

# NEWS RELEASE

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION



## Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

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March 1, 2013

### Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Travel Management Plan Newsletter Released

**Baker City, OR** - A Travel Management Plan (TMP) Newsletter will be arriving in over 1700 mailboxes and over 2,000 email inboxes throughout our local communities and across the nation this weekend. Interest in the Wallowa-Whitman TMP peaked last spring when the Wallowa-Whitman Forest released the travel plan in March, and subsequently withdrew the plan in April.

In this Newsletter, Wallowa-Whitman Forest Supervisor John Laurence's two key messages are that there is no agenda or imposed timeline for a TMP decision, and we will work hard to establish effective ways to engage the public in discussions so that the public's input is considered in the development and implementation of the plan. In addition, the Newsletter includes information about the analysis of public comments that were received in 2012, new maps that are being developed that display existing condition, and additional information about the Travel Management Rule. A complete copy of the Newsletter and instructions on how ensure you are on the TMP mailing list are available on the Wallowa-Whitman website at [www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman](http://www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman).

"It is clear to me that access to the forest is important, regardless of how you use public lands. It's important to me, as well, as I seek to fulfill the mission of the Forest Service. Balancing the needs for access in a way that protects the resources and health of the forest, and lives within our budget constraints is a critical and challenging task. We can only be successful and effective if we work together", said John Laurence, Forest Supervisor. "One thing I want people to know is that the decision will be made carefully, openly, and with the health of the forest and surrounding communities in mind."

"By considering and sharing all the information we have gathered throughout this process, we hope to help create an atmosphere of transparency and work together as we continue the discussions that will lead to a successful plan for the people who use the Forest," said Public Affairs Officer, Jodi Kramer.

For more information or questions, please feel free to contact Jodi Kramer at 541-523-1246 or Matt Burks at 541-523-1364. ###

*The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to State and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. The USDA is an equal opportunity employer.*