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Collaboration Continues with Open Houses in May



Look Inside for Open House Schedule

The Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team has been busy further developing the parts and pieces that will make up the Revised Forest Plans. Thanks to everyone who has participated in the revision process, helping craft parts of the plans. The team has worked with the information gained through the public collaboration process and working with other Forest Service specialists and is now ready to bring some of these products to you in May.

Because so many different parts of the Revised Forest Plans are being developed, the Revision Team feels that open houses would be the best way to share information with you. This format is intended to give you the opportunity to focus on the subjects that you are most interested in. At the open houses, the team will be ready to explain the products, the processes used to develop them, and how they will fit into the revised plans. This will be an opportunity to talk about how the pieces relate to each other and how you can help begin integrating them into the proposed Revised Forest Plans over the summer and fall.

Some of the products that will be ready to share include: The Vision (Part 1 of the Forest Plan); some examples of Forest-wide Strategies (Part 2); a list of the kinds of things we should consider when we are determining areas that are suitable for timber production and off-highway vehicle use; and information about sense of place, economics, and focal species. The team will also present the updated inventories of eligible wild and scenic rivers and inventoried roadless areas (areas with wilderness potential) that have been refined since last April when they were presented at the third round of Community Collaborative Workshops (see page 2 for more about these inventories).

We hope you will join us at one of the open houses. In the meantime if you have any questions, please call us!

USDA FOREST SERVICE

Ready, Set, Revision!

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



Umatilla NF field trip participants enjoy a beautiful fall day in October



Discussion of Updated Inventories in May

If you participated in the Round Three Community Collaborative Workshops, you understand that reviewing the inventories for potentially eligible wild and scenic rivers and inventoried roadless areas (areas with wilderness potential) are some of the first steps required in revising the three forest plans in the Blue Mountains. The initial inventories of eligible wild and scenic rivers and inventoried roadless areas identified streams and areas that met the qualifications for designation based on established criteria. The Revision Team has refined these inventories based on your comments and further study by natural resource specialists at the local ranger districts. These updated inventories will be presented at seven open houses in May.

According to Trish Callaghan, the team's recreation specialist, "Having accurate and complete inventories is really important so that we can do the best job possible as we move forward through the next steps in the process."

While the Revised Forest Plans will identify eligible wild and scenic rivers, the plans *will not* include any recommendations for wild and scenic river designation. Any decision to recommend designation would occur following further study sometime after the forest plan revision process is completed in late 2007.

The inventoried roadless areas (areas with wilderness potential) will be evaluated to identify capability, availability, and need for recommendation. This evaluation process will be explained at the open houses. The Revised Forest Plans *will* include decisions on areas to recommend to Congress for wilderness. These decisions have not been made, but will be made by each Forest Supervisor and shown in the proposed Revised Forest Plans when they are presented to the public for review in early 2007.



Workshop participants gather around inventory maps in John Day, Oregon on April 26, 2005

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why designate wild and scenic rivers in wilderness? Isn't this pointless? Why do rivers within wilderness areas need further designation?

A: There are special provisions within Section 4 of the *Wilderness Act* that allow the President to authorize construction of water resource developments inside a wilderness when it is desirable. The *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* is a more restrictive law that can further protect rivers from water resources development, once they are designated.

Q: How will fire and the wildland-urban interface (commonly referred to as WUI) be addressed in the Revised Forest Plans?

A: The revised plans will include desired conditions for those areas, and based on fuel loading and fire risk, will provide general direction for appropriate management to meet the desired conditions.

Q: How will Forest Plans fall in line with Community Fire Plans and the National Fire Plan?

A: Community Fire Plans are under the umbrella of the Forest Plan. We will work with Forest Service fire management specialists to assure that what is in the fire plans is consistent with the Revised Forest Plans.

Q: Throughout the forest plan revision effort, we've been hearing a lot about "sustainability". Where can I learn more about this?

A: Understanding sustainability is important because this concept is the foundation the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team is using to revise the forest plans. The Revision Team has compiled an extensive bibliography of studies and reports about sustainability. You can access this bibliography by visiting the revision website at www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/blue_mtn_planrevision/

Want to learn more about how the Revised Forest Plans will address recreation, mining, and access?

Check our website for more Frequently Asked Questions

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



Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Open Houses

The next set of collaborative events for the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision begins in May. These open houses will include review and discussion of:

- The vision that participants helped create in previous workshops
- Specially designated areas such as:
 - Inventoried Roadless Areas (areas with wilderness potential)
 - Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Forest-wide strategies
- Suitability for:
 - Timber production
 - Off-highway vehicle use
- Sense of Place
- Focal Species
- Economics



Community/Date

Location

Burns, Oregon
May16 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Harney County Senior and Community Services Center
17 S. Alder Street

John Day, Oregon
May17 2:00-9:00 p.m.

Malheur National Forest, Supervisor's Office
431 Patterson Bridge Road

Enterprise, Oregon
May18 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Wallowa County Fairgrounds Cloverleaf Hall
600 N.W. First Street

Dayton, Washington
May23 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Delany Building
111 S. Third Street

Sandy, Oregon
May 23 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Mt. Hood National Forest, Supervisor's Office
16400 Champion Way

Pendleton, Oregon
May 24 2:00-9:00 p.m.

Convention Center
1601 Westgate

La Grande, Oregon
May 25 2:00-9:00 p.m.

Blue Mountains Conference Center
404 12th Street

We hope you can join us at one of these events!

For more information contact:

Tami Paulsen, Public Affairs Specialist, at 541-523-1332 or Dave Schmitt, Team Leader, at 541-523-1248.

For up-to-date information about any changes to this schedule please visit the forest plan revision website at:

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

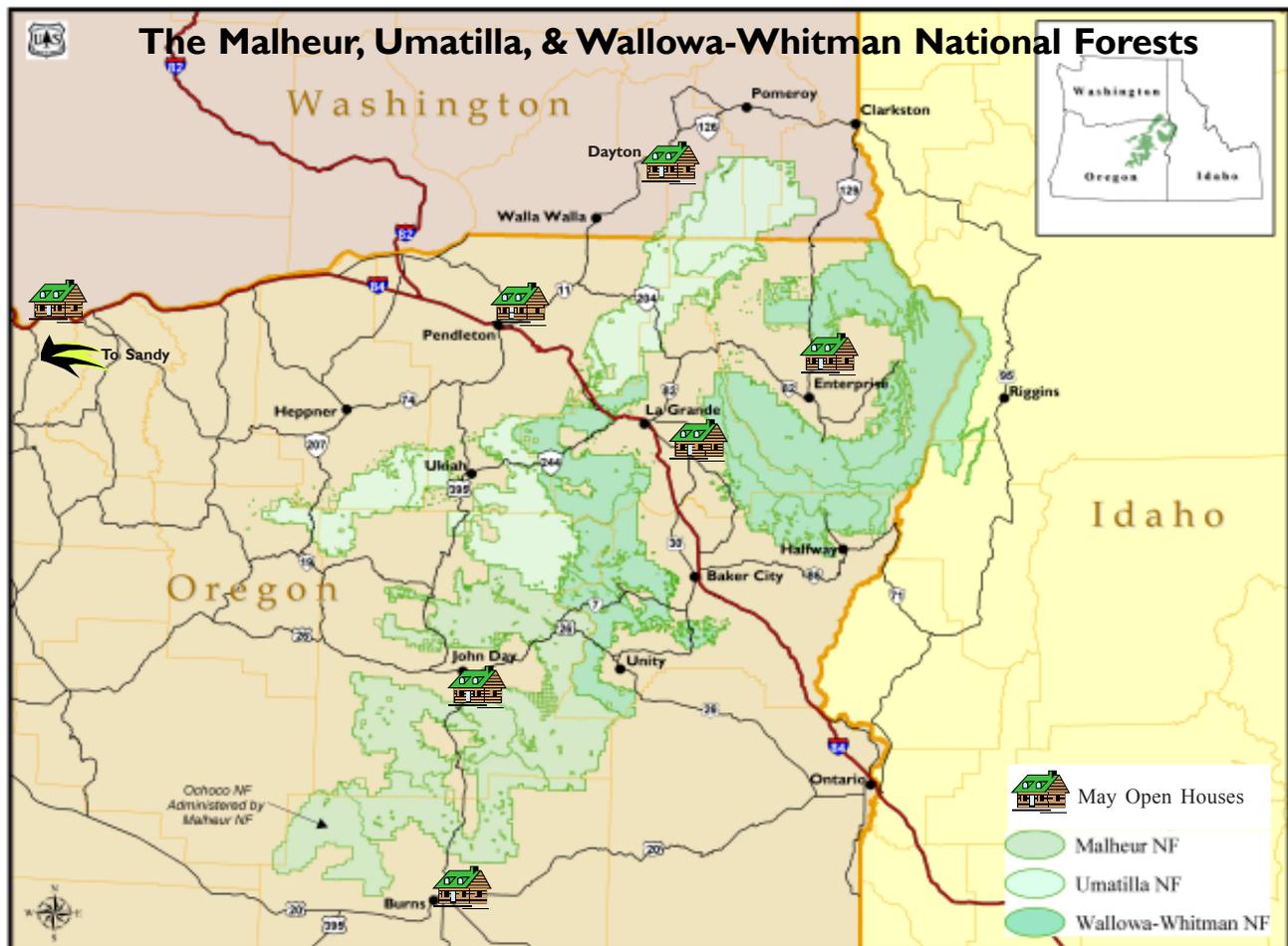
Update on the Timeline

January 2007 - Proposed Revised Forest Plans
Beginning of NEPA* process - 90-day Comment Period

Consideration/Incorporation of Public Comments

September 2007 - Decision on Revised Forest Plans

*National Environmental Policy Act





Meet Bob Gecy ~ Physical Scientist ~

Background: Bob joined the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team from the Uinta NF in Utah where he was the forest hydrologist for seven years. Bob is responsible for the portions of the Revised Forest Plans dealing with climate, air quality, geology, soils, hydrology, lands, minerals, and riparian ecology.

Prior to his time in Utah, he worked in hydrology on two national forests in California and in fire management on the Deschutes and Fremont National Forests in Oregon. Bob has a Bachelor of Science degree in geology from Oregon State University and has done post-graduate work at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire.

Cool experience: Bob's first job out of high school was an Engineering Aide for NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center at Edward's Air Force Base working on the forerunners for the space shuttle.

Little known fact: When he was a child Bob lived in Japan for over three years and learned to speak Japanese.

Home life: Bob's hobbies include studying riparian ecology, astronomy, fly-fishing, and watching pro baseball (go Red Socks!). He and his wife Leslie, who is a plant ecologist, live with their four cats near the base of the Elkhorn Mountains outside of Baker City.



Daytripping in the Blues...

Where was this photo taken? (see page 6 for the answer)



**Join us at a
Blue Mountains
Forest Plan
Revision
Open House!**



**Look inside for the
Event Schedule**

**We hope to see you
there!**

How to Contact Us:

Call or write us if you need to submit address changes or wish to be added to or removed from the mailing list -

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**Tami Paulsen, Public Affairs Specialist
541-523-1332
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541-523-1248**

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 5 was taken at Anthony Lakes on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.



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