

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Forest Supervisor: John Laurence
John Day Snake RAC – January 9, 2014



Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision

The Blue Mountains National Forests planning area covers three national forests: Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman, and a portion of the Ochoco, administered by the Malheur. A separate Record of Decision and Revised Forest Plan will be prepared for each Forest; however, the analysis of effects will be together in one environmental impact statement (EIS).

Highlights:

- The Draft EIS and Plan are scheduled for public release in March and April 2014.
- Meetings are occurring with congressional staffers, county commissioners, Tribes, Co-conveners, RACs, and other agencies in January and February.
- A series of 12 public meetings/open houses will take place in March and April.
- A Newsletter will be distributed to the mailing list in January/February.
- Everyone will have an opportunity to provide comments during the 90-day comment period, which is anticipated to begin in March.



The Forests are committed to continuing to work with all of these groups and the public, as everyone reviews the DEIS and submits comments during the 90-day comment period, and in development of the FEIS and Final Forest Plans.

For more information contact: Sabrina Stadler, Team Lead, 541-523-1264.

Or Visit: www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/blue_mtn_planrevision/.

Eastside Restoration Strategy

The Eastside Strategy is a landscape approach to increase restoration work and treat more acres which will lead to increased jobs, timber supply to local infrastructure and increased ecosystem restoration in the Blue Mountains. National Forests involved in the strategy include: Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman, Malheur, and Ochoco.

Highlights:

- The accelerated restoration effort will utilize focused planning and implementation teams to plan and accomplish work at a larger scale, working with the four National Forests and collaborative groups. Bill Aney serves as project coordinator and Ayn Shlisky as team lead.
- A steering committee was formed to assist in identifying specific actions to increase our capacity/increase innovation. The committee is comprised of forest supervisors for the Umatilla and Ochoco National Forests, the Regional Forester's Chief of Staff, and two Region 6 program directors (Natural Resources, Fire and Aviation Management). The Eastside Restoration Board of Directors agreed to an initial set of three projects to commit the Blue Mountains IDT.



The team has begun work on the following three projects:



for the greatest good

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1. **Lower Joseph Canyon** – Building on the work of the Wallowa County Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC), this project will work with the NRAC to complete the NEPA for a comprehensive suite of restoration projects in the 98,000 acre Lower Joseph project area on the north end of the Wallowa-Whitman NF. A public meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2014 at the Cloverleaf Hall in Enterprise, OR. Decision planned for December 2014.
2. **Dry Forest Restoration** – this project is a very large scale project focusing on restoring fire-adapted forests wherever they occur across the four National Forests. This project builds on the working agreements being developed (or already in place) for several of the collaboratives, and due to the scale of the project, we have built in time for data collection and analysis. A decision is planned for Dec. 2016.
3. **Strategic Fuel Treatments** – this project implements a system of shaded fuel breaks along strategically located roads that could be used to contain wildfires and manage large-scale prescribed fires across all four National Forests. Fuel break width, intensity and type of treatment would vary depending on fuel type, slope, aspect, etc., and once in place the fuel breaks could result is safer, less expensive, and potentially larger, restoring fires. We estimate this project, fully implemented, would treat 150-250,000 acres in the Blue Mountains. Decision planned in December 2015.

For more information contact: Bill Aney, Coordinator, 541-278-3727.

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r6/landmanagement/resourcemanagement/?cid=stelprdb5423597>

Wallowa Mountain Loop Road (FSR 39) Reconstruction

The Wallowa Mountain Loop Road, also known as Forest Service Road 39, which is also part of the Hells Canyon Scenic Byway will be receiving some much needed reconstruction for the 13 mile North Pine section of FSR 39. Tidewater Contractors from Brookings, OR was awarded the contract and funding is through the Federal Highway Administration. The Hells Canyon Scenic Byway and FSR 39 are extremely important to the businesses of Wallowa, Baker, and Union Counties.



Highlights:

- Work began on October 31, 2013.
- Reconstruction begins at the junction of Highway 86 (10 miles east of Halfway) and heads north for 13 miles to the junction of FSR 66 (Duck Creek/Fish Lake Road), known as the North Pine section of FSR 39.
- 2013/2014 construction schedule for the 13 mile North Pine section of FSR 39 is:
 - **Winter 2013/2014:** Open for snowmobile traffic until the snow depth diminishes and contractors are able to return to the site, replace the gates, and resume work. At which point, the 13 mile North Pine section of FSR 39 will be closed until mid-June (see Detour route information below).
 - **June 16, 2014 to June 30, 2014:** The 13 mile north Pine section of FSR 39 will be closed 24 hours a day beginning 8:00 am Tuesday mornings through 5:00 pm Thursday evenings, at which



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point it will be open Fridays through Mondays for campers and other visitors (see Detour route information below).

- **July 1, 2014 to October 15, 2014:** Visitors can expect up to one hour delays on the 13 mile North Pine section of FSR 39.
- **FSR 66 will be the detour route** that is available during the closure periods and/or delays, depending on snow levels. Please contact Wallowa Mountains Office (541-426-5546) for information about the detour route.

For more information contact: Kris Stein, District Ranger, 541-426-5546.

Hells Canyon National Recreation Area - Powerboat Reservation System Goes to Recreation.gov

Beginning March 1, 2014, private powerboaters will be obtaining their reservation and permit through Recreation.gov. The new system National Recreation Reservation System (NRRS) website format replaces the past call-in system, which follows the national direction in the President's "Recreation One Stop Initiative". This will provide a more efficient, equitable, and consistent approach for local and regional visitors to obtain a permit.



Highlights:

- Reservation/Permit seasons, requirements, and availability remain the same.
- Reservation fee will be \$6.00 and is non-refundable.
- Reservation can be made through the Internet at www.Recreation.gov, which is available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week.
- Reservations can also be made by TOLL FREE telephone (1-877-444-6777) or TDD (1-877-TDD-6777).

For more information contact: HCNRA office in Clarkston, 509-758-0616.

Wallowa-Whitman Site-Specific Projects

The following are only a few of our site-specific projects that are in various stages of development. Please visit our website for more information about these projects and the rest of the projects on the WWNF (<http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/wallowa-whitman/landmanagement/projects>):

- Sandbox Vegetation Management Project: Contact – Cindy Christensen, 541-962-8501
- Puderbaugh Vegetation Management Project: Contact – Mark Moeller, 541-426-5518
- Lower Imnaha Allotments Rangeland Analysis: Contact – Jamie McCormack, 541-426-5547
- Little Dean Fuels Vegetation Management Project: Contact – Melissa Shelley, 541-523-1350
- Lick Creek Aquatic Restoration Project: Contact – Alan Miller, 541-820-3860
- Cold Canal Vegetation Management Project: Contact – Adrien Holcomb, 541-426-5681
- Granite Creek Watershed Mining Plans: Contact – Sophia Millar, 541-426-5540
- East Face Vegetation Management Project: Contact – Kathleen Naughton, 541-962-8563
- Corral Creek Road Relocation and Restoration: Contact – Joe Platz, 541-962-8571
- Wallowa-Whitman Invasive Plants SEIS: Contact – Jamie McCormack, 541-523-1390

