



March 2005
Volume 2, Issue 1

Community Collaborative Workshops Continue



See inside for Workshop Schedule

The Forest Plan Revision Team has travelled about 4,500 miles since last June, when Round One of the Community Collaborative Workshops began. The team has twice been to eight communities in the Blue Mountains as well as Pasco, Washington and Portland, Oregon. The objective of the workshop series, which continue this spring, is to work together to develop proposed Revised Forest Plans that will guide the future management of the national forests of the Blue Mountains.

Almost 600 people have participated in the 20 workshops that have been held so far. People have also provided information using the website and by letter and phone call. Notes from all of the workshops as well as the materials discussed at the workshops are available on the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision website at:

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

The Revision Team is collecting social, ecological, and economic information in relation to the sustainability framework that is being used throughout the process. The sustainability framework approach focuses on the linkages between these three systems to increase understanding of sustainability and make better decisions for the future.

Thanks to everyone who has participated in the workshops and has helped spread the word about forest plan revision. We have a ways to go before the Revised Forest Plans are ready in the fall of 2007, and look forward to working together in the future. Please join us at a Round Three workshop this spring!



Portland, Oregon - November 4, 2004: Workshop participants discuss the proposed desired conditions for "Access and Use" with Trish Callaghan, Recreation Specialist

USDA FOREST SERVICE

Ready, Set, Revision!

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

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will you be recommending new wilderness areas in the Revised Forest Plans?

A: We do not know at this time if the Revised Forest Plans will recommend new wilderness areas. The decision whether to recommend additional wilderness areas will be made by the Forest Supervisors at the time that a decision on the Revised Forest Plans is made.

The current Forest Plans for the national forests of the Blue Mountains do not recommend any new wilderness. However, Appendix C of each of the four *Final Environmental Impact Statements* for the Forest Plans identified Roadless Areas and their potential wilderness values. These lands were originally identified in the 1970s in studies called RARE and RAREII (Roadless Area Review and Evaluation).

As we revise the Forest Plans, resource specialists who know the areas well, are updating inventory information about the lands described in Appendix C. The results of this updated inventory will be available for public review as we continue through the collaborative process. The *Forest Service Manual* outlines detailed criteria for the inventory of lands with potential for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. While the inventory process itself is NOT a forest plan decision, the evaluation and recommendation of lands with wilderness potential is. We will work collaboratively on both the inventory process and the evaluation process. Each area in Appendix C will be re-evaluated for wilderness resource capability, availability, and need as part of the revision process. The decision to recommend designation of an area for wilderness or for other designated uses will be made with full knowledge of the environmental consequences.

Q: How will economic flows of goods and services be determined?

A: Over the next several months the Revision Team will be describing the types of goods and services, both market and non-market, the ecosystems have provided historically and the desires people have expressed for the future. The team, together with all interested parties, will define how to measure these flows to appropriately account for how they are related to the ecological and social systems. For example, 'biomass removed' as a marketed good may provide an economic value in the form of timber harvested.

Q: How will invasive weeds be addressed in the Revised Forest Plans?

A: The Forest Service is currently developing an environmental impact statement (EIS) to analyze the effects of invasive plants on ecosystems in Oregon and Washington. The Invasive Plant EIS will develop measures for prevention, treatment, and monitoring of invasive plants on national forest lands. Once the EIS is completed, these new measures will be amended into all Forest Plans in Oregon and Washington. Each of these national forest will then complete more detailed site-specific analyses of the effects of implementing individual weed treatment projects incorporating the new measures into each project. The Revised Forest Plans for the Blue Mountains national forests will also include these measures.



Daytripping in the Blues...

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

Curious about how the Revised Forest Plans will address access, mining claims, and endangered species?

Check our website for more Frequently Asked Questions

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



Blue Mountains Community Collaborative Workshops

Round Three of the Blue Mountains Community Collaborative Workshops begins in April. This set of workshops will include:

- Review and discussion of the “final” vision that participants helped create in previous workshops.
- An overview of areas of concern that may need to be addressed in the Revised Forest Plans.
- Review and discussion of management categories.
- Review and discussion of inventory of areas with wilderness potential.
- Review and discussion of wild and scenic river inventories.

Community/Date	Location
La Grande, Oregon April 12 6:00-9:00 p.m.	Eastern Oregon University, Hoke Hall, Room 309 One University Boulevard
Enterprise, Oregon April 13 6:00-9:00 p.m.	Wallowa County Fairgrounds Cloverleaf Hall 600 N.W. First Street
Baker City, Oregon April 14 6:00-9:00 p.m.	Best Western Sunridge Inn 1 Sunridge Lane
Dayton , Washington April 19 6:00-9:00 p.m.	Columbia County Fairgrounds Youth Building 105 Columbia County Fair
Pendleton, Oregon April 20 6:00-9:00 p.m.	Convention Center 1601 Westgate
Heppner, Oregon April 21 6:00-9:00 p.m.	St. Patrick's Senior Center 182 N. Main Street
John Day, Oregon April 26 6:00-9:00 p.m.	Malheur National Forest, Supervisor's Office 431 Patterson Bridge Road
Burns, Oregon April 27 6:00-9:00 p.m.	Harney County Senior and Community Services Center 17 S. Alder Street
Portland, Oregon May 3 6:00-9:00 p.m.	Portland State University, Smith Student Union, Room 298 724 S.W. Harrison Street
Pasco, Washington May 4 6:00-9:00 p.m.	Franklin County Public Utilities District Office 1411 W. Clark Street

We hope you can join us at one of these workshops! Come early to look at our information displays.

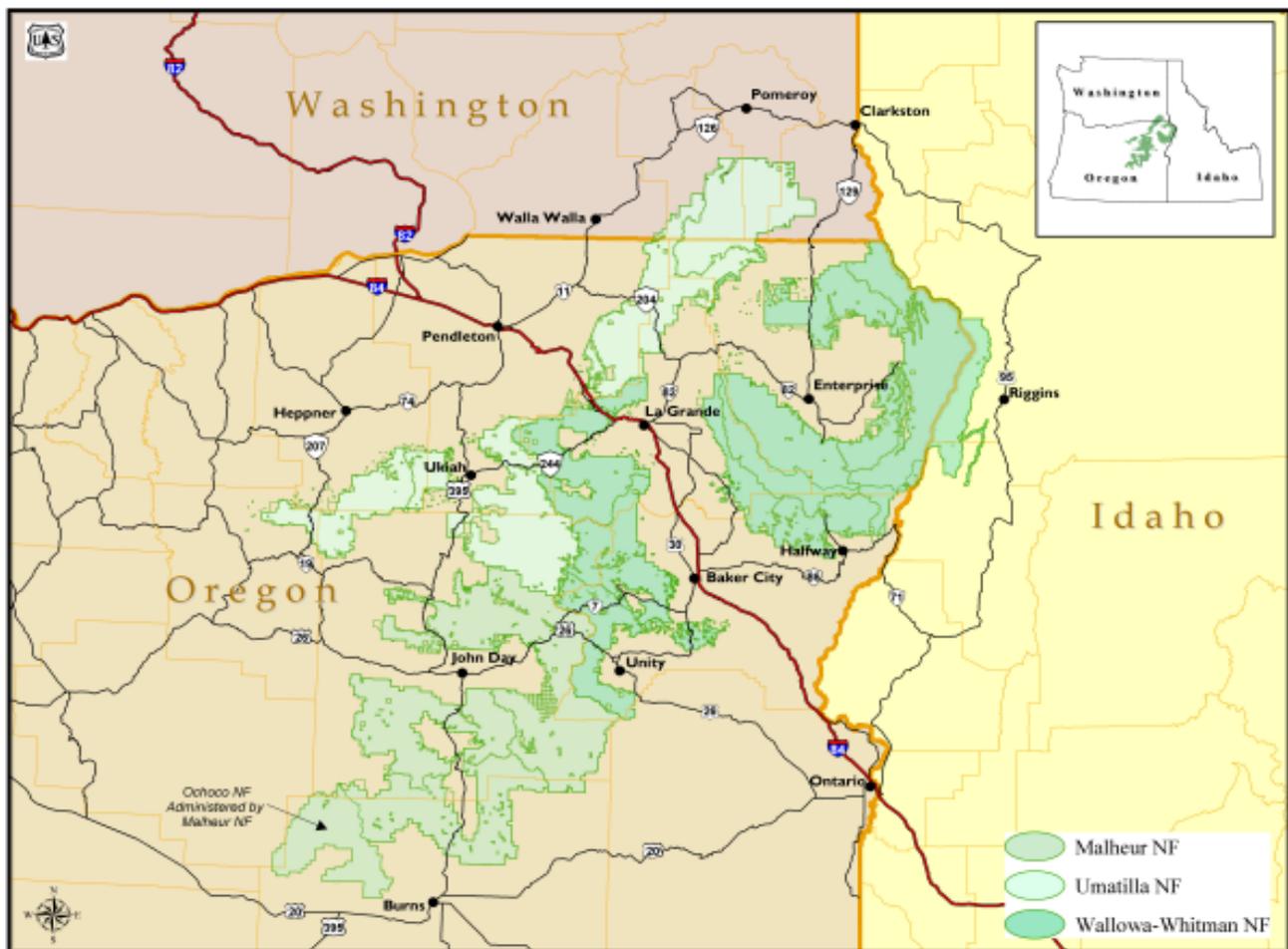
For more information,

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/

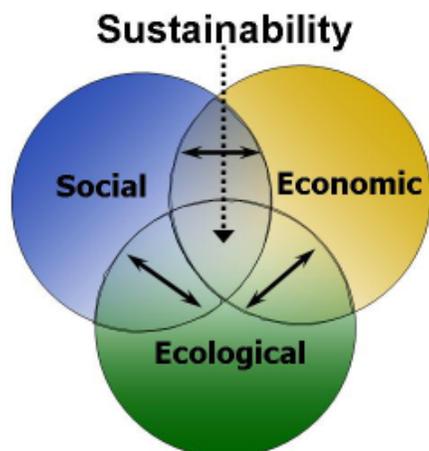
The Malheur, Umatilla, & Wallowa-Whitman National Forests



What is the Sustainability Framework?

Since the current Forest Plans were adopted in the early 1990s, the Forest Service's management direction has expanded from sustaining commodity outputs to a broader mission of sustaining the "health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations." The challenge, however, is to frame or set the context for sustainability so that we can decide what to sustain, for whom, how and for how long, and at what cost for the present and for the future.

To facilitate achieving this mission, the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team has adopted a draft framework using a set of criteria and indicators as a way to manage for sustainability, build the content for the Revised Forest Plans, and engage in a dialogue about what sustainability means. This effort is intended to build shared ownership in the final decisions.



Most definitions of sustainability that have been developed over the last 10-15 years express the human desire for sustaining the health, diversity and productivity of an environment that can provide for our needs now and for future generations of all living beings. We each have a different perspective about what this means and expectations that we want sustained.

Describing sustainable conditions is difficult because sustainability is a human value, not a fixed condition. Sustainability is affected by the ecological capability of the environment to support resource conditions and it is influenced by social values and economic expectations of people. It is also complicated by the fact that these ecological, social, and economic conditions can easily change over time.

We will work together through the Community Collaborative Workshops to discuss sustainability for the national forests of the Blue Mountains.



Meet Bruce Countryman ~Vegetation Specialist~



Bruce Countryman is the Vegetation Specialist on the Forest Plan Revision Team. Having worked in the national forests of the Blue Mountains for over 20 years, Bruce is becoming one of the Wallowa-Whitman's "old timers". He has worked in vegetation management on every ranger district on the Wallowa-Whitman and on several projects on both the Malheur and Umatilla National Forests as well.

Bruce brings a wealth of knowledge to the Forest Plan Revision Team. Over the years Bruce has worked in reforestation, timber sale preparation, fuels planning, firefighting, contracting, computer modeling, and land management planning. His background, along with his forestry degree from the University of Minnesota, make him an expert in the areas he is responsible for which include

forested and rangeland vegetation, fuels, timber suitability, noxious weeds, and grazing suitability. Two of Bruce's career highlights are the successful implementation of thousands of acres of commercial thinning in the Sumpter Valley, and implementing the Baker City Watershed Pilot Project, which was one of the first and largest pilot projects in the nation.

When he's not at work, Bruce is a pretty handy guy whether he is crafting furniture or brewing his own beer. He enjoys doing things outdoors and spending time with his wife and two teen-aged daughters.

New Planning Rule is Released

On January 5, 2005 new regulations, which will guide the way the Forest Service does forest planning, were published. These new regulations, known as the "2004 Planning Rule", will replace the regulations that have been in effect since 1982. All of the existing forest plans for the 192 million acres that the Forest Service manages were originally developed under the 1982 Planning Rule.

While the 1982 Planning Rule was appropriate for its time, there have been tremendous advances in science and technology, changes in public values and expectations of public lands, changes in marketplace for forest and rangeland products, and changes in demographics and development patterns. There have also been many changes in the landscape itself since then. The new planning rule emphasizes sustainability, public participation, and taking the best available science into account when making decisions.

Forest plan revision efforts that are now underway across the country, such as the Blue Mountains forest plan revision, will have the option to adopt the new planning rule or complete the plan revisions under the 1982 rule. New forest plan revision efforts in the future will be required to use the new planning rule. For the Blue Mountains forest plan revision effort, the three Forest Supervisors along with the Regional Forester will determine sometime this summer or fall whether or not we will switch to the 2004 Planning Rule.

The Forest Service headquarters in Washington D.C. will provide further direction about how to implement this new planning rule soon. The requirements in the directives, the time it takes for them to be finalized, and where we are in the revision timeline will all influence whether we decide to finish the plan revision under the 1982 or the 2004 rule.

Current activities in our revision process fit under both the 1982 and the 2004 planning rules so the new regulations do not affect any of our current work. In fact, the 2004 Planning Rule is very compatible with the collaborative processes we have been using to strengthen the involvement of the public and other government entities in our process.

**For more information about the new planning rule, visit the national Forest Service website at:
www.fs.fed.us/emc/nfma/index2.html**



**Don't get caught
in the dark...**

**Look Inside
for the
Blue Mountains
Community
Collaborative
Workshop schedule**

**Round Three
Workshops
begin in April**

**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 -

**Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team
1550 Dewey Avenue
P.O. Box 907
Baker City, Oregon 97814**

**Tami Paulsen, Public Affairs Specialist
541-523-1332
Dave Schmitt, Team Leader
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 2 was taken from Baker Valley looking toward the Elkhorn Mountain Range.



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