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Public Notices

Notice of Objection Filing Period Malheur National Forest, Umatilla National Forest, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Revised Land Management Plans Name of Responsible Official: Jim Peña, Regional Forester, Region 6 Name of Reviewing Officer: Chris French, Associate Deputy Chief, Objection Reviewing Officer Time Zone of Reviewing Officer: Eastern The USDA Forest Service has prepared Revised Land Management Plans (Forest Plans) for the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests (also termed the Blue Mountains national forests). The Forest Service has also prepared a final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a combined draft Record of Decision. The revised Forest Plans, final EIS, draft Record of Decision, and other supporting documentation are available for review at

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMountainsPlanRevision> or the following offices: Malheur National Forest Supervisor's Office, 431 Patterson Bridge Road, John Day, OR 97845, Telephone: 541-575-3000; Umatilla National Forest Supervisor's Office, 72510 Coyote Road, Pendleton, OR 97801, Telephone: 541-278-3716; and Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Supervisor's Office, 1550 Dewey Avenue, Suite A, Baker City, OR 97814, Telephone: 541-523-6391. Additional information regarding this action may be obtained from Peter Fargo, Team Leader, 1550 Dewey Avenue, Suite A, Baker City, OR 97814, Telephone: 541-523-1231, or by email at bluemtnplanrevision@fs.fed.us.

An electronic scan of this notice with the publication date will also be posted at

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMountainsPlanRevision> Objections, including attachments, must be filed within 60 days following the date of publication of this notice of the opportunity to object in this newspaper of record. The objection period begins the first day after the publication date of this notice. Objections or attachments received after the 60-day objection period will not be considered. The publication date in the newspaper of record, The Oregonian, is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those individuals or entities wishing to object to these Forest Plan revisions should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source (36 CFR 219.16 and 219.52.) The objection process provides an opportunity for individuals or entities who have participated in the planning process for the Blue Mountains national forests to have any unresolved concerns reviewed by the Forest Service prior to a final decision by the Responsible Official. Only those individuals or entities who provided substantive formal comments during opportunities for public comment during the planning process are eligible to file an objection. Regulations at 36 CFR 219 subpart B define substantive formal comments as: written comments submitted to, or oral comments recorded by, the Responsible Official or their designee during an opportunity for public participation provided during the planning process, and attributed to the individual or entity providing them. Comments are considered substantive when they are within the scope of the proposal, are specific to the proposal, have a direct relationship to the proposal, and include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider. How to File an Objection: The Forest Service will accept mailed, carrier and hand-delivered, faxed, and emailed objections concerning these revised Forest Plans, final EIS, and draft Record of Decision for 60 calendar days following the date of this notice. It is the responsibility of the objector to ensure that the Objection Reviewing Officer receives the objection in a timely manner. The regulations prohibit extending the length of the objection filing period. Objections must be submitted to Chris French, Objection Reviewing Officer. Objections may be submitted by regular mail to the following address: 1400 Independence Avenue SW, EMC-LEAP, Mailstop 1104, Washington, DC 20250. Objections may also be submitted by carrier or hand deliveries to the following address: USDA Forest Service, Attn: Objection Reviewing Officer, 210 14th Street, SW, EMC-LEAP, Mailstop 1104, Washington, DC 20250. The office business hours for those submitting a carrier or hand delivered objection are: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM EST, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays. Carrier or hand deliveries may call 202-791-8488 during regular business days and hours, above, to coordinate delivery of objections. Hardcopy submissions by regular mail, carrier, or hand delivery must include a subject line on page one stating: "Objection regarding the Revised Blue Mountains Forest Plans." Faxed objections must be addressed to "Chris French, Objection Reviewing Officer" at fax number 202-649-1172 and must include a subject line stating: "Objection regarding the Revised Blue Mountains Forest Plans." The fax coversheet should specify the number of pages being submitted. Electronic objections must be submitted to the Objection Reviewing Officer via email to objections-chief@fs.fed.us, with a subject line stating: "Objection regarding the Revised Blue Mountains Forest Plans." Submissions by email must be in a format (Word, PDF, or Rich Text) that is readable and searchable with optical character recognition software. Individuals who need to use telecommunication devices for the hearing impaired (TDD) to transmit objections may call the Federal Information Relay Service (FIRS) at 1-800-877-8339 between 8:00 AM and 8:00 PM EST,

Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays. At a minimum, an objection must include the following content (36 CFR 219.54(c)): (1) The objector's name and address along with a telephone number or email address if available - in cases where no identifiable name is attached to an objection, the Forest Service will attempt to verify the identity of the objector to confirm objection eligibility; (2) Signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for electronic mail may be filed with the objection); (3) Identification of the lead objector, when multiple names are listed on an objection. The Forest Service will communicate to all parties to an objection through the lead objector. Verification of the identity of the lead objector must also be provided if requested; (4) The name of the Forest Plan revision(s) being objected to, and the name and title of the Responsible Official; (5) A statement of the issues and/or parts of the Forest Plan revision(s) to which the objection applies; (6) A concise statement explaining the objection and suggesting how the proposed Forest Plan decision may be improved. If the objector believes that the Forest Plan revision is inconsistent with law, regulation, or policy, an explanation should be included; and (7) A statement that demonstrates the link between the objector's prior substantive formal comments during the planning process and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the opportunities for formal comment. All documents referenced must be included in the objection (a bibliography is not sufficient), except that the following need not be provided: a. All or any part of a Federal law or regulation, b. Forest Service Directive System documents and forest plans or other published Forest Service documents, c. Documents referenced by the Forest Service in the planning documentation related to the proposal subject to objection, and d. Formal comments previously provided to the Forest Service by the objector during the Forest Plan revision comment period. Objections received in response to this notice, including names and addresses of those who object, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection.

Related Categories: Notices and Announcements - Legal Notice

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