

Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management

Office of Communications

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News and Information
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Public Open Houses Scheduled for BLM's John Day Basin Resource Management Plan

PRINEVILLE -- The Prineville District of the BLM is in process of preparing a new Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the BLM-managed lands in the John Day Basin. This new management plan will revise and consolidate three RMPs that provide current guidance within the John Day Basin: The Two Rivers RMP (1986), the John Day RMP (1985) and the Baker RMP (1989). These three RMPs are currently out of date and consolidating them into one RMP will help guide the management of natural resources, activities and uses on the public lands in the area for the next 15 years.

The planning area includes over 450,000 acres of BLM-managed land within the John Day Basin. Of these, 44,000 acres were acquired along the North Fork John Day River as authorized by the Oregon Land Exchange Act of 2000 and are not covered by a previous RMP. The newly acquired lands along the North Fork John Day and the new information from scientific research provides the impetus to complete a new, consolidated RMP for this area.

The BLM recently completed an "Analysis of the Management Situation" (AMS), the first step in the process. The AMS summarizes the existing conditions of the planning area, explains the need for change by identifying preliminary issues, and identifies management opportunities.

Specifically this planning work will include analyzing alternative scenarios addressing the key issues relating to access and travel management, vegetation health, and those newly acquired lands on the North Fork of the John Day River

During our initial scoping process, the public helped identify significant issues occurring within the planning area. In the next round of scheduled open houses (see below), we are asking the public to contribute ideas to help resolve the issues.

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Public Open House Schedule

Date	February 27, 2007	February 28, 2007	March 5, 2007	March 6, 2007
Time	7-9 pm	7-9 pm	6-8 pm	6-8 pm
Day	Tuesday	Wednesday	Monday	Tuesday
City/Town	Bend	Salem	Fossil	John Day
Location	Bend High School Commons 230 NE 6 th St	Salem BLM 1717 Fabry Rd S	Wheeler High School 600 B St	The Outpost Restaurant 201 W. Main St

For more information, visit the BLM website at:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/prineville/plans/johndaybasinrmp.htm>

The website currently hosts numerous reference documents. After the public open houses, the planning team will draft alternatives and analyze environmental, social and economic effects.

A Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is scheduled for publication in March of 2008. A 90-day comment period and additional public meetings will follow the release of the DEIS. A proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement, with a 30-day public protest period, is scheduled for March of 2009. A Final Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision are tentatively scheduled for September of 2009.

For additional information, contact the Prineville BLM at (541) 416-6700 or e-mail us at John_Day_Basin_RMP@blm.gov

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