Ms. Frances Preston
[redacted]

Retail

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

97801

RDC 99

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FCM LG ENV
JOHN DAY, OR 97845
OCT 28, 2024

$2.04

R2305E124067-9

Umatilla National Forest Supervisor's Office
Attn: Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision
72510 Coyote Road
Pendleton, OR 97801

October 27, 2024

Umatilla National Forest
Responsible Official: Anna Niesen, FS, Malheur NF
Responsible Official: Eric Watrud, FS, Umatilla NF
Responsible Official: Shaun McKinney, FS, WW NF
Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision
72510 Coyote Road
Pendleton, OR 97801

Responsible Officials,

I am Frances M. Preston and I reside on the Malheur National Forest in Grant County, Oregon in the City of Prairie.

I offer my comments for the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Release Final Assessment and Draft Preliminary Need to Change. Due in your office by November 7, 2024.

News Release

The News Release first paragraph states. "These documents present existing conditions about the Blue Mountains National Forests. Input gathered from the feedback period, and the eight public meetings held in April 2024, reflected local knowledge about existing conditions, concerns, and perceptions regarding social, economic, and ecological systems, and was used to revise the draft Assessment and produce the Final Assessment Summary and Final Assessment Reports." How can this be? I find it alarming that when I review the Final September 2024; 103 pages against the Draft March 19, 2024; 101 pages. I find little and no significant change except for the noted change on Page 66 in the documents. How can this be? Did you not receive any input or little input from the public? Or perhaps you have chosen to not use the input you received. Which is it? Below are the changes I found in the Final Summary Assessment Report:

Summary Assessment Report Team 1 addition; Page 1 14 page number changes; Page 2 2 websites; Page 3 1 website and 1 cited reference; Page 7 1 removal 2 new sentences; Page 8 1 section added; Page 12 2 websites; Page 15 1 website; Page 18 3 websites; Page 21 removed 8 words; changed 2 paragraphs; Page 28 3 websites; Page 29 removed 1 sentence; Page 30 added a paragraph/changed Table format; Page 31 added/changed 1 paragraph; Page 34 added 5 words and removed 1; Page 35 3 websites and changed two words; Page 36 changed 2 paragraphs; Page 37 added 2 words and 1 website; Page 42 added 1 paragraph; Page 46 removed 7 words; Page 50 2 websites; Page 54 removed 7 words added 1 website; Page 55 Changed 1 paragraph; Page 56 Changed 1 paragraph; Page 58 1 website; Page 66 **Removed BIC reference to Sociol Economic Report**; Page 67 added 6 words; Page 68 removed mining in paragraph 5; Page 69 added 11 words and 1 website; Page73 1 website; Page 75 moved 3 things around; Page 76 added 1 paragraph; Page 78 1 website; Page 85 removed reference to Ochoco National Forest added a sentence; Page 86 Removed /added 1 sentence; Page 88 added 4 words; Page 90 1 website; Page 94 added/removed 1 bullet point; Page 95 added 4 words; Page 98 3 edits; Page 99 added 1 sentence and 1 website; Page 102 1 website.

In the second paragraph of the News Release you say "As the revision process begins to transition from the Assessment Phase to the Plan Development Phase….." explain how you are ready to transition when you have not identified in the Final Summary Assessment Report any of the roles

and contributions; to mention a few "Identify eligible wild and scenic rivers, identify wilderness inventory, and determine potential species of conservation concern?

Also, in the second paragraph of the News Release you say; "The Draft Preliminary Need to Change document will be open for public feedback from October 8th until November 7th, 2024". Why does the public get less than 30 days right in the middle of the 2024 Primary Election not acceptable and not a great start for engagement with the Public we wish that you could respect us and treat us like "We the People" that own these lands and who work hard every day to make sure you get paid?

Draft Preliminary Need to Change Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests Known together as the Blue Mountains National Forests.

Comments:

2012 Planning Rule - page 3 first paragraph "that guides ecosystem management with concepts of sustainability, including its social, economic, and ecological components, and ecosystem integrity."

Federal Register Vol. 77, No. 68, Monday, April 9, 2012, Rules and Regulations

Rationale for the Decision – "The following paragraphs outline the rationale for the decision, including how Modified Alternative A meets the purpose and need and addresses the significant issues described in the final FEIS.": (1) Response to Purpose and Need; (2) Response to the Issue of Ecosystem Restoration; (3) Response to the issue of Watershed Protection; (4) Response to the Issue of Diversity of Plant and Animal Communities; (5) Response to the Issue of Climate Change; (6) Response to the Issue of Multiple Uses; (7) Response to the Issue of Efficiency and Effectiveness; (8) Response to the Issue of Transparency and Collaboration; and (9) Response to the Issue of Coordination and Cooperation Beyond NFS".

Follow-up needed: Request inclusion of all 9 items referenced in the 2012 Planning Rule pages 21173-21178

Last sentence "Importantly, the rule explicitly requires consideration of climate change as a system stressor and driver."

Follow-up needed: Reference where in the 2012 Planning Rule where it states this if that is not possible removal of the sentence.

1990 Forest Plan Direction is Inconsistent with the 2012 Planning Rule. Page 3

Follow-up needed: (1) It seems the need for change and assessment fail to specifically address how the 1990 forest plan is inconsistent with the 2012 planning rule please explain. (2) It seems the 2012 planning rule is not consistent with the 1990 plan please explain.

Plan Amendments Point to the need for Revision. Page 3.

Follow-up needed:

Please reference Attachment #1 - Memo from Washington Office, March 14, 2019, 1570, Objection Response for the Umatilla, Malheur, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests Revised

Land Management Plans to Glenn P. Casamassa, Regional Forester, Region 6 from Christopher B French, Reviewing Officer for the Chief. First paragraph last sentence "I am instructing you to withdraw the draft Record of Decision, FEIS, and the three Revised Plans. The existing Land and Resource Management Plans, as amended will remain in place." Second paragraph "My reason for this instruction is that many factors compounded to produce Revised Plans that would be difficult to implement. While my review did not identify and specific violations of law, regulation, or policy, significant changes have occurred over the 15-year time period of the planning process that led to my decision. For example, **several plan content modifications occurred that were often complex and not well understood**, and there were a number of changes in elected officials, organizations, other stakeholders, and key Forest Service staff. The Revised Plans also **did not fully account for the unique social and economic needs of the affected communities.** The **resulting plans are very difficult to understand and I am concerned that there will be ongoing confusion and disagreement as to how each Revised Plan is to be implemented**."

Follow-up needed: Incorporation of this critical information into this document. Show the public what the FS Crosswalk is for these plans to assure us that the agency is not simply rolling over the 2018 Draft Forest Plans into these revisions: plus address the highlighted areas above with specifics as to what has been changed.

If the current forest plans are inconsistent with the 2012 planning rule, how is that a revision of the plan is warranted, and not a comprehensive new plan written and why is the agency utilizing a crosswalk of the 2018 effort?

If the 2014-2018 Revision that was withdrawn which was based on direction prior to the 2012 Planning rule, how is it not in compliance? Simply stated it was created after the 2012 Planning rule was established as the document to follow.

This is very convoluted (having a complicated structure and therefore difficult to understand). To the public the crosswalk means that the Agency has taken the 2014-2018 Draft Forest Plan Revisions attempted/or have successfully taken a lot; if not most, of the information and have moved it over to these current versions; I will call it 2027 Draft Revisions that the Agency is pretending to make the public and others think they have opportunities for new input.
How does this meet the Reviewing Officer for the Chief, Christopher B. French's direction in his March 14, 2019 (Attachment #1 attached)? The public expected new science and proper review to get this all figured out; however, it feels like the Agency is doing an expedited process to shove the same document (2014-2018 Draft Forest Plan Revision) back out to "We the People". This is a big concern. Now is the time to show the people the Crosswalk work and tell us the truth about your true intents for the 2027 Draft Revision. It is expected that you will do two things (1) address this and (2) provide the truth.

Work together to create durable, implementable, integrated land management plans. – Page 4

Four discussion points: (1) The public has not been allowed into the process to create durable, implementable, integrated land management plans. (2) The public has consistently requested since 2019's withdrawal of the failed attempt to revise the forest plans to be engaged at the Blues Intergovernmental Council (BIC) and participate as co-equals in the planning process and have been denied access all along, while special interest groups and Congressional staffers have been allowed membership and an opportunity to set at the table at the detriment of those residents. (3) This feels like the Agency has created a focus around an effort to co-opt a system through the

BIC that looks like the public can/is engaging when it (the public) is not allowed per the directions of the policies and procedures of the BIC. (4) The BIC is supposed to be an Intergovernmental body that is made up of elected officials and that is how it started out; however, it very quickly got co-opted into something where we have seen one Congressional Staffer and at least one non-profit Environmental Group that is listed on agendas and in minutes as members. Never allowing the public to participate in the process. This clearly is disingenuous to see when we thought all would work together to create a durable Forest Plans while the public was/is not allowed to participate unlike the other groups.

Follow-up needed: It is expected that each and every one of the above four items will be discussed/explained in depth as to appropriate of decisions made and the reasons why or as appropriate why not.

Address Contributions to Social and Economic Sustainability – Page 4

This is the one perhaps of greatest concern. Item (1) Why is there no mention or reference to the Blues Intergovernmental Council Final Socioeconomic Report 2022? Attachment #3.

Follow-up needed: It is expected that this report will be referenced throughout this draft document. We also need a written explanation as to why it is not included at this stage.

Item (2) Explain what defines sustainability. Does the Agency plan to sustain the current depressed economic conditions that have plagued the region for the last nearly 40 years or does the agency plan to develop management plans to improve those conditions through more. extractive/working lands models of management? Detailed explanation expected.

Item (3) Perhaps, the specific language would be better served as "develop contributions from Forest Service administered lands that promote social and economic vitality" (not sustainability).

Address a Changing Climate – Page 4.

Please define what a "Changing Climate" is specific to the Malheur, Wallowa-Whitman and Umatilla National Forests.

Maintain or Restore Aquatic Habitats and Ecosystem Integrity – Page 5

I agree……if you add "through a well-maintained roads infrastructure that allows for managed working lands to meet Social and Economic Sustainability".

Maintain or Restore Ecosystem integrity and Reduce Wildfire Risks to Habitats and Communities – Page 5

Change or add…." through a well-maintained roads infrastructure that allows for managed working lands to meet Social and Economic Sustainability."

It is to be noted of the seven listed items there is only one consideration given to Social and Economic in the Communities everywhere else it is Environmentally based. Why is that please explain in detail? This observation is very concerning.

Three additional concerns and needs for inclusion (1) Additional areas of discussion, (2) Access, Open v Closed Forests, and Designated Routes, and (3) Coordination.

Item (1) Why are there only seven (pages 3 and 4) areas of discussion in this document? I realize there is a statement that says more can be added.

Below are four categories of known resource areas identifying needed/necessary/must discuss and make new decision on specific areas. (1) 2012 Planning Rule, (2) Objectors to the 2018 failed Forest Plan Documents (reference Attachment #2 Washington Office memo, file code 1570 dated November 13, 2018, to Objector and/or Interested Person from Christopher B French, Reviewing Officer for the Chief), (3) Assessment conclusions, and (4) Blues Intergovernmental Council (BIC).

2012 Planning Rule: Forest Vegetation, Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Climate Change, Water Resources, Forest Health, Ecological, Social & Economic sustainability, Transparent Collaboration process that allows effective public participation, Ecosystem Restoration, Watershed Protection, Diversity of plant and animal communities, Multiple Use (Recreation, Timber, Grazing), Efficiency and Effectiveness, and Coordination and Cooperation beyond NFS Boundaries

Objectors: Access, Open Forests, Designated Routes, Public Participation, Social & Economic, Timber and Vegetation Management, Fish and Wildlife, Wilderness and other special designated areas back county special areas, Fire and Fuels Management, Plants, Range Management, Bighorn Sheep, Elk Security, Livestock Grazing, Local Government Cooperation and Coordination Consultation, Aquatic and Riparian Conservation.

Assessment: Ecosystems, Water, Climate, Soil, Air Quality, Aquatic Watershed and Riparian Ecosystem, Terrestrial Vegetation Ecosystem and Species, Fire, Carbon Stock, Terrestrial Wildlife Ecosystems and Species, Social & Economic Sustainability and Multiple Use, Cultural and Historical Resources and Uses, Areas of Tribal Importance, Social & Economic Benefits and Conditions, Rangelands and Grazing, Forest Management and Timber, Energy Resources Minerals and Geohazards, Existing Designated Areas, Scenery, Recreation Setting and Opportunities, Infrastructure, Land Status, Ownership and Uses.

Blues Intergovernmental Council (BIC): Access, Habitat, Wilderness, Public Use, Administrative Use, User Created Routes, Elk Security, Set Asides, Other Special Land Use Designations, Forest Health, Wildfire Management, Fire Suppression, Post Wildfire Salvage, Timber Harvest, Economic, Environmental and Social Values, Forest Resiliency, Livestock, grazing, fisheries, hydrology, Watersheds, Riparian Area, Plants, Animals, Vegetation, Soils

Follow-up needed: Incorporation of this critical information into this document to show the public the Agency is listening and willing to address their needs. Honestly, right now it feels like the Agency is not; it seems in these early stages of these new revisions the Agency can't be trusted to do even the most obvious things. Show the public what the FS Crosswalk is for these plans to assure them that the agency is not simply rolling over the 2018 Draft Forest Plans into these revisions.

Item (2) Access, Open v Closed Forest, and Designated Routes.

Specific to Access need to state in this document what the Agency plans are for Access and be truthful about your next steps to discuss the issue. Tell the truth and tell it like it is!

Specific to Open vs Closed Forest and Designated Routes include in this document an in-depth discussion regarding why designated routes and the long-term impacts that will have on the future public access to these National Forests.

Follow-up needed: It is expected you will add to the document and discuss in specific details.

Item (3) Coordination

NEPA requires the se Draft Forest Plans be coordinated with local governments.

- Have or will local governments be involved (County, Soil and Water, NRCS, others)?
- Will their positions be considered. Will they be discussed, and analyzed?
- If there are items needing to be resolved, i.e., inconsistencies between the local government and the federal agencies how and when would that occur?
- What is the plan for discussion of any conflicts that cannot be resolved?
- How will those discussions be documented in the final document?

Has an analysis been done, or will one be done to show the "impact this proposed action" will have on the productive use of our land and local economy? If not, why not?

Respectfully Submitted,

[redacted]

Frances M. Preston

[redacted]

[redacted]

Attachments (3)

1570 March 14, 2019, Memo to Glenn Casamassa, Regional Forester from Christopher B. French, Reviewing Officer for the Chief (Attachment #1 – 1 page)

1570 November 13, 2018, Memo to Objector and/or Interested Person from Christopher B. French, Reviewing Officer for the Chief (Attachment #2 – 5 pages)

Blues Intergovernmental Council Final Socioeconomic Report 2022 (Attachment #3 – 4 pages)

Forest Service

Washington Office

1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

ATTachment# 1 of 3
1 Page

File Code: 1570
Route To:

Date: MAR 14 2019

Subject: Objection Response for the Umatilla, Malheur, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests Revised Land Management Plans

To: Glenn P. Casamassa, Regional Forester, Region 6

This is my response on the objections to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), draft Record of Decision, and Revised Land Management Plans (Revised Plans) for the Umatilla, Malheur, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. In concluding the objections process, I am instructing you to withdraw the draft Record of Decision, FEIS, and the three Revised Plans. The existing Land and Resource Management Plans, as amended will remain in place.

My reason for this instruction is that many factors compounded to produce Revised Plans that would be difficult to implement. While my review did not identify any specific violations of law, regulation, or policy, significant changes have occurred over the 15 year time period of the planning process that led to my decision. For example, a number of plan content modifications occurred that were often complex and not well understood, and there were a number of changes in elected officials, organizations, other stakeholders, and key Forest Service staff. The Revised Plans also did not fully account for the unique social and economic needs of the affected communities. The resulting plans are very difficult to understand and I am concerned that there will be ongoing confusion and disagreement as to how each Revised Plan is to be implemented.

I do not provide this instruction lightly. I recognize the hard work and commitment of your employees over the last 15 years. I also realize how much dedication, energy, time, and effort that the public has put into this process. I am confident that the information and data collected and analyzed, as well as the breadth of objection issues, can be used to inform your next steps. As you proceed, I expect you to engage with local, State, and tribal governments, elected officials, the public, and other interested stakeholders.

By copy of this letter, which will also be posted on the Regional and Forests' websites, I am notifying all parties of the conclusion of the objection process for the Umatilla, Malheur, and Wallowa-Whitman Plan revisions.

CHRISTOPHER B. FRENCH
Reviewing Officer for the Chief

ATTACHMENT #2 of 3

USDA United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Washington Office | 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250

5 pages

File Code: 1570
Date: November 13, 2018

Dear Objector and/or Interested Person:

This letter is being sent to you as both an invitation to our upcoming resolution meetings and a notification for those who requested Interested Person status that all requests have been accepted. I would also like to make it clear that it is not necessary for you to attend a meeting if you are unable to attend. We have your objections and intend to review and respond to everyone at the end of the process. I do hope, however, if you can make a meeting or a portion of one, you will do so.

In my capacity as Reviewing Officer for the Chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service, I received approximately 350 objection letters regarding the Revised Land Management Plans (Forest Plans) for the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman (Blue Mountains) National Forests. I accepted 343 objection letters for further review and resolution.

To help me and my team to further understand the objection issues, **we have scheduled resolution meetings from Tuesday, November 27 through Saturday, December 1, 2018. (Please see the enclosed schedule and review the registration instructions below.)** We chose meeting locations in Eastern Oregon based on the number of Objectors and Interested Persons in each geographic area. I hope these locations will allow most people to attend meetings closer to home. Also, due to the high number of objections, I have convened a Reviewing Officer team consisting of myself and my two Associate Deputy Chiefs to share the objection review decisions. All of us will have the same decision making authority, however I am responsible for the overall resolution process and will ensure consistency across the team. Our goal for the resolution meetings is to facilitate discussions between Objectors, Interested Persons, and one of the three Reviewing Officers. Although the meetings are open for public observation, only Objectors and Interested Persons will be invited to actively participate in discussion sessions. I believe that effective resolution meetings require open minds, listening, and compromise from everyone in attendance, including the Forest Service, and I look forward to meeting with you in this spirit.

Because of the large number of potential attendees and the need to facilitate productive dialogue, I have decided to hold a series of smaller, two-hour discussion sessions at each location. As you can see in the enclosed schedule, there will be two or three discussions held at the same time, lasting approximately two hours. Discussion sessions will focus on general topic areas and will include up to 20 Objectors or Interested Persons who have registered for that discussion. The three Reviewing Officers, including myself will manage these discussions. I will also make sure that there is time at the end of each two-hour discussion to allow for other Objectors and Interested persons who were not able to sign up for the session to contribute to the conversations. As an Objector and/or Interested Person, you are welcome to attend and listen to all of the meetings and sessions if you like, but at the very least, I hope you will make a reservation to discuss one or two of your most high-priority issues with myself and the other two Reviewing Officers.

Please note that I will likely not decide on final resolutions at these meetings, because my priority is to have a dialogue with you. Further, these meetings are not intended to be public hearings, so I ask that you do not use this time to re-state the contents of your objection letter or to raise new concerns that are not related to your filed objection. Instead, I would like to use our limited time together to bring clarity and mutual understanding of your objections submitted during the filing period, which I have already reviewed. From there, we can begin moving towards potential resolutions.

These meetings will focus primarily on discussions related to topic areas found in the agendas at the end of this letter. Within these topic areas there are many different objection issues represented. I realize that the topics, as written, do not cover all of your objection issues, but my hope is they will help get the conversation started. I know there are many issues to discuss, seek resolution on, and respond to in my final written decision. As a result of our discussions, some issues may need more focused discussion and I will determine whether additional meetings are needed in the near future. If no additional meetings are needed, the next step would be to prepare my written response to the objections. Instead of addressing each objection point-by-point, I will respond to similar objection issues as a group. The response will be posted online and sent to all Objectors and Interested Persons. Per 36 Code of Federal Regulations 219.57(b), paragraph 3, my written response will be the final decision of the USDA regarding objections to the Revised Blue Mountains Forest Plans. Based on this decision, I will provide instructions to Glenn Casamassa, the Responsible Official and Pacific Northwest Regional Forester, to make any necessary adjustments to the Final Records of Decision and Revised Forest Plans.

Issues within the agenda topic areas that I believe need additional clarification and may generate additional discussions, include but are not limited to:

Access
Travel management and the link to forest plans, road closures, maintenance, too many roads
Timber and Vegetation Management
Allowable Sale Quantity, Pace and Scale, East side Screens, stand density, logging in riparian areas
Fire and Fuels Management
Use of fire as a tool for fuels management, should not use fire as a tool – too many wildfires, forest health and lack of thinning causing fires, no roads to access fires, the fires of 2015/2016
Fish and Wildlife
Viability, Management Indicator Species, Focal Species, monitoring, using best science, surrogate species, trampling of Redds, Threatened and Endangered Species, wolves, wolverines
Bighorn Sheep
Pathogen transfer, best science, use of pack goats, grazing and bighorn sheep, need for protection or not
Elk Security
Standards vs Guidelines, no need for standards, loss or replacement of habitat corridors, impact to access and grazing allotments
Range Management
Allotments, AUMS, stubble height, vacant and/or historical allotments, grazing in Riparian Areas, impact from monitoring in riparian areas on permittees
Wilderness and other Special Designated Areas
Back Country, Roadless Areas, Research and Recreation Areas, loss of motorized access, impacts from motorized access

Public Participation
Need for more, looking for better ways to include people, questions about the number of public meetings and comment periods
Social and Economics
Lack of an economic analysis, disregard for local historical use of the lands of by local people, violations of environmental justice

Hopefully, this will give you an idea of how I expect our conversations to go. I know we will only be scratching the surface. I know we will have in-depth conversations about several substantial issues, but I see this as a way to start the dialogue and help identify what issues need more focused time.

Registration instructions: As an Objector and/or Interested person, we ask you to **pre-register for a maximum two topics at any location during the week to actively engage as one of 20 participants in a formal two-hour discussion session.** To be clear, you could pick your two topics in one location or one topic in two different locations. Objectors and Interested Persons can register on-site for additional discussions on any additional day, as long as seats are available. If you find that sessions are full on a certain day, you may go to similar sessions at other locations on different days. There will also be opportunities at the end of each two-hour topic for any objector or interested person visiting the session that did not pre-register or the session was full, to add to the conversation. **To reserve your two topic areas, I would encourage you to pre-register at** https://sugeni.us/3MEe**. Our pre-registration process will be open from November 19-21, between the hours of 9am and 5pm Pacific.** We will **accept reservations on a first come/first serve basis.**

If you cannot pre-register online, you may call (541) 241-6870 to leave a message with your registration request for your two sessions. If you do not pre-register, you may register for open seats at each meeting location on a first come/first serve basis. As you can see in the enclosed meeting schedule, each meeting day will provide for a 30-minute registration period prior to the meeting start-up.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact my staff at objections-chief@fs.fed.us.

I look forward to meeting with you at the end of this month.

Sincerely,

/s/ Christopher B. French
CHRISTOPHER B. FRENCH
Reviewing Officer for the Chief

Resolution Meeting Schedule

Revised Blue Mountains Forest Plans
November 27 - December 1, 2018

John Day - November 27, 2018
Grant County Fairgrounds, Trowbridge Pavilion, 411 NW Bridge St., John Day OR

Times	Session A	Session B	Session C (optional)
8am-830am		Registration	
830am-1030am	**Wilderness, Backcountry, Special Areas**	**Access**	
1030am-1045am		Break	
1045am-1245pm	**Fish, Wildlife, and Plants**	**Timber and Vegetation Management**	
1245pm-145pm		Lunch	
145pm-345pm	**Livestock Grazing**	**Public Participation**	
345pm-4pm		Break	
4pm-6pm	**Fire and Fuels Management**	**Social and Economic Issues**	

Pendleton - November 28, 2018
Pendleton Convention Center, 1601 Westgate, Pendleton, OR 97801

Start Time	Session A	Session B	Session C
930am-10am		Registration	
10am-12pm	**Fire and Fuels Management**	**Fish, Wildlife, and Plants**	**Access**
12pm-1pm		Lunch	
1pm-3pm	**Timber and Vegetation Management**	**Wilderness, Backcountry, Special Areas**	**Public Participation**
3pm-315pm		Break	
315pm-515pm	**Livestock Grazing**		**Social and Economic Issues**

Wallowa - November 29, 2018
Wallowa Senior Center, 204 E 2nd St, Wallowa, OR 97885 (SE corner of 2nd and Pine St.)

Start Time	Session A	Session B	Session C
1030am-11am		Registration	
11am-1pm	**Access**	**Fish, Wildlife, and Plants**	
1pm-2pm		Lunch	
2pm-4pm	**Wilderness, Backcountry, Special Areas**	**Timber and Vegetation Management**	**Livestock Grazing**

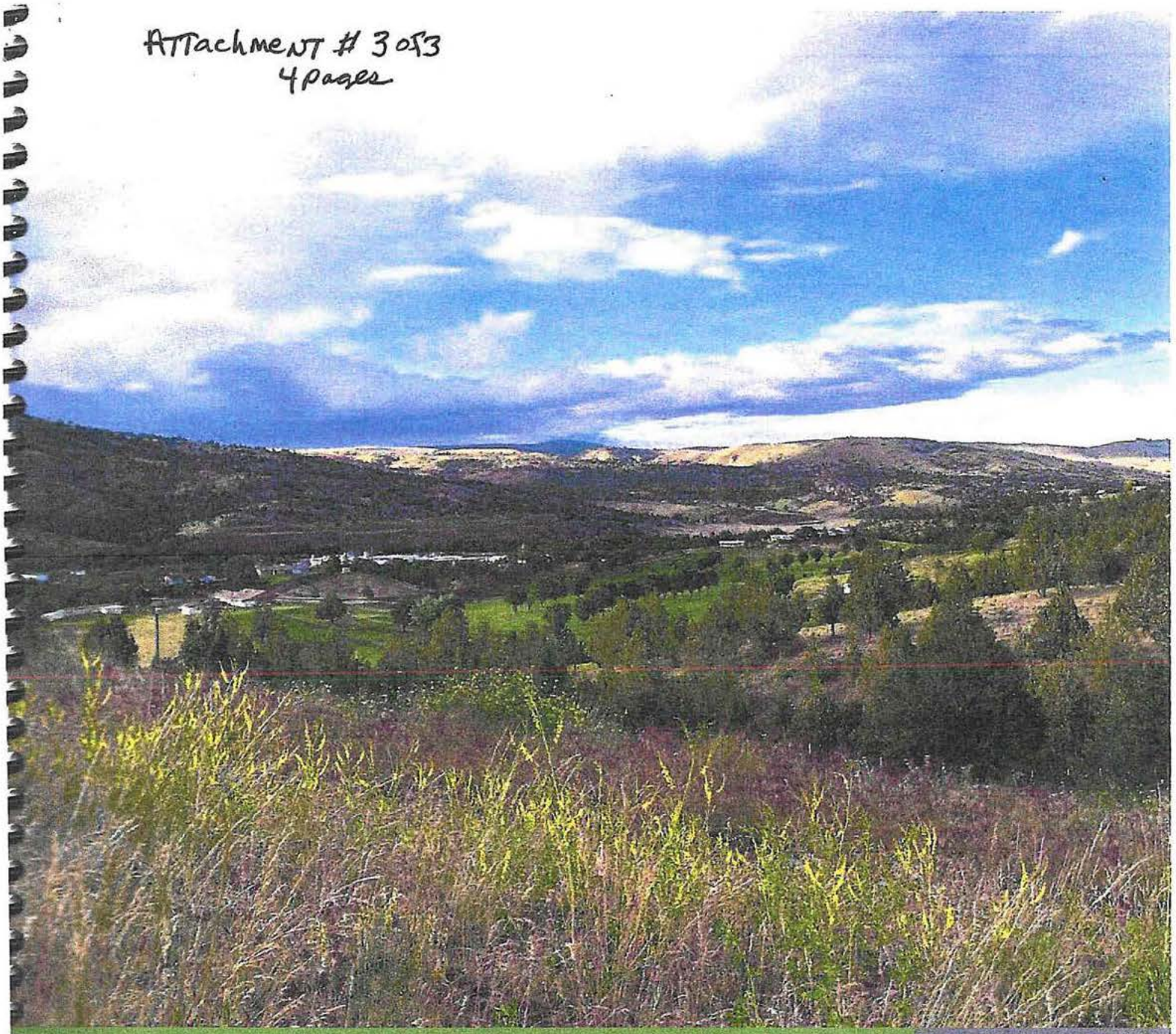
Baker City - November 30, 2018
Baker High School, 2500 E St, Baker City, OR 97814

Start Time	Session A	Session B	Session C
930am-10am		Registration	
10am-12pm	**Livestock Grazing**	**Fish, Wildlife, and Plants**	**Access**
12pm-1pm		Lunch	
1pm-3pm	**Timber and Vegetation Management**	**Bighorn Sheep**	**Public Participation**
3pm-315pm		Break	
315pm-515pm	**Wilderness, Backcountry, Special Areas**	**Fire and Fuels Management**	**Local Government Cooperation and Coordination**

La Grande - December 1, 2018
Eastern Oregon University, David E. Gilbert Event Center, One University Boulevard, La Grande, OR 97850-2899

Times	Session A	Session B	Session C
8am-830am		Registration	
830am-1030am	**Access**	**Fire and Fuels Management**	**Cooperation, Consultation, and Collaboration**
1030am-1045am		Break	
1045am-1245pm	**Public Participation**	**Bighorn Sheep and Elk Security**	**Social and Economic Issues**
1245pm-145pm		Lunch	
145pm-345pm	**Wilderness, Backcountry, Special Areas**	**Livestock Grazing**	
345pm-4pm		Break	
4pm-6pm	**Timber and Vegetation Management**	**Aquatic and Riparian Conservation**	

ATTACHMENT # 3 of 3
4 pages



BLUES INTERGOVERNMENTAL COUNCIL FINAL SOCIOECONOMIC REPORT

2022

EASTERN OREGON

REV

WR

Ecosystem Workforce Program

a program of Oregon State University and University of Oregon

Authors

Rural Engagement and Vitality (REV) Center

Julie Kenny
Program Manager
Sarah Buddingh
Economic Intern

Eastern Oregon Center for Economic Information - Eastern Oregon University

Peter Mallie, PhD.
Professor of Economics
Scott McConnell, PhD.
Associate Professor of Economics

Ecosystem Workforce Program

Staff at University of Oregon

Wallowa Resources

Nils Christoffersen
Executive Director

Photo Courtesty of Grant County

Funders

Special thanks to our funders

Eastern Oregon Counties Association
US Forest Service (Cost-share agreement 20-CS-11062756-07[illegible]
Wallowa Resources
Eastern Oregon University

Contact

For additional information about the BIC Socioeconomic Report:

Rural Engagement & Vitality Center
Eastern Oregon University
One University Blvd
La Grande, OR 97850
staff@revcenter.org
www.revcenter.org

Table of Contents

About The Report

This work supports ongoing efforts to revise the Blue Mountain Forest Plans (BMFP). As part of that effort, the Blues Intergovernmental Council (or BIC) was convened by the Eastern Oregon Counties Association and US Forest Service (USFS). The BIC consists of leaders from Federal, State, Local and Tribal Governmental entities. This group requested an analysis highlighting the substantial differences between economies of the region. Such an analysis would then open the door to forest planning sensitive to the differential socio-economic impacts that communities might experience across eastern Oregon and southeastern Washington under varying alternatives in the new Forest Plans for each of the Blue Mountain National Forests (the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests).

In response, the Rural Engagement and Vitality (REV) Center (a partnership of Eastern Oregon University and Wallowa Resources) was contracted to produce baseline community profiles, a risk/opportunity index of the focal counties, and scenario modeling using IMPLAN. The county-level profiles provide standardized, consistent, and easily updated data that supports the rest of the analysis in this document, and allows for comparisons between counties. The risk/opportunity index is built from an analysis of each county's exposure to changes in USFS management, and their resilience in the face of significant socio-economic shocks. The scenario modeling estimates job and revenue effects to each county based on key activity levels within potential Forest Plan alternatives – including forest harvest level, livestock grazing, restoration contracting, and recreation.

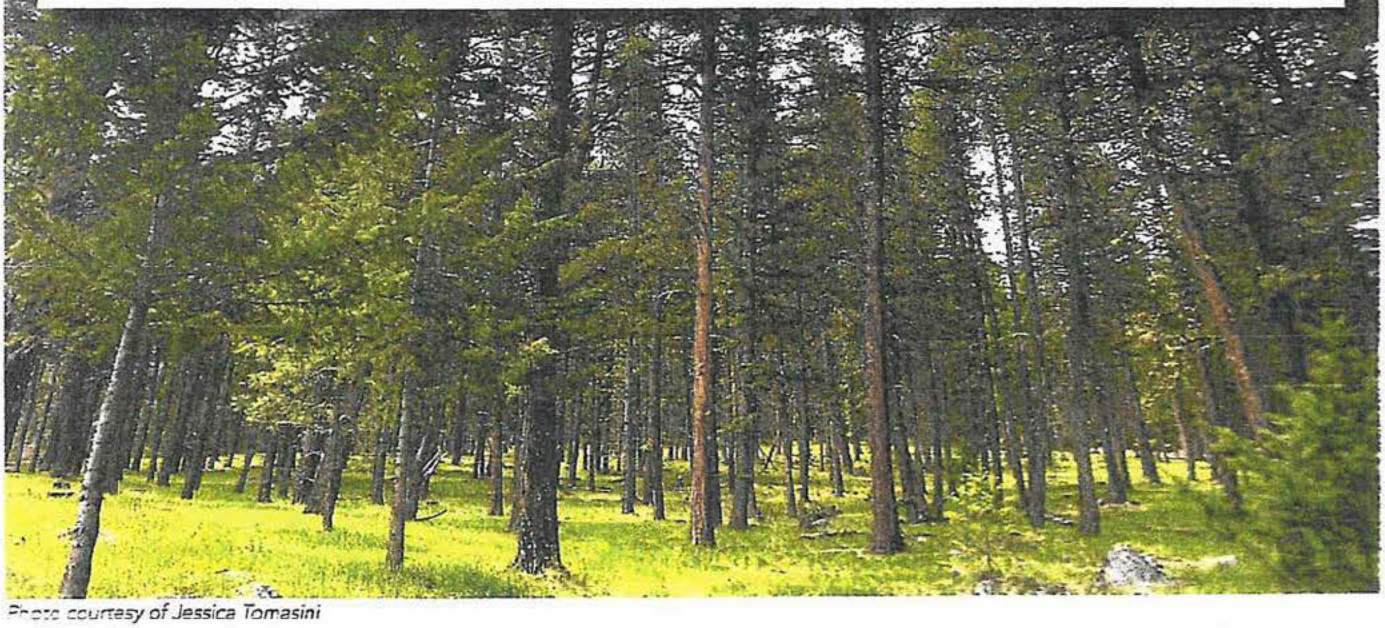


Photo courtesy of Jessica Tomasini

USDA Forest Service
Caring For the Land and Serving People

Go back to main project page

Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision #64157

Thank you for Your Comment.

Your comment has been received by our system on 10/27/2024

Your letter ID [redacted]. Please save or print this page for your records.

Regards,
The Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team

Return to top

USDA Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture