections by one of the following methods:

- Electronically via the project webpage at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/gila/?project=51887> are preferred. Electronic submissions (including all attachments) must be submitted in a format (word (.doc or .docx), rich text format (.rtf), text (.txt), portable document format (.pdf), and/or hypertext markup language (.html)) that is readable and searchable with optical character recognition software.
- Via regular mail, carrier, or hand delivery to the following address: USDA-Forest Service Southwestern Region, ATTN: Objection Reviewing Officer, 333 Broadway Blvd SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102. The office hours for submitting a hand-delivered objection are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.

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, 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 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 draft plan decision may be improved. If the objector believes that the plan, plan amendment, or 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 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 proposed plan, plan amendment, or plan revision comment period.

Additionally, objections should be identified as pertaining to the "revised Land Management Plan" or the "Regional Forester's list of species of conservation concern" for the Gila National Forest, as these are subject to separate objection reviews. Objectors filing objections on both topics should submit these as separate objection letters.

It is the responsibility of the objector to ensure that the Reviewing Officer receives the objection in a timely manner. The regulations generally prohibit extending the length of the objection filing period (36 CFR 219.56(d)). However, when the time period expires on a Saturday, Sunday, or a Federal holiday, the time is extended to the end of the next Federal working day (11:59 p.m. Mountain Standard Time for objections filed by electronic means such as via the website) (36 CFR 219.56).

Responsible Official

The responsible official who will approve the record of decision (ROD) for the Gila National Forest revised Plan is Forest Supervisor Camille Howes. The responsible official for the list of species of conservation concern is Regional Forester Machiko Martin, USDA Forest Service Southwestern Region.

Reviewing Officer

The Regional Forester is the reviewing officer for the revised Plan since the Forest Supervisor is the responsible official (36 CFR 219.56(e)). Objection review of the Regional Forester's list of species of conservation concern will be subject to a separate objection process from the objection review of the Forest Plan. The Chief of the Forest Service is the reviewing officer for species of conservation concern identification since the Regional Forester is the responsible official (36 CFR 219.56(e)(2)). This authority may be delegated to an individual Deputy Chief or Associate Deputy Chief for the National Forest System, consistent with delegations of authority provided in the Forest Service Manual at sections 1235.4 and 1235.5. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lisa Mizuno, Environmental Coordinator, at (575) 388-8267. Individuals who use telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD) may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 800-877-8339, 24 hours a day, every day of the year, including holidays.

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