



# Blue Mountains National Forests Plan Revision Livestock Grazing & Grazing Land Vegetation

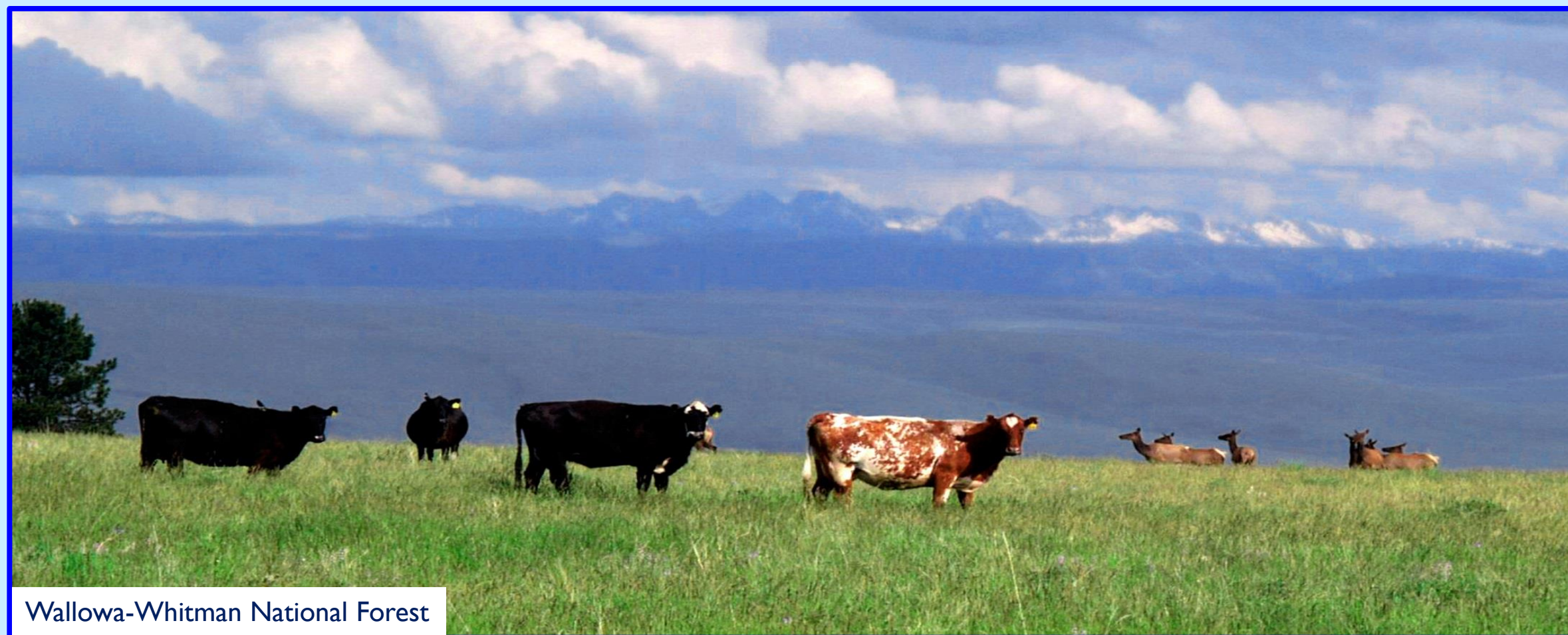
**Objective:** Contribute to local economies by providing forage for cattle and sheep.

**Desired Condition:** Grazing allotments contribute to a predictable supply of livestock forage that contributes to local ranching operation sustainability and local community growth while maintaining or achieving ecological desired conditions.

## Rangeland Desired Conditions

The Preferred Alternative would have objectives for rangeland vegetation restoration and management of wildfire to achieve desired rangeland vegetation conditions. Livestock utilization guidelines for forage and browse would be used to validate progress toward achieving the desired conditions.

Management System	Maximum Percent Utilization for Uplands	
	Departure from Desired Condition (guideline)	
	Low to Moderate	Moderate or Greater
Season Long	35%	30%
Management systems that incorporate deferment, rest, rotation	40%	35%



The Preferred Alternative would designate Riparian Management Areas (RMAs) where aquatic and riparian-dependent resources receive primary emphasis and special management direction. The following table displays the management direction for maximum utilization within RMAs.

Measure - Guidelines	Preferred Alternative
Maximum percent utilization of woody vegetation (percent of mean annual vegetative production)	25% within bull trout spawning and rearing reaches 40% for all other watercourses including anadromous fish reaches
Maximum percent utilization of herbaceous vegetation (percent of mean annual vegetative production)	25% within bull trout spawning and rearing reaches 40% for all other watercourses including anadromous fish reaches



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## Suitability

The Preferred Alternative would determine acres suitable for livestock grazing.

Grazing in some areas would require more active management :

- riparian management areas,
- botanical areas,
- Research Natural Areas,
- federally listed or species at risk plants,
- federally listed fish or critical habitat,
- occupied sage grouse habitat,
- grazing after wild fire, or
- wild and scenic river corridors.

The Preferred Alternative would maintain or increase the pace and scale of restoration of livestock grazing vegetation.

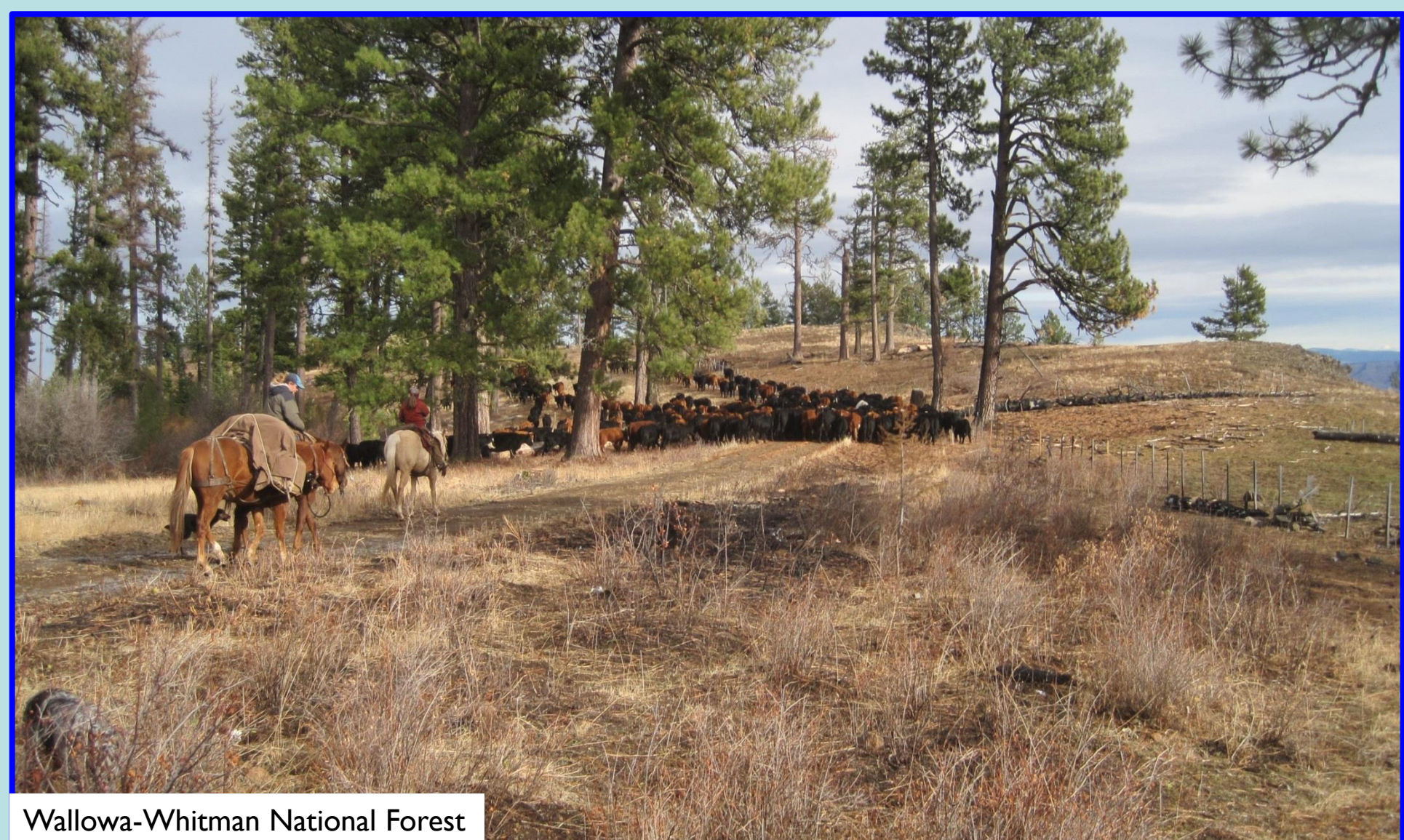


Umatilla National Forest

- Non-forested rangeland account for ~765,000 acres (16%) of NFS lands in the 4.9 million acres within the Blue Mountain National Forests
- Non-forested and forested rangeland account for ~3.4 million grazable acres (69%) of NFS lands in the 4.9 million acres within the Blue Mountain National Forests

## Acres Suitable for Cattle & Sheep Grazing

	Cattle	Sheep
Malheur	1,197,000	101,000
Umatilla	284,000	42,000
Wallowa-Whitman	408,000	25,000



Wallowa-Whitman National Forest



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## Authorized Grazing Levels in AUMs

An AUM is the unit used to measure permitted and authorized livestock use. One AUM (Animal Unit Month) is the amount of forage a 1,000 pound mature cow and a calf (or 5 ewes with lambs) consume in a 30-day period.

### Malheur National Forest

	Current	Preferred Alternative
<b>Permitted cattle AUMs</b>	117,000	117,000
<b>Permitted sheep AUMs</b>	6,500	6,500

### Umatilla National Forest

	Current	Preferred Alternative
<b>Permitted cattle AUMs</b>	30,000	30,000
<b>Permitted sheep AUMs</b>	7,800	5,800

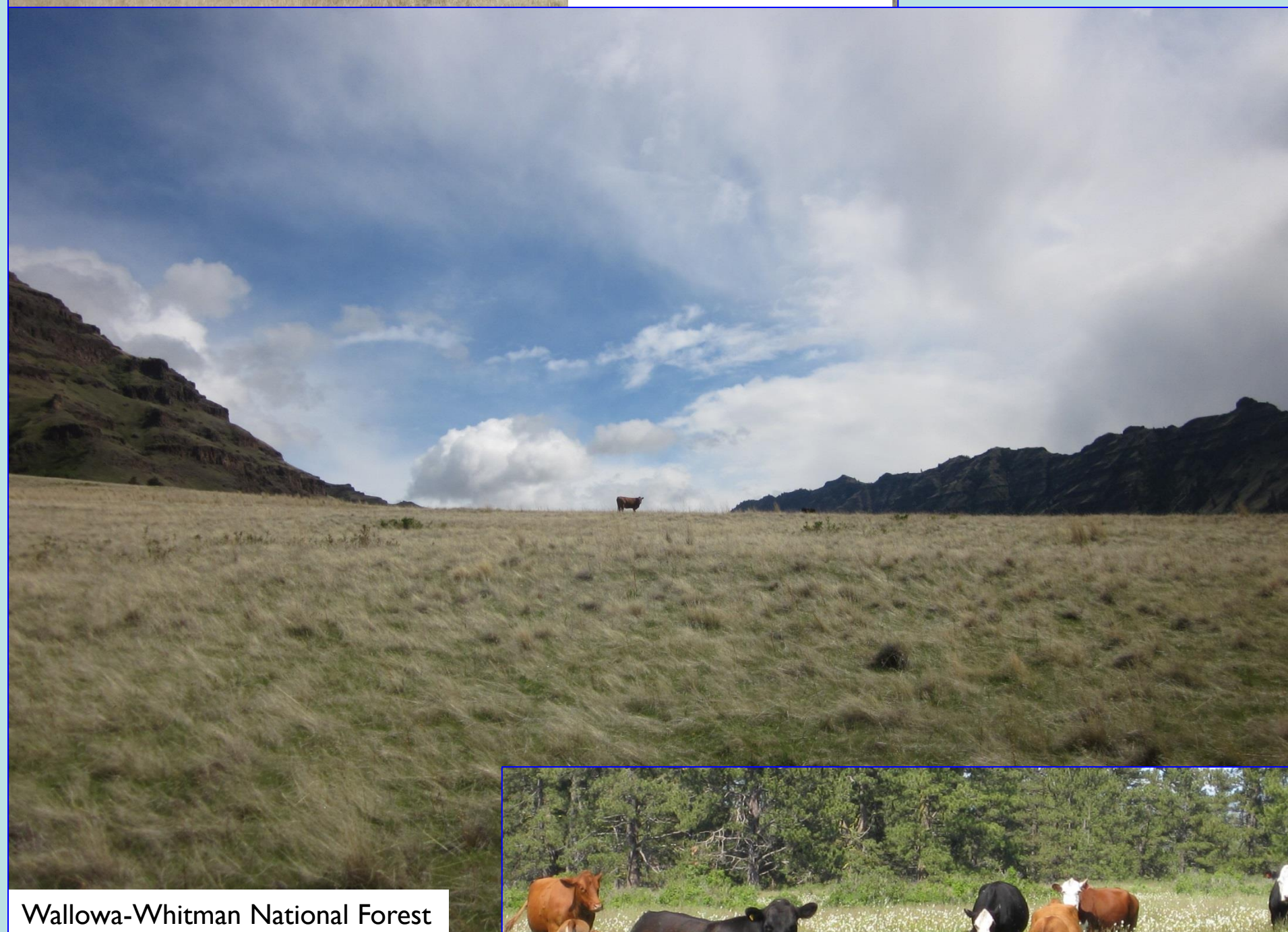
### Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

	Current	Preferred Alternative
<b>Permitted cattle AUMs</b>	77,000	77,000
<b>Permitted sheep AUMs</b>	4,500	3,500

The Preferred Alternative would retain present cattle numbers, however domestic sheep would have slightly lower objective levels to reduce the risk of contact with bighorn sheep.



Malheur National Forest



Wallowa-Whitman National Forest



Wallowa-Whitman National Forest