



---

**File Code:** 1920  
**Date:** June 26, 2018

Dear Friends of the Blue Mountains,

I am proud to announce that the Forest Service has released the draft Record of Decision, Final Environmental Impact Statement (final EIS), and three Revised Land Management Plans (Revised Forest Plans) for the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests (Blue Mountains). This milestone could not have been reached without your years of engagement and vital input into the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision effort.

The purpose of the Revised Forest Plans is to provide an updated framework to guide the management of approximately 5.5 million acres of public lands in eastern Oregon and southeast Washington. At the foundation of the Revised Forest Plans is a commitment by the Forest Service to continue working with the public, stakeholders, local governments, States, and Tribes to improve the health and resilience of the National Forests while also supporting rural prosperity and well-being.

The Revised Forest Plans honor the time and energy invested by diverse interests since 2004. For example, the Forest Service received over 1,000 letters containing over 4,000 comments regarding the draft EIS in 2014. In response to substantive formal comments, and following further public engagement in 2015-16, the Forest Service developed two modified alternatives based on Alternative E in the draft EIS. Alternatives E-Modified and E-Modified-Departure are analyzed in detail in the final EIS.

Now that the Forest Service has published the draft Record of Decision, final EIS, and three Revised Forest Plans, the next step is the objection process. The 60-day objection-filing period officially begins on the day after the Forest Service publishes its legal notice in *The Oregonian* (which is the newspaper of record for Regional Forester decisions in the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service). Additionally, the Forest Service is publishing a Federal Register Notice to provide detailed instructions on the objection process. The agency is also issuing a news release to local media and the public announcing the availability of the planning documents. To access electronic documents, and for detailed information regarding the objection process, please visit our website ([www.fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMountainsPlanRevision](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMountainsPlanRevision)).

Thank you for your continued interest in the Revised Forest Plans.

Sincerely,

JAMES PEÑA  
Regional Forester

