

NEWS RELEASE

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Working Together – One Landscape...Many Visions

The Forest Service will be hosting the third round of Community Collaborative Workshops for the Blue Mountains forest plan revision in ten communities across the area. The first workshop will be in La Grande, Oregon on April 12. Each workshop will run from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. although the doors will open at 5:30 to allow time to view information displays related to discussion topics.

These workshops will include an update and overview of the 2004 Planning Rule, and will also focus on reviewing and discussing management categories, wild and scenic river inventories, and the inventory of areas with wilderness potential.

The Forest Plan Revision Team will present these topics, answer questions, and will give participants information about how to comment on them.

To allow participants time to review the workshop materials prior to attending, the information will be available in early April on the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision website www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/blue_mtn_planrevision/ and at local Forest Service offices. Posting this information on the website and at local Forest Service offices also provides an opportunity for people to get the information and submit comments if they cannot attend a workshop.

“Almost 600 people have participated in the 20 workshops we have held since last June,” said Dave Schmitt, Team Leader for the revision effort, “While we are building on our past work together we welcome new participants at any point in the process. We want to work together, and we have a lot of work to do before the Revised Forest Plans are ready in the fall of 2007.”

The Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests are revising their Land and Resource Management Plans. These ‘Forest Plans’ provide broad direction to the Forest Service about how to manage the natural resources on national forest lands. The three Blue Mountains national forests comprise about 5.3 million acres in northeast Oregon, southeast Washington, and west-central Idaho.

Through a continuing series of Community Collaborative Workshops, the Revision Team is working collaboratively with local communities, state and federal agencies, and tribes across the Blue Mountains. The goal is to work together to develop a vision for the future management of the national forests 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 revision proposal.

Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Community Collaborative Workshop Schedule	
Community/Date	Location
La Grande, OR April 12	Eastern Oregon University - Hoke Hall, Room 309 One University Blvd.
Enterprise, OR April 13	Wallowa County Fairgrounds - Cloverleaf Hall 600 NW First St.
Baker City, OR April 14	Best Western Sunridge Inn 1 Sunridge Lane
Dayton, WA April 19	Columbia County Fairgrounds - Youth Building 105 Columbia County Fair
Pendleton, OR April 20	Convention Center 1601 Westgate
Heppner, OR April 21	St. Patrick's Senior Center 182 N. Main St.
John Day, OR April 26	Malheur National Forest, Supervisor's Office 431 Patterson Bridge Rd.
Burns, OR April 27	Harney County Senior & Community Services Center 17 S. Alder St.
Portland, OR May 3	Portland State University, Smith Student Union Room 298 724 S.W. Harrison St.
Pasco, WA May 4	Franklin County Public Utilities District Office 1411 W. Clark St.

For more information, please contact Tami Paulsen, Public Affairs Specialist at 541-523-1332 or Dave Schmitt, Team Leader, at 541-523-1248. Up-to-date workshop information and materials as well as all materials from past workshops are located on forest plan revision website at www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/blue_mtn_planrevision/ .

