Dear Potential Participants:

The Blue Mountain Ranger District of the Malheur National Forest invites you to participate in planning the Galena Aquatic Restoration Project. The Blue Mountain Ranger District previously identified this high-priority area for aquatic restoration through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) planning process for the Big Mosquito Large Landscape Restoration Project. Your input is vital to assisting us in designing a project that will meet our goal of restoring the riparian process and function of the Middle Fork John Day River downstream of Galena, Oregon, while also recognizing the historic values of this ecologically and historically important area.

We are hosting a series of three public/stakeholder meetings to help us better understand your values relative to the site. Our hope is that we will be able to use your input to design the project to honor the historical features you value and to allow for restoration of properly functioning floodplain and aquatic habitat. The meetings will be participatory, working through your involvement with the planning team, which consists of Forest Service interdisciplinary team members, our partner The Freshwater Trust, and Vernita Ediger, a social scientist and facilitator.

The following is a summary of the key topics to be addressed at each meeting:

**Meeting 1: Understanding Opportunities, Objectives and Concerns**

*Date: June 15, 2017; Time: 12-3pm; Location: Grant County Airport, 720 Airport Road, John Day, Oregon*

- **Key Goal: Mutual Understanding**
- Share the project's purpose, potential benefits, and constraints
- Share key themes from scoping
- Invite stakeholder input and sharing related to values and concerns
- Discuss: Is there an interest in working together toward a shared solution?
Meeting 2: Exploring Shared Solutions
Date: July 12, 2017  Time: TBA  Location: TBA
- Key Goal: Creative Problem Solving
- Develop criteria for identifying a “shared solution”
- Together brainstorming potential solutions that address stakeholder concerns
- Review the list and identify preferred solutions
- Clarify the planning team’s next steps

Meeting 3: Review and Refine Draft Design
Date: August 29, 2017  Time: TBA  Location: TBA
- Key Goal: Refine Project Design to Address Voiced Concerns
- Present the draft design(s) to the group, discussing how the design addresses public concerns
- Invite feedback and discussion
- Discuss possible changes and tradeoffs
- Seek consensus on final project design.

As you can see, this series of meetings revolves around your input. The ideas and concepts produced in Meeting 2 will be brought forward into development of a draft restoration design. The draft design will be presented to the group in Meeting 3 for review and discussion. While the Forest Service retains the authority to make the final decision in this process, it is our hope that the designs and solutions we generate with your input will be better than any we would develop alone.

We invite and encourage your input throughout all phases of the planning process, since each meeting builds on the previous discussion. If you are unable to attend the meeting, you can access an informational packet we are preparing on the Galena Aquatic Restoration Project planning area on our Forest website at:
http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/malheur/landmanagement/?cid=STELPRD3817723&width=full

We anticipate that this information packet will be available and posted online by June 2, 2017.

We request that you please contact us by June 9, 2017 if you intend to attend the meetings so we may plan accordingly. We also request that you contact us if you do not wish to continue receiving information about this project.

Attached is a map of the Galena Aquatic Restoration Project planning area to help you locate the area being considered, as well as a graphic depicting the design process timeline and opportunities for stakeholder input. We hope you are interested in being a part of this exciting approach to land management and we look forward to your involvement and contribution. If you have any questions, please contact Allen Taylor (Fish Biologist) at allentaylor@fs.fed.us or 541-575-3394 or Bob Hassmiller (Hydrologist) at rjhassmiller@fs.fed.us or 541-575-3433.
Thank you for your time and we look forward to working together.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

DAVE HALEMEIER
District Ranger

Attachment:
1. Galena Aquatic Restoration Locator Map

Galena Aquatic Restoration Project Design Timeline