



Pacific Northwest Region

Malheur National Forest
431 Patterson Bridge Rd.
John Day, OR 97845

Pacific Northwest Region

Umatilla National Forest
72510 Coyote Rd
Pendleton, OR 97801

Pacific Northwest Region

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
1550 Dewey Ave.
Baker City, OR 97814

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision
(541) 278-3716
sm.fs.bluesforests@usda.gov
www.fs.usda.gov/r06/umatilla

Forest Service Launches Public Comment Period for Blue Mountains Forest Plan

*Preliminary Draft Plan released with Notice of Intent
to provide early opportunity for input*

PENDLETON, Ore. August 5, 2025— The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Forest Service is revising the Land Management Plans for the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests, collectively known as the Blue Mountains national forests.

Today, the Forest Service published a Notice of Intent (NOI) in the Federal Register announcing the start of a 60-day public comment period. The agency also released a Preliminary Draft Land Management Plan, a Preliminary Need to Change, a Draft Evaluation of Wilderness Characteristics, and a Preliminary List of Species of Conservation Concern – giving the public a first look at proposed updates and inviting early input to help shape the future of these forests.

“This early draft gives people something real to respond to—because we want their voices to help shape durable, locally relevant forest plans,” said Eric Watrud, Forest Supervisor for the Umatilla National Forest.” The revised Forest Plans will guide long-term management across 4.9 million acres of public lands.

The process will not include planning or implementation related to the Travel Management Rule and no new wilderness areas are being recommended.

The Forest Service is working closely with local governments, tribes, and partners through a collaborative, transparent planning process. This effort builds on feedback from past public involvement

NEWS RELEASE, continued

and recommendations from the Blues Intergovernmental Council, a coalition of local, state, federal, and Tribal leaders.

To learn more about the planning process and provide comments, visit the project page at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r06/umatilla/projects/64157>.

About the Forest Service: *The USDA Forest Service has for more than 100 years brought people and communities together to answer the call of conservation. Grounded in world-class science and technology— and rooted in communities—the Forest Service connects people to nature and to each other. The Forest Service cares for shared natural resources in ways that promote lasting economic, ecological, and social vitality. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, maintains the largest wildland fire and forestry research organizations in the world. The Forest Service also has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 900 million forested acres within the U.S., of which over 130 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live.*

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