



Need To Change the 1990 Land Management Plans

Land Management Plan revisions are based on the need to change the existing land management plan. The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires a plan revision when the plan is due or when conditions in a unit have significantly changed.

A well supported and effective rationale determining a need to change must be based on good sources of information. Assessments, along with the planning record; evaluations of monitoring reports; new information; changes in law, regulation, or policy; or changed conditions or circumstances from any source that support a need for revision are important sources of information for a plan revision. The need to change the plan will help define the purpose and need, proposed action, and decision framework for the environmental analysis related to the planning process.

In the 34 years since the 1990 Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa - Whitman Forest Plans were approved, plans have collectively been amended many times at the local and regional level. Forest resource conditions have changed due to management activities, epidemic insect events, large wildfires, and changing public uses and use levels.

The 1990 Plans need to change because existing plan components (desired conditions, objectives, guidelines, standards, management areas etc.) have become outdated and do not reflect today's best science.

On October 4th, 2024, the Forest Service released the Final Assessment and draft Preliminary Need to Change documents. 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.

Topics addressed in the draft Preliminary Need to Change document are:

1. 1990 Forest Plan Direction is Inconsistent with the 2012 Planning Rule
2. Plan Amendments Point to the Need for Revision
3. Work together to create durable, implementable, integrated land management plans
4. Address Contributions to Social and Economic Sustainability
5. Address a Changing Climate
6. Maintain or Restore Aquatic Habitats and Ecosystem Integrity
7. Maintain or Restore Ecosystem Integrity and Reduce Wildfire Risks to Habitats and Communities.

An informal feedback period was held from October 8 - November 7, 2024, on the draft Preliminary Need to Change. Feedback received will be used to refine the Need to Change, which establishes the framework for the development of plan content.