

NEWS RELEASE

April 2, 2004

Contact: Tami Paulsen
541-523-1332



Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Website is Launched

The Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests are combining efforts to revise their Forest Plans. A website has been created to share information about the revision effort. The address for the website is http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/uma/blue_mtn_planrevision.

Collectively referred to as the Blue Mountains National Forests, the area covered by the forest plan revisions is about 5.3 million acres of national forest lands in northeast Oregon, southeast Washington, and west-central Idaho. The revision will also address a portion of the Ochoco National Forest administered by the Malheur. Links to the new website are also located on the three national forests' websites.

The current Forest Plans, which are near the end of their intended 15-year life, provide broad direction to the Forest Service about how to manage the resources on the national forest lands in the Blue Mountains. The Revised Forest Plans, are scheduled to be completed in late 2007 and will address the substantial resource and social changes that have occurred since the early 1990s when the original Forest Plans were implemented. The Revised Forest Plans will also reflect the considerable gains in scientific knowledge that have occurred since then.

According to Dave Schmitt, Team Leader for the four-year revision effort, "Keeping everyone up to date and involved in the revision is one of our top priorities. We look forward to working with everyone who is interested in the management of the Blue Mountains National Forests."

For more information, contact Tami Paulsen, Public Affairs Specialist at 541-523-1332 or Dave Schmitt, Team Leader, at 541-523-1248.

###

