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USDA FOREST SERVICE

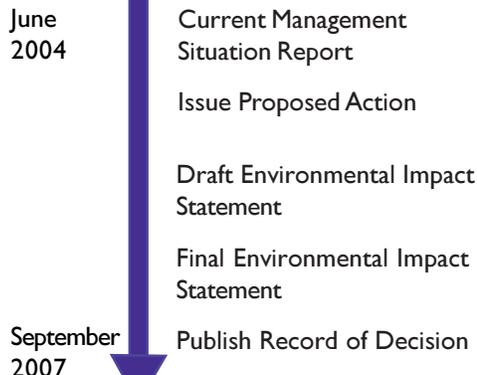
Ready, Set, Revision!

Forest Plan Revision News for the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

Forest Plan Revision is On-Track...Hop on Board!

A **Forest Plan** provides broad direction to the Forest Service about how to manage the resources on national forest lands.

Forest Plan Revision Timeline



What is Forest Plan Revision?

The Malheur, Wallowa-Whitman, and Umatilla National Forests are combining efforts to revise their Land and Resource Management Plans. The current Forest Plans are near the end of their intended 15-year lifespan.

The new Forest Plans, which are scheduled to be completed in late 2007, will address the substantial resource and social changes that have occurred since the early 1990s when the original Forest Plans were created. They will also reflect the considerable gains in scientific knowledge that have occurred since then.

Who is going to do it?

We are just getting started on this planning process and we want to work with everyone who is interested and will be affected by the Forest Plans.

With the help of many, many people on all three national forests, the newly formed Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team will be the core group revising the Forest Plans. The core team, with the exception of Dee McConnell (John Day, Oregon) and Kathy Campbell (Walla Walla, Washington), is working out of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Supervisor's Office in Baker City, Oregon.



Back row (from left to right): Dee McConnell (GIS Specialist), Trish Callaghan (Recreation), Elaine Kohrman (Social Scientist/Economist), Tami Paulsen (Public Affairs), Bob Gecy (Physical Sciences), Dave Schmitt (Team Leader), and Bruce Countryman (Vegetation).
Front and center: Bob Mason (Biologist) and Kathy Campbell (Writer-Editor).

Why Revise the Forest Plan?

Why Does a Forest Plan Matter?

Plans govern how national forests are managed. The operations that national forest managers undertake must be consistent with the forest plan's standards and guidelines, its goals, objectives, and management requirements, as well as all relevant laws.

Why are Forest Plans Revised?

The Forest Service is required by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) to revise Forest Land and Resource Management Plans every 10-15 years. The Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Plans were completed in the early 1990s. The Plans were formulated in the context of the issues and resource conditions at that time. It is now time to look at what has worked and what has not worked in these plans and to make appropriate changes.

The plan revision will not be "zero-based planning" like the original Forest Plans. Since there are already current forest plans in place, the revision effort will focus only on those parts of the existing Forest Plans that are no longer current and in need of change. Portions of the existing Forest Plans are not current because many of the economic, social and/or ecological conditions have changed since the early 1990s. The Revision Team will build upon the existing plans and make changes only when necessary to deal with new laws, disturbance events such as winds or fire, and changes highlighted by project monitoring and changing public expectation.

Why Should You Participate?

If you are interested in how the Blue Mountains National Forests are managed day-to-day, then engaging in the revision process is an excellent opportunity to make a difference. We encourage everyone who cares about the national forests to work with us to develop the Forest Plans. Working together means sharing information and communicating openly during the process while considering the legal requirements that the Forest Service must follow.

*We hope to hear
from you soon!*

Are you on our mailing list?

Even more important - Do you want to be on our mailing list?

You have received this newsletter because you expressed interest in previous Forest Service planning efforts or project work in the Blue Mountains of northeastern Oregon. You are also on our mailing list if you are a Forest Service permittee and/or an adjacent landowner.

We are working on several ways to keep you informed over the next four years. We need you to tell us the best way for us to get information to you.

Now is a good time to let us know if you are interested in learning more about the Forest Plan Revision. In order to reduce printing and mailing costs for future publications, now is even a better time to tell us if you are not interested.

Perhaps you would prefer to use the web or e-mail to keep informed?

To be sure we send materials to only those who want them, **you must fill out and mail the enclosed flyer** if you wish to continue receiving information from us.

If we do not hear back from you

BY

May 31, 2004

*you will be removed
from our mailing list.*

Daytripping in the Blues....



Where is this photo taken?

(See page 6 for the answer)

You are invited to participate in the Forest Plan Revision for the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. To reduce printing and mailing costs *now* is the time to tell us whether or not you are interested in receiving information about the revision process over the next four years.

One way to get current information is to visit our websites at www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/blue_mtn_planrevision/ where we will post future newsletters and documents. If you provide us your e-mail address, we will send you notices whenever a major document is added to our website or published.

If you prefer, we will also continue to send the newsletter and notices about published documents by regular U.S. Mail. HOWEVER, in order to continue receiving information from us **you MUST fill out and mail this page back** to the address on the reverse side.

*IF WE DO NOT RECEIVE THIS PAGE BACK FROM YOU BY MAY 31, 2004
YOU WILL BE REMOVED FROM OUR MAILING LIST*

HOW DO YOU PREFER TO RECEIVE INFORMATION? E-mail U.S. MAIL

If you wish to obtain information **ONLY by E-mail**, please subscribe to the electronic mailing list on our webpage at: www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/blue_mtn_planrevision/ or provide your e-mail address below:

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**USDA Forest Service
Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team
P.O. Box 907
Baker City, Oregon 97814**



Meet Dave Schmitt - Team Leader

Hi - I'm Dave Schmitt, Team Leader for the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team in northeastern Oregon. I started in this position in October 2002. I was most recently the District Ranger of the Pine Ranger District of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in Halfway, Oregon where I still reside. I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Range and Forest Management from Colorado State University and have worked in resource management for almost 30 years in California, Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, Alaska, and Oregon. My job is to provide this four-year planning effort with project leadership and ensure that legal requirements for both the process and the products are met, and to also oversee the public participation process.

I'd like to bring you up to date on how we're coming along with the Forest Plan Revision for the three national forests in the Blue Mountains. In October 2003 we finished assembling a team that will work on the Forest Plan Revision for the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. The team has been working on developing the strategy for how we will work together with interested people, meeting with other specialists on the three forests, and gathering information about the current management situation.

Over the next year we will be working with our local communities and others to develop a vision for the future management of the Blue Mountains, create the building blocks that will be used in the new Forest Plans, identify the things in the current Forest Plans that are not working, and craft a Proposed Action. Keeping you up-to-date and involved in the revision is one of my top priorities. We hope you will visit our website periodically to stay informed on what we are doing. Please be sure to return the insert in this first issue of our newsletter so that we can keep our mailing list current. If you have any comments or questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at the phone numbers, address, or email address listed on the back page. We look forward to working with you as we revise the document that will guide the management of the Blue Mountains National Forests for the next 10-15 years.

**Please see the location map for the
Malheur, Umatilla,
and
Wallowa-Whitman National Forests
on our website at:**

www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/blue_mtn_planrevision/

The Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman Forests are revising their Forest Plans. We are working on several ways to keep you informed throughout the process over the next four years. However, we need you to tell us the best way for us to get information to you.

In order to continue getting information from us on the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision you **must fill out and mail** the flyer inside back to us.

If we do not hear back from you by May 31, 2004 you will be removed from our mailing list.

How to Contact Us:

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Website: www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/blue_mtn_planrevision/

E-mail: blue_mtn_planrevision@fs.fed.us

Spreading the word: Feel free to post this newsletter. We also encourage anyone to link to our website to provide our Forest Plan Revision information to your website users.



The photo on Page 2 is looking into the North Fork Umatilla Wilderness on the Walla Walla Ranger District.



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