



Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



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# REVISION REPORT

Official Newsletter of the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision  
*Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests*

## Blue Mountains National Forests kick off the first phase of the Forest Plan Revision Process

The Forest Plan Revision process has started! Revising a Forest Plan involves many steps, with the first being to prepare an assessment. The assessment is a rapid evaluation of existing conditions on the ground and trends. The evaluation will result in a document (referred to as the assessment) that will be the foundation for our work on developing the revised Forest Plans. A draft of the assessment will be shared for public input prior to moving forward with plan development. Once complete, the assessment is used to help identify the need to change the existing plan, and to inform the development of plan components and other plan content. We have a variety of opportunities available for you to learn about the process and provide input on the existing conditions and need to change the existing forest plans. We also will be starting some parallel processes including Wilderness inventories, Wild and Scenic River inventories, and developed a proposed list of species of conservation concern. The latest information is on our Forest Plan Revision website so check it out to stay updated! We look forward to you joining us on this journey!

**"We are looking forward to the next several months that include carefully planned informational open houses, workshops, and engagement opportunities. Your feedback through these sessions will be crucial to informing the draft assessment, which is the first step toward developing revised Forest Plans that work for our communities"**

~ Shaun McKinney, Ann Niesen, and Eric Watrud  
*Blue Mountains National Forests Supervisors*

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## Upcoming Engagement Opportunities

The Blue Mountains National Forests will be offering the following open houses, which will be unstructured information sessions designed to offer an opportunity for the public to learn about the revision process and assessment phase through conversations and informational materials, provide one-on-one discussion between participants and Forest Service staff, and venues for the public to submit comments. The open houses will occur from 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. at each of the venues. Hope to see you there!

### Open house schedule:

Date	Location
October 10, 2023	Virtual (Zoom) - <a href="https://usfs.zoomgov.com/j/1611024130">https://usfs.zoomgov.com/j/1611024130</a>
October 17, 2023	Columbia County Fairgrounds (Youth Building), Dayton, WA
October 23, 2023	Cloverleaf Hall, Enterprise, OR
October 24, 2023	Emigrant Creek Ranger District, Hines, OR

## Forest Plan Revision Updates

Over the last few months the Forest Plan Revision Team has been:

**Cross walking** the content from the 2018 withdrawn Forest Plans (which were under the 1982 Planning Rule) to the requirements of the 2012 Planning Rule. This process will help the Forest Service identify previous analysis that may be utilized in the plan revision process, areas where new or updated analysis may be needed, and to inform an initial planning timeline. The Forest Service is also reviewing the recommendations provided by the BIC to inform initial content that will be shared with the public for input once the planning process has started.

**Beginning a list of Potential Species of Conservation Concern (SCC).** A SCC is a plant or animal that the agency identifies based on concerns about that species' ability to remain on the landscape over the long term. Each Forest Plan has its own SCC list, which is approved by the Regional Forester. The 2012 Planning Rule requires the Forest Service to identify potential SCCs at the start of the planning process, as part of the assessment of current conditions. Once the list of Potential SCCs is developed the public will have opportunities to engage and provide input.

### Developing the initial inventories for Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Wilderness Inventory: Under the 2012 Planning Rule, the Forest Service is required to: "identify and evaluate lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) and determine whether to recommend any such lands for wilderness designation." This process includes four primary steps: inventory, evaluation, analysis, and recommendation. While the Forest Service is required to include analyzed lands for potential recommendation as Wilderness, only Congress can designate Wilderness areas.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Inventory: Under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the 2012 Planning Rule, the Forest Service is required to identify the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) during Forest Plan Revision. The NWSRS preserves certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Forest Service follows a three-step process that evaluates eligibility, identifies a preliminary classification, and determines suitability of various rivers and streams for inclusion in the NWSRS.

"Public input will be integral to the success of the Forest Plan revision and ensuring that, in the end, we have Forest Plans that provide for sustainable management well into the future."

DARCY WESEMAN