

**NOTICE OF OBJECTIONS FILED ON THE FOLLOWING:**

Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests Land and Management Plan Revision – Reviewing Officer: Rick Lint, Southern Region Deputy Regional Forester; and Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests Regional Forester Species of Conservation Concern List Reviewing Officer: Barrie Gyant, National Forest Systems Associate Deputy Chief.

**Time Zone of Reviewing Officers: Eastern Time**

The Forest Service has received over 800 timely objections to the draft record of decision for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests Land Management Plan and the associated Regional Forester Species of Conservation Concern list from individuals or organizations who previously commented. The objection process allows for the reviewing officer to meet with objectors to discuss opportunities to resolve the issues raised. To ensure potential objection resolution discussions are open and transparent, interested persons may participate in those discussions. To participate in the objection resolution discussions with the objector(s) and the Reviewing Official, you must request recognition as an interested person within 10 days of this legal notice. You do not need to have objected to the plan decision to request to be an interested person, however you must have provided substantive comment during the opportunities provided during the planning process.

The publication date of this notice in the Asheville Citizen Times initiates the 10-day period during which individuals or organizations who have commented during the plan revision in the past and have a particular interest in the resolution of an objection issue, may file a request to be an interested person and participate in meetings between the objectors and the Forest Service. This is described in the regulations at 36 C.F.R. §219.57 and Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12, Section 51.65.

The Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement, and draft Record of Decision were released by the National Forests in North Carolina Forest Supervisor, James Melonas, on January 21, 2022. These documents and the objections are available for review on the Forest Plan project website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/home/?cid=fseprd972970>.

**To become an interested person:** The objection regulations at 36 CFR § 219.57 and Forest Service policy outlined in the Land Management Planning Handbook (FSH 1909.12, Section 51.65) allow those individuals and entities who have previously submitted substantive formal comments and who request and are granted recognition as interested persons to participate in resolution meetings between the objectors and the Forest Service. The purpose of this opportunity is to ensure that efforts to resolve objections are conducted in an open and collaborative forum.

Written requests for recognition as an interested person must be submitted no later than 10 days from the date of this notice in the Asheville Citizen Times, the newspaper of record, and must include the following information: 1) name and affiliation, if any, of the requester; 2) mailing address, phone number, and email address (if available) for the requester; 3) the names of the objector(s) whose objection(s) the requester has an interest in; a brief explanation of the requester's interest in the objection(s) and any specific concern(s), including a description of support or opposition to the objection(s); and 4) identification of substantive formal comment provided by the requester during the planning process demonstrating the requester's participation in the planning process.

Interested Persons requests should be submitted by email to [objections-southern-regional-office@fs.fed.us](mailto:objections-southern-regional-office@fs.fed.us) and must include "Nantahala and Pisgah NFs Plan Revision." An automated response will confirm that your electronic request has been received. Electronic requests must be submitted in a commonly used format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Microsoft Word (.docx). The requests will be considered by the Reviewing Officer(s), and eligible interested persons will be notified in advance of any objection resolution meetings. Objection resolution meetings are open to observation by the public, and the date(s), location(s), and agenda(s) for any meeting(s) will be posted online at [National Forests in North Carolina - Home \(usda.gov\)](https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/home/?cid=fseprd972970) (<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/nfsnc/home/?cid=fseprd972970>).