

# Forest Feature Malheur National Forest

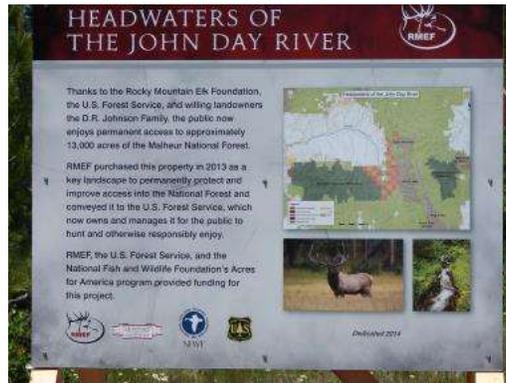
## *Headwaters of the John Day River No Longer a Checkerboard*

**John Day, OR** – On Thursday, July 10, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Malheur National Forest celebrated one of the largest land acquisitions in the history of the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service.

This acquisition of 13,085 acres will consolidate protection of the Headwaters of the John Day River. Along with hunters and other recreationists, several species of wildlife and fish will benefit from this crucial linkage with existing public lands and established wildlife corridors.

Acquiring these lands is the culmination of a lot of hard work by many people. The Malheur National Forest is especially grateful for the work of RMEF and Bill Richardson, as well as to the D.R. Johnson Family. Thank you as well to all the Forest Service employees who worked so diligently on this project.

Now that lands are in Forest Service ownership, it is time for the Malheur National Forest to engage with the community and forest partners about how these new lands should be managed. There is great interest in providing local citizens and other forest users a variety of recreational opportunities in these headwaters.



**Valerie Johnson of the D.R. Johnson Family and Bill Richardson of RMEF**



**Left to right: Steve Beverlin, Deputy Forest Supervisor; Bill Richardson, RMEF; Teresa Raaf, Forest Supervisor**

Partnerships, such as this one, continue to be a key factor in accomplishing the Forest Service mission of caring for the land and serving people. Partners are integral to accomplishing critical resource management and help the Malheur National Forest leverage many thousands of dollars to get work done.



for the greatest good