

Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision—2014

Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests



NEPA/The Forest Plan

In a Nutshell

A Forest Plan is written according to guidelines from the National Environmental Policy Act. The Environmental Impact Statement Analyzes alternatives for the Forest Plan. The Forest Plan is strategic in nature, it does not include site-specific project and activity decisions but provides the basis for future site-specific and project-level decisions.

Planning process began before the 2012 rule (Section 219.17 (b)(3)). The rule allows for the plan to be completed under the 1982 rule; however, the plan uses the objection process allowed under Section 219.17 (b)(3) and 219.52(a) and the monitoring requirement allowed under Section 219.12 (c)(1) in the 2012 Planning Rule.

Definitions

National Environmental Policy Act:

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to integrate environmental values into decision making processes by considering the environmental impacts of proposed actions and reasonable alternatives to those actions in cooperation with State and local governments, and other concerned public and private organizations.
- The NEPA requires agencies to use all practicable means and measures, including financial and technical assistance, in a manner calculated to foster and promote the general welfare, to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans.

Environmental Impact Statement:

- An Environmental Impact Statement, or EIS, is a document that describes the impacts on the environment as a result of a proposed action. It also describes impacts of alternatives as well as plans to mitigate the impacts.
- The EIS process requires scoping and public involvement. The substantive concerns voiced by citizens, public and private organizations, and other agencies must be addressed during the decision making process.

Record of Decision (ROD):

- Public decision document that states what the decision is
- provides rationale behind the decision
- identifies the alternatives considered, including the environmentally preferred alternative;
- discusses mitigation plans, including any enforcement and monitoring commitments.



for the greatest good

Document Sections

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Volume 1:

- Chapter 1: Purpose and Need
- Chapter 2: Alternatives, Including the Modified Proposed Action
- Chapter 3: Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences through the Physical Environment

Volume 2:

- Chapter 3: Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences (continued)

Volume 3:

- Chapter 4: Consultation and Coordination
- Glossary and Acronyms
- References
- Index
- Appendix A: Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Alternatives Analyzed in Detail
- Appendix B: Methodology
- Appendix C: Cumulative Effects
- Appendix D: Laws and Regulations Relevant to Forest Planning
- Appendix E: Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Appendix F: Wilderness Evaluation
- Appendix G: Suitable Acres within Range Allotments for Each Alternative

Blue Mountains National Forests Proposed Revised Land Management Plan

Introduction

Vision

Strategy

Management Areas:

- Spatially distinct areas where general management intent is similar
- Management area designation, name and acreage for each forest can be found in Table 11 on page 75 of the Revised Forest Land Management Plan.

Suitable Uses:

- Describes the appropriateness of applying certain resource management practices (uses) to a particular area of land
- General suitability matrix for management areas can be found in Table 25 on page 97 of the Revised Land Management Plan

Objectives:

- Projections of Forest Service activities and program outcomes that are measurable and time specific

Monitoring Framework:

- Designed to assess whether or not forest plan implementation is making progress toward achieving desired conditions. Implements specific monitoring requirements from regulation.
- Implementation: determines if we did what we said we would do
- Effectiveness: determines how well a particular practice helps achieve a project objective
- Validation: test key assumptions and generally involves design research
- Table 29 on page 110 of the Proposed Revised Land Management Plan displays the monitoring framework.

Design Criteria

Standards and Guidelines:

- Standards: Constraints placed upon project and activity decision making that are required to be met
- Guidelines: provide design specifications for projects and activities to ensure they are compatible with desired conditions and goals

Summary of the Analysis of the Management Situation



Additional Resource Information

Management Area Designation and Name	Malheur	Umatilla	Wallowa-Whitman
1A – Congressionally Designated Wilderness Areas	82,600	304,200	372,900
1B – Recommended Wilderness Areas	30,400	40,100	20,300
1C – Wilderness Study Area	0	0	2,400
2A – Wild and Scenic River (Includes Designated, Eligible, and Suitable Rivers)	12,100	44,600	52,900
2B – Research Natural Areas	11,100	11,000	8,000
2C – Botanical Areas	100	2,400	0
2D – Geological Areas	200	400	0
2E – Historical Areas	34,000	1,200	24,700
2F – Scenic Byways and All-American Roads	13 miles	51 miles	85 miles
2G – Nationally Designated Trails	9 miles	30 miles	25 miles
2H – Scenic Areas	14,400	31,100	0
2I – Starkey Experimental Forest and Range	0	0	30,500
2J – Municipal Watersheds	500	20,200	24,500
3A – Backcountry (nonmotorized use)	53,600	70,100	104,500
3B – Backcountry (motorized use)	119,100	160,600	145,500
3C – Wildlife Corridor	0	21,600	6,500
4A – General Forest	1,245,600	625,200	844,300
4B – Riparian Management Areas (300/150/100 foot buffer)	192,900	237,500	362,500
5 – Developed Sites and Administrative Areas	2,200	3,700	7,700

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