



Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revision DEIS Wilderness and Recommended Wilderness Area



The proposed revised forest plan includes proposed recommended wilderness areas. Wilderness area recommendation in the final forest plan is a “preliminary administrative recommendation.” Recommendations will be reviewed and possibly modified by:

- The Chief of the Forest Service
- The Secretary of Agriculture
- President of the United States

ONLY Congress makes the final decisions on wilderness designation.

The decision to propose a wilderness recommendation is based on various land management strategies and factors that include maintaining biological and natural function and diversity within and on the natural landscape.

The Wilderness Act (Public Law 88-577)

“...to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness...for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness.”



Photo by: George Wuerthne

1) Natural: “generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature.”



Photo by: C. S. Kvern

2) Undeveloped: “an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions.” (P.L. 88-577)



Photo by: C. S. Kvern

3) Untrammeled: “an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.”



Photo by: Dan Ermovick

4) Solitude: “Outstanding opportunities for solitude or a pristine and unconfined type of recreation”

Five Distinct Wilderness Qualities:

1. Natural
2. Undeveloped
3. Untrammeled
4. Solitude
5. Other Features



5) Other Features: “May also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.”

Management Area Desired Conditions

Management Area IA: Congressionally Designated Wilderness Area

Desired Condition: Designated wilderness areas exhibit primitive qualities. Opportunities for research, exploration, solitude, risk, challenge, and primitive recreation are widespread...

Management Area IB: Recommended Wilderness Areas

Desired Condition: Recommended wilderness areas exhibit primitive qualities. Opportunities for research, exploration, solitude, risk, challenge, and primitive recreation are widespread ...uses are conducive to maintaining the wilderness characteristics of the areas.



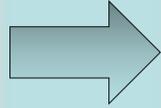
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Potential Wilderness Area Evaluation Process and Criteria

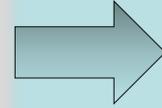
Forest Plan Revision

Regulation: Identify and evaluate lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System and determine whether to recommend any such lands for wilderness designation.



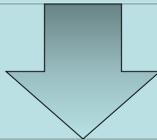
Inventory:

A total of 76 potential wilderness areas were identified covering 705,310 acres (approximately 13% of the Blue Mountain National Forest System lands).



Evaluation:

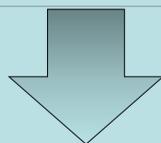
Evaluation includes determining the mix of land and resource uses that best meet public need. Suitable areas are reviewed using test of capability, availability, and need.



Wilderness Inventory Criteria

For areas to qualify for wilderness designation under the Wilderness Act, they must meet either criteria 1 and 3, or criteria 2 and 3 below:

1. Areas contain 5,000 acres or more.
2. Area contains less than 5,000 acres, but can meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - Areas can be preserved due to physical terrain and natural conditions;
 - Areas are self-contained ecosystems, such as an island, that can be effectively managed as a separate unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System; and
 - Areas are contiguous to existing wilderness, primitive areas, administration-endorsed wilderness, or potential wilderness in other Federal ownership, regardless of their size.
3. Areas to not contain forest roads (36 CFR 212.1) or other permanently authorized roads, except as permitted in areas east of the 100th meridian (Forest Service Handbook Section 71.12).



Suitable Area Evaluation:

- 1) Capability 2) Availability 3) Need

- **Capability:** The degree to which that area contains the basic characteristics, based on The Wilderness Act, that make it suitable for wilderness recommendation.
 - Naturalness and Undeveloped Character
 - Primitive Recreational Opportunities and Challenge
 - Special Features
 - Manageability and Boundaries

- **Availability:** Areas meeting the capability requirements are considered potentially available for wilderness designation. The availability is conditioned by the value of and need for the wilderness resource compared to the value and need for other resources.

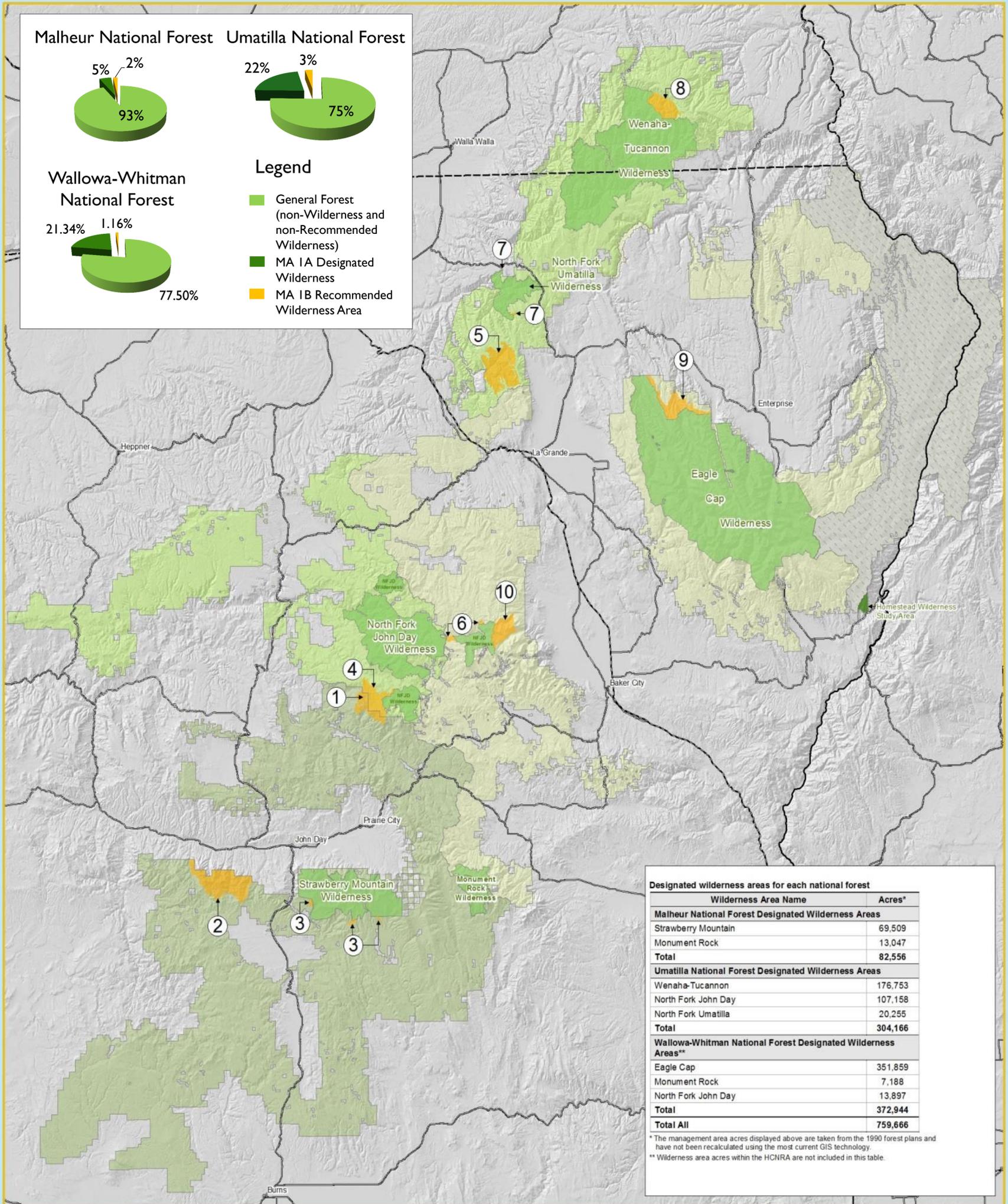
- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| • Recreations | • Cultural |
| • Wildlife | • Land Use/Special Uses |
| • Water/Fish | • Fire |
| • Range | • Insects and Disease |
| • Timber/Vegetation | • Private Lands |
| • Minerals | |

- **Need:** Determining whether there is a need to recommend a potential wilderness area for wilderness study or designation.

- Factor 1 – Location, Size, Type of Wilderness; Demographics; and Accessibility
- Factor 2 – Use, Visitors, and Changing Patterns of Use
- Factor 3 – Opportunities for Unconfined Outdoor Recreation Experiences
- Factor 4 – Refuge for Species or Protected Areas
- Factor 5 – Capacity of Established Wildernesses to Support Human Use
- Factor 6 – Ability to Provide for Preservation of Landform Types and Ecosystems

Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision DEIS, Preferred Alternative

Designated Wilderness Areas and Recommended Wilderness Areas (RWA)



Map Key: Recommended Wilderness Area (RWA).

National Forest	Map Key Number	Recommended Wilderness Area Name	Acres
Malheur National Forest	1	Greenhorn Mountain	6,139
	2	McClellan Mountain	23,145
	3	Strawberry Mountain Wilderness Area Additions	1,160
	Total		30,444
Umatilla National Forest	4	Greenhorn Mountain	7,733
	5	Hellhole	21,980
	6	North Fork John Day Wilderness Area Additions	1,241
	7	North Fork Umatilla Wilderness Area Additions	235
	Total		40,069
Wallowa-Whitman N.F.	9	Huckleberry	10,770
	10	Twin Mountain	9,530
	Total		20,300



Legend

- 1A Designated Wilderness Area
- 1B Recommended Wilderness Area (RWA)
- National Forest Administrative Boundary
- Hells Canyon National Recreation Area
- RWA Key Identifier
- Interstate Route
- State Route
- State Line

Scale: 1:500,000

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