

CITIZEN-TIMES

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Legal Notice for Objection period for the Nantahala and Pisgah NFs Plan Revision

60-Day Notice of Opportunity to Object Final Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement, Availability of Draft Record of Decision for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forest Plan Revision USDA FOREST SERVICE.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service Southern Region, National Forests in North Carolina has prepared the final revised land management plan (LMP) and the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. The publication of this notice in the Asheville Citizen-Times initiates the 60-day objection period during which individuals or entities with specific concerns related to the Nantahala and Pisgah revised LMP or FEIS may file objections for the Forest Service review prior to the approval of the revised land management plan. This is also the opportunity to object to the Regional Forester's list of species of conservation concern for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. The Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests' LMP, FEIS, other supporting documentation, and the draft record of decision are available for review on the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests' plan revision webpage: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/nfsc/nprevision>. An electronic scan of this notice with the publication date will also be posted to the website. The publication date of this notice is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Objectors must not rely on dates or timeframe information provided by any other source (36 CFR 219.56(b)(3)). 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. ADDRESSES: Electronic objection submissions are strongly preferred and can be submitted at: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=43545>. Please provide electronic submissions in a format that is readable with optical character recognition software (e.g., Word, PDF, Rich text) and searchable. The following address should be used for the objections submitted by regular mail, private carrier, or hand delivery; Objection Reviewing Officer, USDA Forest Service Southern Region, ATTN: Objection Reviewing Officer, 160 Zillicoa St, Suite A, Asheville, NC 28801. Note that due to current health and safety guidelines, hand delivery may not be available. Objections can also be faxed to the objection reviewing officer at: 828-257-4863. Address faxes to "Objection Reviewing Officer," include "Nantahala and Pisgah NFs Plan Revision Objection" or "Nantahala and Pisgah Species of Conservation Concern Objection" in the fax coversheet subject line and specify the number of pages being submitted. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The decisions to approve the revised forest plan for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests and the Regional Forester's species of conservation concern will be subject to the objection process identified in 36 CFR 219 Subpart B (219.50 to 219.62). Only those individuals and entities who have submitted substantive formal comments related to the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests plan revision during the opportunities provided for public comment during the planning process will be eligible to file an objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for formal comment (36 CFR 219.53(a)). 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 the 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, or list of species of conservation concern 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; (8) All documents referenced in the objection must be provided (a bibliography is not sufficient) except: a. All or any part of the 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. RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS: The Responsible Official who will approve the Record of Decision for the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests Plan Revision is James Melonas, Forest Supervisor, Nantahala and Pisgah National Forest Supervisor's Office. The Responsible Official for the species of conservation concern is Ken Arney, Regional Forester. The Regional Forester is the Reviewing Officer for the revised plan and the Forest Supervisor is the Responsible Official (36 CFR 219.56(e)(2)). The Chief of the Forest Service is the Reviewing Officer for the species of conservation concern identification since the Regional Forester is the Responsible Official (36 CFR 219.56(e)(2)). All objections should be sent to the objection reviewing officer for the Southern Region, as indicated above. All objections are open to public inspection and will be posted to the Forest Service website. For additional information concerning the final Plan and FEIS, contact: Michelle Aldridge, Acting Forest Planner, michelle.aldridge@usda.gov, (828) 707-8391. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender. January 21, 2022 5091346