

# Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision—2014

## Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests



# Social Well Being

### In a Nutshell

Throughout the planning process, people shared information about their uses, interests, and values for the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. The management activities, uses, and goods and services proposed under the alternatives have a multitude of potential effects on these values. Individuals and groups often hold diverse and/or conflicting opinions on how their values are affected. The areas of social well being that are directly addressed in the preferred alternative are scenery, old forest, recreation, hunting and fishing, Rocky Mountain Elk, cultural resources, roads and trails access, wildland-urban interface, tribal rights and interests, culturally significant foods, community resilience, and wild horses.

### Old Forest

People find old forests aesthetically pleasing, ecologically important, intrinsically and economically valuable, and necessary for a resilient and sustainable landscape.

The desired condition for old forest is guided by other ecological desired conditions (stand density, plant species composition, fire regime condition, wildland fire, and landscape patterns).

### Scenery

Valued as a backdrop for the activities and experiences that create memories and meet expectations of national forest visitors.

The Desired Condition for the plan is to maintain scenic integrity and stability through use of the scenery management system.

### Hunting and Fishing

Identified as the number one primary activity in the Blue Mountains by the 2003 National Visitor Use Monitoring Report.

The Desired Condition for the plan is to provide a mix of opportunities that foster hunting and fishing, and to support the state agencies that manage populations.

### Rocky Mountain Elk

The value of elk hunting within the Blue Mountains ranges between 17-20 million dollars per year

Maintains a mosaic of elk forage and cover areas with minimal disturbance for a given season and landscape in support of the State Fish and Wildlife Objectives.



for the greatest good

### **Wildland-Urban Interface**

These areas are managed to meet a variety of social and ecological needs, with the main intent being to aid in the protection of communities from wildfire.

Vegetation treatments are based on wildfire protection objectives, which may over-ride ecological desired conditions.

### **Community Resilience**

Resiliency refers to the ability of communities and cultures to adapt to changing ecological, social, and economic conditions.

The national forests foster healthy and resilient communities by providing sustainable ecological services or products.

### **Recreation**

The Forest Service manages three types of recreation, developed, dispersed, and backcountry.

Under the desired condition, there would be recreational opportunities for all skill and ability levels. All new facilities will be a contemporary rustic design constructed of native durable materials.

### **Wild Horse Desired Conditions**

Managed under the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act.

Provides for a viable, free-roaming wild horse herd that is genetically diverse and is in ecological balance with other approved multiple uses.

### **Cultural Resources and Culturally Significant Foods**

National Forest System lands are available for tribal members to exercise their reserved rights.

Culturally significant foods are available and accessible and are sustained by the ecological and cultural processes under which they historically developed.

### **Document Sections**

Blue Mountains National Forests Proposed Revised Land Management Plan

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