



USDA FOREST SERVICE

Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

Components of a Forest Plan

Revised February 2, 2006



What is a Forest Plan?

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

What does a Revised Forest Plan look like?

The Revised Forest Plans will have three parts: vision, strategies, and design criteria. In the Blue Mountains, Community Collaborative Workshops are being held periodically from where we will develop these components together.

-  The first step in the revision process is to create a **vision** that reflects the *values* of the people who care about the forests. The vision will ultimately be composed of '*desired conditions*' for the social, ecological, and economic features of the forests. These desired conditions will emphasize the distinctive role and contribution of the forests in the local area, region, and the nation. They include ideas about landscape conditions, disturbance processes (such as wildfire), and benefits and experiences that the forests can provide. They also are bound by existing laws and biological and physical limits.
-  **Strategies** for managing the forests are developed to achieve the vision and desired conditions. They describe suitable uses, key objectives for anticipated conditions, uses, and activities, and how the strategy will be monitored. Some areas may be recommend for special designations such as botanical areas. We will begin working on strategies in the summer of 2006 based on the vision, desired conditions, and available technical information and analysis.
-  The last step is to establish **design criteria** that define how future site-specific activities can occur within the context of the revised Forest Plans. The design criteria frame the strategies for achieving the vision. The design criteria will acknowledge other guidance, laws, and regulations that are already in place, and that will not (or cannot) be changed through the Forest Plan revision process.



What decisions are included in a Forest Plan?

Forest Plans do not include every decision or analysis that affects forest management. The Forest Service directives system provides a substantial component of the "how to" direction of forest management. Information developed in assessments conducted at broad, watershed, and project scales provide context and inform forest planning and project decisions. Project planning is the final process for determining what is accomplished on the ground consistent with the decisions in the forest.