

# How to Provide Public Feedback

Draft Preliminary Need to Change | October 2024

## Draft Preliminary Need to Change

The Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision effort is currently in the Assessment Phase and **seeking feedback regarding the draft Preliminary Need to Change. The feedback period will be open from October 8 - November 7, 2024.** Feedback received will be used to refine the Need to Change, which establishes the framework for the development of plan content.

The Need to Change, and the Preliminary Draft Land Management Plan (proposed action), will be released with the Notice of Intent to revise the land management plans and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement in early 2025.

The Final Assessment, a rapid evaluation of ecological, economic, and social conditions and trends within the plan area provides a foundation of information that helps to identify the need to change specific management direction in the 1990 forest plans.

The revision team reviewed information in the Final Assessment,

public feedback received during designated input periods and meetings, and the 2018 revision efforts, when preparing the draft Preliminary Need to Change.

Now, the Forest Service invites the public to provide their perspective and knowledge to inform the draft Preliminary Need to Change.

## What does public feedback look like?

The current feedback period invites you to share your perspective and knowledge to help the responsible officials make an informed decision.

Public input will help the Forest Service refine the framework for the development of the land management plan.

Public input can be provided by recommending feedback or edits to the draft Preliminary Need to Change statements or identifying other needed changes to the current 1990 Forest Plans.

The Forest Service welcomes any input the public would like to submit regarding the draft Preliminary Need to Change document.



## How do I provide feedback?

The best way to submit your feedback is through our online database, Comment Analysis and Response Application (CARA). CARA allows the revision team to collect, organize, and consider public feedback efficiently. **Please submit feedback for any of the draft documents by November 7, 2024.**

Public feedback can be submitted through the following:

- To directly enter your input into CARA, please use this link: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=64157>, or by following this QR code:



- You can write feedback into the field provided in CARA or attach a document. If you attach a document, please convert it to a PDF format, if possible.

If CARA does not work for you, please mail your feedback to the Forest Service at:

**Umatilla National Forest Supervisor's Office**  
**Attn: Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision**  
**72510 Coyote Road**  
**Pendleton, OR 97801**

## How does the Forest Service use my feedback?

The content of each letter, message, or file is coded by theme and topic. This allows the Revision team to efficiently review submitted input. The Revision team will work to reflect public input throughout the final Need to Change document.

## Feedback and Formal Comment Periods

The Assessment Phase provides informal feedback periods only. Formal comment periods will be offered in the future as required at key milestones in the process and will be announced in advance. Formal comments submitted during these future periods give parties standing to participate in the objection process.

## Contact Information

Have questions about the Forest Plan Revision? Want to connect with the team?

Email: **sm.fs.bluesforests@usda.gov**

Phone Number: **(541) 278-3716**

Check out our website at <https://tinyurl.com/35wtfbpj> or by following the QR code:

