



## **BLUE MOUNTAINS FOREST PLAN REVISION - 2018**

Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

*August 1, 2018*

Dear Friends of the Blue Mountains,

As Forest Supervisors, we would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Revised Blue Mountains Forest Plans. On June 29, 2018, we published the Revised Forest Plans and supporting documents for the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests (Blue Mountains) – available on our website at [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMountainsPlanRevision](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMountainsPlanRevision). The credit for the Revised Forest Plans goes to all of the individuals and entities who have been involved over the years.

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. We are committed to working with you, our diverse public and stakeholders, to implement the Revised Forest Plans once they are finalized by the Regional Forester. Our aim is to keep improving the condition of these National Forests while also supporting the prosperity and well-being of local communities. For example, the Revised Forest Plans were designed to contribute to the recovery of Endangered Species Act-listed fish, including salmon and steelhead, as well as other species, while continuing to support multiple uses such as timber harvest and livestock grazing.

The Revised Forest Plans honor the time and energy invested by many people since 2004. Since then we have worked with a diversity of partners to organize over 120 opportunities for public and stakeholder input, plus many other informal opportunities for information exchange. The values of transparency and inclusiveness have guided the plan revision process at each phase. Although this approach has taken more time, it has resulted in stronger Revised Forest Plans that represent the many different views, uses, and interests in these National Forests.

We are grateful to each person who has invested time in this planning effort. We also appreciate those who continue to engage in the objection process. Today we are now more than halfway through the objection-filing period, which began on June 30, 2018 and is scheduled to end on August 28, 2018. If you would like to file an objection, please carefully follow the instructions provided in the [Federal Register Notice](#) and the

[Objection Process Brochure](#), both available on our [website](#). It is the responsibility of Objectors to demonstrate their standing on specific issues based on their previous substantive formal comments submitted during the 2010 formal scoping period (March 29 - May 25, 2010) or the 2014 formal comment period (March 14 - August 15, 2014).

The next step after the objection-filing period will be a 90-day resolution period overseen by a Washington, DC-based Reviewing Official. Keep in mind that individuals or entities with standing may request Interested Person status as an alternative to filing an objection. Interested Persons may participate in resolution discussions about specific issues raised by Objectors. To have standing, Interested Persons must have previously submitted substantive formal comments related to the objection issues during the 2010 formal scoping period or the 2014 formal comment period. 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. In their request, the Interested Persons must identify the specific issues that they have interest in discussing during the objection meeting(s) in order to participate in those discussions. We will provide further instructions on how to request Interested Person status shortly after the objection-filing period concludes.

For now, if you have participated in this plan revision process over the years, please accept our sincere thanks for your contributions.

STEVEN K. BEVERLIN, Forest Supervisor, Malheur National Forest  
ERIC WATRUD, Forest Supervisor, Umatilla National Forest  
THOMAS MONTOYA, Forest Supervisor, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest



for the greatest good

For further information, please email [bluemtnplanrevision@fs.fed.us](mailto:bluemtnplanrevision@fs.fed.us).

For specific National Forest information, please contact:

**Malheur National Forest:**

(541) 575-3000

**Umatilla National Forest:**

(541) 278-3716

**Wallowa-Whitman National Forest:**

(541) 523-6391