



Pacific Northwest Region
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News Release

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Blue Mountains Forest Plan Webinar and Launch of Interactive Map

BAKER CITY, OREGON – In March and April of this year, the Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla, and Malheur National Forests hosted 15 public meetings, which were well attended, to share information about the Blue Mountains Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Proposed Revised Forest Plan. To continue engaging with the public with more in-depth information-sharing and discussion about the DEIS and Proposed Revised Forest Plan, the Blue Mountain Forests are hosting an **online webinar on June 25, 6:30 - 8:00 pm (PDT)**.

“Technology provides opportunities to explore new ways of interacting with the public, while the comment period is open,” shared John Laurence, Wallowa-Whitman Forest Supervisor. The webinar will begin with a brief but detailed presentation, followed by an opportunity for facilitated discussion about the topics presented. In particular, this webinar will:

- 1) Identify the suitable uses in the Blue Mountains Proposed Revised Forest Plan (DEIS - Alternative E) for the following proposed management areas: wilderness, recommended wilderness, backcountry (motorized and non-motorized), and general forest.
- 2) Demonstrate how current conditions and access informed delineation of management areas for the preferred alternative (Alternative E).
- 3) Demonstrate, through use of the interactive map, how individuals can compare how land is managed now (Alternative A) with how it is proposed to be managed under the other DEIS alternatives, including the preferred alternative (Alternative E).

Advance registration is required to participate in the webinar. Register online at <https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/466254943>. Registrants will receive a confirmation email that includes a **personalized toll-free number and access code needed to join the webinar on June 25th**.



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(continued)

The webinar will feature more detailed information than what was covered in the March and April public meetings. Those who did not attend one of the public meetings, or would be interested in reviewing the information presented at the meetings, are encouraged to review the following information on the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision website in advance of the webinar:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMtnsPlanRevision>.

- The PowerPoint presentation, meeting summary, and question and answer notes from the public meetings.
- Detailed maps for all alternatives for each Forest, which includes section lines and the road layer used for Forest Plan Revision.

In addition, you may want to view the “Interactive Map” that can be accessed using computers or mobile devices; however we will be looking at examples of the interactive map on the webinar as well. The map tools allow the viewer to click on and off different map layers, such as roads, recreation areas, wilderness areas, and the plan alternatives to different base layers. Controls also allow the viewer to zoom in, measure distances, and print a specific portion of the forest as desired.

The comment period was extended 60 days; **comments must be submitted by the close of the comment period, which is August 15, 2014**. The Forest Service encourages the public to submit substantive comments electronically by going to this web link:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMountainForestPlanRevisionComments>.

Written comments may also be submitted to: Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team, P.O. Box 907, Baker City, OR, 97814 or fax to 541-523-6392. Comments received during the official comment period, including names and addresses of those who comment, will become part of the project record and are available for public review. If you need assistance, there is a “How to Comment” on the web site at this location: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMtnsHowToComment> or feel free to call 541-523-1246 or 541-523-1302.

Printed copies of the DEIS and Proposed Revised Forest Plan are available upon request by emailing: bluemtnplanrevision@fs.fed.us, or by calling 541-523-1302 or 541-523-1246. They can also be downloaded from the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMountainsForestPlanRevisionDocuments>.

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