



**NEWS  
RELEASE**



United States  
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Forest Service  
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**FOREST SERVICE VISITS WITH CITIZENS ABOUT CREATING A NEW FOREST PLAN**

**Salmon, Idaho** – Members of the Salmon and Mackay communities turned out last week to learn more about the Forest Service’s forest plan revision process.

Nearly 100 members of the public filled venues in Salmon and Mackay to discuss subjects like plants, animals, wilderness, recreation, social and economic factors, timber harvest and range management. Some of the dialogue at the meetings focused on the Forest Service’s charge to balance local interests with national interests. “On one hand the forest belongs to all Americans, and on the other hand there is a significant local connection to the land,” Salmon-Challis National Forest Supervisor Chuck Mark acknowledged.



Sarah Baker, Associate Professor and Livestock Extension Educator with the University of Idaho Extension Office in Custer County, attended the meeting in Mackay. “The format of the meetings is great for encouraging dialogue and communication among agencies and the public,” Baker noted.

Mark explained how the process of writing a forest plan has changed since the last plans were completed in 1987 and 1988. “We used to lock ourselves in a room and come out and hand the plan to the public and say “Here it is.” Mark explained that the rules governing the plan revision process have changed for the better, and for the new plan, “The public will be involved at every step.”

Mindy Crowell of Salmon Valley Stewardship said, “The turnout at the Salmon and Mackay meeting truly mirrors what we have been hearing at planning meetings we’ve hosted over the last year. Folks are hopeful about this process. Lemhi and Custer County residents are ready to have their voices heard and ready to create a positive dialogue around public lands management.”

The plan revision team also visited Challis today, Tuesday, Feb. 21. For those who weren’t able to attend any of the initial meetings, a webinar is being offered on Thursday, Feb. 23 from 3-5 p.m. The log-in information is available on the Salmon-Challis National Forest website or by calling Gina Knudson at 756-5551.

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