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Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision

Welcome to the webinar! Please stand by while we wait for others to join.

- 1. To enable audio, you must dial the phone number, access code, and audio PIN displayed in the audio tab of the control panel. Please note that your phone line will be muted throughout the webinar, unless un-muted by the facilitator
- 2. Experiencing technical difficulties? Please call Melissa at 208-731-1589 or email her at mthom@enviroissues.com



Webinar Orientation

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And now, for some introductions...



Today's Speakers



Susan Hayman,
Facilitator,
contracted through the
U.S. Institute for
Environmental Conflict
Resolution



Sabrina Stadler,
Blue Mountain
Revision
Team Leader



Dennis Dougherty,

Blue Mountain

Revision Team

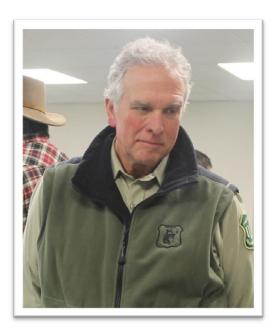
Recreation Planner



Blue Mountains Forest Supervisors



Kevin Martin
Umatilla
National Forest



John Laurence
Wallowa-Whitman
National Forest



Teresa Raaf Malheur National Forest



Blue Mountains Revision Team





Webinar Objectives

- Identify the suitable uses in the Blue Mountains Proposed Revised Forest Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the following proposed management areas (Alternative E):
 - Wilderness
 - Recommended wilderness
 - Backcountry (motorized and non-motorized), and
 - General forest
- Demonstrate how current conditions and access informed delineation of management areas for the preferred alternative (Alternative E).
- Demonstrate, through use of the interactive map, how individuals can compare how land is managed now (Alternative A) with how it is proposed to be managed under the other DEIS alternatives, including the preferred alternative (Alternative E).



Agenda (presentations of each section are followed by Q&A)

Section 1: Management Areas and Suitable Uses

Section 2: Recommended Wilderness, Backcountry, and Inventoried Roadless Areas

Section 3: Access

Section 4: Interactive Map







Section 1: Management Areas and Suitable Uses



Remember, the Forest Plan...

- ...Is the programmatic guiding document for each Forest
- ...Provides broad strategic direction for management over the next 10-15 years
- ...Paints the picture of management direction into the future
- ...Is the basis for guiding future site-specific, project-level decisions; however, further environmental analysis and public involvement is necessary for project-level work, such as travel management





- Allow for consistent direction across geographically and ecologically similar areas (i.e., desired conditions, standards, guidelines, and objectives)
- Have been broken down into 5 major categories









- 1A Designated Wilderness
- 1B Recommended Wilderness
- 1C Wilderness Study Area









Management Area 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



- 3A Backcountry Non-motorized Use
- 3B Backcountry Motorized Use
- 3C Wildlife Corridor





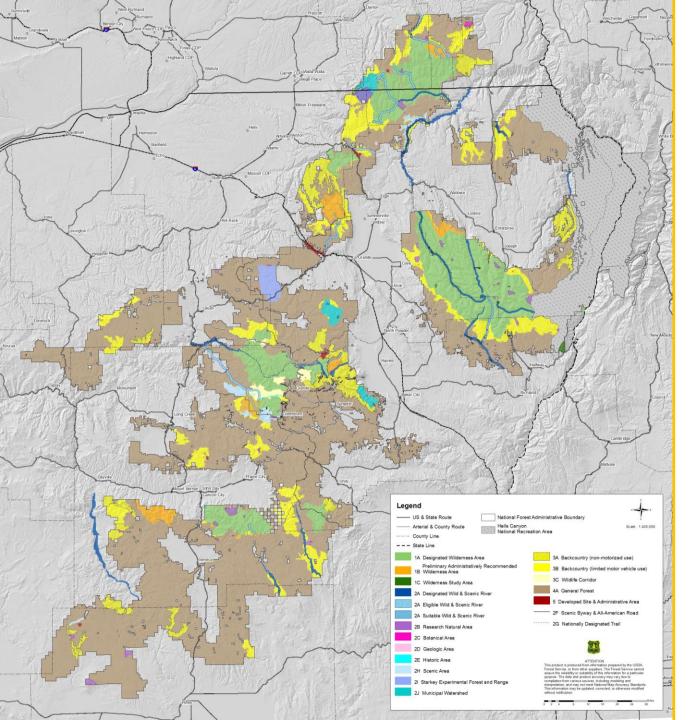
- 4A General Forest
- 4B Riparian Management Areas





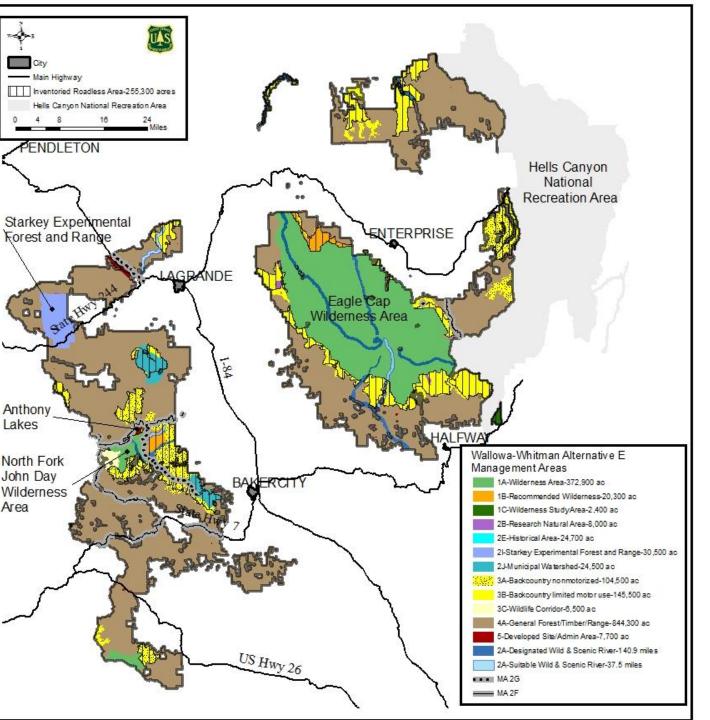
5 - Administrative Sites





Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revision DEIS Management Areas (Alt. E)





Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Management Areas (Alt. E)



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.
- Uses or Activities include:
 - Timber production
 - Timber harvest
 - Grazing
 - Motor vehicle use
 - Road and trail construction
 - Mechanical Fuel Treatment
 - Energy development





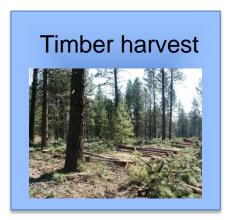
Suitable Uses/Activities

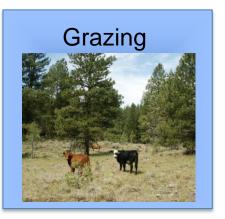
General suitability matrix for Management Areas (Table 25, Page 97)

Use or Activity	Management Area																		
	1A	1B	1C	2A	2B	2C	2D	2E	2F	2G	2H	21	2J*	3A	3B	3C	4A	4B	5
Timber production	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	S	U	U
Timber harvest	U	U	U	S	U	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Grazing (cattle and sheep)	S	S	S	S	U	U	S	S	S	S	S	S	U	S	S	S	S	S	U
Motor vehicle use (summer) ¹	U	U	U	U ²	U	S	S	S	S	S	S	U	U	U	S	S	S	S	S
Motor vehicle use (winter)	U	S	U	U ²	U	S	S	S	S	S	S	U	U	U	S	S ¹	S	S	S
Road construction	U	U	U	U ²	U	U	S	S	S	U	S	U	U	U	U	S	S	U	S
Trail construction (for motor vehicle use)	U	U	U	U ²	U	U	S	S	S	U	S	U	U	U	S	S	S	U	s
Mechanical fuel treatment	U	U	U	U ²	U	U	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Energy development (wind farms, utility corridors, pipelines, etc.)	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	U	S	U	S

General Forest (Management Area 4A)

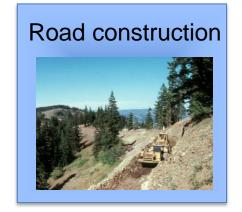






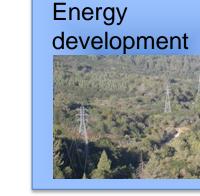














Wildlife Corridor (Management Area 3C)

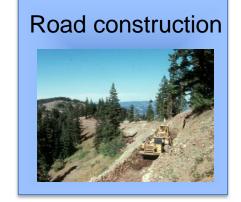
Timber production













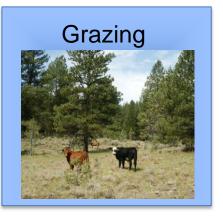




Backcountry Motorized (Management Area 3B)

Timber production

















Backcountry Non-motorized (Management Area 3A)

Timber production

Motor vehicle use (summer)

Trail construction (for motor vehicle use)



Motor vehicle use (winter)



Grazing

Road construction



Recommended Wilderness (Management Area 1B)

Timber production

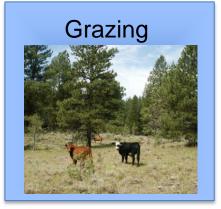
Motor vehicle use (summer)

Trail construction (for motor vehicle use)

Timber harvest



Mechanical fuel treatment



Road construction



Designated Wilderness Area (Management Area 1A)

Timber production

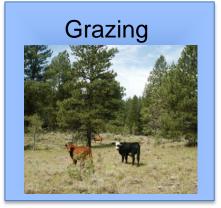
Motor vehicle use (summer)

Trail construction (for motor vehicle use)

Timber harvest

Motor vehicle use (winter)

Mechanical fuel treatment



Road construction



Conclusion Section 1: Management Areas and Suitable Uses

- Management areas are geographically and ecologically distinct.
- Suitable uses for management areas provides guidance for future project and activity decision making.
- The Forest Plan provides strategic vision and guidance; additional site-specific evaluations, analysis, and public engagement/comment periods are necessary to implement any activities on the ground.



Questions?

Section 1: Management Areas and Suitable Uses





Section 2: Recommended Wilderness, Backcountry, and Inventoried Roadless Areas



Process for Recommending Wilderness

- Required by the 1982 Planning Rule, as amended
- Inventory and evaluate potential Wilderness areas
- Evaluate the Capability, Availability, and Need for potential additional wilderness
- Final Forest Plan presents Recommended Wilderness Areas



ONLY Congress can designate Wilderness



Range of Alternatives for Recommended Wilderness and Backcountry/Wildlife Corridors

Management Area Name	Designation	Alt. A	Alt. B	Alt. C	Alt. D	Alts. E and F
Recommended Wilderness Areas	1B	0	13,370	505,094	0	90,827
Wilderness Study Area	1C	2,350	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400
Backcountry (non-motorized)	3A	77,295	78,600	586,300	0	228,100
Backcountry (motorized)	3B	146,499	618,800	0	397,000	425,200
Wildlife Corridor	3C	0	0	502,200	0	28,100

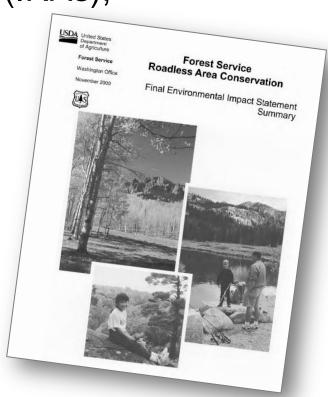
2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule

The final 2001 Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Rule (RACR) prohibits the following in Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs),

subject to limited exceptions:

 Road construction and reconstruction; and

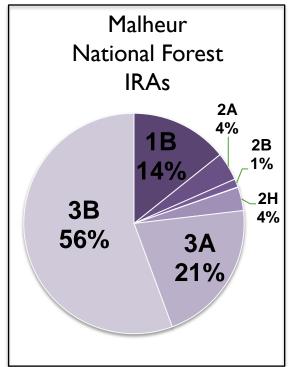
Cutting, sale, or removal of timber

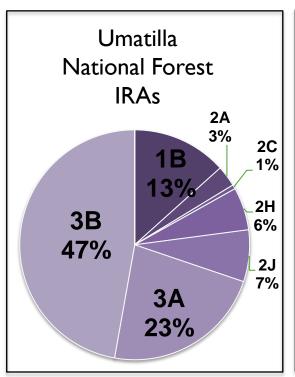


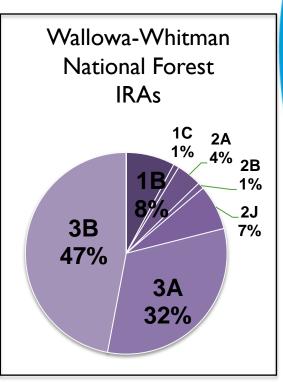


Inventoried Roadless Area (IRAs) and Management Area Allocation

(Alt. E)







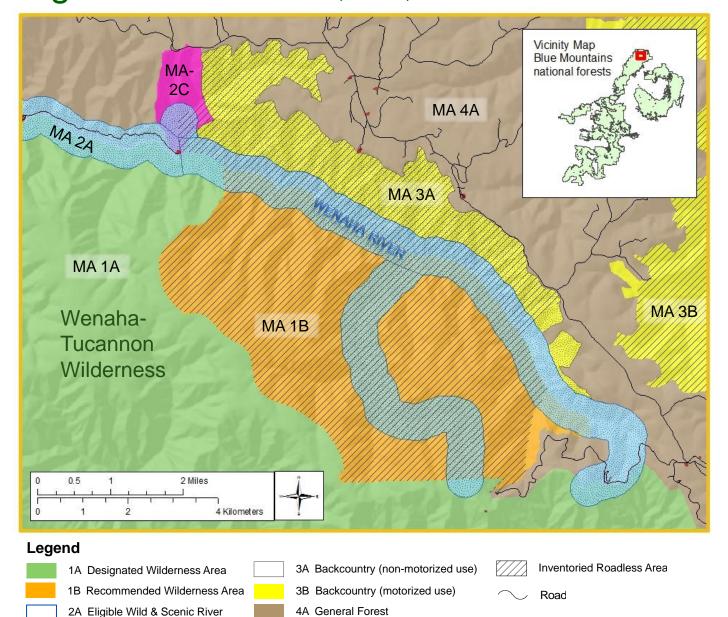
Legend

- IB Recommended Wilderness Area
- IC Wilderness Study Area
- 2A Wild and Scenic Rivers (includes designated, eligible, and suitable rivers)
- 2B Research Natural Areas

- 2C Botanical Areas
- 2H Scenic Areas
- 2| Municipal Watersheds
- 3A Backcountry (non-motorized)
- 3B Backcountry (motorize vehicle use)



Management Areas 1B, 3A, and 3B within IRAs

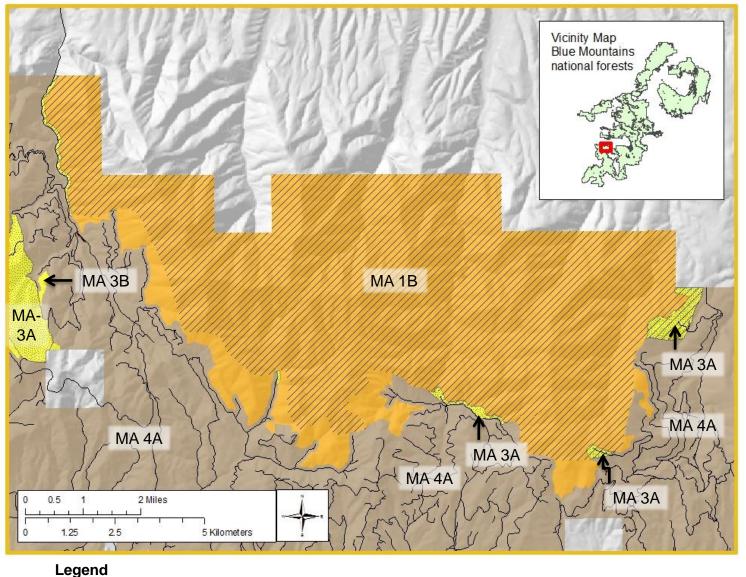


5 Developed Site & Administrative Area

2C Botanical Area



Management Areas 1B within IRAs (McClellan Mountain)





1B Recommended Wilderness Area

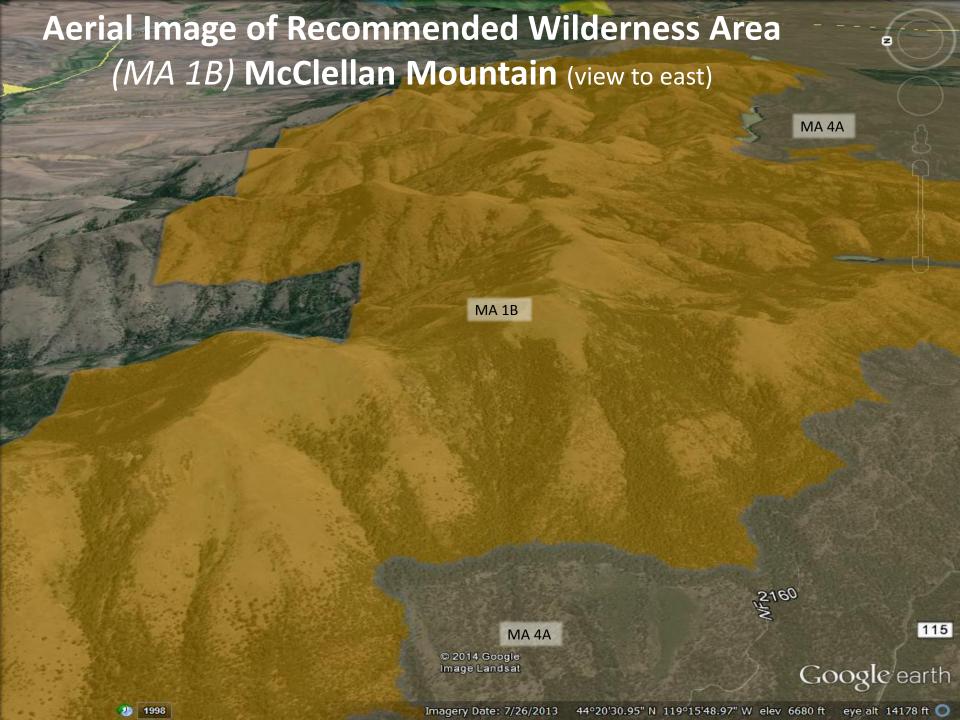
3A Backcountry (non-motorized use)

3B Backcountry (limited motor vehicle use)

4A General Forest

Inventoried Roadless Area

Road



Inventoried Roadless Areas vs. Designated Wilderness Areas (MA 1A)

Inventoried Roadless Area Prohibitions

- Road Construction
- Commercial Timber Harvest

Designated Wilderness (MA 1A) Prohibitions

- Road Construction
- Commercial Timber Harvest

And

- Commercial Enterprises
- Use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment, or motorboats
- All forms of mechanical transport (i.e. bicycles)
- Any structures or installations



Conclusion Section 2: Recommended Wilderness, Backcountry, and Inventoried Roadless Areas

Recommended Wilderness:

- Recommending Wilderness is a process required by the 1982 Planning Rule
- The Forests developed a range of alternatives and analyzed them in the DEIS.

Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRAs):

- The way in which IRAs were considered and assigned in the planning process was consistent with the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule.
- The management areas are primarily Backcountry areas (MA 3A, 3B and 3C) and Recommended Wilderness areas (MA 1B).



Questions?

Section 2: Recommended Wilderness, Backcountry, and Inventoried Roadless Areas





Section 3: Access



Access

The Proposed Revised Forest Plan:

 Provides strategic guidance used for project-level decisions

Identifies Plan Components specific to

Access

Desired Conditions

- Management Areas
- Objectives
- Standards & Guidelines





Suitable Uses

Access

On the Planning website, there are briefing papers that talk about a variety of topics including access:

http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/ Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision 2014 Malheur, Umatilha, and Wallowa, Whitman National Forests wallowa-whitman/landmanagement/planning /?cid=stelprd3794077

for the greatest good

Backcountry Non-motorized

(Management Area 3A)

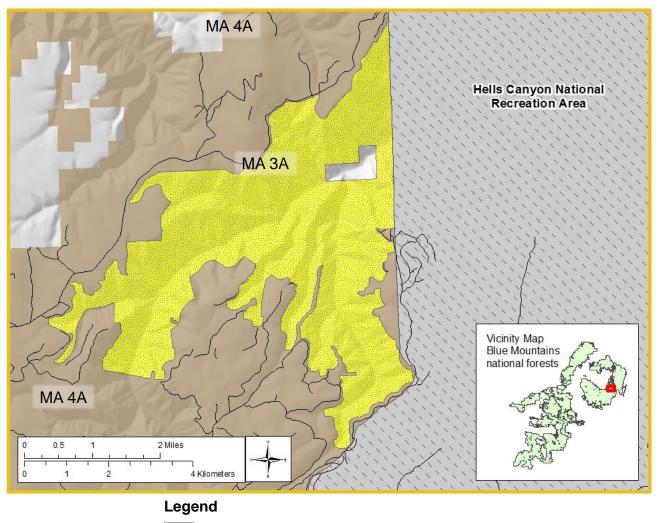
Desired Condition:

- Natural ecological processes predominate
- Mechanized and motorized uses include:
 - bicycles,
 - chainsaws,
 - and generators

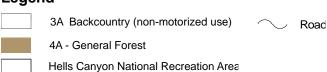




Backcountry Non-motorized (Management Area 3A) Outside of Inventoried Roadless Areas







Backcountry Motorized

(Management Area 3B)

Desired Condition:

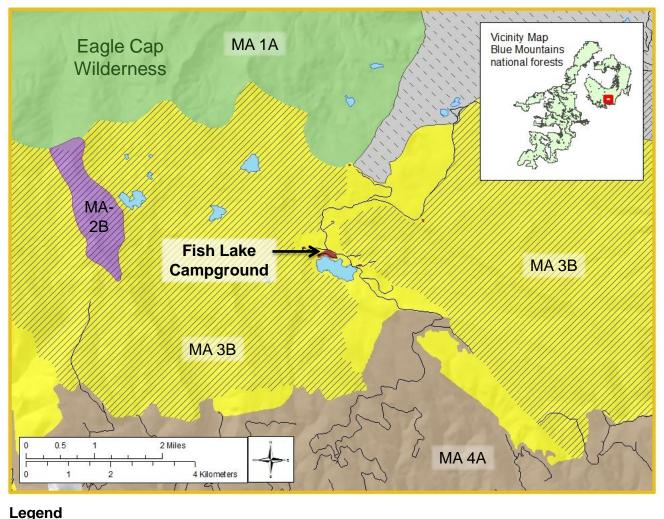
- Natural ecological processes predominate
- Motorized and mechanized uses include:
 - motorcycles,
 - off-highway vehicles,
 - snowmobiles,
 - bicycles,
 - and motorized equipment (i.e., chainsaws, generators)





Backcountry Motorized Areas

(Management Area 3B) Coinciding with IRAs





1A Designated Wilderness Area

2B Research Natural Area

3B Backcountry (limited motor vehicle use)

4A General Forest

5 Developed Site & Administrative Area Hells Canyon National Recreation Area Inventoried Roadless Area

Waterbody

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for the greatest good



Wildlife Corridor (Management Area 3C)

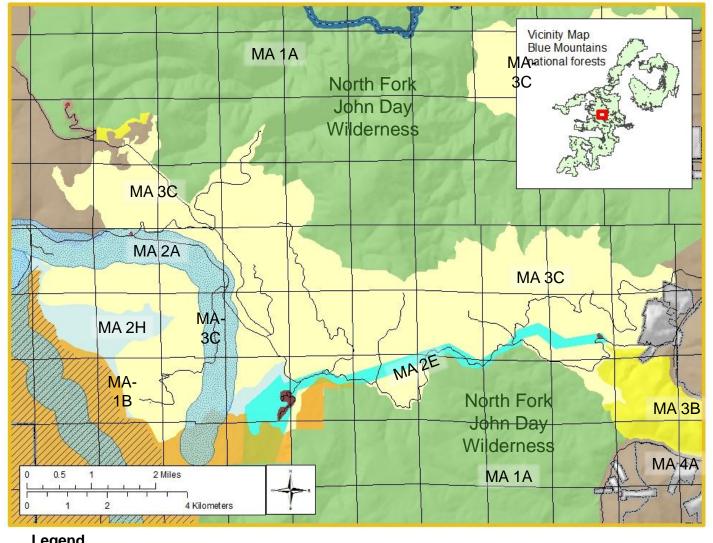
Desired Condition:

- Wildlife species experience minimal human disturbance
- Year round open motor vehicle route density less than 1 mile per square mile
- Major travel ways remain open year-round
- Allows all of the motorized and mechanized uses mentioned in Backcountry Motorized (MA3B)

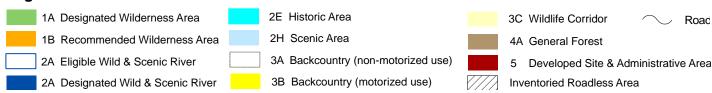




Wildlife Corridor (Management Area 3C)



Legend

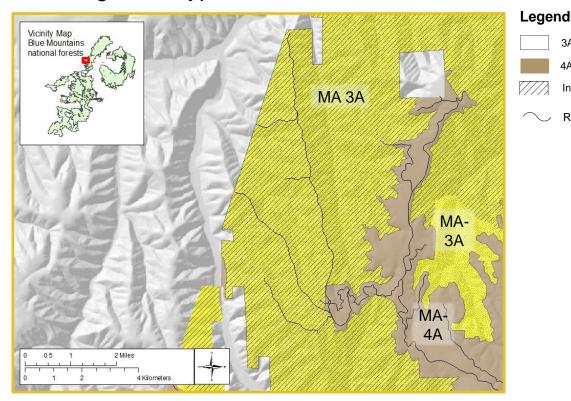




DEIS Alternative E and Access

Existing Conditions:

- Management Areas were developed for the Revised Forest Plan based on existing conditions and uses across the three national forests
- In some cases, current uses may conflict with Proposed Plan components. Public participation, review, and comments can assist with resolving these types of inconsistencies





3A Backcountry (non-motorized use)

4A General Forest

Road

Inventoried Roadless Area

Management Area (Pref. Alt. E)

Management Area Designation and Name	Malheur acres	Umatilla acres	Wallowa- Whitman acres
3A-Backcountry (non-motorized)	53,600	70,100	104,500
3B-Backcountry (motorized)	119,100	160,600	145,500
3C-Wildlife Corridors	N/A	21,600	6,500









Forestwide Road Related Watershed Objectives





Objective	Malheur	Wallowa- Whitman	Umatilla
Reducing road-related			
sedimentation by	30-35 miles	30-35 miles	30-35 miles
reducing road density	road surface	road surface	road surface
and reducing hydrologic	treated	treated	treated
connectivity of the road	(annually)	(annually)	(annually)
system (road miles)			



Conclusion Section 3: Access

 Management Areas were delineated based largely on existing uses and land allocations.

Backcountry:

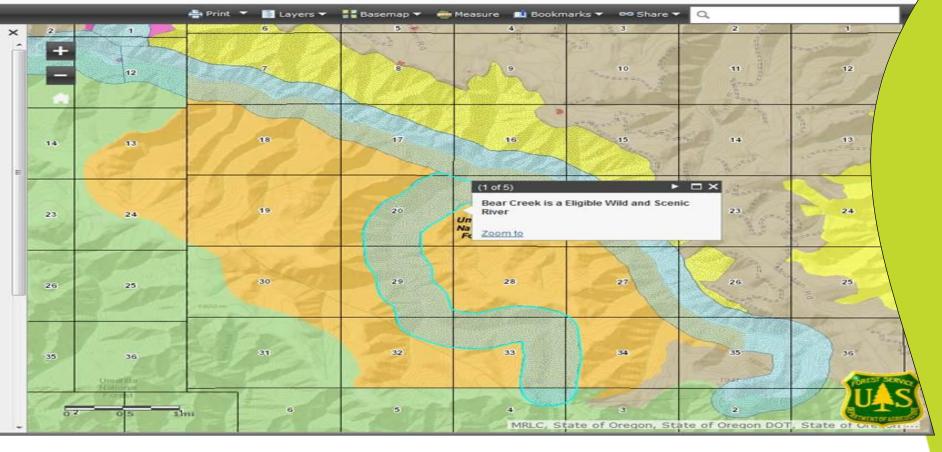
- Motorized travel is a suitable use in Backcountry Motorized Areas (MA 3B) and Wildlife Corridor (MA 3C). Portions of these areas have some roads.
- Motorized travel is unsuitable for Backcountry Non-motorized Areas (MA3A).



Questions?

Section 3: Access



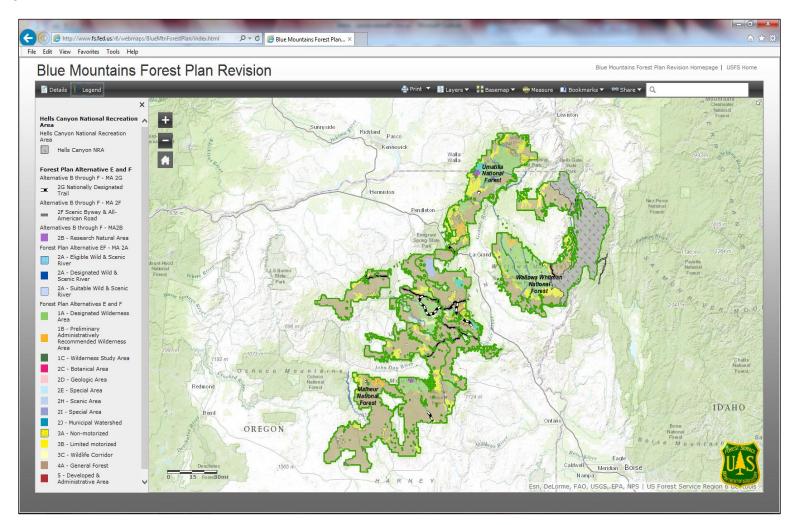


Section 4: Interactive Map



Web-based Interactive Map

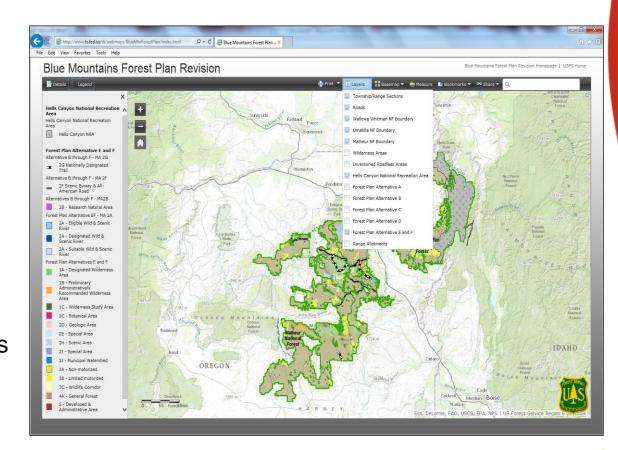
The viewing platform displays all three National Forests and the proposed management area allocations for all alternatives presented in the DEIS.





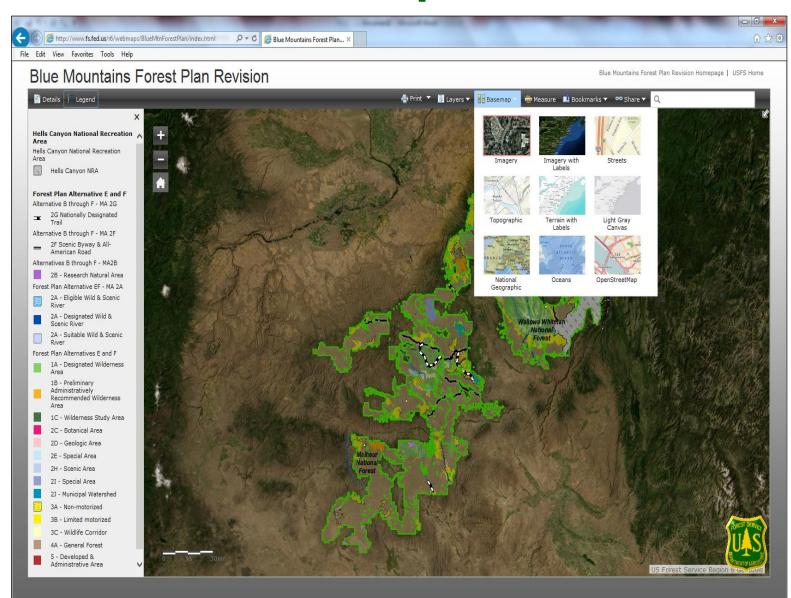
Features Include:

Zooming
Viewing Layers
Printing
Measurement Tools
Bookmarks
Share options
Vary base map options





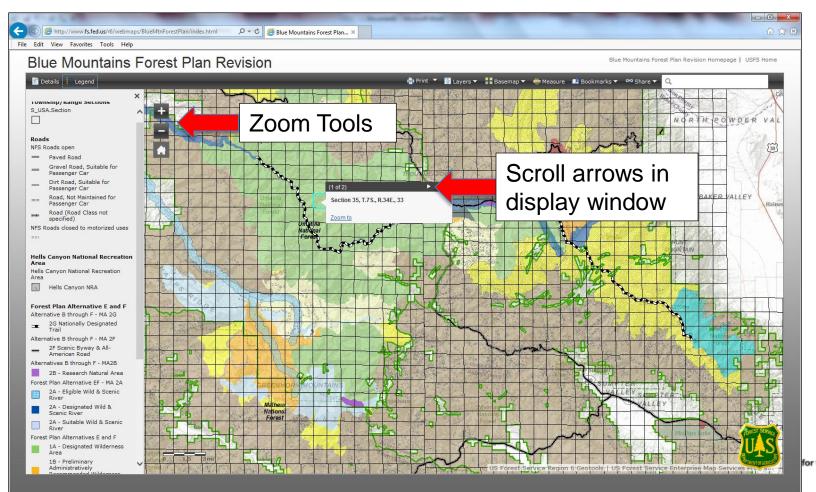
Different Base Maps





Topographic Baselayer

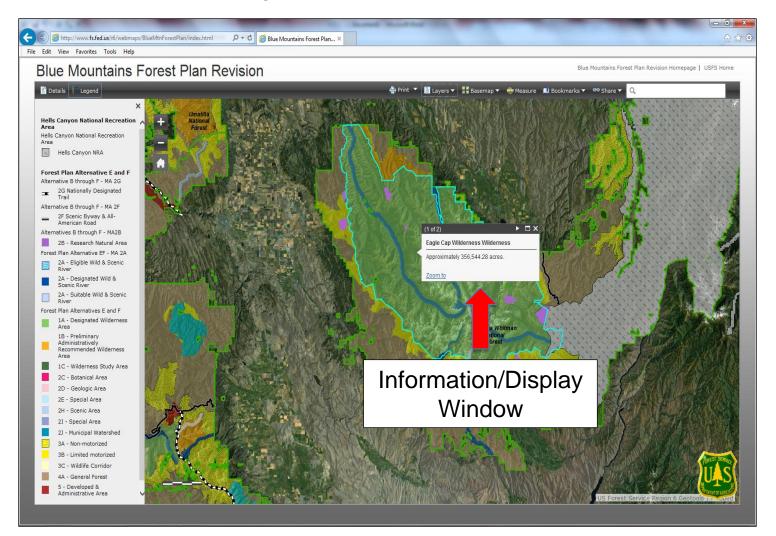
Zoom tools are located in the upper left corner of the viewing window; zoom in on the topographic map to get additional detail and section lines.





Selection for More Information

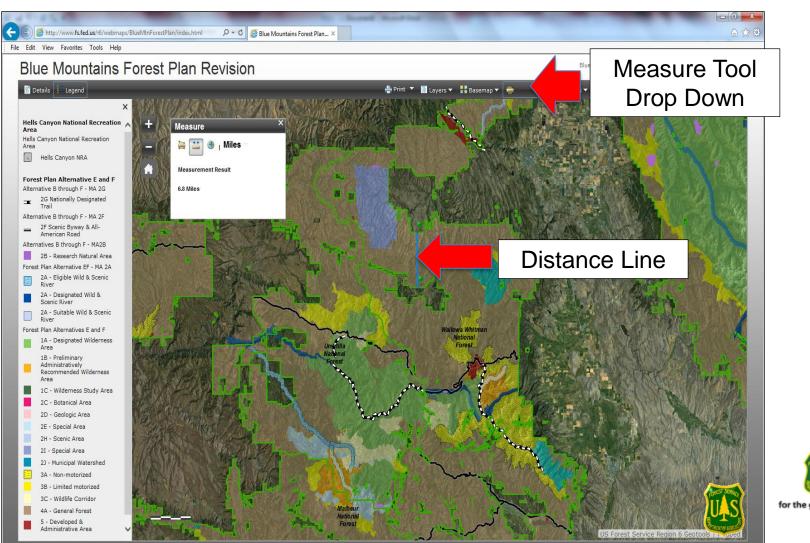
Use the cursor to "select" management areas; an additional window will display management area information and locational information (Section/Township/Range).





Measure Distance

Measure Tool is used to measure either distance or area and to calculate location (latitude/longitude values).





Questions?

Section 4: Interactive Map



Timeline

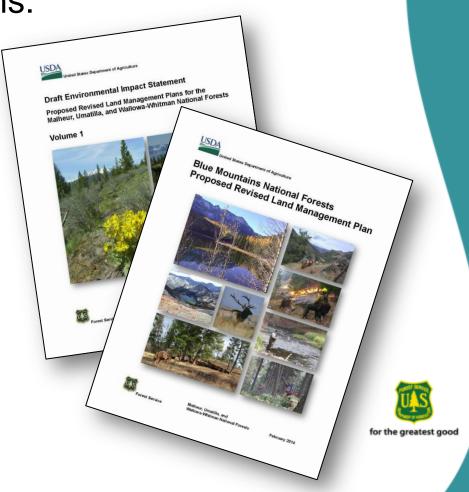
- March 14, 2014 August 15, 2014: Public comment period on the DEIS
- **2014 2015**:
- Comments reviewed, analyzed, and considered when finalizing the Forest Plans and DEIS
- Continued engagement with co-conveners, other agencies, tribes, and public
- Fall 2015: Notice of Availability for Final EIS and Forest Plan for each Forest. Objection Process begins
- Winter 2016: Resolve objections; sign Records of Decision



Where to get copies...

View the DEIS and Proposed Revised Forest Plan through the following options:

- Website
- Compact disc (CD)
- Visit and read in person at local libraries and Forest Service offices
- Personal printed copy



How to Submit Comments

Online

http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMountainsPlanRevisionComments

US Postal Mail

Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revision P.O. Box 907 Baker City, OR 97814

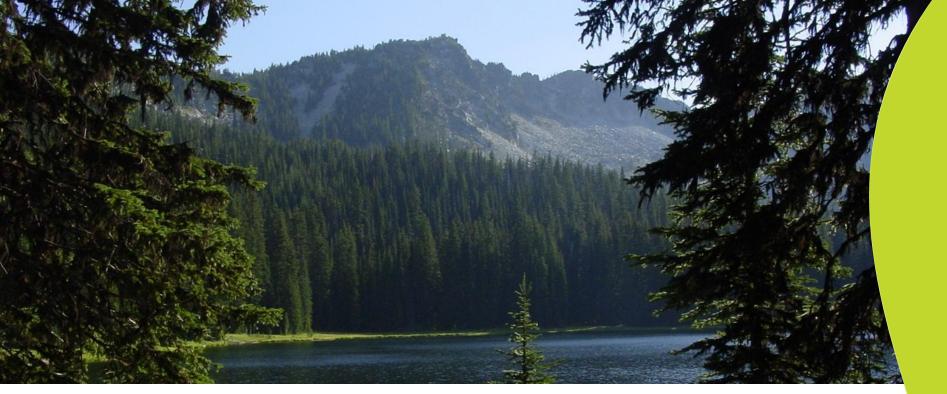
Fax: 541-523-6392

Comments must be postmarked or received electronically no later than August 15, 2014



Final Questions?





For more information or assistance:

Phone: 541-523-1246 or 541-523-1302

Email: <u>bluemtnplanrevision@fs.fed.us</u>

Thank you for your participation today!



Demonstration

