



USDA Forest Service
Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

Specially Designated Areas in Forest Plan Revision

Revised April 28, 2006

Introduction

Besides the Congressionally designated areas such as Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers and National Recreation Areas, administrative designations for special areas are part of the forest plan revision process. These areas often have special attributes and features that have unique protection guidelines.

Process

During forest plan revision, the Blue Mountains forests are reviewing the current administrative special designated areas. While forest plans may recommend additions or deletions to established specially designated areas, we do not intend to add new areas.

The list of these areas includes:

- National Historic, Recreational and Scenic Trails
- Research Natural Areas
- Other Areas such as:
 - Experimental Forests
 - Special Geological, Botanical, and Historic Interest Areas
 - Scenic Areas
 - Municipal Watersheds

Product

The following tables and maps displaying current proposed and established specially designated areas across the Blue Mountains.

Research Natural Areas:

Each forest plan developed a list of recommended Research Natural Areas (RNAs). These require an establishment report and decision by the Chief of the Forest Service to become officially “designated.” The recommendations and status of the RNA’s is shown below:

Malheur Forest

| Name | District | Acreage | Proposed | Established |
|---------------------|----------------|---------|----------|-------------|
| Baldy Mountain | Prairie City | 2,850 | X | |
| Canyon Creek RNA | Blue Mountain | 700 | | X |
| Dixie Butte | Blue Mountain | 300 | X | |
| Dugout Creek | Prairie City | 1,200 | X | |
| Shaketable | Blue Mountain | 300 | X | |
| Strawberry Mountain | Prairie City | 500 | X | |
| Dry Mountain | Emigrant Creek | | x | |
| Silver Creek | Emigrant Creek | | | x |
| Stinger | Emigrant Creek | | x | |

Umatilla Forest

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-------|---|---|
| Birch Creek Cove | North Fork John Day | 700 | X | |
| Elk Flats-Wenaha Breaks. | Pomeroy | 1,700 | X | |
| Kelly Creek Butte | Heppner | 90 | X | |
| Mill Creek Watershed | Walla Walla | 8,300 | X | |
| Pataha Bunchgrass RNA | Pomeroy | 70 | | X |
| Rainbow Cr. RNA | Pomeroy | 600 | | X |
| Vinegar Hill | North Fork John Day | 500 | X | |

Wallowa-Whitman

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------|---|---|
| Alum Beds* | Hells Canyon NRA | 650 | X | |
| Basin Creek | Hells Canyon NRA | 400 | X | |
| Bills Creek | Hells Canyon NRA | 40 | X | |
| Bob Creek | Hells Canyon NRA | 100 | X | |
| Cougar Meadow | Baker RD | 50 | X | |
| Craig Mountain. Lake | Eagle Cap | 100 | X | |
| Duck Lake RNA | Hells Canyon NRA | 500 | | X |
| Haystack Rock | Wallowa Valley RD | 400 | X | |
| Horse Pasture Ridge | Wallowa Valley RD | 250 | X | |
| Indian Creek RNA | La Grande | 900 | | X |
| Lake Fork | Hells Canyon NRA | 500 | X | |
| Lightning Creek* | Hells Canyon NRA | 2,100 | X | |
| Little Granite Creek RNA* | Hells Canyon NRA | 6,000 | | X |
| Mount. Joseph | Eagle Cap | 700 | X | |
| Nebo | Eagle Cap | | X | |
| Pleasant Valley | Hells Canyon NRA | 1,400 | X | |
| Point Prominence | La Grande RD | 700 | X | |
| Standley | Eagle Cap | | X | |
| Strickler RNA | La Grande | 200 | | X |
| Sturgill | Eagle Cap | | X | |
| Tenderfoot Basin | Eagle Cap | | X | |
| Vance Knoll RNA | Wallowa Valley | 190 | | X |
| West Razz Lake | Eagle Cap | 50 | X | |

* Located on Nez Perce National Forest (Region 1), but administered by Wallowa-Whitman National Forest (Region 6) as part of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area.

National Historic, Recreation and Scenic Trails

These are recommended at the Regional Level according to direction set aside in the National Recreation Trails Act. They have been added to the Blue Mountain forests listing of Special Designated Areas because of their scenic, recreational and historic value.

| Trail Name | Forest | Length | Location |
|---|----------|------------|-------------------------------|
| Arch Rock National Scenic Trail | Malheur | 0.3 miles | Near MFJD river |
| Cedar Grove National Scenic Trail | Malheur | 1 miles | In Cedar Grove Botanical Area |
| Malheur River National Recreation Trail | Malheur | 8 miles | In WSR corridor |
| Jubilee Lake National Recreation Trail | Umatilla | 3 miles | Around Jubilee Lake |
| North Fork John Day National Recreation Trail | Umatilla | 22.9 miles | NFJD Wilderness |
| South Winom Creek National Recreation Trail | Umatilla | 4.0 | NFJD Wilderness |

| | | | |
|--|-------------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| Elkhorn Crest National Recreation Trail | Wallowa-Whitman | 23 miles | Near Anthony Lakes |
| Trail Name (continued) | Forest | Length | Location |
| High Wallowa National Recreation Trail | Wallowa-Whitman | 2 miles | Near top of Mt. Howard |
| Nez Perce – Nee Me Poo National Historic Trail | Wallowa-Whitman | 5 miles | Near Dug Bar |
| Oregon Trail National Historic Trail | Wallowa-Whitman | 0.4 miles | Near Blue Mountain Summit |
| Western Rim/Summit Ridge National Recreation Trail | Wallowa-Whitman | 42 miles | HCNRA |
| Heaven's Gate National Recreation Trail | Wallowa-Whitman (Idaho) | 0.6 miles | HCNRA |
| Snake River National Recreation Trail | Wallowa-Whitman | 27.9 miles | HCNRA |

| OTHER SPECIAL AREAS Name of Area | Forest | Established Acreage | Proposed Acreage | Comments |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Municipal Watersheds | | | | |
| Mill Creek Municipal Watershed | Umatilla | 19,9870 acres | | 1918, Agreement between Secretary of Agriculture and City of Walla Walla |
| Long Creek Municipal Watershed | Malheur | | | |
| Byram Gulch Municipal Watershed | Malheur | | | |
| Baker City Municipal Watershed | Wallowa-Whitman | | | |
| LaGrande City Municipal Watershed | Wallowa-Whitman | | | |
| Scenic and Special Areas | | | | |
| Vinegar Hill-Indian Rock Scenic Area | Malheur and Umatilla | 29,285 acres | | 1966 Regional Forester establishment. |
| Upper Tucannon Special Areas | Umatilla | 15,600 acres | | 1975 established by Congress, to minimize effects on elk populations. |
| Grande Ronde Scenic Area | Umatilla | | | |
| Experimental Forest | | | | |
| Starkey Experimental Forest | Wallowa-Whitman | | | |
| Cultural-Historic Special Interest Areas | | | | |
| Greenhorn | Umatilla | | | |
| Olive Lake-Fremont Powerhouse | Umatilla | | | |
| Target Meadows | Umatilla | | | |
| Sumpter Valley Railroad | Malheur | | | |
| Geologic Special Interest Areas | | | | |
| Big Sink | Umatilla | | | |
| Magone Lake | Malheur | | | |
| Tex Bridge | Malheur | | | |
| Botanical Special Interest Areas | | | | |
| Charley Creek | Umatilla | | | |
| Ruckel Junction | Umatilla | | | |
| Sheep Creek Falls | Umatilla | | | |
| Shimmiehorn Canyon | Umatilla | | | |
| Teal Spring | Umatilla | | | |
| Woodward Campground | Umatilla | | | |
| Fergy Spruce Grove | Malheur | | | |
| Cedar Grove | Malheur | | 113 | |

How this relates to the revised forest plans

While administrative Special Area designations are recommended in the forest plan, they are established through a separate process subsequent to the planning process. These special areas may have specific land management direction to preserve unique characteristics of the area included in management direction.

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