

Public Meeting in Unity, Oregon – May 1, 2014

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Public Meeting | May 1, Unity, OR

Attendance: 65

The public meeting in Unity, Oregon was at the request from members of the community. It was a meeting about projects on the Wallowa-Whitman; however it turned out the community wanted to talk about the Blue Mountains Forest Plan revision. Forest Supervisor John Laurence presented the powerpoint and answered questions for 1 ½ hours. All meeting attendees had an opportunity to ask at least one of their questions. Handouts were provided to attendees, along with copies of the DEIS and Proposed Revised Land Management Plan upon request. Forest Service personnel in attendance were: Forest Supervisor John Laurence, Deputy Forest Supervisor Tom Montoya, District Ranger Jeff Tomac, Natural Resource Staff Josh White, and Public Affairs Officer Jodi Kramer.

There was not an official notetaker; however the following questions/comments were captured, and note responses to the questions were not captured because this was not an official public comment meeting for Forest Plan Revision and therefore, no official notetaker was present:

Q. Is it your desire that everyone in this room reads the documents?

Q. Is Alternative A a viable Alternative?

Q. What is the process for Closures?

Q. Tank Traps in the Phillips Lake Area. Relative to Little Dean? Did I miss a public hearing?

Q/Comment. On page 15 of the document, potential for fire is severe.

Q/Comment . You should analyze the alternatives and then come out with a Proposed Plan. This is a backward process.

Q. Is the Forest Plan the foundation for Travel Management?

Q/Comment. We are concerned about designation of backcountry.

Q. Does the Plan address the amount of dead material on the ground?

Q. How do you expect to meet the proposed goals and objectives when you can't meet the goals and objectives in the 1990 Forest Plans?

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Q/Comment. The definition you are using for “Backcountry” is not correct, you are using a much broader brush with this term.

Q/Comment. Timber to sawmills- what and who is the jury? Environmentalists?

Q. The Forest Service is infiltrated by environmentalists. Who reviews the comments?

Q. Will there be no buffer around the wilderness area as part of legislation?

Q/Comment. In reference to vibrant communities. There used to be 250 people in Unity, 18 people logging, 70 Forest Service personnel, and 4 mines. Now there are 71 people in Unity, 30 kids, and 6 Forest Service personnel. You have to give us a Plan that restores the landscape and our community.

Q. Will we be able to get names of neutral committee that analyzes the comments?

Q/Comment. Umatilla is trashed, Wallowa-Whitman has it cleaned up.

Q. Buffer zone is there anything that is not General Forest?

Q. South Fork Campground is changed to ATV. You didn't listen to us?

Q/Comment. 50 amendments killed the 1990 plan. NRAC will look at backcountry. Need to comment on timber levels and cut. Need to get social/economic levels right.

Q. What would keep special interest groups from getting what they want?

Q. Who writes the rules and regulations? Are there any that are specific to our Forests?

Q/Comment. You took people and logging out of our community.

Q/Comment. You are setting yourself up for Ruby Ridge here in Eastern Oregon, people won't stand for this.

Q. At the end of this process, will there be a separate Forest Plan for each Forest?