



BLUE MOUNTAINS FOREST PLAN REVISION - 2018

Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

Dear Friends of the Blue Mountains,

As your Pacific Northwest Regional Forester, I am proud to announce that the Forest Service will soon release the draft Record of Decision, Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), and Revised Land Management Plans (Revised Forest Plans) for the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. This milestone could not have been reached without your years of engagement and vital input into the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision effort.

The Revised Forest Plans will guide the management of approximately 5.5 million acres of public lands in eastern Oregon and southeastern 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.

Where have we been? 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 those comments as well as 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. These modified alternatives were developed specifically to respond to substantive formal comments on the draft EIS; the two alternatives were also informed by listening session input and revised recommendations by resource specialists.

What's next? Very soon, the Forest Service will publish the draft Record of Decision, final EIS, and three Revised Forest Plans. The next step is the objection process.

What is the objection process? The objection process is a “pre-decisional administrative review process” that gives an individual or entity (who provided substantive comments during the 2010 formal scoping period and/or the 2014 formal comment period) an opportunity for independent Forest Service review and resolution of objections before final decisions are made on the three Revised Forest Plans. The objection process allows the Objector to request to meet with the Reviewing Officer to discuss issues raised in the objection and their potential resolution. The Forest Service is required to provide written responses to each objection. In cases involving more than one objection to a plan revision, the Reviewing Officer may consolidate objections and issue one or more responses. The objection Reviewing Officer for the Blue Mountains will be a senior official at the Forest Service Headquarters in Washington, DC. (Note: The objection process has replaced the previous “appeals” process, which used to occur after a decision was made.)

How do objections work? The Forest Service is required to follow the requirements in the Code of Federal Regulations, 36 CFR 219.5, Subpart B, which identify who may file objections, the responsibilities of the participants in an objection, and the procedures that apply to the review of the objection. The objection process includes a 60-day period to file objections, which may not be extended. Objections, including attachments, must



be filed within 60 days following the publication of the legal notice of the opportunity to object in *The Oregonian*, which is the newspaper of record for Regional Forester decisions for the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service. Objections or attachments received after the 60-day objection-filing period will not be considered. (The objection-filing period begins the first day after the publication date of the legal notice. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframes provided by any other source.) Following the objection-filing period is a 90-day resolution period, which may be extended “to provide adequate response to objections or to participate in discussions with the parties.”

Who may file an objection? Individuals and entities may file an objection if they have submitted substantive comments related to the plan revision during the opportunities for formal public comment (during the 2010 formal scoping period and/or the 2014 formal comment period, as provided in 36 CFR 219, Subpart A). Objections must be based on previously submitted substantive comments attributed to the Objector unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for formal comment. Objections received in response to the notice, including names and addresses of those who object, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Prior to the issuance of the Reviewing Officer’s written response, either the Reviewing Officer or the Objector may request to meet to discuss issues raised in the objection and their potential resolution.

What is the role of Interested Persons? Interested Persons who wish to participate in meetings to discuss issues raised by Objectors must have previously submitted substantive formal comments related to the objection issues. Interested Persons must file a request to participate as an Interested Person within 10 days after a “legal notice of objections received” has been published following the objection-filing period, and the Interested Person must identify the specific issues they have interest in discussing. During the objection meeting, Interested Persons will be able to participate in discussions related to issues on the agenda that they have listed in their request to be an Interested Person.

When will the Forest Service start the objection process? Very soon, the Forest Service will publish a Federal Register Notice to provide detailed instructions on the objection process. The agency will also issue a news release to local media and the public, which will announce the availability of the draft Record of Decision, final EIS, and Revised Forest Plans. As described above, the 60-day objection-filing period will officially begin 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.

Beginning June 27, 2018, please check the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision website (www.fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMountainsPlanRevision) for updates and information regarding the objection process. Key planning documents will be available on the website once the Federal Register Notice is published. Further, the website will provide an interactive map of the planning area and individual maps for download. Printed copies of the planning documents will also be available in the reference section of the libraries listed below.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Blue Mountains Forest Plans.

Sincerely,
James M. Peña
Regional Forester, Pacific Northwest Region
U.S. Forest Service

Library Location	Street Address	City,State, Zip
Asotin County Library	417 Sycamore Street	Clarkston, WA 99403
Baker County Library	2400 Resort Street	Baker City, OR 97814
Crook County Library	175 NW Meadow Lakes Dr.	Prineville, OR 97754
Dayton Memorial Library	111 S 3rd Street	Dayton, WA 99328
Elgin Public Library	1699 Division Street	Elgin, OR 97827
Enterprise Public Library	101 NE 1st Street	Enterprise, OR 97828
Fossil Public Library	401 Main Street	Fossil, OR 97830
Grant County Library	507 S Canyon Blvd	John Day, OR 97845
Halfway Branch Library	PO BOX 922	Halfway, OR 97834
Harney County Library	80 W D Street	Burns, OR 97720
Kennewick Library	1620 S. Union Street	Kennewick, WA 99338
La Grande Public Library	2006 4th Street	La Grande, OR 97850
Lapwai Community Library	103 S Main St	Lapwai, ID 83540
Lewiston City Library	428 Thain Rd	Lewiston, ID 83501
Milton-Freewater Library	8 SW 8th Ave.	Milton-Freewater, OR 97862
Multnomah County Central Library	801 SW 10th Ave.	Portland, OR 97205
Ontario Community Library	388 SW 2nd Ave.	Ontario, OR 97914
Oregon Trail Library	444 North Main Street	Heppner, OR 97836
Pendleton Public Library	502 SW Dorion Street	Pendleton, OR 97801
Denny Ashby Library	856 Arlington Street	Pomeroy, WA 99347
Richland Public Library	955 Northgate Dr.	Richland, WA 99352
Salmon River Public Library	126 N Main Street	Riggins, ID 83549
Sumpter Public Library	245 Mill Street	Sumpter, OR 97877
Tamastlikt Cultural Institute - Library	72789 highway 331	Pendleton, OR 97801
Ukiah Public Library	201 Hill Street	Ukiah, OR 97880
Walla Walla Public Library	238 E Alder Street	Walla Walla, WA 99362

Coming soon!

Once published, how can you access the draft Record of Decision, Revised Forest Plans, and final EIS?

- We will provide a variety of public notifications when these documents are available, including a news release, Federal Register Notice, and legal notice.
- All documents will be posted online at www.fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMountainsPlanRevision.



From: Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team
1550 Dewey Ave, Suite A
Baker City, OR 97814

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