



Soda Lake

Dear Friends:

This newsletter is the first in a series to help keep you informed about our planning process. We invite your ideas and suggestions for developing a revised Resource Management Plan, which will guide the management of natural resources, activities, and uses on the Bureau of Land Management public lands in the Baker Resource Area. This plan will focus on the requirements of the resources while taking into consideration your needs as a user.

What is the Resource Management Plan (RMP)?

The RMP is designed to guide and control future management actions involving public lands. The Vale District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has recently begun the process of preparing a revised RMP for BLM-managed lands within the Baker Resource Area. The previous RMP, finalized in 1989, is in need of revision to establish further management guidance and to update objectives and policies. The revised plan will provide a comprehensive framework for managing and allocating public lands and resources in the Baker Resource Area for the next 15 to 20 years. It will also serve as the framework from which future, more site-specific analyses and decisions are made, regarding which uses and activities are allowable, conditional, or prohibited.

More specifically, the Baker RMP revision will establish

- Resource condition goals and objectives
- Allowable resource uses and levels of production
- Areas for limited, restricted, or exclusive resource uses
- Areas for retention or transfer from BLM administration
- Program constraints and general management practices
- Specific management plan requirements
- General resource monitoring standards

The following principles will govern the Plan revision process for the Baker Resource Area.

- The BLM will work with local communities and others interested in the revision process, using collaboration and other forms of public participation.
- The revised Plan will focus on achieving the desired future condition for the various resources.
- The starting point for the revision is the 1989 Baker RMP. Any need for change will be identified using a variety of sources, including but not limited to resource area monitoring, latest science, and existing assessments.
- Every effort will be made to take advantage of existing work. This includes, but is not limited to protocols developed by the state and national offices, as well as by the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP). Where appropriate, we will



Grande Ronde Area

incorporate work efforts from both the Forest Service Forest Plan Revision process and from existing RMPs.

Our Project Area

The Revised Baker Resource Management Plan will document the decisions reached by the BLM for management of the resources on approximately 428,563 acres of public lands and 936,000 acres of subsurface mineral estate, administered by the Baker Resource Area Field Office of the BLM.

The Baker Resource Area office is located in Baker City, Oregon. The planning area borders are the Snake River to the east, the Umatilla National Forest, Oregon-Washington state line, and the Columbia River to the north, and Gilliam, Wheeler, Grant, and Malheur Counties to the west

and south (refer to map).

There are large portions of federal lands within the planning area not managed by the BLM that include the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, a portion of the Umatilla National Forest, the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, the Boardman Bombing Range, and the Umatilla Army Depot. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Bureau of Reclamation lands are also within the planning area.

Most of the BLM-administered public land in the planning area is located in Baker County (approximately 364,290 acres) where the largest connected tracts occur. An additional 64,273 acres of public land in Malheur, Morrow, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa in Oregon, and a portion of Asotin and Garfield Counties in southeast Washington State are also within the planning area. The general land pattern throughout the planning area is characterized by small to moderate-sized parcels of public land. These parcels of BLM-administered lands are intermingled with private land, state land, and land administered by other federal agencies and governments identified above.

Public Land Acreage, Baker Resource Area (surface acres)

County Name	Total County Acres ⁺	BLM Baker Planning Area Acres in County ⁺	Percent of County ⁺
Baker	1,974,944	364,290	18
Malheur*	6,345,587	10,219	<1
Wallowa	2,015,575	20,684	<1
Morrow	1,317,900	597	<1
Umatilla	2,065,280	12,228	<1
Union	1,200,480	6,329	<1
Asotin**	409,679	14,215	3
Garfield***	459,284	0	0
Total	15,788,729	428,563	

* Baker Resource Area-managed portion only. The Malheur Resource Area of the Vale District manages the balance of BLM public land in Malheur County.
 Within Baker Resource Area-managed portion only. * Within Baker Resource Planning Area- no acres managed by the Baker Resource Area. The Spokane BLM District manages the balance of public land in Asotin and Garfield Counties.
⁺Acreage and numbers are approximate.



Joseph Canyon

Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS)

Our past experiences, new regulations, monitoring results, and new science findings indicate a need to revise how the current RMP addresses resource conditions. The Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS) is the first step in the RMP process. The purpose of the AMS is

- To summarize the existing conditions of the planning area
- To explain the need for change by identifying preliminary issues
- To identify management opportunities

At this time, we intend to publish our AMS in the fall of 2008 and are currently busy working on establishing baseline information for the AMS. It is our intention to work closely with other governmental agencies and members of the public who are interested in helping us gather this baseline information, and in identifying where conditions have changed and where they need new management direction. If you have concerns or issues you would like addressed in the revised Resource Management Plan, now is the time to let us know.

Our Public Lands, Our Future

Your ideas and suggestions can help shape how the Baker Resource Area is managed in the future. Engaging in the revision process is an excellent opportunity for you to help make a difference and we encourage everyone who is interested in public lands to work with us to develop the RMP revision. We hope to work together, sharing information and communicating openly during the process, while taking into consideration the legal requirements that the BLM must follow.

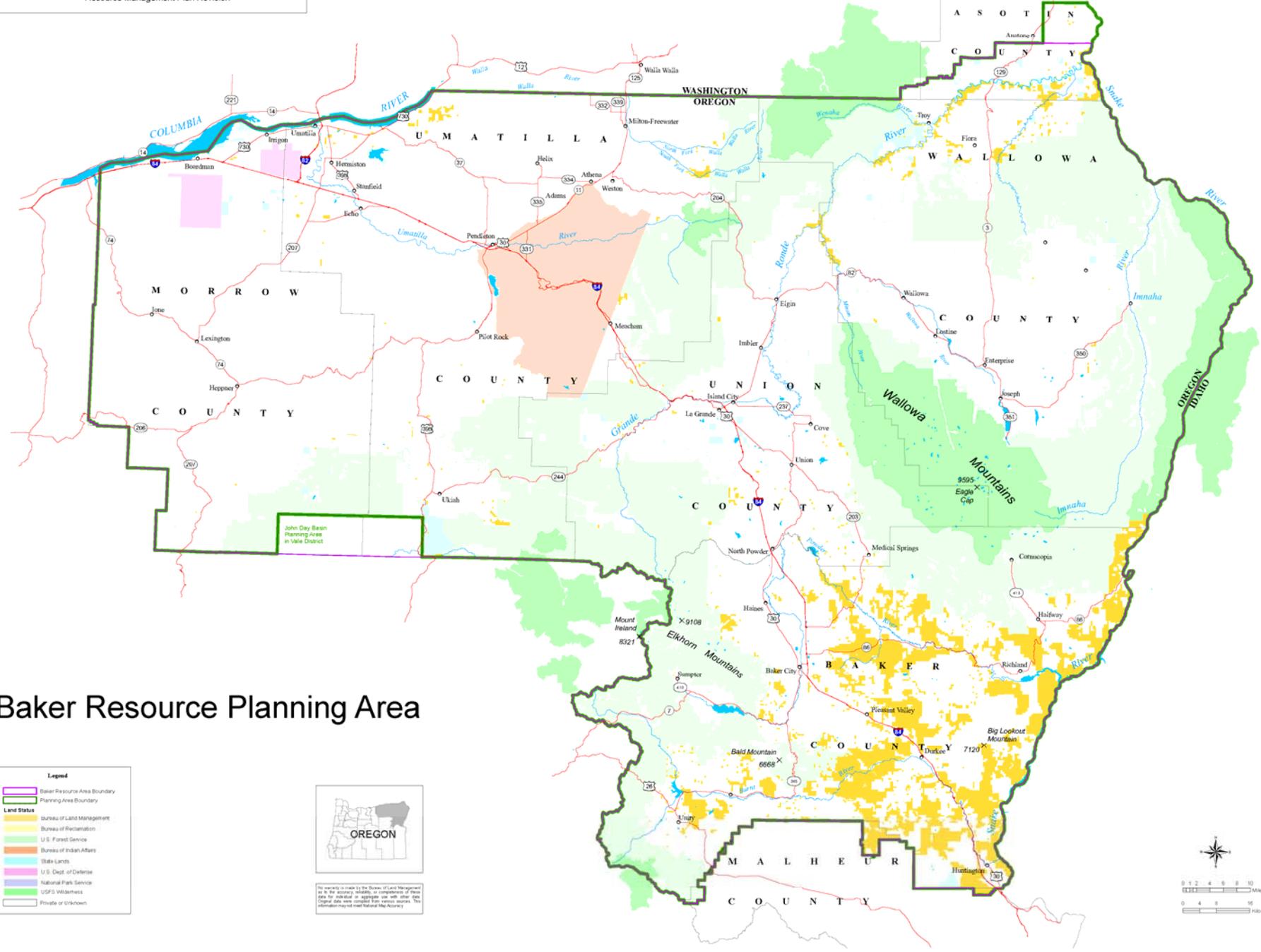
You can be involved and stay informed about the Baker Resource Management Plan Revision process by

- ❖ Attending public meetings (see page 5 or check your local newspaper)
- ❖ Reading the planning newsletters and local newspaper articles
- ❖ Contacting Allison Kuehl, our team leader, for more information about the planning process at mailto:Allison_Kuehl@blm.gov 541-523-1931/ P.O. Box 947, Baker City, OR 97814
- ❖ Visiting our Baker RMP website: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale/plans/bakerrmp.php>

Public involvement is an essential part of the RMP revision. We welcome your ideas, comments, and concerns. If you would like more information, please write us, call us, or email us at the address/phone number/website provided above. We hope you will choose to be on our contact list by filling out and mailing the enclosed form.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST.

Nancy Lull
Baker Field Office Manager



Baker Resource Planning Area

Legend

	Baker Resource Area Boundary
	Planning Area Boundary
	Bureau of Land Management
	Bureau of Reclamation
	U.S. Forest Service
	Bureau of Indian Affairs
	State Lands
	U.S. Dept. of Defense
	National Park Service
	USFS Wilderness
	Private or Unknown



All warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy.

Public Open House Meetings Scheduled for Baker Resource Management Plan Revision

Ontario

June 25, 4-7 p.m.
Four Rivers Cultural Center
Collins Gallery Room
676 SW 5th Ave

Milton-Freewater

July 7 – 12-3 p.m.
Community Building
109 NE 5th

Pendleton

July 7, 4:30-7 p.m.
Convention Center
1601 Westgate

Hermiston

July 8, 4-7 p.m.
Hermiston Conference Center
415 S. Hwy 395

Enterprise

July 10, 4-7 p.m.
Community Connection
702 NW 1st Street

La Grande

July 14, 4-7 p.m.
Library - 2006 4th Street

Asotin

July 23 – 4-6 p.m.
Lions Club
118 2nd Street

Baker

July 24 – 4-7 p.m.
BLM/FS Office
3285 11th Street

Troy

July 29 – 4-6 p.m.
School
66247 Redmond Grade Lane

Join Our Mailing List!

We hope you will choose to participate in the Baker Resource Area Resource Management Plan Revision process. This is your opportunity to provide us with your comments regarding Need for Change Topics and Planning Issues. To reduce printing and mailing costs, **now** is the time to let us know that you would like to receive information about the revision process over the next 4 years. **We must receive this page by July 31, 2008 for you to be included on our mailing list.**

If you wish to receive information **by U.S. Mail**, please fill out the form below and mail it to:
RMP Revision Team Leader
Baker Resource Area
P.O. Box 947
Baker City, Oregon 97814

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Organization: _____

Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

Fax: _____

If you wish to reduce government printing and mailing costs and obtain information **ONLY by E-mail**, please subscribe to the electronic mailing list on our webpage at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale/plans/bakerrmp.php> or provide your e-mail address below.

_____ @ _____

For current information, newsletters, and documents related to the Baker RMP Revision, visit our website at <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/vale/plans/bakerrmp.php>

Did you receive more than one copy of this newsletter? Yes No

Can we remove duplicate entries from our mailing list? Yes No

If "Yes," what entries can be removed from our mailing list? (Please provide below)

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