

Tonight's Program

5:30 Welcome

6:00 Presentation

Questions and Answers, and Comments

Open House

8:30 Adjourn



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A photograph of a sunset over a forest of tall evergreen trees. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm orange glow. The trees are silhouetted against the bright sky.

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Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision


Proposed Revised Forest Plan

and

Draft Environmental Impact Statement



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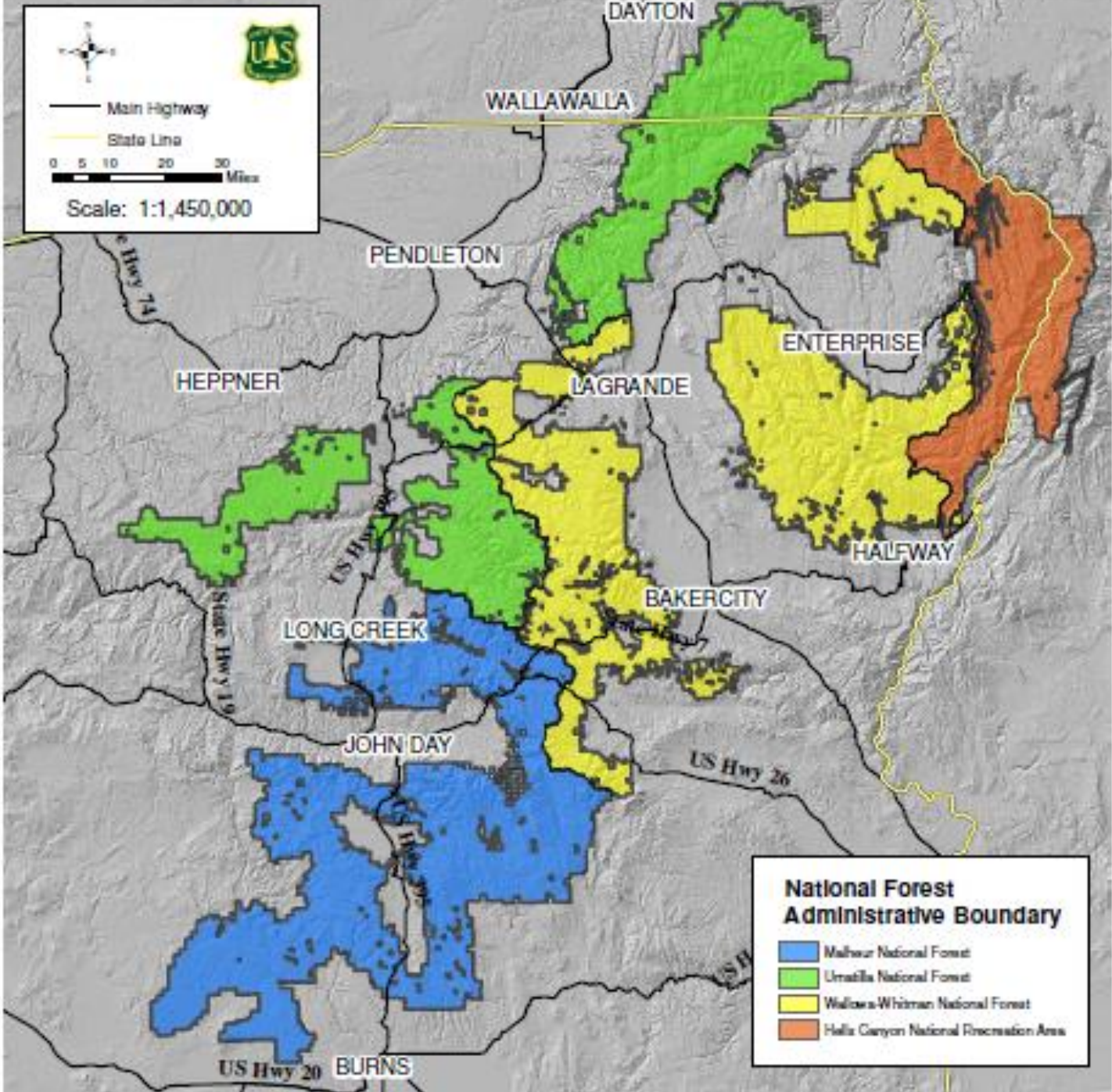


Main Highway

State Line

0 5 10 20 30 Miles

Scale: 1:1,450,000



National Forest Administrative Boundary

- Malheur National Forest
- Umatilla National Forest
- Willows-Whitman National Forest
- Hells Canyon National Recreation Area

The Documents.....



Draft Environmental Impact Statement Proposed Revised Land Management Plans for the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

Volume 1



Pacific Northwest Region

February 2014



Blue Mountains National Forests Proposed Revised Land Management Plan



Malheur, Umatilla, and
Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

February 2014



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A Forest Plan

Does.....

- ❖ Provide broad-based, strategic direction (programmatic guidance)
- ❖ Provide the basis and context for subsequent site-specific, project-level decisions made after additional detailed analyses and further public engagement
- ❖ Protects and honors Native American Tribal Treaty Rights

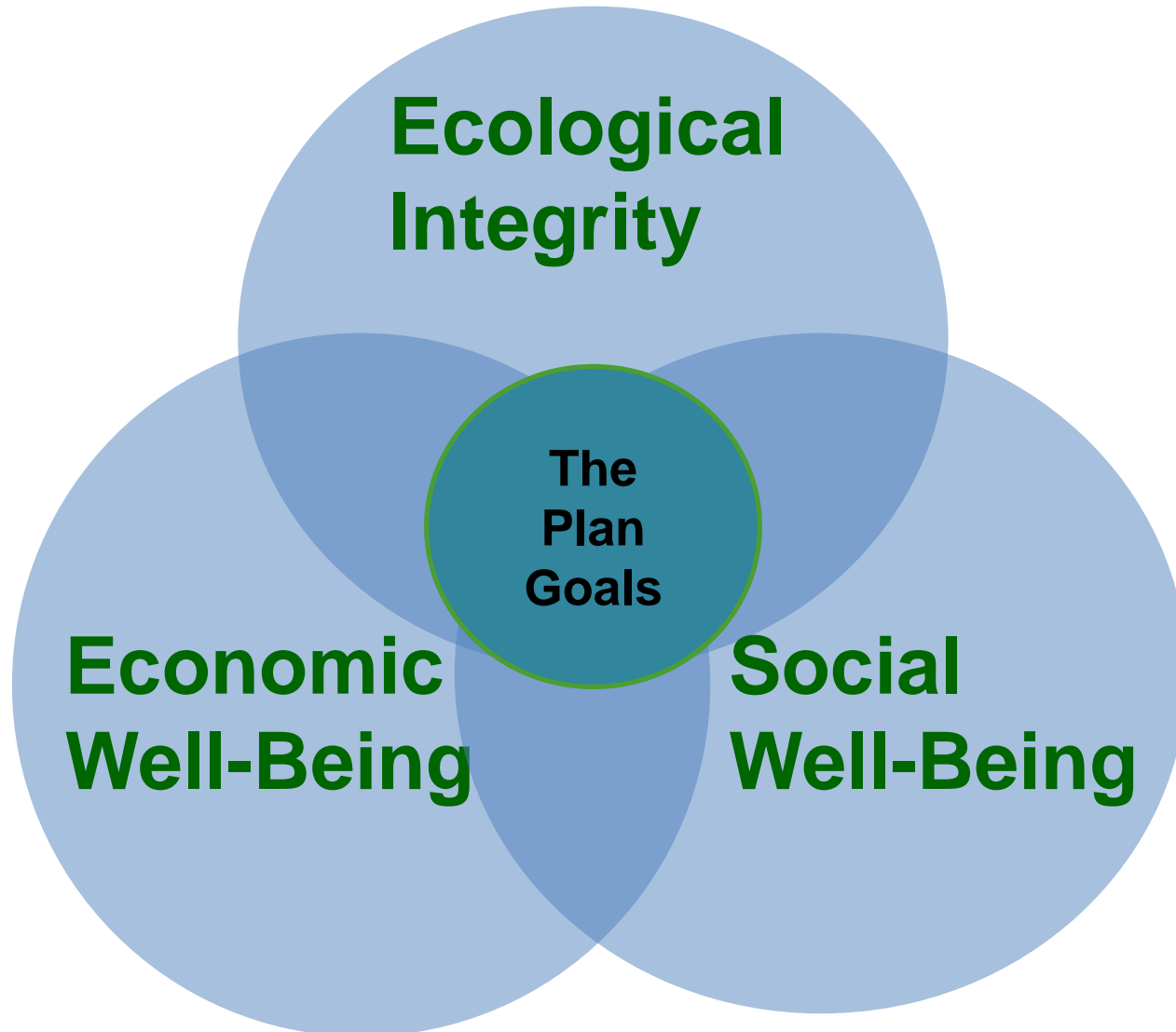
Does Not.....

- ❖ Make site-specific or project-level decisions
- ❖ Open or close roads or trails
- ❖ Designate Wilderness



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Three Primary Goals of the Forest Plan are to Promote



Why Revise the Forest Plans?

- ❖ National Forest Management Act of 1976 requires Forest Plans be revised at least every 10 to 15 years. Current Forest Plans were completed in 1990
- ❖ Economic, social, and ecological conditions have changed
- ❖ New laws, regulations, and policies are in place
- ❖ New information based on monitoring and scientific research
- ❖ Multiple amendments completed to incorporate best available science



Which Planning Rule 1982 or 2012?

❖ The 2012 Planning Rule allows:

- ❖ Continued use of the 1982 Planning Rule
- ❖ Using the Objection Process, even if the Forest plan is written under a previous planning rule
- ❖ Monitoring under the 2012 Planning Rule, as is required under Forest Service policy



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What's Happened Since 2004?

2004 – 2010:

- ❖ Numerous public meetings and field trips
- ❖ Meetings with local, state, and federal agencies, and tribes
- ❖ Internal meetings and reviews

March 2010 – March 2014:

- ❖ Scoping - Proposed Action released for public comment; public meetings and field trips
- ❖ Alternatives developed based on comments
- ❖ Additional meetings with counties, tribes; and state and federal agencies

March 2014:

- ❖ DEIS and Proposed Revised Forest Plan Released
- ❖ Public Meetings



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Key Themes in the Proposed Action

- ❖ Vegetation and Aquatic Habitat Restoration
- ❖ Support to Vibrant Communities
- ❖ Water, Watersheds, Riparian Areas
- ❖ Species Viability
- ❖ Climate Change



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What We Heard - Issues

- ❖ Social Well-Being
- ❖ Economic Well-Being
- ❖ Ecological Resilience
- ❖ Access
- ❖ Livestock Grazing and Grazing Land Vegetation
- ❖ Old Forest
- ❖ Recommended Wilderness



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The Alternatives

Alternative
A

No Action - 1990 Plan, as Amended

Alternative
B

Modified Proposed Action

Alternative
C

Alternative
D

Alternative
E

Preferred Alternative

Alternative
F



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Terms in the Documents

(Plan Components)

- ❖ Goals
 - ❖ Desired Conditions
 - ❖ Standards
 - ❖ Guidelines
- ❖ Objectives
- ❖ Management Areas/Special Areas
- ❖ Suitable Uses and Activities
- ❖ Monitoring/Evaluation



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Desired Conditions

- ❖ What the National Forest System lands, natural resources, and recreational uses would be like in the future or the conditions we would like to achieve over time
- ❖ Apply Forestwide (not HCNRA) and to all Management Areas



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Social Well-being Goal

Examples of Desired Conditions:

- ❖ Sense and Value of Place
- ❖ Culturally important areas
- ❖ Recreational Opportunities
- ❖ Scenic Qualities
- ❖ Wildlife Values



Economic Well-being Goal

Examples of Desired Conditions:

- ❖ Forest Products
- ❖ Livestock Grazing
- ❖ Recreation
- ❖ Mineral and Geological Resources



Ecological Integrity Goal

Examples of Desired Conditions:

- ❖ Healthy Forests
- ❖ Water and Soil Quality
- ❖ Species Diversity
- ❖ Wildland Fire
- ❖ Plant Species Composition



Standards

- ❖ Constraints on project and activity decision making
- ❖ The design of projects and activities must meet a standard requirement in a Forest Plan
- ❖ A Forest Plan amendment must be completed to vary from a standard



Guidelines

- ❖ Constraints on project and activity decision making
- ❖ The design of projects and activities may depart from a guideline requirement as long as intent is met and addressed in a decision document with supporting rationale
- ❖ If deviation from a guideline does not meet intent, a Forest Plan amendment is required



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Objectives

- ❖ Projections of outcomes based on social, economic, and ecological indicators



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Management Areas/ Special Areas

- ❖ Distinct areas on the land with a unique set of desired conditions, standards, guidelines, and objectives
- ❖ They occur across Districts, mountain ranges, and ecosystems but have features in common that make their land uses similar.



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MA 1

1A - Wilderness

1B - Recommended Wilderness

1C - Wilderness Study Area



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MA 2 Special Areas

- 2A – Wild and Scenic Rivers
- 2B – Research Natural Areas
- 2C – Botanical Areas
- 2D – Geological Areas
- 2E – Historical Areas

- 2F - Scenic Byways
- 2G – Nationally Designated Trails
- 2H – Scenic Areas
- 2I – Experimental Forests
- 2J – Municipal Watersheds



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MA 3

3A – Backcountry - Nonmotorized Use

3B – Backcountry - Motorized Use

3C - Wildlife Corridor



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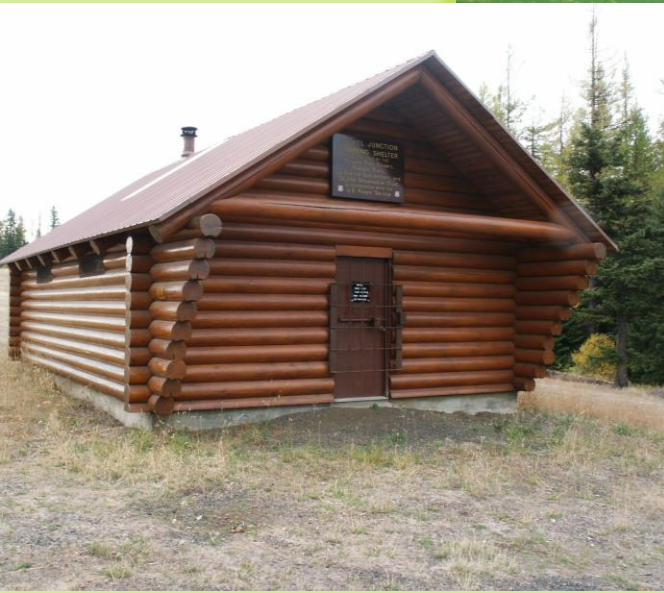
MA 4

4A - General Forest

4B - Riparian Management Areas



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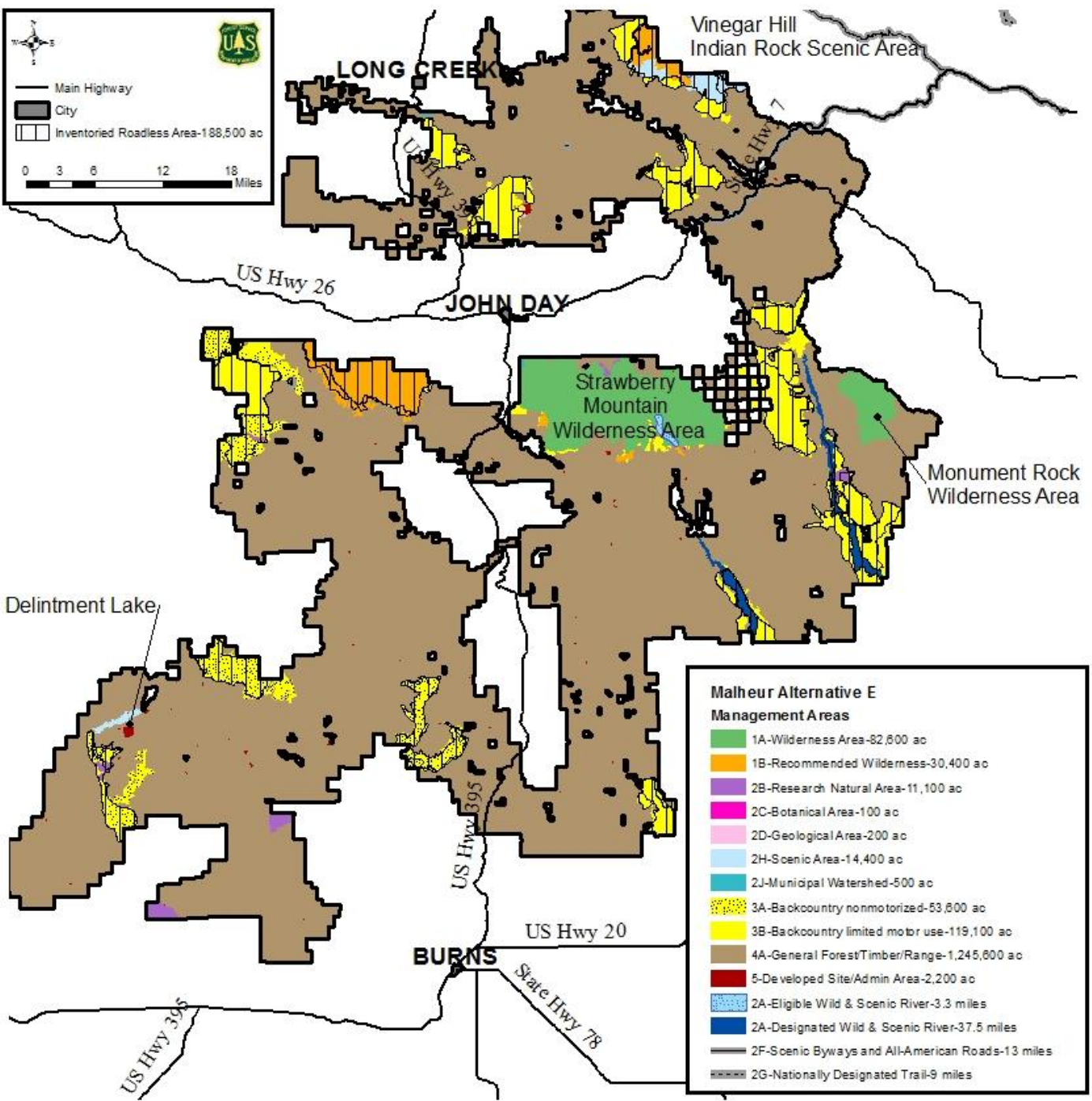


MA 5

5 - Administrative Sites



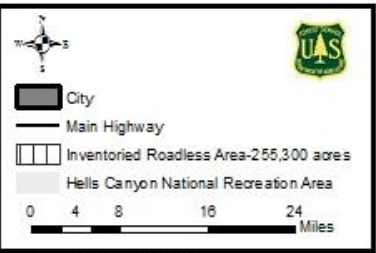
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Malheur National Forest



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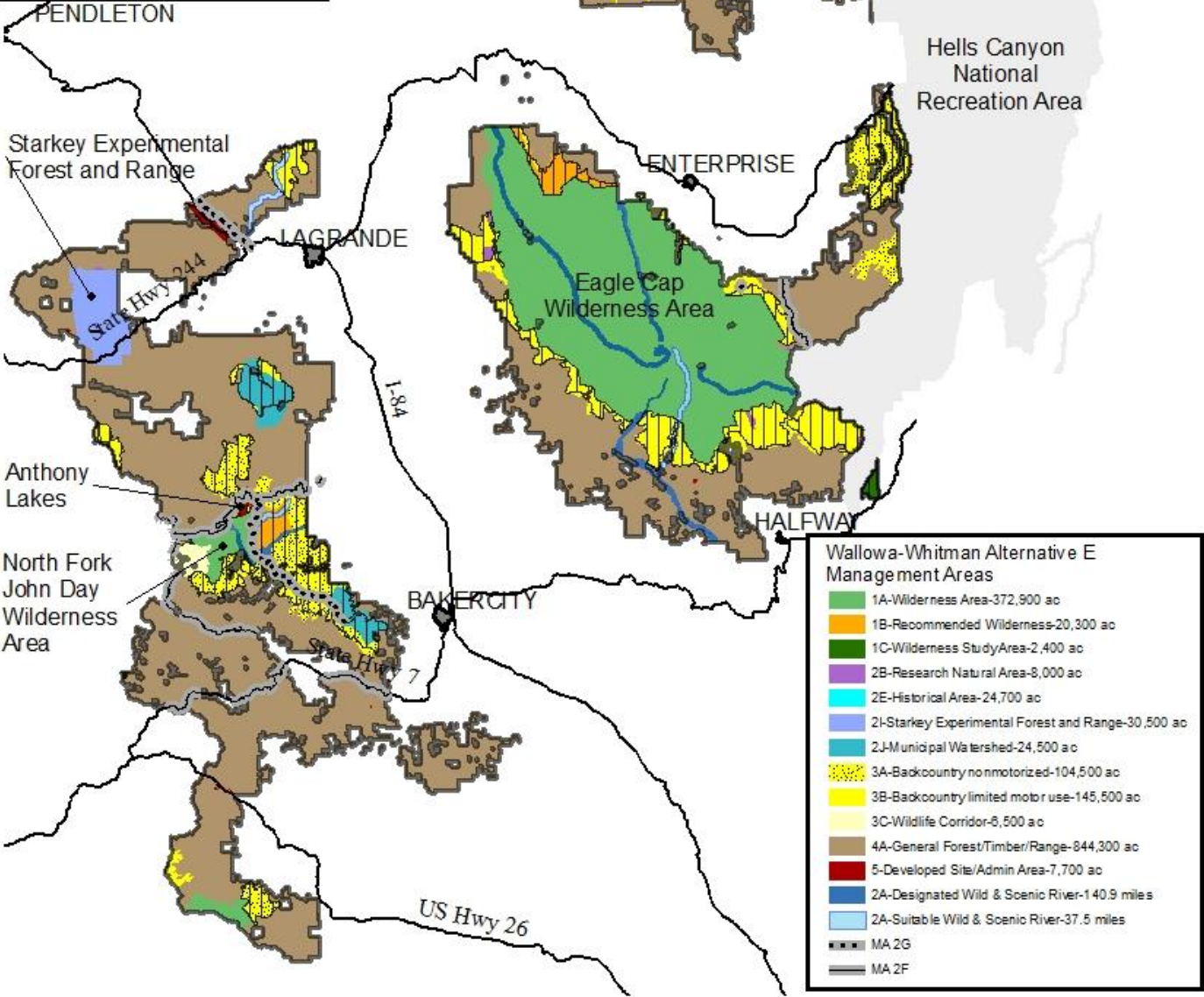
City

Main Highway

Inventoried Roadless Area-255,300 acres

Hells Canyon National Recreation Area

0 4 8 16 24 Miles




Wallowa-Whitman Alternative E Management Areas

- 1A-Wilderness Area-372,900 ac
- 1B-Recommended Wilderness-20,300 ac
- 1C-Wilderness Study Area-2,400 ac
- 2B-Research Natural Area-8,000 ac
- 2E-Historical Area-24,700 ac
- 2I-Starkey Experimental Forest and Range-30,500 ac
- 2J-Municipal Watershed-24,500 ac
- 3A-Backcountry no motorized-104,500 ac
- 3B-Backcountry limited motor use-145,500 ac
- 3C-Wildlife Corridor-8,500 ac
- 4A-General Forest/Timber/Range-844,300 ac
- 5-Developed Site/Admin Area-7,700 ac
- 2A-Designated Wild & Scenic River-140.9 miles
- 2A-Suitable Wild & Scenic River-37.5 miles
- MA 2G
- MA 2F

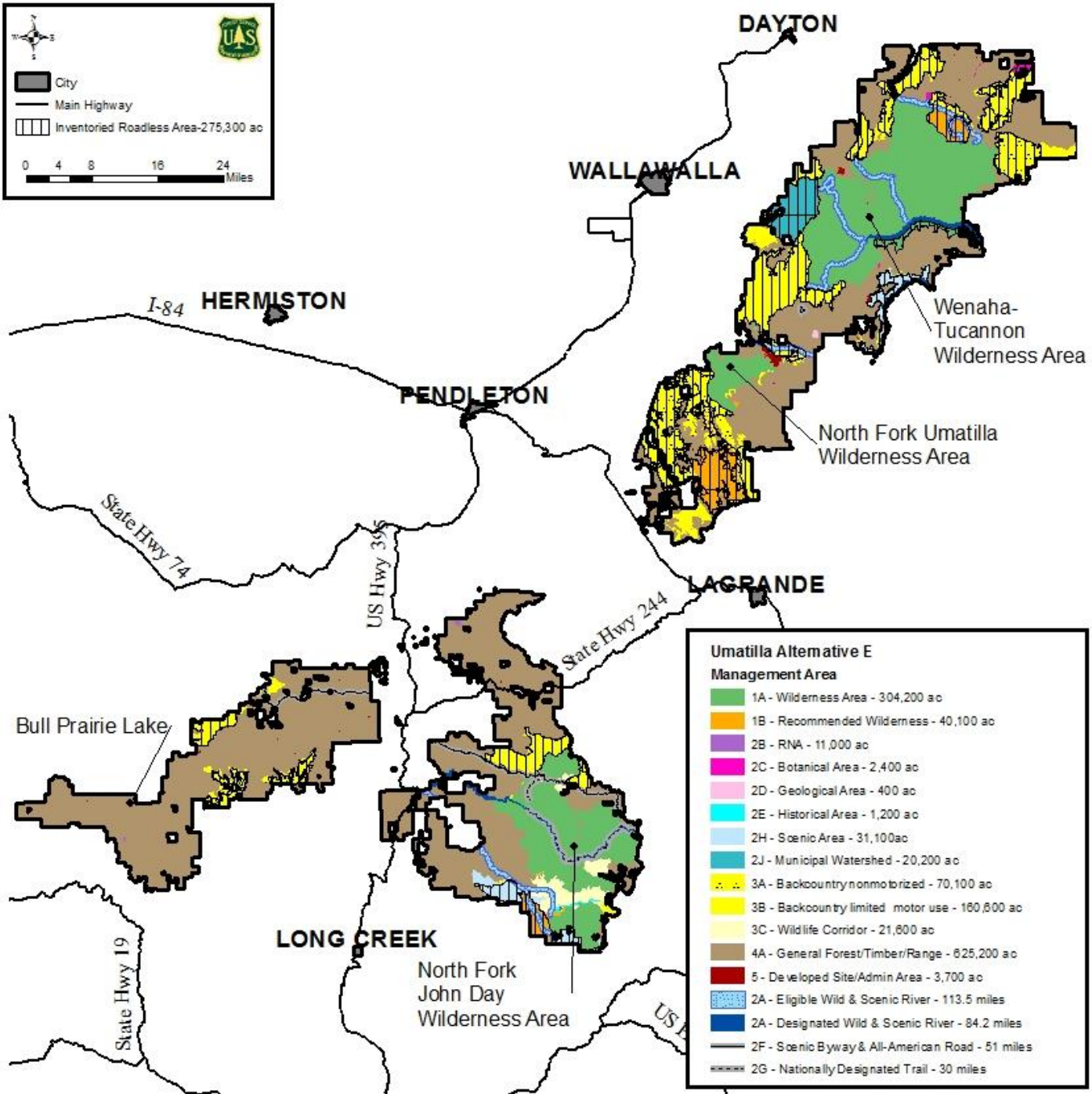
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest





City
Main Highway
Inventoried Roadless Area-275,300 ac

0 4 8 16 24 Miles



Umatilla Alternative E Management Area

| |
|--|
| 1A - Wilderness Area - 304,200 ac |
| 1B - Recommended Wilderness - 40,100 ac |
| 2B - RNA - 11,000 ac |
| 2C - Botanical Area - 2,400 ac |
| 2D - Geological Area - 400 ac |
| 2E - Historical Area - 1,200 ac |
| 2H - Scenic Area - 31,100ac |
| 2J - Municipal Watershed - 20,200 ac |
| 3A - Backcountry nonmotorized - 70,100 ac |
| 3B - Backcountry limited motor use - 160,600 ac |
| 3C - Wildlife Corridor - 21,600 ac |
| 4A - General Forest/Timber/Range - 625,200 ac |
| 5 - Developed Site/Admin Area - 3,700 ac |
| 2A - Eligible Wild & Scenic River - 113.5 miles |
| 2A - Designated Wild & Scenic River - 84.2 miles |
| 2F - Scenic Byway & All-American Road - 51 miles |
| 2G - Nationally Designated Trail - 30 miles |

Umatilla National Forest



Suitable Uses/Activities

- ❖ Uses and/or activities that are compatible with desired conditions and objectives for a management area
- ❖ Do not represent a final decision approving activities because site-specific analysis still needs to occur
- ❖ Use or Activity such as (page 97 of the Proposed Revised Forest Plan):
 - ❖ Timber production
 - ❖ Timber harvest
 - ❖ Grazing
 - ❖ Motor vehicle use
 - ❖ Road and trail construction
 - ❖ Energy development



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Monitoring

- ❖ Monitoring is part of an adaptive management process that measures the performance of plan implementation against the goals, desired conditions, and objectives
- ❖ Evaluates whether implementation of standards and guidelines are producing the desired results
- ❖ Monitoring and evaluation will occur as Forest Plans are implemented.



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Preferred Alternative (Alternative E)

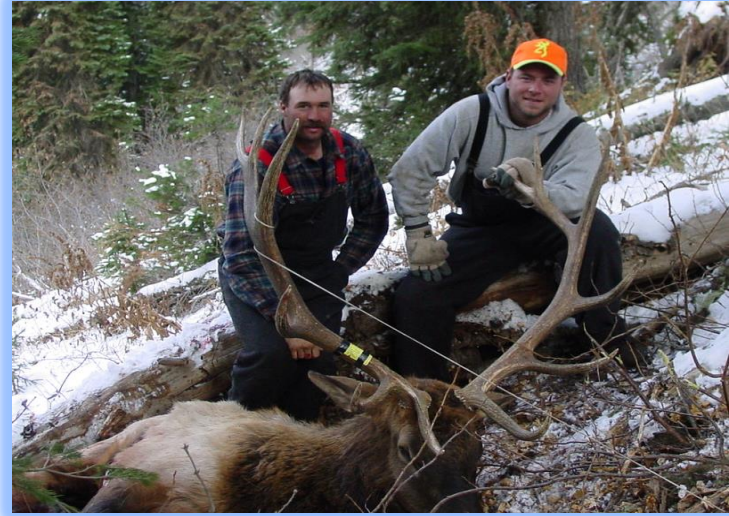
- ❖ Social Well-Being
- ❖ Economic Well-Being
- ❖ Ecological Resilience
- ❖ Access
- ❖ Livestock Grazing and Grazing Land Vegetation
- ❖ Old Forest
- ❖ Recommended Wilderness



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Social Well-Being

- ❖ Balances the social and economic with ecological integrity
- ❖ Addresses ecological needs because they, in turn, support social and economic systems, bringing all three closer to sustainability
- ❖ Provides for a variety of uses on public land to meet the social needs of people throughout eastern Oregon and Washington and beyond. Examples include: hunting and fishing, recreation, culturally significant foods, old forest and scenery.



Economic Well-Being

- ❖ Contributes to the sustainability and vitality of the surrounding communities
- ❖ Predicted increase in jobs help diversify communities and contribute to economic stability
- ❖ Provides for doubling the current rate of restoration for all resources



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Ecological Resilience



- ❖ Emphasis on:
 - ❖ Watershed Restoration
 - ❖ Improving hydrologic function and connectivity within Key Watersheds
 - ❖ Managing fire to meet resource objectives
 - ❖ Treating invasive plants



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Access

The Proposed Revised Forest Plan:

- ❖ Includes desired conditions to provide motorized and non-motorized access that are compatible with the desired conditions and objectives for other resources.
- ❖ Does not close National Forest System roads, designated off-highway vehicle, or snowmobile trails currently open to the public.
- ❖ Identifies areas that are suitable for the development of additional motorized access.



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Process for Recommending Wilderness

- ❖ Required by the 1982 Planning Rule, as amended
- ❖ Evaluate and inventory potential wilderness areas
- ❖ Evaluate the Capability, Availability, and Need for potential additional wilderness
- ❖ Recommend Wilderness through the Forest Plan
- ❖ Final Forest Plan presents Preliminary Administrative Recommended Wilderness Areas
- ❖ **ONLY** Congress can designate Wilderness



Livestock Grazing and Grazing Land Vegetation

- ❖ Permitted livestock levels are similar as the proposed action; no change for cattle
- ❖ Guidelines for sage grouse protection are included, consistent with BLM Sage Grouse DEIS
- ❖ Contributes to local economies by providing forage for cattle and sheep
- ❖ Standards provide separation of domestic sheep from bighorn sheep, which could result in reductions in permitted domestic sheep levels



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Old Forest

- ❖ Creates and/or maintains resilient old forests
- ❖ Uses Historic Range of Variability (HRV) as the desired condition for the percent of the landscape in old forest
- ❖ Emphasizes retaining trees with old tree characteristics across the landscape

Timeline

- ❖ **March 14, 2014:** Begin the Public Comment Period
- ❖ **2014 – 2015:**
 - ❖ Comments reviewed, analyzed, and considered when finalizing the Forest Plans and DEIS
 - ❖ Continued engagement with co-conveners, other agencies, Tribes, and public.
- ❖ **Summer 2015:** Notice of Availability for Final EIS and Forest Plan for each Forest. Objection Process begins
- ❖ **Fall 2015:** Resolution of Objections. Sign Records of Decision



Tips for Commenting

- ❖ Help the Forest Service identify what is right for the land, while also enhancing social and economic vitality
- ❖ The Preferred Alternative is a good starting point for commenting, along with comparing it to the other alternatives
- ❖ Submit substantive comments, which could include alternative ways to accomplish what is being proposed, including your rationale of why to do it that way
- ❖ All comments will be analyzed, read, and considered in the development of the Final EIS and Final Forest Plans



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How to Submit Comments

- ❖ Electronically
- ❖ US Postal Mail
- ❖ Fax
- ❖ Need Assistance Call:

541-523-1246 or 541-523-1302



When to comment

- ❖ Postmarked or received electronically no later than 90 days from March 14, 2014
- ❖ An extension will be considered before end of first 90 days

Where to get copies...

DEIS and Proposed Revised Forest Plan

We are encouraging the public to view our documents through the following options:

- ❖ Website
- ❖ Compact Disc (CD)
- ❖ Printed Copy
- ❖ Visit and Read in Person at local libraries and Forest Service offices



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Question & Answer Time

Opportunity to ask questions about:

- ❖ **What you've heard tonight**
- ❖ **The Forest Plan**
- ❖ **The DEIS**
- ❖ **How to Comment**
- ❖ **The Process**



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Process for the Q&A Session...

- ❖ Opportunity to ask a question and/or provide a comment;
- ❖ Making a comment for the record? Please say so and state your name – we'll follow up with you after the Q&A session to validate your comment and confirm your contact information;
- ❖ Please provide equal opportunity to your neighbors in the room by keeping your question or comment brief – let's accommodate as many people as possible;
- ❖ At the conclusion of the 45-minute Q&A, Forest Service leadership will remain in the presentation area for any who still wish to make a comment - those with questions will head into the open house area to talk with Forest Service resource specialists.

Please take advantage of the opportunity to ask questions tonight. There will be many other opportunities to provide comments on the Proposed Revised Forest Plan during the 90-day comment period.



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