



USDA Forest Service

Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

Outline for the Revised Forest Plans

Revised May 15, 2006

With all the information being developed for the Revised Forest Plans, it would be good to see how it all fits together. Below is an outline of the Revised Forest Plan with a tie to the information presented at the May 2006 Open Houses. It is important to remember that we are working on the Plan and much of it is still being developed. As we complete drafts of various pieces of the plan, we will make them available for review. We hope you will keep in touch with us as we move toward a complete Draft Revised Plan in early 2007. There will be time for public review of the Draft Revised Plan with a target decision on the Forest Plans by October, 2007.

Introduction to the Plan: *We expect to have a draft for review in July.*

This part gives background to the Plan by discussing the purpose of the Plan, the nature of Plan decisions, legal and policy direction for how to revise the Plan, an overview of the Plan, a summary of the planning process, and a summary of collaboration and public involvement activities during Plan revision.

Part One – Vision: *A draft of Part One is available for review at the Open Houses.*

This part describes the desired conditions the Forests will be working toward achieving. It outlines the social, economical, and ecological indicators we believe are important to achieving a sustainable environment. It also provides a brief historical perspective, a general description of the Forest's ecological setting, the role and niche the Forests occupy in the region, the operating guidelines under which the Forests desire to work, and management challenges the Forests face in achieving the desired conditions.

Part Two – Strategy: *We expect to have a draft of this part for review in late 2006. Various pieces of this portion of the Plan are being presented at the Open Houses. Each piece will be refined over the summer based on further analysis, specialist review, and public comments.*

Part Two includes the following:

Suitable Uses – *At the Open Houses, we are presenting suitable uses for Timber, Wildland Fire, Grazing, Recreation Residences, and Off-Highway Vehicles.*

This section describes what areas are generally suitable for various activities occurring on the Forests. While the Forest Plans do not require, authorize, or prevent any activity, suitable use determinations provide guidance to Forest managers as they make site-specific decisions that do authorize or prevent activities.

Management Categories – *At previous Community Workshops, we presented 5 draft categories. While these are still being considered, no further work has been done so we have not included them in the Open House displays.*

Specially Designated Areas – *At the Open Houses, we are presenting maps of Specially Designated Areas including updated inventories for Inventoried Roadless Areas and Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers.*

Specially Designated Areas have been set aside for a specific purpose and have specific management direction established on an area-by-area basis. They include wilderness, wild and

scenic rivers, special geologic areas, scenic trails, and research natural areas to name a few. For the most part the Revised Forest Plans will carry forward the Specially Designated Areas from the current Forest Plans. The only changes we may be proposing to Specially Designated Areas are adding a few botanical areas; these will be evaluated this summer. The Revised Forest Plan may make wilderness recommendations if the Forest Supervisors believe that is appropriate.

Management Strategies – *At the Open Houses we are presenting two sample strategies (Aquatic Restoration and Fuel Reduction).*

Strategies will address the critical issues facing the Forests; providing guidance for allocating funds and selecting areas for various projects. They will be developed over the summer and fall and will be made available for review as they are developed.

Plan Objectives – *At the Open Houses sample objectives are presented on the “Social and Economic” and “Strategies” displays.*

This section will identify the outputs and services expected from the Forests as they work toward achieving the desired conditions. Objectives will be described in units (examples may include board feet of timber harvested, miles of stream restored, acres of land treated, etc.) that can be tracked to see if the Forests are moving toward achieving the desired conditions. These outputs and services will be used in the economic analysis as we look at contributions the Forests make to economic and social sustainability. Objectives will be addressed in the draft Revised Forest Plans later this year.

Monitoring and Evaluation – This section will outline actions that will be taken to determine if the Forests are moving toward the desired conditions established in the Plan.

Part Three - Design Criteria: *We expect to have a draft of Part Three for review in fall, 2006.*

This part lists the guidelines for use during project design and implementation that are intended to protect various resources during management activities. They are similar to the Standard and Guidelines of the current Forest Plans.

Appendices:

This part of the Forest Plans provides additional information important to implementation of the Plans. It will include sustainability framework definitions, a summary of the inventory and evaluation of roadless areas and of wild and scenic rivers; a list of Focal Species, a glossary, and cited literature.