



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 Plan Revision

Hosted by High Desert Partnership and the Umatilla National Forest

Pendleton, OR / Tamastslikt Cultural Institute

July 22, 2015

These notes reflect the best efforts of the notetaker to capture the discussion of meeting participants, but in no way do these notes constitute 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.

Attendees (as listed on the sign-in sheet): Wanda Ballard, Tork Ballard, Irene Gilbert, Joe, Brendan Cain, Richard Galloway, Bob Smith, Vickie Smith, Tom Reynolds, Vicki Lee, Dave Lee, Suni Danforth, Ernest Cristler, Bobby Corey, Andrea Mann, Michele Misener, Richard Misener, Richard Jolly, John Evans, Sam Brinker, Cheryl Graham, Dino Graham, Tim Campbell, Chuck Perry, Pat Cassidy, Bill Ables, Lawrence Robinson, Brian Jennings, Carl Wenham, Betty Walker, Frank Mason, Gary Humphrys, and Jack Southworth

US Forest Service (FS) attendees: Bill Gamble, David Hatfield, Joani Bosworth, Larry Randall, Wynn Avocette, Sabrina Stadler, Dennis Dougherty, and Peter Fargo (notetaker)

Organizations represented (as listed on the sign-in sheet): Forest Access for All, Sno-mobilers, Cunningham Sheep, Blue Mountain Wheelers, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (Volunteer), Rangelands Northwest, Oregon Pilots Association / Idaho Aviation Association / Recreational Aviation Foundation, North American Pack Goat Association, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Northwest Trail Riders Association, and US Forest Service

Facilitator Introduction – Jack Southworth, High Desert Partnership

- We are here to discuss the access and wilderness portions of the draft Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision.
- FS staff are here from the Planning Team and Umatilla National Forest HQ to listen to you and answer questions.
- Let's begin with a round of introductions.

Introductions around the circle: Who are you, where are you from, and what will we accomplish if this is a successful meeting?

- Interested in gun sports, hunting
- Volunteer w/ Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Umatilla NF here in Pendleton; successful meeting would be listening to each other and understanding each other's point of view

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- Acting Forest Supervisor; learn how we can make a better document
- I'd like to hear what would you like us (FS) to do; a Forest Plan is a big doc and I hope we can all walk away with a better understanding of what it's all about
- Here to listen to you; understand your concerns and interests
- A successful meeting would be to hear from you, learn what's important, and move from a draft plan to a final plan that will guide us for the next 15 years
- Here from Burns BLM; we will be doing travel management over the next few years; would like to learn how to approach it.
- From Hermiston; have a cabin on the lake; concerned about closing too many roads and concerned about Green Dot program
- Lifetime logger; love the woods; now a retired recreationist
- Backcountry hunters and anglers; would like to see collaboration
- Access; need to get where we need to go
- North American Pack Goat Association; don't throw me and my pack goats out of the National Forests
- Worried about access
- Looking for access to continue to stay open
- A successful meeting is everyone in the FS truly listens to people in this room and applies their input to the plan; don't just go through the motions.
- What are the FS goals for this meeting? We need to know what you want head-on. Are you pushing the Preferred Alternative, or are we starting from scratch?
- I do believe we can get the Blue Mountains Forest Plan done.
- In the 70s we never lost more than 2,000 acres to wildfire; Worked on the Ukiah and Table Districts and we cut 64" pine trees due mountain pine beetle. We did not put mud into Desolation Creek, a major steelhead stream; we had the same budget, we handed the baton to the new generation of employees, but the job isn't getting done. Where is the money going?
- The Umatilla is now a closed forest; Wallowa-Whitman and Malheur are open forests. do not want to go to closed forest, need roads open, need access open, for lifetime-grandparents enjoy.
- I agree; I support an open-forest system; forests can be managed under this system; roads are not the issue with forest health.
- Here to learn and see how I can help.
- I live at Tollgate. Want to know why the Walla Walla District is so closed down compared to Wallowa-Whitman. FS needs to listen to what we're saying. You're closing things down right in front of us, and we're tired of it. Listen to what we're saying.
- My wish is for access; we love it up in Tollgate, enjoyed it for many years.
- A successful meeting includes: (1) FS can understand what people are looking for; (2) the community here can understand what the FS needs to do; and (3) we all get a better understanding of how to create a forest plan that everyone can live with
- Here to fight for our right of access to the forest
- We have a cabin at Tollgate; I don't understand why we can't access the roads around our land.
- Work with private landowners; many have land with "checkerboard" FS property adjacent to them; it can be confusing; listen to our concerns and incorporate them into the plan
- Want to see what other people are saying
- Want to hear from FS; want FS to hear our concerns; use our input to the best of your ability

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- FS needs to understand the views of private property owners and forest users of all types; thank the FS for having meetings like this
- Here to listen to you all and embody some of what we discuss in an improved Forest Plan
- We need to help the FS; they are limited by policies and regulations from above; Forest Rangers don't write these rules; they just enforce them and have to carry them out
- Here to represent the Oregon Pilots Association
- From Enterprise, OR: With the Oregon Pilots Association / Recreational Aviation Foundation – want to understand how aviation access is addressed in the plan; thanks to everyone; Jack is doing a great job facilitating these meetings.
- Access is critical to everything we do in the Forest Service; want to hear your perspective
- Retired in Hermiston; concerned about horse access; seen Wilderness access dwindle from 25-30 trails to 1-2. FS says they are going to do more, but volunteers have done a lot. If a bridge goes down, it effects the stream, has fish impacts. Let's think smarter and put all of this together.
- Private pilot; would like to see air access maintained. Airstrip closed in past; had public meetings but it seemed to be a foregone conclusion; opinion of NJ resident should not have the same weight as local users. Successful outcome: people listen and take into account everybody's opinion. I understand there are laws and regulations, but we still need to have input.
- A successful meeting: we get feedback from the FS that tells us they heard what we said
- From Milton-Freewater, OR - concerned about the future of forestry and whether we can access the forest to do what we enjoy. It's all going away.
- Grew up in Baker; cannot go do the same things we did when we were kids; everything is going away and we don't have any say in it; grandkids won't have the same access; we are the people and we need that access.

Opening remarks from Bill Gamble, Acting Forest Supervisor, Umatilla National Forest

- Thank you for being here tonight.
- These public lands are a gift. They are here for all of us to share; use and enjoy, but also respect.
- A Forest Plan provides a broad framework to guide and inform site-specific projects; we are here to inform that framework in a way that meets everybody's needs.
- Access is important. Keep in mind that all areas of the forest are accessible; they are just accessible in different ways.

Panelists remarks:

- Northwest Trail Riders Association was founded as a result of the North Fork John Day Wilderness and the limits it placed on motorized access.
- Access is freedom; wood harvest; control animal population; minerals; grazing.
- Access to some is the ability to walk out the back door and walk onto a mountain trail. To others, it's flying an airplane, riding an ATV, riding a horse.
- Now that motorized access is restricted, we cannot maintain the forest like we used to.
- Wilderness Areas are not going away. The 1% of motorized users that damage the land are embarrassing to other motorized users; our club dues help to fund law enforcement to help control those bad apples.
- Let's be more creative around the timing of access if we need to be careful around critical areas.

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- Instead of one route with high impact, how about two routes to spread the impact? Instead of closing a road, how about making it a trail? Give us the freedom to go out and use/maintain the trail.
 - A Forest Plan is a broad framework. We aren't opposed to Designated Routes; they tell us where we can go and can protect us from more road closures; Designated Routes can also prevent a lot of damage done by the 1% of the population. But we want Designated Routes that are significant and enjoyable for us to use.
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- As a hunter, I am also a conservationist.
 - I want to protect my hunting heritage; I want to include and educate the youth.
 - I think the timing of certain types of access could really make a difference; that could be part of the solution.
 - Access influences the ability of people to hunt; too much access can negatively affect it. The access portion of the management plan should help keep the elk and other wildlife on the forest. Fears and emotions can drive us, but we need to focus on the science. For example, the Starkey Experimental Forest puts out important information about wildlife populations and behaviors.
 - I understand the ATV community wants open access; at the same time, there is nothing more frustrating as a hunter than thinking you're out there on your own, then seeing an ATV ripping by.
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- I am an ATV user, and I believe access comes with a huge responsibility. The problem is there is just no enforcement. There is also no maintenance. Senator Wyden has been on tour to look at some of these issues. Part of the problem is much of the money is going to fight wildfires. The older I get, the more motorized I get. But we need balance; we don't need all roads open that are open now. There should be seasonality, especially with wildlife migration and breeding. There should be an ongoing discussion about travel out there. We can use collaborative mechanisms that FS and BLM have at their disposal. Meet and discuss 2-3 times a year; not all roads need to be closed; not all need to stay open.

Facilitator: What are the characteristics of a solution that works for everyone in this room? We'll go around the room and then ask the FS what you said to make sure they captured your ideas.

- Plane pilots are hunters, anglers, hikers, and ATV users. If the FS can tap into the passion/skills of the public, we will get more maintenance. Put us (pilots) to work; we love it.
- Utilization of the forest is done every day. Access to bridges, etc. I started hiking in the Wallowa-Whitman in 1960s, then we had to let the horses go by, then the bikers in California. California is washing away in mud slides now. We are very lucky to have what we have here. The FS can't do it by themselves; we need to advocate with Congress. In a government under budget pressure, maintenance is the first thing that goes out the door. How to stop that? Get a hold of the boss and tell them what it's going to cost. Don't let them put all the money into the fires.
- You can't manage the land in isolation; I think the Forest Plan needs to recognize the uses adjacent to the FS (e.g., migrating big game). What does ATV use have anything to do with game migrating to private land? As forests get used by more people, the elk move away from disturbance and toward private land. They consume the forage that ranchers depend on; noxious weeds get brought in too.

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Take the impacts on private landowners into account. Managing a forest with the diverse uses around the circle is an amazing job – multiple use, endangered species, and other wildlife. It seems impossible, but one way to tackle it is to break the forest down into units with similar features and develop management plans for those units that are more logical for those specific areas vs. the complete forest. Education is also important. When somebody makes a rule, FS and other agencies need to be able to explain why, so everyone can understand. I am a strong proponent of seasonal closures. Some people like to hike, use motorized vehicles, go cross-country, and use trails. These different groups should get to know each other a little better; see what our concerns are; know each other's name and what we do and how we recreate can help a lot.

- More access and timing of access is our concern. Started with 500 elk – now 3,000 elk. Not asking for more closures; asking for a review of the timing of those closures. Elk aren't on the National Forests for the public to hunt. Ranchers need to put their ranches first, and the elk cause private damage. The traffic from fall archery season sends the elk down to private land. Take a closer look at the timing to help us make a living.
- A lot of farmers/ranchers are hunters too. Elk are doing significant damage to water systems, fences, and grazing units are eaten. The costs can be huge. Wells, springs, troughs – need to fence them in. Laying down fencing is very expensive. Land owners put a lot of time into managing their land and infrastructure. Incorporate these impacts into Forest Plans, so we can achieve the goals we are trying to accomplish.
- We need access to roads. Public lands are not just a "gift" like the sky and moon; we need to use them; they are all of our public lands.
- Just let us use the existing roads. We need to take care of the farmers too, since they have to deal with the elk.
- Let's have more of these meetings up front, during the whole process -- not just try to fix the plan on the back end.
- I sympathize with you on the elk; that has to do with forage on public lands. My concern is losing more of what we have. I disagree with Designated Roads. Why would I give up the ability to travel everywhere and only travel on specific roads?
- The Umatilla has been closed to cross-country travel for many years. We're going to lose our open forest and our freedoms if the Wallowa-Whitman and Malheur do the same. I've been called radical. The FS is radical to try to close the forest in one year.
- I used to work for the FS. I am the one who marked the 60" tree for harvest on the North Fork John Day. We invested in the roads in the 60s and 70s at the expense of the trees, and now we are saying we don't need to use them. I saw a FS Level 4 fire truck five miles down a closed road just to check out a couple trees. Maintenance is a problem. Trailheads are not being utilized like they used to be, because the roads are impassable for a typical truck. I would like to see roads closed for specific purposes – to everyone – not even open for administrative services of the FS. Would like to see people go back there like they used to, with a bucket and a shovel.
- I'm concerned about forest health. Logging should address elk habitat. Since the Northwest Forest Plan went into effect, logging decreased.
- I agree we are losing our freedom of access. During the last meeting in Walla Walla, the FS brought in a proposed plan that was originally drafted (1.5 miles or 2 miles of road / square mile). Is that still the case? It seems like the forest plans were rushed and the meetings were rushed last year. I believe there were about 5 alternatives then. Lumping three NFs together doesn't always make sense; need to

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look at each one individually. Side comment: Road density doesn't take into account all of the real estate between ridges. With every new presidential administration, we lose more land to Wilderness. How many landing strips are we talking about? [8 landing strips throughout 3 forests] Losing Red's Horse Ranch was a shame. I do multi-task / multi-use. How are you going to get in there otherwise? A lot of people believe the Umatilla closures did not follow the appropriate process; Umatilla County residents have swallowed that good. What is the outcome you are seeking from these meetings?

- Gary hit most everything on my list, and I'm going to echo what he said. I sympathize with the ranchers and having the elk coming down to private land. I would like to see roads/trails kept open. I'm concerned about fighting fires and the access required. Old logging roads are used to fight forest fires. Having access to bring people and equipment in needs to be addressed. We cut these roads back in the 70s. Why abandon the work that was done? Also need emergency access to get personnel in – not always with helicopters. Alternative A is a “do nothing” option. That might be a good plan for a few more years to come up with a better plan. I hope you're hearing us. Each person here must represent a certain % of our population. For the pilots, I would like to see all of the air strips kept open for the pilots to go in. The Red's Horse Ranch closure was an atrocity to the public. It's beautiful there. I am a hiker; for me, I don't need an ATV, but I grew up riding motorcycles most of my life. I don't like them in the forest. Nature, solitude, quiet is spiritual. Keep open access for us to enjoy. Put your energy into doing the real work – not just busy work looking at closing roads. A lot of people/clubs will volunteer for free to go out and work on roads/trails. People will do this if they are asked.
- Can you tell me how many thousands of acres of Wilderness are currently on the forest? The maps you are giving out at these meetings are bad; just add the color to the good maps that you already have. Places like Lake Jubilee need to be open longer. Why lose the revenue opportunity by not being open all summer?
- Pack goats don't pose a risk; they want to be with you. Blue Mountains in current draft Environmental Impact Statement said no goats adjacent to Big Horn Sheep (BHS) habitat. That is not realistic. The main issue with goats: They are so tightly bonded to you that you can't go to the bathroom by yourself. Taking them out of the forest to protect BHS doesn't make sense. There are some studies but no conclusive science that says goats are a threat to BHS; there is plenty of evidence that sheep are a threat. When we were kicked out of the Wind River Range, we proposed best management practices that included no access without proving that your animals don't have the pathogens in question, but our proposal was summarily rejected.
- Alternatives need to give more thought to our aging population. Need to facilitate access/use.
- We have to have a managed access system. There is more pressure than ever before with new equipment. Invasive weeds are moving into Starkey, and the elk want nothing to do with it. We have an obligation to improve our lands. A lot of roads we built were intended for one-time use. Every time somebody drives down, the road gets torn up. Every time it rains, the dirt runs into the water. No matter what we decide, none of this is going to work unless we enforce the plan. People are cutting down live trees and driving over the land / creating new roads illegally. We need better maps; the roads/trails need to be well marked. Better distribution of rules and available maps. We need better information at entry sites. Roads need to be reviewed throughout the season; many roads should not be open because they can cause damage at different times of the year. What are the criteria for open roads / designated roads / closed roads?

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- Kids aren't in the forest any more. When you close the forest to them, they don't know what it really exists for. We had logging and took care of the forests. Now trees fall and die, then fires burn because there is a lot of dead wood. My father goes hundreds of miles. We didn't camp in campgrounds, we camped in the forest. We can't do that now. There must be some kind of solution that will keep access. The problem may be more than 1% of the pop (more like 10%). We need to police ourselves; stop people who break the rules, so they don't ruin it for everyone. Get off your motorcycle/horse and stop people; life is hard sometimes; I'm sorry you can't always do what you want to do.
- Forest Plan should acknowledge multiple uses; acknowledge motorized use. We could use your help figuring out which areas of the forest allow us to do what.
- There should be ten times the number of people here. There should be more young people here. We need to educate the "me" generation, so it can be a "we" generation. Ideally, there would be a mechanism for ongoing collaboration and volunteerism. We also need better maps.
- Removing access to the woods is going to destroy it. I'm having trouble convincing my grandkids that the woods have value. Grandkids getting less and less opportunity. When you close off roads, you encourage people to go cross-country. I'm taking old roads that you're talking about closing off. As there are fewer and fewer, I find myself driving through the woods around stumps, etc. Rules say you need a new plan every 10-15 years. You are spending money on coming up with new plans and fighting fires. I carried a hot tub out of the woods, and I carry a lot of trash out of the woods. If more roads are closed, I resent that and won't take out more trash. A lot of land is already not accessible; it is dishonest to take away more access and make it look like it's not much – we have already lost so much. Building transmission lines or wind farms do more damage than ATVs. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife just about destroyed hunting in Oregon, and the Forest Service is going to finish the job. The FS needs to look at the broad picture, not just what they are trying to accomplish today. If you want a lesson on elk, talk to Brad Allen whose ranch has likely the best elk calving area outside Jackson Hole. He has open space, water, wallows, and ridgeline where elk can get away. Elk didn't seem to mind our UTV/ATV near them. You can have multiple use; you can put all the pieces together; you have to have the budget to do that. You don't own the property; the property owns you.
- Fixing the 1990 Forest Plan may give the FS more leeway. 2005 Travel Management plan is what is going to close the forest roads. When we were asked to be a part of this, we asked "what do you want from us?" There were 6 alternatives. It's a data dump. We need more understandable language, so we know what you're doing. We're talking about access. If you don't have access, you don't have nothing. At the same time, elk are down on private land. What do you do, herd them back onto the FS land? The Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUMs) for the Umatilla are a pain to compare to other FS maps. They are downloadable onto computers / mobile devices if you're into that, but if you're not, they are a pain. As a motorized user, I don't want to see a decrease in how I can use the forest. The current Travel Management Rule is driving the road closures; especially the Wallowa-Whitman has a public-relations challenge. How can we keep roads open so that we can really use/enjoy them? The forest plan shouldn't be the mechanism to answer all of these questions; that's too much in the weeds. Main boss in Portland said "nyet" on travel management, Subpart B – wait for the forest plan first.
- Wow, a lot of diversity in this room. I grew up in Union County. Can't tell you how many forest fires were put out by logging crews who were protecting their own interests. They aren't there anymore, and now the forest service needs to spend money on the fires. A lot of lakes in the Wallowas and Elkhorns were put there by ranchers. They maintain the watering holes in their allotments. That water keeps the game in the forests. Multiple use means everybody needs access to have that multiple use.

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Awesome input from everyone. I think we close trails and roads, because we don't want to maintain them. Maintenance is essential. If you're going to make a rule, then you must enforce it. If you make a rule, you are part of that rule. Red's Horse Ranch debacle was a bait-and-switch. Now the FS uses it as an administrative area. I hope you enjoy it. We have an "us and them" mentality, and I've felt it here. FS needs to look at its culture. Is your culture to help and to really provide access to the public?

Summary from Dennis Dougherty – FS Recreation Specialist, Forest Plan Revision Team

- I hear a lot of love and passion for the forest
- Access is there for you; I hear "access is everything; access is freedom"
- Interest in volunteerism through organized groups
- People want to follow the rules/regs and enforce the laws we already have
- Some groups here want to voice their concerns with Congressional reps
- Concern about private, adjacent landholdings. That may be a weakness in the plan; current focus is on zoning the national forest lands only
- Education and enforcement; integrate with state licensing agencies, and others, to educate motorized users about access
- We need roads for all different kinds of activities on the forest. Travel Management is a separate process that defines the criteria for designated roads/trails/areas; determines open roads and closed roads
- Reasonableness; need more understandable language, maps, regulations
- Thank you for coming out and taking your time to help us out.

Summary from Sabrina Stadler – FS Team Leader, Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision

- I want to differentiate the Forest Plan from Travel Management – two different processes.
- Groups are getting together and working with local District Rangers to understand their local roads situation.
- There is some confusion around phrases like "open forest" vs. "closed forest". Your National Forests are open, and different areas are accessible in different ways.
- The Forest Plan mentions Designated Routes; that is a requirement we need to work with during this planning cycle, and we want to be up front about that in the Forest Plan.
- Criteria for closing roads came up; that is addressed on a local, site-specific level through a planning process / environmental documents.
- We are dealing with the legacy effects of old forest roads that were built poorly; many built simply to access timber; costs money to maintain those roads. Is that how we want to spend taxpayer dollars?
- Interest in travel access, especially for firefighters. Another consideration: Is it even safe for firefighters to enter?
- I heard people say that Congress needs to give the FS more money for law enforcement, road maintenance, trail maintenance, etc. It is true that recreation dollars are scarce.
- I heard a lot of empathy; it was great to hear about the elk issues on private land. Maybe we could put in an objective to work closely with landowners in specific areas to get the elk back onto the forest.
- We have designated wilderness areas; it is something Congress created, and the FS isn't able to decrease those areas.

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- I heard interest in educating the youth; start when they are in high school before they get into their cars; organizations like Gary's can help with this.
- Regarding road densities, the focus is now on areas where there is runoff from roads into streams; roads that are causing aquatic damage.
- Air Strips: We hear you and are working with the air access community.
- Pack Goats: Spoke with Curtis King, and we are setting up a meeting to get a handle on the science and make adjustments if need be.
- We have special areas in the plan – not General Forest – managed differently for good reasons.
- We are hearing consistent demand for better maps; we have an interactive map and other more-detailed maps; we can do better to get these maps in the right hands and build better maps.
- Plain language; our Public Affairs Officer is going to help us with that.
- I heard calls for balance: In the current plan we try to balance social, economic, and ecological concerns.

How do you feel about tonight's meeting? Did we accomplish what you hoped?

- I felt it was positive. Came to see where we stand with our forestry; children and grandchildren will be affected.
- Good information; feel it was a positive experience.
- Eye opener for me. Appreciate the discussion, openness, and honesty of everyone who participated. Need for more education and contacting individuals. We have four line officers (rangers) on the Umatilla NF. Any one of us would be more than happy to come visit with any of your groups. That's our job. If we can do that, we would be glad to do it. I hope you'll take us up on that offer.
- Appreciate the openness and honest dialogue. Sometimes it's hard to hear the criticism of how we're managing the FS. It's good to understand what can we do to better manage our NF.
- I love seeing some people coming with one objective, then understanding where others are coming from too. You're frustrated; we are also frustrated. NEPA can be crippling; when it can be contested it is, and our hands are tied. We are supposed to write to 6th grade and many documents still read at the post-doc level. Budgets are challenging and declining; they come in specific pots and one-year increments. When people retire these days, we are having trouble backfilling. Either job isn't getting done or people are doing double-duty. We cannot lobby; I would like to encourage people to lobby in our defense. This forest does not have a Friends Group. A nonprofit friends group can often help us get funding and volunteers.
- A lot of diversity around the room. So many similarities too. I work in public affairs and often get yelled at. I don't mind listening, because I know people are passionate. I like this format; I like to listen to you and hear what you have to say. Working at the project level is important; that is where you can get involved and really make a difference. I want to thank you and thank Jack for facilitating.
- Good meeting; thanks to Jack. Two things need to be done: (1) User friendly, good maps so people can navigate. (2) People need to know there is a Travel Management Plan. Widely distribute the fact this is happening on our forest.
- Positive about the meeting. Multiple use, collaboration; we can all get something from this.
- Wanted land managers to listen, and if you did that, it was a good meeting.
- I like this format. I'm concerned now after hearing what was said. Sabrina mentioned that most of what she heard regarding access would fall under the Travel Management Plan. [Sabrina: The Forest Plan is aspirational and doesn't close any roads or make any site-specific decisions.] The news release

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should mention that. Our government has lost common sense. We are the people that you are working for.

- I like the format, but I feel I've wasted my time, because I'm not educated enough to deal with the plan and provide input appropriately. We need help to walk through this bureaucratic process that we're not familiar with. In the Forest Plan are guidelines for access. We need you to walk us through plan changes; show what we need to be working off of. We want to address this in the proper way. If we don't get the Forest Plan right, then we'll be behind on the Travel Management. We have no idea what we're doing here. We need to change the plan; it is all about proper planning. We want a good, healthy, clean forest left to our kids – but also useful to the most people at the same time.
- I'm not going to give up on getting sales up on the logging. Monte tried to put up a timber sale. Multiple use is how we pay for all of these things that people want. Multiple use for the people to use the forest; match what Pinchot said.
- I hope the FS realizes that even though we are local people, we do speak nationally. We do have the national interest at heart here. It's our system – let's maintain it. The main roads on the Umatilla are missing so many signs you don't know where you are. I see a trend to basically close the forest to the point that only the young and fit will be able to get in there. That's elitist. If you look at the linear progression, it will all be closed. Let's go back to the 50s and 60s and revamp the roads.
- What is your timeline for the Forest Plan? [Sabrina: Team will work with forest leadership to see if there need to be new alternatives. We'll have to do a final EIS that supports the three Forest Plans. There will be an objection process. End of 2017 is our estimate.] You have a system in place to work with various groups. Do you have a system in place to work with individuals? [Not specifically, but I'd be happy to connect with you and see how we can work together.]
- I appreciate the format. I didn't realize how many people are using the forest. My concern is that closing down the forest creates a de-facto wilderness area.
- Thank you to the FS for giving us a venue to voice all of these concerns. If you're going to close roads, make sure you close roads that make sense.
- I think it would be wise to stick with this format to bring the best out of people. If I was an elk, I wouldn't be up there in that thicket. Elk are an open-range animal – not a forest animal. They lived on the open plains. The farmer took over the open plains, so that's where they go.
- I love this roundabout format – everyone can see/listen to each other. Environmentalist groups are driving a lot of the policy changes that cause challenges for local communities. If we could get all of the access people together and organize some kind of a committee, we could go to Congress. We need more voices and more power; nobody listens to individuals.
- I appreciate the format. Thank you to the FS line officers for attending. I heard you mention "Friends of the Forest" group. Before you get a group like this, you better get some more trust. I wish you could weigh the comments of local folks more than others.
- I appreciate the format, and I can see there is a lot of work to be done. Language is very powerful. The news release didn't mention horses, but I called Peter (Public Affairs), and he assured me that I was still wanted at the meeting. If you can't list them all, don't list them at all. I hope we're not just following a change theory – let everyone have a squeak and then go do what you were going to do anyway.
- Thank you to the FS for spending this time with us. There is suspicion of the FS as an entity. We've dealt with the FS for over 30 years. People have made promises and not followed through. It's not your job to lobby; that is our job, but it's hard as an individual to do the lobbying. Traditionally, the FS has

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(continued)

been funded by timber receipts. That's gone, but it's not your fault. We need to get it back. You're under the Department of Agriculture, which grows things. Hopefully we can get the timber harvest back.

- I remember the monster meetings last year that brought every interest under the same roof – didn't know if it was the Forest Plan or the Travel Management Plan. It's hard to dig through it all. What do you want from us on the access portion of the Forest Plan? We have individual relationships with individual FS people, but the reality is we have been working in the forests way longer than they have had their jobs. We're hard on them, because we have scars from the past. If you volunteer on the forest, you make sure you log those hours and share them with the FS before September. Oregon OHV stickers fund OHV recreation projects. Access means different things to different people. These meetings are good for putting the information out there, but what's the end goal? I'm interested in what the note-taker is getting out of this and what he's going to put back out there. Post it on the website, put a new draft out there for input on your site. Remember that volunteers are important.
- I heard a lot of positive comments. Thanks for making the hours of this meeting at a time when I can get here after work. This is a good format and folks are making good comments and learning from each other. Thanks to the FS for listening, even though you have to hear things you don't like.

Closing Remarks from Bill Gamble – Acting Forest Supervisor, Umatilla National Forest

- I will say it again, the forest is a gift. With access comes great responsibility.
- We all need to get away from language like us/them or all/none. I am disheartened that several folks left. We can't collaborate with a one-way information flow. It isn't "us and them" – *we are us*.
- We need to be treated respectfully. A lot of our employees take a lot of flak; that is not going to get us where we need to go.
- The end point for me is a Forest Plan that truly reflects what we heard tonight. Are you all going to get everything you want? That's unlikely. But I'm encouraged by the opportunity to collaborate. The only way that gets done is through relationships.
- I want to thank the panelists.
- We recognize that we can do better, but we have to work within the laws and policies passed down to us.
- This conversation is unique; this is not the bureaucratic process; it is challenging for us bureaucrats, quite frankly. We are here to sincerely listen and do our best to improve the plan.
- Thank you all for taking the time to be here.