

NEWS RELEASE

September 23, 2005

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Forest Plan Revision Takes Collaboration to the Field

The Forest Service will be hosting three field trips in October as they continue their collaborative work with the public in revising the Forest Plans for the three national forests in the Blue Mountains. Field trips will take place on the Malheur National Forest on October 12, the Wallowa-Whitman on October 14, and the Umatilla on October 21. Because transportation will be provided, reservations need to be made by October 3. Reserve your spot by calling Tami Paulsen at 541-523-1332.

Field trip participants will have the opportunity to visit with the forest plan revision team members and other Forest Service specialists and managers while viewing some of the issues that the revised forest plans will address. These on-the-ground discussions will include such topics as: how to apply the desired conditions that participants helped develop at the 30 workshops the revision team has held; methods of moving towards the vision for the future management of the forests; and more about social, ecological, and economic sustainability, which provides the conceptual framework for revising the forest plans.

“While participants in the process have said they really appreciate the opportunity to work with Forest Service specialists at our Community Collaborative Workshops,” said Dave Schmitt, team leader for the revision effort, “we want to offer additional opportunities to work together that are less structured with more time for discussion.”

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 and other collaborative forums, the Revision Team is working 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 Revised Forest Plans, identify the things in the current Forest Plans that are not working, and craft a revision proposal.

To make field trip reservations or 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 information 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/.

