



October 2005  
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# Adapting and Adjusting: New and Different Collaboration Opportunities



## A Message

from

Dave...



With 30 workshops under our belts the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team has taken time to reflect on the most effective ways to work collaboratively through the next steps of the revision process. The team went back and reviewed what you told us about how we have worked together so far. Participants in the process have said they really appreciated the opportunity to work with Forest Service specialists at the community collaborative workshops. Several participants suggested that they needed more, less structured opportunities with more discussion time and “time to think”.

We want to be responsive to what participants have said. That is why we are trying a slightly different approach as we move through the next steps in the forest plan revision process. Over the next several months the team will be gathering information through field trips and meetings with technical experts, resources specialists, interest groups, and focus groups rather than using the workshop format.

We will continue building on the products we have developed together. With this new approach, the next round of community workshops will likely occur next spring when some of the draft products are more “final” and ready for review and comment. We appreciate the commitment of everyone who has made time to work with us and we will continue to encourage everyone to join us in this effort. If you have questions or concerns about these changes please don’t hesitate to call us.

The start of this revised collaborative format will be field trips this October. Each field trip will last from 9 am to 4 pm. We’re still working on the logistics, but please note these dates on your calendars:

- October 12 on the Malheur National Forest
- October 14 on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
- October 21 on the Umatilla National Forest

Our on-the-ground discussions will include topics such as how to apply the vision and desired conditions that we have developed together; methods of moving towards those desired conditions; and social, ecological, and economic sustainability. Watch for more details about these field trips. We hope to see you soon at a field trip or some other collaborative forum.

Dave

USDA FOREST SERVICE

# Ready, Set, Revision!

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

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** *The current Forest Plans didn't recommend any new wilderness; why is the Forest Service recommending more wilderness now?*

**A:** The Forest Service is not recommending more wilderness at this time. However, the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires that each national forest go through the process of inventorying and evaluating areas with wilderness potential each time a forest plan is revised. In the Round Three Community Collaborative Workshops (April and May 2005) the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team presented and discussed the inventory of areas with wilderness potential and identified those areas that meet the basic criteria and could be considered for wilderness designation. The next step in the process, which will be done collaboratively next spring, is to evaluate the inventoried areas for wilderness resource capability, availability, and need. The decision whether to recommend additional wilderness will be made by the Forest Supervisors by fall 2007 when the revised forest plans are completed.

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/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/blue_mtn_planrevision/)



North Fork of the John Day Wilderness Area

**Q.** *What is the goal of designating a river as "wild and scenic"?*

**A.** The purpose of wild and scenic designation is to protect the rivers' outstandingly remarkable values for the enjoyment of the American people. During forest plan revision, the Forest Service is required to identify rivers that meet the criteria for wild and scenic river status and provide a tentative classification for each eligible stream ("wild", "scenic", or "recreational"). The revised plans will not recommend rivers for designation. At some point after the forest plan revisions are completed, the Forest Supervisors will use this information to make a recommendation to Congress on whether that designation should be made.

**Q.** *Can rivers be "managed" once they are designated "wild", "scenic" or "recreational"?*

**A.** Once designated, a river management plan is written to specifically address the development allowed and what is needed to protect the river's outstandingly remarkable values. Management (such as controlling noxious weeds) would be allowed if it helps maintain or protect the values for which the river was designated.

### Field Trips in October

Three field trips are being planned as a different collaborative forum for this fall. We are still working on the logistics, but please save these dates on your calendars:

October 12 on the Malheur National Forest  
October 14 on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest  
October 21 on the Umatilla National Forest



Each field trip will be from 9 am to 4 pm. On-the-ground discussions will include topics such as how to apply the vision and desired conditions that we have developed together; methods of moving towards those desired conditions; and social, ecological, and economic sustainability. We hope to see you soon at a field trip.

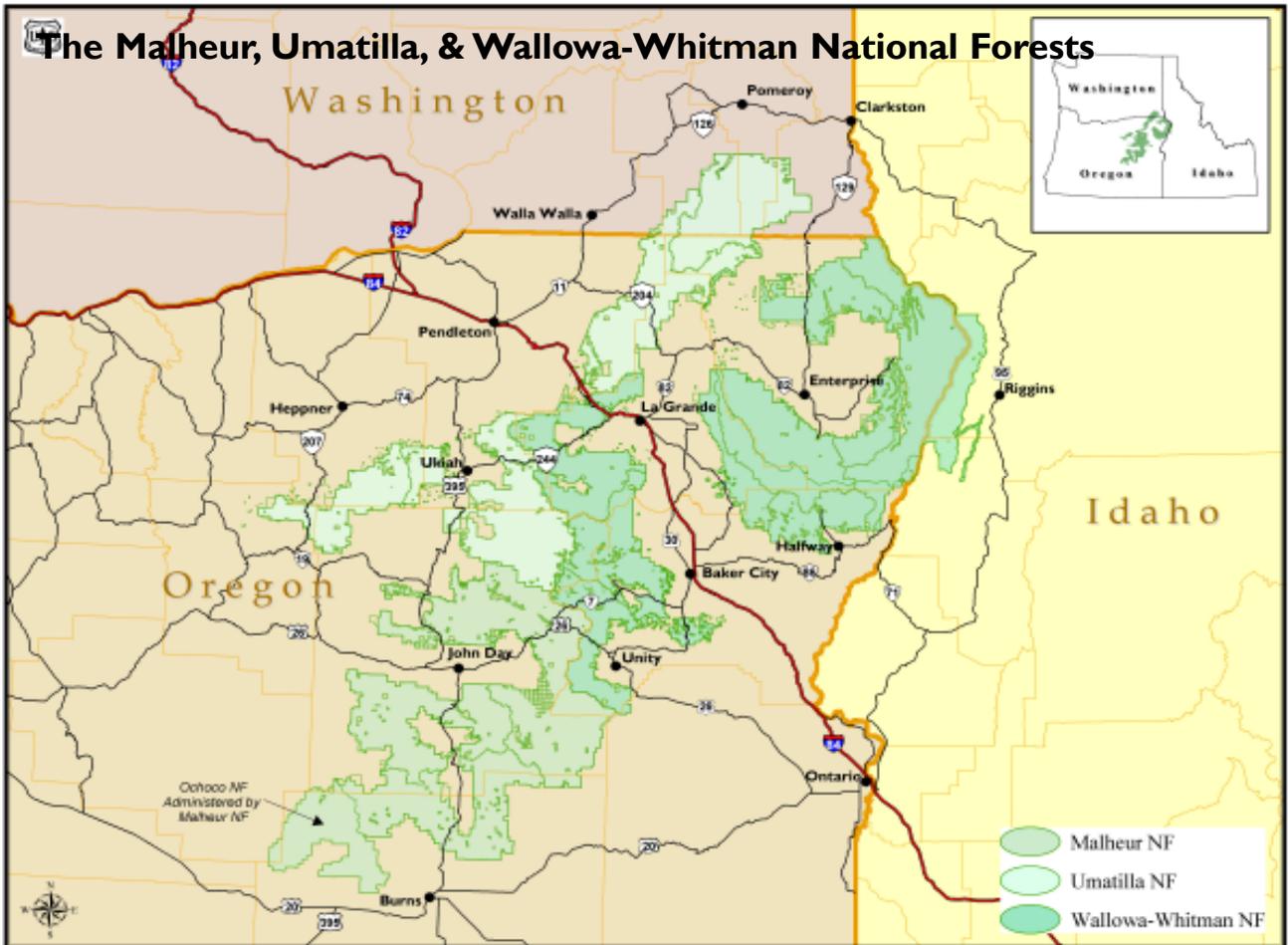
Watch your mailboxes for more information about these field trips!



Daytripping in the Blues...

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

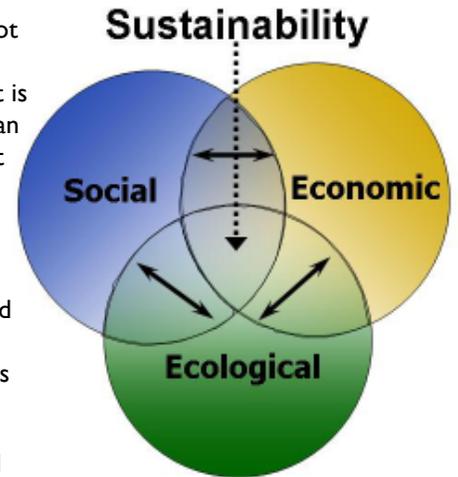
### The Malheur, Umatilla, & Wallowa-Whitman National Forests



## More About Sustainability

If you've been involved in the forest plan revision effort so far, you've been hearing a lot about sustainability. Understanding sustainability is important because this concept is the foundation the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team is using as we revise the forest plans.

The three guiding principles of sustainability that the team is working from are: social well-being, ecological integrity, and economic well-being. Sustainability entails focusing on the interactions and relationships between these three systems.



Sustainability is affected by the ecological capacity of the environment and is influenced by social values and economic expectations of people. People create meaning in their lives through social interactions with the land through family, friends, work, lifestyles, and recreation. Ecological integrity underpins and supports social and economic well-being. Ecological processes provide the basic needs that sustain us – such as air, food, water, and raw materials.

### Forest Plan Revision and Sustainability

Growing concern and demand for limited resources causes increasing conflicts between forest users and their values. Social and economic sustainability is not possible when human needs or desires exceed the capacity of the environment to sustain us. The national forests of the Blue Mountains can only meet some of the needs and some of the desires some of the time. Every acre of the national forest land can't provide for all of society's demands. The range of possibilities means that human values are involved in the resource management decisions to be made and that public involvement and collaboration are essential.

Ultimately, sustainability requires choices and trade-offs to be made about what to sustain, for whom, at what cost, and how. How this will be done is not a straightforward proposition. These choices need to be based on the current, best understanding of ecological, social, and economic systems and needs. Some of these relationships are obvious; others are not.

A vision for sustainability for the Blue Mountains national forests is the framework for making these choices. The Revision Team has developed various products to demonstrate ways to look at these interrelating needs and desires, conditions, and processes.

These products will provide the basis for determining integrated, suitable uses and activities to move toward the vision.



*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 natural resource conditions and it is influenced by social values and expectations of people.*



If you need to submit address changes or wish to be added to or removed from the mailing list, please drop us a note or call Tami Paulsen at 541-523-1332.



## Meet Dee McConnell ~ GIS Specialist ~

Dee started working on the Malheur National Forest as a student in 1990, and works at the Forest Supervisor's Office in John Day, Oregon. She has a well-rounded background in natural resources including an Associate of Applied Science degree in Forest and Range Management and work experience in recreation and fire. Dee has been a Geographic Information System (GIS) Data Services Specialist for the past ten years. The Revision Team was very fortunate to be able to include her skills when the team roster was filled in 2003.

Revising three forest plans that cover over 5.3 million acres involves a lot of data! To complicate matters, the data collected by each of the national forests in the Blue Mountains is at slightly different levels of detail and completeness. Pulling all of this information together to produce a high quality and meaningful analysis for land management decisions is a complex and challenging job. Dee meets those challenges every day. Just one example of her work is the excellent display maps she produced for each round of Community Collaborative Workshops.

Dee is a native of eastern Oregon and grew up in the Blue Mountains. She cares deeply for the areas recreational and resource values. She loves being involved with the outdoors and having a career that benefits our forests. As a mother of two, she is also active in community service events that primarily involve youth activities in and around John Day.



*Dee (right) helps a workshop participant (La Grande, April 2005)*

## Taking Care of Plants and Animals

The Forest Service is required to track certain groups of plant and animal species through the forest plan revision process: species federally-listed as threatened or endangered, species-of-concern, and species-of-interest. The species-of-concern and species-of-interest are selected based on criteria established within the Forest Service's forest planning directives. Federally-listed species are identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and, in the case of anadromous fish, the National Marine Fisheries Service, under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).



Lists for aquatic species and amphibians and reptiles are posted on the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision website. A group of "focal species" that will be used in the forest plan revision process will be selected from these lists sometime this winter. Focal species are those that are determined to reflect the habitat requirements and risks for all the other species within a particular habitat group. Using focal species provides resource specialists with a practical approach for analyzing the effects of management activities on desired native plant and animal species diversity within terrestrial (land) and aquatic (water) ecosystems. The intent of this approach is to contribute to species recovery by reducing the rate of species endangerment.

While the criteria for the species-of-concern and species-of-interest cannot be changed, input regarding additional aquatic species and amphibian and reptile species that should be included and some rationale for inclusion would be helpful. Lists of plants, invertebrates, and terrestrial species will be developed and posted on the website soon.

Review the species lists at: [www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/blue\\_mtn\\_planrevision](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/blue_mtn_planrevision)

Comment and input on these lists may be sent to:  
[blue\\_mtn\\_planrevision@fs.fed.us](mailto:blue_mtn_planrevision@fs.fed.us)

or

Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team

For more information  
contact **Bob Mason**,  
Revision Team Biologist  
at  
541-523-1245.



**Lace up your boots...**

**Blue Mountains  
Community  
Collaborative  
field trips  
begin in October**

**We hope to see  
you then!**



### 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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Website: [www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/blue\\_mtn\\_planrevision/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/blue_mtn_planrevision/)  
E-mail: [blue\\_mtn\\_planrevision@fs.fed.us](mailto: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 3 was taken at Strawberry Lake on the Malheur National Forest.



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