



How to Comment

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

The Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision team welcomes engagement throughout the revision process. This comment period is your opportunity in the process to offer input, to comment on the analysis, and to suggest alternative ways for the Forest Service to accomplish what is proposed.

Following the scoping period, the Forest Service used comments and feedback provided to develop a range of alternatives to the preliminary draft plan. Environmental effects of the alternatives and proposed draft land management plan have been analyzed in a detailed document called a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS).

In mid-2026, the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision team anticipates releasing a Notice of Availability (NOA), that will initiate a 90-day formal comment period for the draft environmental impact statement.

Substantive comments submitted during formal comment periods give parties standing to participate in the pre-decisional administrative review process (36 CFR 219, Subpart B) – also known as the objection process – before a Record of Decision is signed. Anonymous comments and comments submitted after the close of the designated comment period will not provide the commenter standing to object.

“Comments are considered substantive formal comments when they are within the scope of the proposal, are specific to the proposal, have a direct relationship to the proposal, and include supporting reasons for the Responsible Official to consider” (36 CFR 219.62)

The Forest Service will make all submissions publicly available on the website via a public reading room. This will allow the public to read or download any letters submitted, which includes the commenter’s name and affiliation. The agency may withhold letters containing proprietary information, sensitive cultural or habitat locations, profanity, etc. All letters, including those not posted, will be considered and included as part of the record.

How will my comments be used?

The Forest Service will use comments to consider recommendations for revising the draft environmental impact statement. Once the DEIS 90-day formal comment period has concluded, the Forest Service will issue a final environmental impact statement and each forest supervisor would produce a draft record of decision (ROD) and a specific land management plan for their respective forest. People who have standing in the revision process will have 60 days to object to the Forest Service’s proposed decision.



How to make a comment: The comment process invites you to share your perspective and knowledge to help the responsible official make an informed decision. The comment process does not constitute a vote. Comments are most helpful when they provide the “why”.

- **Read the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision**

- The Blue Mountains National Forests anticipate releasing a NOA, that will initiate the formal comment period, in mid-2026. Once a NOA has been released, the formal comment period documents will be available on the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision website.
- Read through the documents to fully understand its scope.

- **Understand the Timeline**

- Check the comment period deadline.
- Make sure to submit your comment before the deadline closes.

- **Prepare Your Comment**

- Introduce yourself and explain your interest in the Blue Mountains Land Management Plans (e.g., local resident, environmental advocate, industry spokesperson, avid outdoorsperson, etc.).
- Identify specific areas of concern or support (e.g., community effects, environmental impact, wildlife, etc.).
- Stay within the scope of the analysis —make sure your comment addresses the specific action under review and its potential impacts. Comments that focus on issues outside the projects scope (such as unrelated policies or actions) are not part of this process.
- Be specific and clear and indicate what page numbers of the document you are referring to.
- Provide evidence or reasoning for your concerns or support—cite data, studies, or personal observations to strengthen your comment.

- **Submit Your Comment**

- Online: The best way to submit your comment is through our online database, Comment Analysis and Response Application (CARA). CARA allows the revision team to collect, organize, and consider comments efficiently. When comment periods are open, a link to CARA will be posted on the revision website.
- Mail: Send a written letter to:
Umatilla National Forest Supervisor's Office
Attn: Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision
72510 Coyote Road
Pendleton, OR 97801

- **Stay Engaged**

- Follow the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision progress and engage further (if desired) during public meetings or subsequent phases.

Comment Considerations

The objection process (formally known as the “pre-decisional administrative review process”) allows the public to object to a draft decision of a land management plan revision. This process will occur prior to approval and implementation of a decision.

Individuals and entities must have submitted substantive formal comments related to the plan during opportunities for comment in order to object. Objections must be based on concerns raised in earlier comments. The burden is on the objector to demonstrate compliance with requirements for objections (36 CFR 219.53).



Draft Environmental Impact Statement

In reviewing the draft environmental impact statement, provide feedback focused on the proposed action, alternatives and the potential environmental effects as analyzed. Identify specific sections or page numbers, determine whether the analysis is accurate or complete, provide missing information, or suggest other reasonable alternatives or practices to minimize adverse impacts.

The Forest Service will use comments submitted to consider recommendations for revising the draft environmental impact statement.

Comment Period Roadmap

Scoping Period	Draft EIS and Draft Plan	Final EIS Draft Record of Decisions Objection Period	Objection Review Process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 days Refine proposed action Inform development of alternatives in DEIS Provides eligibility to object 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90 days Seek public comment on DEIS, proposed action and alternatives Review and evaluate substantive comments to refine alternatives and analysis Summary of responses Provides eligibility to object <p>★ June 2026</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60 days Individuals and entities who have submitted substantive formal comments related to plan revision during the opportunities for public comment during the planning process for that decision may file an objection <p>*three Forest plans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and response to objections Pre-decisional administrative review process (36 CFR 219.50-219.58)



The Blue Mountains Land Management Plan Revision Team appreciates your continued engagement and participation in this process. The team looks forward to reviewing your comments and hearing your perspective. Public comment periods are an integral part of the forest planning process and will be used to inform the development and revision of planning documents.

Contact Information

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

Email: sm.fs.bluesforests@usda.gov

Phone Number: (541) 278-3716

Check out our website by scanning the QR code or visiting:



<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r06/umatilla/planning/public-engagement-and-participation>