



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

## Suitability for Timber Production in Forest Plan Revision

*Revised May 9, 2006*

### **Background**

The identification of lands not suitable for timber production is required by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA):

*“Identify lands which are **not** suited for **timber production**, considering physical, economic, and other pertinent factors. Except for salvage sales or sales needed to protect other multiple-use values, no timber harvesting shall occur on these lands for a period of 10 years.”*

The Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team will determine general suitability of areas on the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests for timber production. Three categories of suitability will be identified:

- 1) Unsuitable for timber production or harvest
- 2) Unsuitable for timber production but available for timber harvest to meet other resource needs
- 3) Suitable for timber production

### **Process**

The Revision Team will use the following criteria to identify unsuitable areas:

- National forest land that is not forested
- National forest land withdrawn from production by executive order or regulation
- National forest land not capable of producing commercial forest products
- National forest land where timber production would lead to irreversible resource damage
- National forest land where no reasonable assurance that lands can be restocked within five years following harvest
- National forest lands where timber production is not compatible with achievement of the desired conditions and objectives

### **Product**

The Revision Team has produced draft maps for each national forest showing three categories for timber suitability.

Areas unsuitable for timber production or timber harvest include designated wilderness and non-forested lands.

Areas unsuitable for timber production but available for timber harvest to meet other resource needs includes wild and scenic rivers corridors, riparian management areas, roadless areas in key watersheds, old forest, areas difficult to regenerate, and areas with limited economic potential (such as whitebark pine and juniper sites).

### **How this Relates to the Revised Forest Plans**

These draft timber suitability maps will be used to develop projections of future forest conditions and potential timber production outputs.