



for the greatest good



BLUE MOUNTAINS
FOREST PLAN REVISION - 2015
Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman
National Forests

Meeting Notes

Public Meeting on Livestock Grazing, Pace and Scale of Restoration, and the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision

Hosted by the Umatilla National Forest
Clarkston, Washington | Dec. 14, 2015

These notes reflect the best efforts of the notetaker to capture the discussion of meeting participants, but in no way are these notes a word-for-word transcript as the notetaker may have unintentionally missed some statements or dialogue. Also, the notes do not attempt to correct or clarify any statements made by participants.

Participants (as they appear on the sign-in sheet): Wes Wotring, Dave Waldron, Dave Price, Nolan Johnson, Tom Schrim, Dave Fritts, Tom Hendrickson, Samee Charriere, Sam Ledgerwood, Mike, Buck Matthews, Rod Parks, Lewellyn Juhl, Rob Klavins, Stan Wilson, Richard Loo, Jeff Blackwood (facilitator)

U.S. Forest Service (USFS) participants: Genevieve Masters, Monte Fujishin, Chuck Oliver, David Hatfield, Joani Bosworth, Maura Laverty, Johnny Collin, Blaine Beeler, Brad Cooper (notetaker)

Organizations represented: Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Bennett Lumber, Grazing Permittee, Dick Ledgerwood & Son, Grande Ronde Lodge and Cattle, Oregon Wild, USFS

Welcome from the Facilitator, Jeff Blackwood

- Welcome everyone. Let's get started. This evening we will discuss the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision, specifically the topics of range management and the pace and scale of forest restoration.
- We are here because this is all of our land. Since we all share the land, we need to respect each other's perspective. We'll go around the room and give everyone a chance to share their thoughts and ask questions.

Opening remarks

Genevieve Masters, Umatilla National Forest Supervisor: Thank you for coming out and taking time tonight to be involved in this process. It is really nice for us to hear your input, and we will be taking notes. Your feedback will help us make more informed decisions on the Forest Plan.

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Maura Laverty, Range Program Manager, Forest Plan Revision Range Specialist: What have we been hearing about livestock grazing and the Forest Plan Revision?

- We have heard strong concerns about the Guidelines for forage utilization, particularly in riparian areas where we have protections in place for listed fish species.
- We have also heard frustration about streambank alteration restrictions, because it is currently difficult and sometimes subjective to measure streambank alteration.
- Bighorn sheep have been an issue, and people have weighed in on the distance that we need to maintain between domestic sheep, goats, and bighorns.
- Also, after this last fire season, how long should we rest pastures after a fire? Please provide feedback and any science on that.

David Hatfield, Natural Resources Staff Officer, Umatilla NF: Overview of the Pace/Scale of Restoration and briefing paper handed out regarding timber harvest (For details, please see the briefing paper attached below, "Timber Topics: Frequently Asked Questions.")

Introductions around the circle: Who are you? Where are you from? What would make this a successful meeting?

- Interested in livestock grazing, 4-wheel use, and timber harvest
- Represent Oregon Wild
- Umatilla NF Staff Officer
- Range Program Manager; volunteered to serve as the specialist on livestock grazing for the Forest Plan Revision team; here to work with you and listen to your concerns
- Here to represent the average Joe, who is losing access everywhere
- Just want to know what's going on in my National Forests
- Want to see what's going on
- Here as an observer
- Pomeroy District Ranger; here to see what your interests are and how we can better serve you
- Outfitter/Guide in the Tucannon [Wilderness]; Grizzly Bear Fire closure caused me to lose about 45% of my business
- Law Enforcement Officer on Pomeroy District
- Grazing Permittee on the Pomeroy District
- Permittee on Eden Bench; just want to make sure that we're doing absolute best for the land
- Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW); here for wildlife concerns
- Here for recreation; happy to hear that there is still logging going on in the forest
- Interested in all aspects of forest management; affiliated with quite a bit of groups, backcountry horseman and other groups
- Permittee on Pomeroy Ranger District, here to make sure that Forest Plan is pro-management
- Permittee on Pomeroy Ranger District
- Work for Pomeroy Ranger District; here to observe and interested in listening to what folks have to say
- Silviculturist on the Pomeroy Ranger District; here to listen
- Forest Supervisor on the Umatilla NF; thank you to the folks that are interested and want to stay engaged; look forward to the conversation tonight

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- Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Wallowa-Whitman NF; we share many of the same communities; want to know what your interests are
- Public Affairs Officer on the Umatilla NF; happy to be here and hear what you have to say
- Environmental Coordinator on the Pomeroy Ranger District, here to listen to your concerns and take notes; I appreciate the interested and active public that we serve.

What are the concerns, questions, and recommendations regarding the livestock grazing and forest restoration aspects of the draft Forest Plans?

- My concerns are fish and wildlife; looking for escape cover, etc. On grazing, want to see that monitoring is well done and taking place. I don't have the answer for the best buffers from streams.
- As far as timber harvest, it is almost non-existent. How are all the fires going to affect the suitability for timber harvest? Are they going to try and keep a certain quantity in Suitable or Available land? Are these categories where the fires are burning?
- Regarding grazing, Spalding's Catchfly is a concern for some people. It *may* be affected by grazing. Taking cows out because of Spalding's Catchfly isn't necessarily the solution. There are areas that cows have been removed and it actually didn't grow as well. Cows don't eat Spalding's Catchfly anyway. Seems we are having more issues with Spalding's Catchfly after grazing allotments are closed, or cattle are removed, or an allotment is rested.
- There will be some fire salvage in the Grizzly Bear Fire areas. Timber production is a larger issue. I estimate that only about 30% of lands are Suitable for timber production; the pace of timber growth will outpace the ASQ; the ASQ and Suitable land base have limitations, so it is not as simple as it appears.
- USFS, David Hatfield: Fire does not change the Suitability; trees grow up after a fire for many uses; some of the trees die from the fire; sometimes we'll salvage trees killed by a fire. The fires were unfortunate; however there are 1.4 million acres on the Umatilla NF, so we still have forest to work with. When the Grizzly Bear Fire came across to Grouse Flats, it torched everything. Most of the trees there are ponderosa pine, which has a very short shelf-life after a fire. Salvage on Federal lands takes time, which reduces value of the product. As a sawmill, we won't even be looking at the ponderosa that's out there by the time federal timber is ready to be sold.
- Because this is a long-range plan of 15 years, it needs to address management of the fuel loads; that includes all fuels -- grass, timber, and brush. We will continue to have fires and will need to provide ground that can burn with less devastation and destruction.
- Same goes with riparian health, I've been a permittee for a long time, and I remember 30 years ago doing clearcuts and managing the riparians. We need to manage this land in a manner that would be good for wildlife, timber, and economy. We need to manage for the long term, so that we lessen the need for salvage. These mills don't just need salvage, but they need a steady supply of timber product too. I think we as grazers contribute to managing the fuel load as well as economy. I'm happy to see the loggers back out there. These riparians also need to be managed, I remember seeing some of the riparians in the School Fire torching up; they need to be managed.
- Welcome management of timber and range. These programs provide goods and services for the community; support economy and are good for the land.
- During Grizzly Bear, we didn't know if we'd get the cows out. The only thing that gave us some comfort was that they did a prescribed burn in Wenatchee Creek; I support prescribed burning. The vacated

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allotments have really reduced the grazing; with the logging there will be more forage but also increased fuels.

- I'd like to talk about Sage Grouse habitat; one mile for a mating "lek" is really two miles. That's going to take away a lot from grazing. Also, as a recreationist, when they go in to log an area, I would rather we be able to have more in recently harvested areas where natural resource disturbance has already taken place; OHV use would not add to the disturbance.
 - WDFW: Sage Grouse need a very large expanse of sagebrush; there really isn't any continuity of habitat here.
- I think sometimes the idea of increasing the pace and scale of restoration sounds good, but sometimes we miss quality. Increasing the pace and scale of restoration makes me nervous, because bigger and faster is not always the right thing to do. We need to understand what is out there and what's right. Even though I'm an environmentalist, I do think we have a lot in common. Someone brought up Spalding's Catchfly, and I think we can work together on solutions. Q: Does the Forest Plan address the resources needed to do the job?
- I'm interested in access. You can't take an ATV when they close trails during hunting season. I understand that the Forest Supervisor has the ability to open those trails. You're very limited in the whole State of Washington for use of ATVs; I have to take my ATVs to Idaho where there's ATV access everywhere. Every time you have something go through, you shut down access. Dry year or wet year, it doesn't matter; you close roads in the lowlands.
- My perspective as an observer, not so much a user of the forest, but these forests were designed and set aside for community use. Every time I see these plans come out, I see less and less access. More plans seem to mean more fires. Bigger plans seem to mean bigger problems. Restricting and regulating use and access seem to make conditions worse. These results are really going against what these plans are for. With all these fires, you really need these loggers and grazers. My taxpayer dollars are paying for these devastating fires; let's go back to something that's useful and productive like years ago.
- As an outdoorsman, I'm concerned in the future of losing access in our land.
- Seems like 25 years is a long time for one of these plans; you could not run a private business that way.
- There is too much inconsistency within the Plan.
- I would like to talk about some of the logging, and the size of stumpage. There's a lot of waste of these big trees that are just blowing down.
- I live on Grouse Flat. The night of August 18, the USFS called and said the fire was crossing the Wenaha. I was over two days before and saw the smoke. The next morning, we got as many cows out of the canyon as we could. On the night of the 18th, I could see it just raining embers. The Grizzly Bear Complex crested over the ridge and burned a large portion of my grazing allotment and my private land. It was difficult to watch years and years of hard work and land management burn. The fire came out of the wilderness; it was too hot and too fast to stop. When finally it came up across Moore Flat, I was standing there in waste-deep grass, and I thought "this isn't going to burn," but it did, and quick. We lost about 80% of our fall grass. We had managed our timber real well, we would cut some every couple years, and it still took almost every tree that we had out there. It's pretty devastating to see all this timber that we took a ton of effort to thin, and they're gone. We should manage the forest as a resource, not something just to look at, to keep it healthy. Cannot just sit back and watch our resources grow and burn we must manage resources. Roadside salvage is likely to be too late, seems wasteful to let them rot.
- Going to the grazing side, I deal with a lot of riparian issues. I manage my property on Forest Service, just like I would on my own property. I don't really have a grasp on what the Forest Service wants, or if the

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Forest Service really knows what it wants. I'm all for not having stream erosion. The monitoring doesn't make any sense to me. You need to be able to get an understanding what you're trying to accomplish and not just go through the motions. Doing nothing is not the answer; overuse is not the answer. Smart management is the answer. The objective is to keep improving the land. Resting an allotment is always an easy way out; don't really see how it improves anything. We need to use more common sense.

Second round of input

- The local managers do a good job considering all of the laws and regulations they're up against. Salvage sales would be a lot easier to do as a "scale ton" sale. A lot of forests do "green scale" sales in Region 1. Also, salvage sales in Idaho sell by the ton not by cruising. It is a much easier process and there is no need to cruise. We would like to be done hauling the Grouse Flats by mid-late January.
- Even if the product is marketable and they can get in to remove it, they may not be able to transport it due to the County and State road use limitations.
- Is there some way you could already have in the Plan that if there's a fire you could just go in there and salvage? Just set the guidance for quick salvage in the Plan now, so the process would already be done and you could have it all ready to sell right away.
- We've been at this for about a year and a half now. You've taken all these comments and categorized them. We have these meetings, but it seems like many folks are angry and haven't had their questions answered. I believe much of the consternation of the public is that they had submitted written comments that have not been addressed. People feel like they had been ignored over the last year and a half. Information flow from the Plan Revision team to the public needs to be improved. Look at moving from Alternative E to a compromise.
- Support more interaction. I think the information from the Plan doesn't necessarily get passed down.
- Need to address wilderness management since there is no active firefighting in wilderness. You have a fire in the wilderness, but it goes out and destroys private property. You just can't have federal lands impacting private lands; it's unacceptable. And with riparian, there's got to be a happy medium; they got to be managed. Total rest is just not the answer. I was pleased to see the results of a recent timber sale. If the timber companies can be more assured of the value they're getting, like a tonnage, then maybe that's the answer.
- One solution is selective harvest in some areas; taking some trees and leaving others. Would like to see better use of the larger trees.
- Overuse is not the answer and does not help to protect stream bank stabilization. Whether we're recreating, grazing, etc., we're the ones out treating the land like it's ours. We're not out trying to damage the riparian areas. Also, there are a lot of elk that use our cattle trails and cattle using elk trails. We've done more work to stabilize stream bank than the "do nothing" alternative.
- You're hearing the same thing over and over, but I'm concerned that multiple comments with a similar thread are treated as one comment. Multiple commenters on the same topic should have more weight than just one comment.
- My concern with salvage is you shouldn't cut a tree that you wouldn't have cut before a fire. Those trees are important to woodpeckers and other species. If you can find those places that everyone can agree on before a fire, you will have less controversy after a fire.

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- Everyone here is an environmentalist; we just have a different way of viewing how the environment should be. Fire should be used more as a management tool. Trees have adapted to fires, but not these catastrophic fires.
- One of the problems with resting is things get overgrown into thick duff. I've heard stories of the Native Americans using fires to control this buildup and provide better forage. I support this approach rather than letting it get to a place where we have devastating fires.
- I'm coming back to what I said earlier; the bigger these plans get the less useful they are and the more costly to taxpayers. Keep them simple, so we can use them.
- I'm all for leaving some woodpecker trees. I'm not for taking everything. As far as the riparians go, I think during this last year our springs and creeks were down. As far as riparian management, there is no doubt that proper management boosts growth. One of the streams has so much brush and overgrowth that it is holding so much water back. I believe in using livestock as a tool to manage fuels and water in riparian areas.

Summary of what was heard: Genevieve Masters, Umatilla National Forest Supervisor

- This has been a rich discussion, with moving stories and much agreement.
- We are all conservationists and environmentalists
- Heard concerns about fish, wildlife escape cover, timber harvest, and large fires; also sensitive plants, salvage, early action, and treat them while they're green
- I like the ethic of treating the land like it's your own; really impressed me; also taking ownership of the management
- Minimizing large fire; balancing resources between wildlife, range, timber, etc.
- Providing access for harvest, transportation, fire management, and recreation
- We are all in agreement about the need of quality management; we just have different thoughts on how, when, and where to get there.
- Our challenge now is to get the information out and stay connected to the people who commented and came to the meetings. We need to work hard to not go dark over the next year.

Closing round: How well did we meet your expectations?

- Glad to be in Clarkston and see you again
- Appreciate the format and would have liked to have a little bit more information upfront about what we were going to talk about. Appreciated hearing from others, we will be back to the next meeting.
- Appreciate the chance to hear what other say. Public meetings can be antagonistic, but this was better.
- I haven't been to many meetings like this. This is the first USFS meeting I've been to.
- I'll be back, there's something to be learned.
- I'm glad you came back to Clarkston so we can discuss our topic.
- I mirror that.
- Glad you came out to talk to people. Really appreciate talking to you, but we'll see what you do with the comments.
- Changes need to happen in the government. I think it's good to talk about how people were affected by catastrophic wildfires. Hopefully that will impact what the government will do. The more people talk about it, the better chance something will change.

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- Appreciate the USFS representation in the room and can tell they are very interested in what we are saying.
- I've been to some meetings that get pretty "western" and appreciate how civil this has been.
- We say we have some ownership in it, but thank you Forest Service for what you do. It's got to be frustrating for you. I wish there was a way we could be more educated to give you more guidance.
- I appreciate the format with friendly and nonthreatening discussion. I'd like to say I was a survivor of the first Forest Planning process. These documents are a challenge to read and then to develop comments. I'd have to say, I believe this one will have a better result than the last one, because the public had a chance to participate and be a part of it.
- It is good to be a part of the process. The challenge is to stay connected now. How will you share information once it comes out?
- All news releases, briefings, and other public information need to go out to all of the mailing lists developed from these public meetings.

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Timber Topics: Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ)?

- ASQ is the maximum amount of volume **potentially available** as part of regularly scheduled timber harvest from **lands suitable** for timber production **per decade**.
- Although it is expressed as an annual figure, it is actually a 10-year cap, within which annual variation is allowed.
- ASQ is primarily influenced by:
 - *Desired Conditions*
 - *Existing Conditions*
 - The number of acres considered suitable for timber production
 - An assumption of “non-declining flow” (not required)
- ASQ is not the same as the total harvested volume. It is not a promise or a goal.
- It is not based on budget; larger budget assumptions do not result in higher ASQ.

What is the Total Sale Program Quantity (TSPQ)?

- Total amount of volume estimated to be harvested under each Alternative. TSPQ is not a promise of, or a limit to, what may be done in the future.
- TSPQ volumes come from:
 - lands *Suitable* for timber production (ASQ)
 - lands *Unsuitable* for timber production but available for timber harvest to meet the Desired Conditions for a particular area (e.g., Riparian Management Areas, Old Forest)
 - Salvage, firewood, post and poles
- TSPQ is influenced by estimated budget.

What is the Historic Range of Variation (HRV) and why has it been used to develop Desired Conditions for the Forest Plan Revision?

- Range of Variation is defined as the variation of ecological characteristics and processes over scales of space and time that are appropriate for a given management application. The fundamental assumption underlying the use of HRV is if historical ranges in stand structures by forest type are maintained on current and future landscapes, then much of the habitat for native flora and fauna should be recreated and maintained. Thus, most species and ecosystem elements should remain viable. (Wiens et al, 2012; Agee, 2003).
- Use of HRV as reference point for Desired Conditions is not an attempt to turn managed landscapes in to wilderness or return to a specific time in the past. Rather, HRV is a lens that helps managers to achieve multiple-use objectives.
- There is broad agreement among managers and scientists that HRV provides essential insights for decision-making. Managing toward HRV has the following benefits:
 - protecting biodiversity and ensuring species viability,
 - recognizing the roles of disturbance,
 - widening the options for management, and
 - maintaining resilience and ecological integrity.

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How many acres are considered suitable for timber harvest in the Alternatives of the draft Environmental Impact Statement?

(See the chart in the Addendum for acreage: “Timber Suitability Classification for Alternatives C, D, and E”)

- **Alternative C** has the fewest suitable acreage for timber production because of a greater number of acres of Preliminary Administratively Recommended Wilderness Area (PARWA), Old Forest, and wider Riparian Management Areas. Alt. C contains additional areas in wildlife corridor management areas that were identified as unsuitable.
- **Alternative D** has the most suitable acreage for timber production, because Riparian Management Areas are narrower and Old Forest is classified as suitable. The effect of this classification would be to increase the ASQ, which is based on the suitable acres.
- **Alternatives B, E, and F** have the same suitable acreage, because they all have the same *Standards, Guidelines*, and similar *Management Areas* that influence Suitability for timber production. Old Forest and Riparian Management Areas are classified as Unsuitable for timber production.

What is the approach to Old Forest management in the 1990 (current) Forest Plans for the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests?

Eastside Screens:

- In 1994, the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region regional forester issued “Interim Direction Establishing Riparian, Ecosystem, and Wildlife Standards for Timber Sales on Eastside Forests” (USDA Forest Service 1995c), commonly referred to as the Eastside Screens. It amended the 1990 Forest Plans by establishing riparian, ecosystem, and wildlife standards for timber sales.
- The Eastside Screens amendment emphasizes:
 - retaining and developing late old forest structures and patch sizes within the Historic Range of Variability;
 - maintaining or developing linkages between old forests;
 - meeting requirements for snags, downed logs, and green tree replacements; and
 - retaining most trees greater than 21 inches in diameter.

Old Growth Management Areas:

- All three 1990 Forest Plans designate Management Areas for old growth.
- Old Growth Management Areas are Unsuitable for timber production, but some Old Growth areas may be harvested for other purposes.
- In the 1990 Forest Plans, many Old Growth Management Areas were designated in areas that did not actually contain old forest characteristics. In addition, some areas have been affected by fire, insects, and disease, resulting in changes to species composition and forest structure. As a result, only between 20-40% of designated Old Growth Management Areas actually contain old forest structural characteristics.

Proposed Management of Old Forest and Large/Old Trees

In general, unlike the 1990 plans, the Revised Forest Plan recognizes that Old Forest characteristics are dynamic in space and time and should be managed accordingly.

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	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alt. E	Alt. F
Desired Conditions Direct Old Forest Management?	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Designated Old Forest Mgmt. Area?	No	YES	No	No	No
Standard or Guidelines on Harvesting > 21" DBH?	YES; Guideline: Retain >21" DBH (with exceptions)	YES; Standard: Retain >21" DBH (no exceptions)	NO	NO	NO
Standard or Guidelines on Harvesting Old Trees?	NO	NO	NO	YES: Guideline: Retain trees with old characteristics	YES: Guideline to retain trees >150 years old

How are Snags (standing dead trees) and Down Wood addressed in the draft Plans? What are some Standards and Guidelines that could affect post-fire salvage of snags?

- Section 1.14 (Snags and Down Wood, starting on p. 47) in the Proposed Revised Land Management Plan includes the Background, Existing Condition, and Desired Condition regarding Snags and down wood.
- The Desired Condition for snags and down wood is to maintain ecological characteristics within the historic range of variability.
- Examples of Standards and Guidelines that could affect post-fire salvage of snags:

Standard or Guideline	Alt B	Alt C	Alt D	Alt E, F
Harvest no more than 50% of post-fire source habitat (*)	X	Salvage not permitted	No Standards or Guidelines	X
No snag harvesting in areas with fire perimeters less than 100 acres	X	Salvage not permitted	No Standards or Guidelines	X
Harvest no snags greater than 21" and 50% of 12-21" (**)	X	Salvage not permitted	No Standards or Guidelines	X

* Except in the Wildland-Urban Interface

** Except for Danger/Hazard Trees

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Would you like to be on the Mailing List? Email bluemtnPlanrevision@fs.fed.us or call 541-523-1231

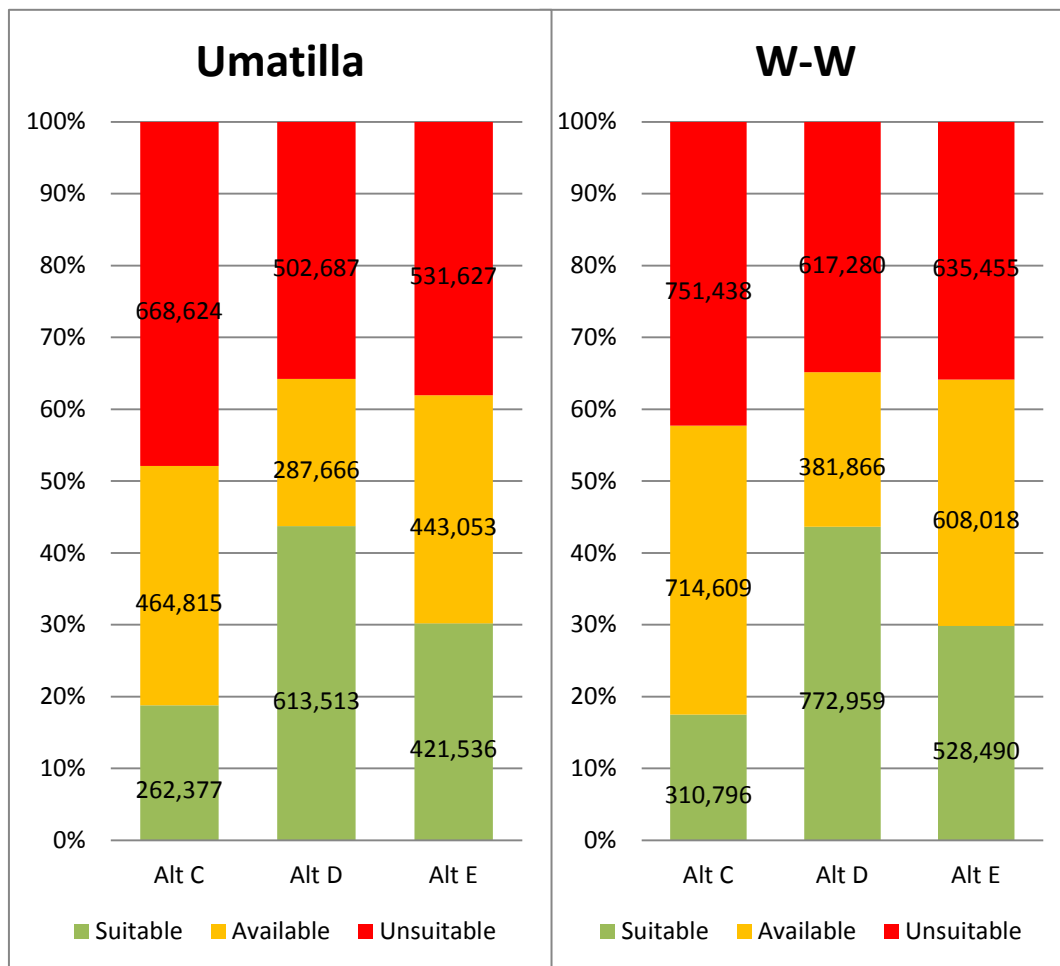
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Addendum: Timber Suitability Classification for Alternatives C, D, and E

The chart below illustrates acres of land that are either Suitable, Unsuitable, or “Available” for timber harvest within the National Forests under different Alternatives in the draft Environmental Impact Statement. The definitions below are helpful for the purposes of this chart:

- Lands *Suitable* for timber production allow for regularly scheduled harvest of trees for industrial or consumer use.
- *Unsuitable* lands are deemed unsuitable for timber production based on criteria established by the National Forest Management Act (Sec. 6k) and the 1982 Planning Rule (Sec. 219.14). In general, this includes land with less than 10% canopy cover, significant regeneration issues/concerns, and lands withdrawn by law or policy (e.g., Wilderness Areas).
- “Available” lands are lands that are Unsuitable for regularly scheduled timber harvest but allow for the harvest of trees to meet Desired Conditions for a particular area (e.g., Riparian Management Areas)



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Livestock Grazing & Grazing Vegetation: Frequently Asked Questions

How many acres will be available for grazing?

Appendix G has the acreages broken down by Allotment name and Alternative. Appendix G starts on page 427 in Volume 3 of the DEIS. The total acres suitable for livestock grazing on the Malheur National Forest are 1,197,000 for cattle and 101,000 for sheep. The total acres suitable for livestock grazing on the Umatilla National Forest are 284,000 for cattle and 42,000 for sheep. The total acres suitable for livestock grazing on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest are 408,000 for cattle and 25,000 for sheep.

How are Sage grouse addressed with regard to grazing management in the Proposed Revised Forest Plan?

There is a relatively small amount of sage-grouse habitat on the Blue Mountains Forests. Sagebrush steppe habitat was estimated to occur on approximately six percent of the landscape within the Malheur National Forest; however, not all of this is considered sage-grouse habitat. Habitat mapping completed by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) indicates that only 41,600 acres is considered greater sage-grouse habitat, and of this, 30,000 has been mapped as core habitat, and the remainder as low density habitat. Sagebrush steppe habitat was estimated to occur on less than one percent of the landscape for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, but according to ODFW a little more than 3,000 acres within the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest would be considered sage-grouse habitat, most of which is mapped as core habitat. The greater sage-grouse is not expected to occur within the Umatilla National Forest.

The Preferred Alternative retains the Alternative B (Proposed Action) modified management direction with the following addition: In greater sage-grouse habitat, fence construction within one mile of known leks (protected activity centers) and seasonal high use areas should not be authorized or allowed. Fence construction on the crest of low hills should not be authorized or allowed unless the fence is marked with anti-strike markers.

Grazing utilization within occupied greater sage-grouse habitats should not exceed 40 percent at any time during the grazing season and will be determined specifically for each greater sage-grouse habitat, i.e., grazing utilization measured as an average of the entire pasture or grazing unit will not be used to determine compliance with this guideline.

During greater sage-grouse breeding season, livestock turnout and trailing should avoid high concentrations on known greater sage-grouse leks (protected activity centers).

Where did the riparian utilization standards come from?

The new Utilizations Guidelines were proposed in response to the need for accelerated restoration for aquatic habitat and species. The Guidelines are meant to balance the Preferred Alternative with aquatic and riparian resource concerns.

Why does the Proposed Revised Forest Plan reduce the riparian allowable forage utilization for livestock within riparian management areas? What will happen if my allotment has a higher utilization level authorized in riparian management areas than the Revised Forest Plan does?

Alternative E, the preferred alternative, proposes to increase the pace and scale of restoration. Decreasing the amount of utilization in riparian management areas would help to move them toward the desired condition. Once the Revised Forest Plan is in place, the term grazing permits for each allotment will be modified to replace the 1990 Forest Plan language with the Revised Forest Plan language. However, site-specific environmental analysis and consultation for threatened and endangered species will need to be completed on all of the allotments as each allotment management plan is revised, which will determine the appropriate level of utilization for your specific allotment.

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What is a *Silene spaldingii*? There is a standard in the Proposed Revised Forest Plan that livestock grazing isn't allowed where that plant exists. Why is grazing a hazard for it?

Silene spaldingii is a listed threatened plant species under the Endangered Species Act. Spalding's Catchfly is the common name. The reason for the standard is that trampling from livestock grazing affects its growth and ability to reproduce. It is listed because there are very few plants. With that standard, we want to manage the timing of grazing; it's not a desirable plant for cow forage. We work with local Permittees to help them identify the plant and they have been able to work around it.

Why wasn't a range of alternatives analyzed for grazing (no grazing alternative and an unlimited grazing alternative)?

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the agency to analyze a reasonable range of alternatives. The EIS for the Blue Mountains Forest Plans analyzed an alternative with significantly reduced grazing (Alternative C), and an alternative with grazing above current levels (Alternative D). Furthermore, Alternatives G and J (Minimum Management Alternative and No Grazing Alternative respectively) which would have eliminated grazing, were considered but eliminated from detailed study.

In addition, Forest Service Managers are responsible for ensuring compliance with the following laws, regulations, and policies which require multiple use management:

Organic Administration Act of 1897: Gives regulatory authority to the President to establish National Forests. Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to promulgate rules and regulations for the use and occupancy of National Forests.

Taylor Grazing Act of 1934: Intended to "stop injury to the public grazing lands [excluding Alaska] by preventing overgrazing and soil deterioration; to provide for their orderly use, improvement, and development; [and] to stabilize the livestock industry dependent upon the public range".

Granger-Thye Act of 1950: Provides for the issuance of term grazing permits for up to 10 years. It also provides for the use of grazing receipts for range improvement work.

Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960: Provides that national forests are established and administered for several purposes, including livestock grazing. This act also authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to develop the surface renewable resources of national forests for multiple uses and sustained yield of the services and products to be obtained from these lands, without impairment of the productivity of the land.

Wilderness Act of 1964: Provides that livestock grazing, and the activities and facilities needed to support it, are allowed to continue in wilderness areas when such grazing was established before designation.

Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resource Planning Act of 1974: Directs the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a process for the revision of national forest land and resource management plans, including the identification of the suitability of lands for resource management.

Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976: States that public lands will be managed in a manner that will provide food and habitat for fish, wildlife, and domestic animals.

National Forest Management Act of 1976: Reorganized, expanded and otherwise amended the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, which called for the management of renewable resources on National Forest Lands. The NFMA requires the Secretary of Agriculture to assess forest lands, develop a management plan for each unit of the National Forest System. It is the primary statute governing the administration of National Forests.

MEETING NOTES

(continued)

Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978: Establishes and reaffirms the national policy and commitment to inventory and identify current public rangeland conditions and trends; manage, maintain and improve the condition of public rangelands so that they become as productive as feasible for all rangeland values in accordance with management objectives and the land use planning process; charge a fee for public grazing use which is equitable; continue the policy of protecting wild free-roaming horses and burros from capture, branding, harassment, or death, while at the same time facilitating the removal and disposal of excess wild free-roaming horses and burros which pose a threat to themselves and their habitat and to other rangeland values.

Rescission Act of 1995: Directs the Forest Service to complete site-specific NEPA analyses and decisions on allotments on a scheduled basis.
36 CFR 222

Forest Service Manual 2200: This manual summarized laws and regulations governing rangeland management and forest planning.

Forest Service Handbook 2209.13: Grazing Permit Administration Handbook

Allotment Management Plans: Developed through site-specific environmental analysis, an allotment management plan uses Forest Plan direction and current issues to determine desired conditions, areas suitable for grazing, and a broad strategy on how to meet desired conditions. They describe site-specific grazing strategies, stocking, structural and nonstructural range improvement needs, and coordination with other resources. The output, or animal unit months (AUMs), is a result of the allotment management plan requirements, range improvements, and the ability of the permit holder to manage forage and livestock.

Non-Use for Resource Protection Agreements: These agreements may be entered into to provide long term non-use needed to address recovery of rangeland resource conditions, provide forage on a temporary basis to allow resource recovery on other area grazing units, provide temporary resolution of conflicts created by bighorn sheep or wolf predation on livestock, or provide supplemental forage in times of drought to assist area livestock operators and lessen the resource impacts of grazing.

Where can I find information on Livestock Grazing and Grazing Vegetation in the EIS?

Standards & Guidelines

Plant Species (Federally listed & species at risk) (Appendix A pg 120)

Species Diversity Riparian Habitat (Appendix A pg 119)

Range Management & Domestic Livestock Grazing (Appendix A pg 125) includes:

- Grazing After Wildland Fire (Appendix A pg 125)
- Grazing Near BHS (Appendix A pg 126-127)
- Grazing within Occupied Sage Grouse Habitat (Appendix A pg 125 & 126)
- Upland Forage Utilization (Appendix A pg 125)
- Upland Shrub Utilization (Appendix A pg 126)

MA 4B (Riparian Management Areas) - Appendix A pages 91 & 140-141

Livestock Grazing and Grazing Land Vegetation – Volume 1, Chapter 3, pages 126-159

How are bighorn sheep addressed in the plan with regard to grazing?

There are several Standards and Guidelines outlined in the Plan that are intended to prohibit disease transmission between domestic animals and bighorn sheep. They are:

MEETING NOTES

(continued)

RNG-9 **Standard** S-2 Domestic sheep or goat grazing shall not be authorized or allowed on lands where effective separation from bighorn sheep cannot be reasonably maintained.

RNG-10 **Standard** S-3 The use of domestic goats or sheep for manipulation of vegetation (i.e., noxious weed control, fuels reduction) shall not be authorized or allowed within or adjacent to source habitat for bighorn sheep.

RNG-11 **Standard** S-4 The use of recreational pack goats shall not be authorized or allowed within or adjacent to source habitat for bighorn sheep.

RNG-12 **Standard** An effective monitoring program shall be in place to detect presence of bighorn sheep in identified high-risk areas when authorized domestic sheep or goats are present on adjacent or nearby allotments.

RNG-13 **Guideline** Trailing of domestic sheep or goats should not be authorized or allowed within 7 miles of bighorn sheep home ranges.

RNG-14 **Standard** When effective monitoring has not been conducted for bighorn sheep presence, domestic sheep or goat grazing shall not be authorized.

RNG-15 **Standard** Permitted domestic sheep and goats shall be counted onto and off of the allotment by the Permittee. A reasonable effort to account for the disposition of any missing sheep must be made by the Permittee.

RNG-16 **Standard** When permitted sheep are found to be missing, the Forest Service shall be notified within 24 hours.

RNG-17 **Standard** Authorized domestic sheep or goats shall be individually marked in a manner that allows immediate identification of ownership at a distance during the grazing season at all times while on NFS lands.

RNG-18 **Standard** Implement emergency actions when bighorn sheep presence is detected within 7 miles of active domestic sheep or goat grazing or trailing. Actions to be taken shall ensure separation between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep or goats.

RNG-19 **Guideline** To maintain separation, when bighorn sheep are found within 7 miles of an active domestic sheep and goat allotment, implementation of emergency actions for domestic sheep and goat grazing could include: Reroute (move) domestic sheep or goats to a new routing path that will take them away from the likely bighorn movement; this may involve rerouting within the permitted allotment, movement to a different allotment, or, if the situation cannot otherwise be resolved, moving the permitted sheep off of the national forest until the situation can be resolved. Inform the appropriate state agency of the bighorn sheep location.

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