



for the greatest good



BLUE MOUNTAINS
FOREST PLAN REVISION - 2015
Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman
National Forests

Meeting Notes

Public Workshop on Access, Wilderness, and the Blue Mountains Forest Plans

Hosted by High Desert Partnership and the Umatilla National Forest

Tri-Cities / Richland, WA / REACH Center

July 15, 2015

These notes reflect the best efforts of the notetaker to capture the discussion of meeting participants, but in no way are these notes a word-for-word transcript as the notetaker may have unintentionally missed some statements or dialogue. Also, these notes do not attempt to correct or clarify any statements made by participants.

Participants (as listed on the sign-in sheet): Curtis King, Andy Johnson, Dan Thompson, Bobbi Thompson, Randi Wolski, Ryan Wolski, Sande Nettnin, Earl Nettnin, Sue Walters, Dave Walters, Brandon Christensen, Larry Wright, Lance Greenwood, Rick Poland, Dewayne Hanvill, Ame Grissom, Carl Grissom, Andrew Grissom, Amy Hamann, Jay Hamann, C. Lee Rettesser, Richard Romanelli, Chuck Perry, Josh Lozano, Chris Cataldo, William Herrington, Patrick Paulson, Laurie Hess, Debbie Berkowitz, Barry LeBlonde, Barb Chase-Byron, Bob Byron, Dan Huff, Jerry Strickler, Marcie Daines, Jon Cox, Steve Richards, Karl Mattlin, Dave Whitelaw, Budd Eggers, Jack Southworth

US Forest Service (FS) participants: Mike Rassbach, Bill Gamble, Joani Bosworth, David Hatfield, Larry Randall, Amber Mahoney, Sabrina Stadler, Dennis Dougherty, Peter Fargo (notetaker)

Organizations represented (as listed on the sign-in sheet): North American Pack Goat Association, American Land Access Association, Pacific Northwest 4-Wheel Drive Association, Peak Putters 4x4, Tollgate Trail Finders, US Congress (Rep. Dan Newhouse), MidNite Mudders, Eastern Washington Dirt Riders Association, Recreational Aviation Foundation, Audubon Society

Facilitator Introduction – Jack Southworth, High Desert Partnership

- We are here to discuss the access portions of the draft Blue Mountains Forest Plans.
- We will go around the circle a few times, and everyone will have a chance to talk and ask questions.
- The planning team is here to listen; the new Acting Forest Supervisor for the Umatilla NF is also here to listen; District Ranger Mike Rassbach will provide an introduction.

Opening remarks – Mike Rassbach, District Ranger, Umatilla NF

- Last year the draft Forest Plans [draft Environmental Impact Statement] went out for comment; we received over 1000 comment letters; we heard a lot of dissatisfaction; we also heard some concern and confusion about the comment process.

MEETING NOTES

(continued)

- Because of that feedback, we took a step back. We are now taking a closer look at three major topics of concern: Access & Wilderness (is what we are here to discuss today). Grazing and the Pace & Scale of Restoration we will cover in future meetings.
- This is the 3rd of 6 meetings on Access and Wilderness across the Umatilla NF and communities. We will still hold meetings in Pendleton, Heppner, and Ukiah. The other Blue Mountains forests are also holding meetings.
- I wanted to share a little background before we begin. First, “What is a Forest Plan?” It’s similar to zoning for city or county. Instead of zones, we call them management areas. Each has desired conditions and suitable uses.
- District Rangers like me use the Forest Plan to help guide our projects. There will be three Forest Plans – one for each of the Blue Mountains National Forests.
- You may also be wondering how information from this meeting will be used. We are here to listen to you, and we will see if changes need to be made to the Forest Plans.

Introductions around the circle: Who are you, where are you from, and what’s your relationship to forest?

- North American Pack Goat Association: lowest impact pack animal; concerned about FS proposal to remove pack goats from National Forest System lands. How can we keep doors open until more research has been done?
- Interested in motorized access, especially in the winter.
- Want to make sure trails stay open.
- Fishing, hunting, hiking, aviation
- Recreational Aviation Foundation: We want to maintain, preserve, create recreational flying opportunities. We’re here to work with the FS; have an MOU signed with FS leadership; our volunteer crews do a lot of maintenance up there. We have a mission to maintain airstrips.
- I’m just a taxpayer here to listen and get info about how this process works. I’d like to make sure we continue to protect the forests, so I can continue to enjoy them.
- Excited to be here and meet you; looking for good exchange and ideas.
- I use the Winom-Frazier OHV area. I would like to see more access for motorized sport, and we are happy to help with maintenance.
- I hike and ski, and I’m interested in more wilderness.
- I have a cabin in Blues; would like to protect my investment and interests there.
- Concerned citizen; grateful for time you’ve given to our community; I enjoy hunting, fishing, photography, and pack strings.
- Member of the snowmobile club; we have 1,000 acres landlocked on the way up to Jubilee Lake; looking for access not to be shut off.
- Blue Mountains Audubon Society; this is a unique and special place
- Access; the forest is for all of us – not just for select people.
- Here with the Tri-City Herald
- Here to represent your Congresswoman
- Here as spectators
- Would like more motorized access for my club
- Access, 4-Wheel Drive Association

MEETING NOTES

(continued)

- Have worked on the Umatilla NF for 12 years; here to listen and hopefully answer some of your questions.
- Here to listen to what you have to say.
- Here on behalf of grandkids; American Land Access Association; Mineralogical Association; I like to turn earth's treasures into art.
- I like camping / hiking in the Blue Mountains; I'm here to listen and learn.
- I grew up in the forests: hiking, camping, and boating. My father was a logger, then a timber sale administrator with the FS. Please don't close down roads; maintain fire-fighter access.
- I'm a land-use coordinator; also a member of the Pacific NW 4-Wheel Drive Association. I don't think motorized access has been adequately addressed, along with other things.
- Here with the Congressman's office. Here to listen.
- I'm a tribal member and US citizen; want to gather info and listen to others' concerns; thank you for providing the opportunity.
- From Kennewick; enjoy motorized recreation, hiking, biking. The forest is for all people, and the Forest Plan must acknowledge that motorized recreation is a legitimate use.
- Tri-City Peak Putter; interested in motorized access
- Same
- Same; would like access for my chosen hobby; also think it's important to have adequate access for firefighting. When you shut down roads, you endanger firefighter lives.
- From Richland; I enjoy birding and camping; would like to make sure we protect habitat for wildlife.
- I'm a wildlife biologist, and I'm concerned about too much access; we need to protect plant species that don't occur anywhere else; also need to protect birds, many of which are unique in this area.
- Here to listen and learn; glad to see the diversity of voices.
- I'm interested in access and the health of the forest. We're members of the Spout Springs Cabin Ass'n, across from the ski area; we have recently lost the ability to ride around our cabins without getting tickets; would like to see access to more open roads (not off-road access).
- Same (spouse)
- Want to protect critical habitat for elk, deer, sheep, and fisheries.
- Interested in snowmobile access.
- I enjoy snowmobiling and four wheeling; have a cabin in the Blues; my father was a logger.
- I wrote a detailed letter to the FS last year; I have a vested interest and want to hear what's going on.
- I'm here because I want to keep the forests open and make sure my kids can enjoy it like I did.
- Member of the Tollgate 4-wheel club; enjoy snowmobiling; my family has enjoyed Blues for over 40 years; I want to ensure we continue to have access.
- I raised my children in the Blues; I'm passionate about our NFs and passionate about hearing from you to move from the draft Plan to a final Plan.
- I want to see sustainable rangeland and ensure high-quality habitat

Panelist remarks:

- I represent Backcountry Hunters and Anglers. We can have access, but we need to keep habitat in mind (e.g., Priest Lake). Access is great, but we need to heed science from the FS. The research station in La Grande and the Starkey Experimental Forest have done excellent studies on elk, etc. We pay

MEETING NOTES

(continued)

these experts to manage the forests for us, so we should listen to what they have to say too. One interest of mine is the Columbia River Treaty being renegotiated with Canada and Indian Nations. I think the Columbia River Basin needs to be addressed in the Forest Plan. What happens if our rivers start to warm up? It's all connected; the Umatilla NF rivers flow into the Snake River, which flows into the Columbia. It's a big bathtub, and we need to keep it in balance.

- Please don't go off the road; don't go into meadows. Stay on the roads and trails. Some people want to shut down roads, but they can be confused. Elk often don't mind jeeps. I wonder if the road closures are just a special interest of certain organizations. I have been working on the Naches Trail, a historic pioneer trail; we are working with FS, and they include us. Older people and those with disabilities need to get out there too. Also, keep side-by-sides in mind.
- Blue Mountains Audubon Society is about habitat/wildlife. We are not opposed to access, but we are opposed to those individuals who don't play by the rules and ruin it for everyone else. Our shallow-soiled meadows have sensitive plant communities. People who abuse the NFs often aren't part of organizations like the ones represented here; they usually don't come to public meetings. Water is the issue. For example, there is a 70-foot-long mud hole above Mill Creek; it is a serious issue for the City of Walla Walla. Noise is also an issue. Many people have magnified their mufflers to be as loud as possible. Most folks in the Blues have great respect for the land; a lot of people are fed up as I am about folks destroying public property. We need to police the forests and keep people accountable; the FS needs community support to turn people in. In other news, exciting things are happening in the Blue Mountains; new plant species have been discovered; seven new species in past decade alone. These could be our next disease fixes, but the Blue Mountains are islands surrounded by a sea of agriculture and development, so we need to take care of them.

What are the characteristics of a Forest Plan that would include everyone's interests and would be good for people, plants, and wildlife?

- I agree with a lot of people here; as a cabin owner, I love the forest; it is our home; want to keep people from abusing the land. I support the Audubon Society's desire to protect habitat. We also own a side-by-side and snowmobiles; we follow the trails/roads/rules. We want to help police other visitors, if it means we can maintain access. Please don't take away from us the right to ride on our roads responsibly; we can't go where we want to go right now. We have licensed and legal vehicles, but we don't have the access we want. Please listen; we want to enjoy mountains with respect for environment. Our 39 other cabin owners/members feel the same way.
- Spout Springs has a very small area that is accessible, but we want to get to the other side of Tollgate. We can't go there unless we put OHVs on a trailer and drive miles away. Yes, we need to self-police.
- We need stream buffers, especially around roads; we need designated roads and citizens need to police them. We all feel a sense of ownership; otherwise we wouldn't be here. We are all connected by the mountains. We all need to step up and do the hard thing when people are abusing the resources; remind them of what the rules are.

MEETING NOTES

(continued)

- I'm not sure what the current plan is -- what's closed/open. Roads and trails need to be better signed. Some areas should be quiet and others can be less quiet, as determined by science. There should be a use fee to keep things open.
- What are the characteristics of a good plan for everybody? I'd like to see snowmobile access and also set aside areas for wilderness. My fear is this: When we set aside a plot of land for wilderness, doesn't that mean zero access for humans? [FS response: No, it does not.] We are not allowed to take equipment onto wilderness to fight fire. When 20 houses burn (because of a fire that begins in a wilderness area), that is a safety issue. Roads are needed to fight fires; planes are not enough. Our children and grandchildren need to have the same access / benefits we do. Our club is out there doing maintenance. Roads weren't just built by the FS. Keep the forests open and work together to manage them responsibly.
- I recommend expanding the trail systems, so all the "rats are not in one cage". Look at ways to connect roads. We need education to help solve the "bad apple" problems of small groups of people damaging the land. Illegal stuff is often happening at night often; we need hired enforcement. Also, FS maps are difficult to understand; there are inconsistencies in the info delivered to the public. Improving maps and signage would help honest people avoid getting tickets.
- Need more enforcement; leave roads and trails open, so the sheriff can get up there and others can enjoy the roads. Enforce the rules we already have. We also need education; some of the trouble-makers are just kids, who don't understand where their water comes from. We can show them how to have fun without tearing things up. We have existing trails/roads and need to maintain them; it is so much easier to maintain than build. We can help expand/maintain trails. Stream erosion is a problem. If a trail needs a bridge, we will come help. We won't buy the materials, but we'll swing the hammer. Expand the trail system to spread the impact instead of concentrating it on just a few trails. Fire rings and vault toilets are needed for more developed camping.
- What can make this successful for everyone? Multiple uses: logging, culverts, trails, motorized, and non-motorized. Motorized use should be a legitimate use on the forest. [FS response: It certainly is; motorized use is considered a legitimate use in the Forest Plans, goals, desired conditions, etc.] Don't just reserve the forest for the young and the fit. For anything to be "sustainable", the money has to work. Is there any way for the FS to generate income, so it will have the money to better manage the forests? The plan must also recognize that forests grow and then get harvested. Forests are not just for elk; they are also for people.
- I can't come up with a plan that is perfect for everybody. What we have here is a circle of special interests, and we need to find a compromise. What is the FS charter for what their responsibility is regarding the Forest Plan? [Sabrina Stadler, FS: Our charter is defined by legislation such as the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act and other policies and regulations. It's a balancing act to follow the laws, regs, and policies. We need to balance social uses with ecological and economic needs. The past focus was on timber and often to the detriment of other uses. We are still addressing those negative effects of a singular resource focus. Bill Gamble, FS: In short, our charter is to "care for the land and serve the people".] Maybe you're exceeding what your charter is; you cannot satisfy everybody.
- We need balance. The FS seems to be leaning too far to the "green" side to the detriment of other users. We need to get to know each other before we start bad-mouthing others. I'd like to see better connectivity between trails, and better maps/signage, so we don't become outlaws accidentally. The

MEETING NOTES

(continued)

Wilderness Act and Endangered Species Act have become weapons. Let's look for balance, talk, and get to know each other.

- If you close thousands of acres [of areas accessible by roads], I'm worried that you may never re-open them. The FS cannot police all that land. Fisherman, hunters, hikers, 4-wheelers can police them, and a cell phone/GPS/time stamp can be your best weapons. If people are breaking the rules, take a photo of their license plates and turn them in. We're an asset to the FS. If we're doing something wrong, more education helps. Mark off sensitive areas and explain why. The Audubon Society can play a great role in education; come speak with us about sensitive areas. More education and policing are my recommendations. If you close a place, the only people back there are the ones who don't care / don't abide by law. If you keep it open, responsible citizens will be there to help.
- Access should be based on habitat, and some areas should be closed, such as high elevation and riparian zones. The FS needs to better explain the reasons why to help people understand the reasons. Seasonal closures, especially in the spring, make a lot of sense. Things have been getting better since the 70s.
- I'm concerned about the FS travel management plans; they appear to be a continuing effort to restrict motorized access. The success of these plans will involve / revolve around public. Thousands of people from consumptive and non-consumptive groups. The plans do not adequately address needs of the disabled, who should have adequate access too. What's our solution? It needs to be at the federal level. This country cannot spend what it doesn't have. We need to appeal to Congressional reps and others. I would like to preserve rights and opportunities like I enjoyed when I was a young Boy Scout.
- The solution includes education and enforcement. When people break the rules, we need to make it really hurt; make them pay for what they've done.
- Motorized recreation is a legitimate part of the plan. Erosion is a result of lack of maintenance, which is a result of lack of funds. You should include a provision for volunteer partnerships. On the Congressional side, firefighting funds come out of the FS budget; Congress should fund firefighting on its own merits.
- I'm concerned about wind turbines and the damage caused just by putting them in. I'm passionate about nature and preserving it. Everyone here has that passion; the ones that aren't here are the ones we should worry about it. Question: Do we have fees for motor-vehicle access to NFs? People that are making the most impact should be paying the most. We need to put money in to maintain and care for NFs and natural areas. Motor vehicles should have proper tags to enter the forests.
- Include multiple uses, bring the different interests/parts together, and help make the forest work for all of us.
- FS rep: We have 1.4 million acres of Umatilla NF alone. There is not enough room to do everything in one square mile, but there is enough space to spread out and define management areas for different uses. We can work together, and we need to your help to get those management areas right.
- I wrote a letter saying that wind turbines should not be on NFs.
- Question: General Forest management areas – do they allow wind power? Also, timber sales support the community. There were only 2 graduating seniors from Joseph High School this spring. We need multiple uses back in the forests. It's important to all of us; creates jobs; gives new timber; gives funds to pay for everything else we love in the forest. Making accusations against people who violate FS rules can be dangerous; that is not for everyone. Please don't add more wilderness and lock up more lands.

MEETING NOTES

(continued)

- There is no “them” and “us” – there is only us. I used to work with juvenile delinquents; we are all connected. We need more education; we need to be able to reach select groups to explain how “us” works. This is about the long term, so let’s make sure the plan is sustainable. That starts with a fact-based valuation of National Forest System lands and their long-term value. What are we doing over the long term, and how will we address cumulative impacts?
- I don’t think we need to change a thing, although we do need more FS people who can watch the people who are just visiting / don’t know better. We need signage to keep people on right trails. FS people should have more teeth in their laws / enforcement. FS just needs to be tougher. Good people will care for the forests if you ask them.
- Creating a plan that works for everything is an impossible task. We should start with habitat / wildlife, then agriculture / logging, then recreation. If you add wilderness, nobody can go out there. [FS clarification: Wilderness Areas are open to the public. Certain uses are permitted; others are not permitted to protect the “wilderness character”.] That said, sensitive areas need to be taken care of.
- This has been educational; I support hunting/fishing and science-based access. There needs to be good justification for areas that are accessible or not. Wildlife is one of them. Funding for adequate policing is essential; we need more enforcement agents.
- The multiple use concept is very important; it should be in the plan. Enough laws are on the books; we need to enforce them. User fees would provide more funding.
- I’ve heard so many personal interests (aviation/hunting/fishing/4x4 access). Aviation is one of three legs of forest access – land, water, and air. We are a bunch of volunteers who do things ourselves. We’ll send a group in to maintain the air strips, etc. We’re sensitive to wildlife too, and we are doing research on animal scat to learn about aviation impacts on animals based on stress hormones in the scat. Aviation is one of the least obtrusive of transportation modes.
- I wrote down three bullets: (1) Education, but excessive signage can also be a problem; don’t want to read signs for 20 minutes; make it easy to understand the rules of the game quickly. (2) Violators: How can we address the <1% of population who are ruining access for everyone? The FS needs to put teeth into its penalties. For example: A pilot has been going into the wilderness for 2 years and only got a \$1000 penalty. That’s not enough; we need to make it hurt. (3) Aviation: Landing strips support firefighting. The Umatilla NF has no airfields, which really hurt us in fighting fires / search & rescue / recreation. One of the first responses to a wildland fire is to activate remote airfields. We can maintain airstrips at very little cost to federal gov’t.
- I support more education.
- I’d like to share a recent experience in Idaho: Two wilderness areas are split by a corridor that allowed motorized access; that provides wilderness access to more people.
- The Forest Plan should rely on science, but it calls for separation between pack goats and bighorn sheep without scientific justification. Pack goats are very different than goats and sheep that are set loose for forage. The Blue Mountains Forest Plans need to reflect the science. Pack goats that have been vaccinated don’t pose a risk to sheep. There are less than 100 pack goat users in the US; don’t step on them but work with them to create best-management practices. We have already developed them for our members. The FS needs to sit down with me and others to work out a solution.
- It’s not “us” vs. “them” – it’s just us. This is an amazing balancing act. Science should be emphasized but implementation goes beyond the science. (1) Access is important; we ought to get people out there. Roads and trails can be overdone. A mile of road per square mile is more than enough; 5-7

MEETING NOTES

(continued)

miles is too much. (2) FS ought to prioritize zones throughout the forest and characteristics in each zone / suitable uses in each; they can range from unlimited roads to no roads at all. (3) Education is extremely important. We don't want to just print brochures that people will throw away. FS people need to actually attend meetings of user groups and describe the values/quality of resources, explain any restrictions, and explain the reasons why. (4) We don't need new rules, but we need to enforce rules we have. (5) Forest Plans affect private lands for miles away. Elk can enter private lands (normal in winter) but may stay through spring/summer. They can cause damage to farmers' land. Seasonal limitations to access are important to protect our resources; education is important to bring people up to speed. The FS should help people with more environmental interests get to know/help those with more mechanical interests.

- I agree with others. Please balance the plan. We should allow the plan to be proactive to avoid knee-jerk reactions to people who break the rules. We should have adequate consequences for damage done – e.g., seize the violator's vehicle, and auction it off. The proceeds can allow for more enforcement. Create a social media site to expose violators. Most people would agree to pay for a sticker on their vehicle to support good management. FS should collaborate with private clubs; they could provide a lot of valuable information; work with them to improve access that makes sense; clubs will help build and maintain (e.g., snowmobile); we can help with search & rescue. We need connectivity and trails that are clearly marked. Work with clubs to create educational programs to engender respect for the land.
- Don't close the trails we're using now. "Management" doesn't always mean change. Let us help manage the trails we have now. We don't need any more wilderness in our area.
- I want to thank the FS for allowing us to speak; often we don't have a voice. Usually city people decide what people can do in the forest who actually live here. We want to be good stewards. Listen to the people who are here. You can't please everyone all the time. We need to enforce the laws we already have; you can do more to educate people; empower citizens to help.
- The plans need to be fair, balanced, reasonable, and make sense. Collaboration is key between the FS, Fish & Game, and timber industry. It takes time to build trust. It's difficult when people are paid to negotiate their special interests.
- I'm inspired. Often the FS, like any organization, has a deficit mentality. We would all like to have more resources, but we have the assets around this circle to accomplish so much. Thank you for being willing to help and work with others to get the job done.

Summary of what the FS staff heard:

Dennis Dougherty, FS Recreation Specialist, Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team:

- A National Forest is one of the most complex natural resource / economic challenges in the country. We are required to balance multiple uses by the Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act and National Forest Management Act.
- I heard...
- Education, enforcement, and self-policing.
- Some folks are interested in tying in with state licensing programs for vehicles to increase sticker fees and help fund roads/trails management.

MEETING NOTES

(continued)

- Volunteerism and partnerships are important. Clubs have been helping for years and years. There are opportunities to educate new club members.
- Commonalities between interests and uses; everyone has a passion for being in the woods. It is a balancing act to preserve/protect the resources while meeting everyone's needs/wants.
- Wind turbines are an issue.
- Motorized use is a legitimate use; it is in the plan – front, middle, and back. Access for people who are handicapped and disabled is also important to us.
- Enforcement: some people want to increase the penalties for destructive behavior. At the same time, most people are being responsible/respectful, and we don't want to let the 1% who are not respectful ruin it for others.
- The plan needs more clarity/simplicity in its language.
- Better maps would also be helpful.

Sabrina Stadler, FS Team Leader, Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision:

- I heard some input related to the Forest Plans and some related to Travel Management as well as other topics.
- District Rangers are the people to speak with about connecting trails and side-by-side access. If you want a well-designed system, it's a good idea to work with local officials.
- Funding for law enforcement is not part of the Forest Plan, but there may be other creative solutions.
- Suggestions for a fee system would be outside the Forest Plan too, but it is something the Forest could look into. Volunteering and collaboration with clubs can be addressed outside the Forest Plan.
- Education is not in the Forest Plan either, but it's important.
- Creating better maps is a matter of Travel Management and not part of the Forest Plan. Partnerships are important to get the right information to the right people; we need your help with education and maps.
- We offered to meet with the aviation and pack goat communities to discuss their proposed changes, and we look forward to those discussions.
- Wind turbines are a concern for some people. Although wind energy is considered a suitable use in the General Forest management areas, there are very limited areas where wind power is actually suitable. If there are wind power proposals, there will be public processes to give everyone a chance to be involved.
- References to road density are now in the Plan only in limited areas. The focus is on interactions with water and roads/trails, so we can avoid the largest impacts.
- Timber sales: Some people want the economic benefits and county receipts.
- Elk discussions included winter habitat / critical habitat / seasonal considerations.
- People said we should keep access open until we really need to make a change.
- Management Areas and Desired Conditions regarding motorized and non-motorized are closely tied to the Inventoried Roadless Areas required by the Roadless Areas Conservation Rule.

Mike Rassbach, District Ranger, Umatilla NF:

- It's great to hear the diversity of views around the circle. Everyone has passion for the land.
- We need to strive for a sustainable balance -- social, economic, and ecological. We can use science as a tool to make adjustments.

MEETING NOTES

(continued)

- I hear a desire for improved education for what we're asking of the public/users, and also why.
- There are people, perhaps 1%, who cause destructive behavior; we cannot accept that, and you can't either. If you have ideas on how to handle destructive behavior differently, I want to hear that.
- Connectivity of routes may be a good way to keep good people from getting in trouble.
- I heard good ideas on funding, social media, enforcement, and proactive v. reactive management that I will seriously consider.

Bill Gamble, Acting Forest Supervisor, Umatilla NF:

- These public lands are a gift, and it's our responsibility to treat them well, to use them with respect.
- Sometimes I wonder if we as Americans recognize the gift we have received. We don't need to ask permission to access the National Forests; we don't even need a permit for most uses; the Forests are open; but we do need to use them respectfully and responsibly.
- We are all connected to the land, and by the land to each other.
- I heard some fear; change can bring fear. We need more civil, informed, and respectful conversations.
- A key theme tonight is education and collaboration with each other; people are willing to work together; people are willing to educate their peers, and those peers will hear it better from people they know, so we need to empower you to educate.
- Enforcement is a big challenge; we are not going to fill new positions on the Blue Mountains in the near future. We can express our concerns about funding allocations, but we need your help to protect the resources and each other.
- Compromise: With our multiple-use mandate, compromise is necessary. Hard line positions with words like "all" or "none" are just not helpful or realistic. Everything we do out there affects something else. It's important to think about our use/interests/values in context with all others.
- I appreciate the suggestions for seasonal use periods – for example, during calving season or when the roads are wet.
- It's not "them" vs. "us" – *it is just us*. We need to build relationships. We are all human beings on this vessel called Earth.
- We need to think long term. For example, we had no idea where motorized technology would go. Things have changed and changed the way people use the woods. We need to be better about thinking ahead to what's next.
- This is an opportunity to engage and build a conversation behind the plan, but we need to recognize that not everyone speaks our language.
- We need to effectively communicate the rules – where and what types of access exist on the landscape – without compromising the reason we're out there in the forest in the first place: to be in nature. One use/value cannot compromise the reason we're out there.
- Regarding aviation access, there is active engagement on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Partnerships and volunteering are key to moving forward.
- I heard the desire for science-based decisions. Science-based decision making is not an option for us – it's a requirement. We are fortunate to have local science out of the Starkey Experimental Forest, which provides applicable studies that inform local decisions, including about access.
- "Balance" is a good word/goal for multiple uses, although finding balance is a challenge. Balance implies equality between uses, but not every use is equal. "Harmonious" may be a different way to look at it.

MEETING NOTES

(continued)

- Either way, let's continue to communicate and compromise. I am energized and encouraged that we will find a positive way forward with the Forest Plan. Thank you for playing a role in shaping it.

Closing reflections around the circle: How did you feel about tonight's meeting? Did you feel you were heard?

- The Forest Plan should consider Subpart A.
- Wilderness is open to people; it is where you go to see what it was like 1,000 years ago
- We'll see what they do.
- Informative. FS should consider a "TWIG" meeting (all users working together).
- I feel I was heard. I want to learn more about wind farms.
- Informative; I appreciate the open dialogue. I like the idea of personal responsibility and valuing our public lands.
- I'm proud to be a citizen of the Tri-Cities region.
- This forest we have is a gift from God; we need to protect it at all costs.
- Thank you.
- I feel this was an informative meeting. Of the 1.4 million acres on the Umatilla NF, what % do roads and trails make up? I bet it's a small %. [FS Supervisor response: The physical footprint is not the only impact.]
- I know I was heard – great job.
- My bullets were included in your summaries; I appreciate that you listened.
- This was a good meeting; very informative; thanks for listening.
- I'm a God-fearing man. God willing, I'm going to reach the wilderness and go fishing with my grandkids, and I'll do it with pack goats.
- Please continue to share the outdoors with your children, and teach your kids to love the land like you do.
- Thank the FS folks for giving us "access" to this meeting; it is nice to have a voice.
- Thank you.
- Thank you for the chance to voice our concerns; I hope you can listen and implement what you heard.
- I learned a lot; now go do a good job for us.
- Pay attention; sign petitions; I am displeased with the FS trying to sell off lands.
- This was a great meeting; thank you for having it. I had no idea all of these different interests existed, and I would like to see these groups get together more often; let's share contact info and work together.
- We all have a personal story; we are the people who came to the meeting; go back to your interest groups, but please be positive and encourage collaboration.
- I'm inspired to hear all of these solutions and the willingness to get involved to make change. As far as I can tell, the FS doesn't have a resource issue (although all organizations think they do). We have a tremendous resource here in this room, and we can get the job done.
- I felt heard. We need to do the work that users value. We'll pay more fees if we know they are going to good cause. The deciding officer may consider his/her social values, but it's the people's values who should count.
- I think I was heard; education and signage. There are three different types of signs for roads, and you need a GPS to navigate. We need to make it easier for public safety and recreation. Education really

MEETING NOTES

(continued)

requires face to face contact; public service announcements are great, but who is really listening/watching? Instead of shutting anything down, focus on enforcement and education. Having two separate plans coming to these communities – Forest Plan and Travel Management – is confusing all of us. Maybe that's part of the reason the FS doesn't have enough money; too much planning.

- This was a good meeting. Thanks to everyone who came out on their own nickel and thanks to the FS for listening / answering our questions.