



Blue Mountains National Forests Plan Revision— What is a Forest Land Management Plan

A 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.

What is a Forest Plan?

- Guides future management for approximately 15 years on the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forest lands
- Identifies strategies for maintaining or achieving desired conditions and for achieving objectives
- Identifies standards and guidelines to guide project and activity planning and implementation
- Identifies lands generally suitable or generally unsuitable for various uses
- Identifies areas with special or unique characteristics
- Provides monitoring and evaluation requirements
- Emphasizes best available science and adaptive management

Why Revise the Existing Plans?

- Follows requirements by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 to revise plans every 15 years
- Address changes since the original 1990 plans, as amended
- Shift management direction more towards desired conditions
- Planning process began before the 2012 rule. The rule allows for the plan to be completed under the 1982 rule; however, the plan uses the objection process and the monitoring requirement in the 2012 Planning Rule

Key issues identified from public input:

- Access
- Economic and Social Well-being
- Livestock Grazing and Grazing Land Vegetation
- Old Forest
- Recommended Additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System
- Ecological Resilience

Plan Components

Goals

Create the framework of the plan. Desired conditions, standards, guidelines and objectives fall under each goal. The forests will manage the land to achieve or maintain the goals and desired conditions.

- Promote Ecological Integrity
- Promote Social Well-being
- Promote Economic Well-being

Desired Conditions

Desired social, economic, and ecological attributes of the three forests. Provides a strategic vision of what the forests would look like and the goods/services available.

Objectives

Concise, time-specific statements of measurable planned results that make progress towards or maintain the desired conditions.

Standards/Guidelines

- **Standards:** A mandatory constraint on project and activity decision-making.
- **Guidelines:** A constraint on project and activity decision-making that allows for departure from its terms, so long as the intent of the guideline is met.

Management Areas/Special Areas

Spatially distinct areas with a unique set of plan components. Special Areas are lands designated by Congress or administratively because of their unique or special characteristics.





Document Structure

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





How to Comment



Where to get the documents

- Download the pdf from the web or take a CD with you. This pdf version is easily searchable.
- Hard copies are available to sit and read at Forest District Offices and at 28 libraries.
- A limited number of hard copies are available by request, call 541-523-1246 or 541-523-1302

How to Submit Comments

- Comments may be submitted via web form (CARA), email, USPS, PDF, MS Word, and at public meetings

Comment Analysis and Response Application (CARA)

- User-friendly web based system to enter comments on the Draft EIS and Draft Proposed Revised Land Management Plan
- <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMountainForestPlanRevisionComments>

Process for Analyzing Comments

- Gather comments, including contact info and the date/time the comment was submitted
- Automatically sort unique comments, form letters, and those letters that fall somewhere in between
- Code comments online
- Analyze comments according to codes, demographics, etc.
- Respond to comments with links to specific comments and codes

Objection Process

- Described in the 2012 Planning Rule
- The objection process would provide for a review and resolution of issues before the approval of a plan revision
- Occurs when the Draft Record of Decision, Final EIS, and Forest Plans are released before the Record of Decision is Signed
- Members of the Public can object if they have participated in the NEPA process by providing substantive comments and contact information



Timeline

