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# News Release

**BLUE MOUNTAINS**  
**FOREST PLAN REVISION - 2015**  
Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman  
National Forests

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## **Public meetings next week discuss Pace & Scale of Restoration, Grazing, and draft Blue Mountains Forest Plans**

August 13, 2015

**John Day, Burns, and Long Creek, Ore.** – The National Forest Service and High Desert Partnership are scheduled to host three public meetings to discuss the draft Blue Mountains Forest Plan next week.

“We are here to listen to our neighbors,” said Steve Beverlin, Malheur National Forest Supervisor. “These meetings give each participant a voice on how our restoration activities are addressed in the draft Forest Plan.”

The first public workshop is in John Day on Monday, Aug. 17 at 6 p.m. at the Grant County Regional Airport. It will focus on the Pace and Scale of Restoration and how it is addressed in the draft Forest Plans. The second public workshop, focused on the same topic, is in Burns on Tuesday, Aug. 18 at 6 p.m. at the Burns Community Center. The third workshop is in Long Creek on Wednesday, Aug. 19 at 6 p.m. at the Long Creek Community Hall and is a combined discussion on Grazing as well as Pace and Scale of Restoration. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for all of the meetings.

These events are open to the public, and a facilitator will ensure that all in attendance will have opportunities to share their ideas and proposed solutions. “Everyone’s input will help us develop the final Malheur Forest Plan,” added Beverlin.

The U.S. Forest Service is re-engaging on the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision in response to public input. In 2014, the Forest Service released a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) related to the Blue Mountains Forest Plans. “Based on feedback, the three Blues Forests worked with stakeholders to identify topics that deserve additional discussion; these topics include pace and scale of restoration, grazing, and access,” said Beverlin.

A Forest Plan describes the ecological, social, and economic goals of each National Forest as well as desired conditions, objectives, standards, and guidelines. The National Forest Management Act of 1976 requires the Forest Service to prepare a Forest Plan and revise it every 15 years to address changing needs and conditions. The current Forest Plans are from 1990, and the landscape has changed significantly over the past 25 years; social and economic conditions have also changed across the Blue Mountains region.

## NEWS RELEASE

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The Forest Service is working with High Desert Partnership (HDP) to host and facilitate public meetings regarding the Blue Mountains Forest Plan. Jack Southworth, a cattle rancher from Seneca, is scheduled to facilitate the workshops.

HDP is an organization that operates out of Burns with a mission to enhance the ecological sustainability, economic well-being, and social vitality of our community by using a collaborative decision-making process with all interested stakeholders to solve challenging issues.

For more information, please contact Peter Fargo (541) 523-1231, Public Affairs Officer for the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team; Karen Roganov, Public Affairs Officer for the Malheur National Forest at (541) 575-3144; or Joani Bosworth, Public Affairs Officer for the Umatilla National Forest at (541) 278-3722. Additional information and a meeting summary will also be posted on the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision webpage at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMountainsPlanRevision>.

Date and time	Workshop Topics	Location
<b>Mon. Aug 17, 6-9 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 PM)</b>	Pace/Scale of Restoration – hosted by High Desert Partnership and the Malheur National Forest (NF)	John Day, Oregon - Grant County Regional Airport
<b>Tues. Aug 18, 6-9 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 PM)</b>	Pace/Scale of Restoration – hosted by High Desert Partnership and the Malheur NF	Burns, Oregon - Burns Community Center
<b>Wed. Aug 19, 6-9 p.m. (doors open at 5:30 PM)</b>	Grazing, and Pace/Scale of Restoration – hosted by High Desert Partnership, Malheur NF, and Umatilla NF	Long Creek, Oregon - Long Creek Community Hall

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