



**NEWS
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Forest Service
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SALMON-CHALLIS HOSTS FOREST PLAN REVISION MEETING IN ARCO

SALMON, IDAHO – The Salmon-Challis National Forest is taking the first steps toward revising forest plans that are 30 years old and is seeking input from forest users for the first phase of the revision process – the forest assessment.

“We know we can’t do this plan revision in a vacuum and collaboration with the public will be critical to its success,” according to Forest Plan Revision team leader Josh Milligan.

A public meeting has been scheduled for April 10th at the Arco Butte Business Incubation Center from 6:30-8:30 p.m. to introduce the Forest’s strategy for plan revision and to solicit input for the assessment.

“This isn’t the start of a typical public comment period,” Milligan explained. “We’ll be explaining what topics we’re assessing, sharing some of the questions we’re trying to answer in those assessments, and listing what data sources we have to inform the assessment. We want to know if people think we’re on track and if we’re using the best available information. What we reveal in the final assessment will inform what needs to change on the Salmon-Challis National Forest, so this is a really critical first step.”

Much has changed since the Challis National Forest Plan (1987) and the Salmon National Forest Plan (1988) were written, including the merging of the two Central Idaho forests. The size and intensity of wildfires has changed dramatically during those decades. Today’s technology requires new cell phone towers and makes information about special places available instantly. Market conditions and other factors have greatly impacted timber and mining sectors. Science has evolved, and in many ways, so has society.

“Given the ecological and social changes over the last 30 years, it is timely that the Salmon-Challis National Forest is beginning Forest Plan revision in 2017. Our ultimate goal is to produce a Forest Plan that provides useful and relatable direction that improves management of the Forest and allows us to adapt to changing conditions in the future,” Milligan said.

For more information about the meeting, email scnf_plan_rev@fs.fed.us or call collaboration specialist Gina Knudson at 208-756-5551.

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