

## Forest supervisors thank contributors to Forest Plan revision

Dear Friends of the Blue Mountains,

As National Forest Supervisors, we would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Revised Blue Mountains Forest Plan. On June 29, we published the Revised Forest Plan and supporting documents for the Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests (Blue Mountains) — available at [www.fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMountainsPlanRevision](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/BlueMountainsPlanRevision). The credit for the Revised Forest Plan goes to all of the individuals and entities who have been involved over the years.

The purpose of the Revised Forest Plan is to provide an updated framework to guide the management of approximately 5.5 million acres of public lands in Eastern Oregon and Southeast Washington. We are committed to working with you, our diverse public and stakeholders, to implement the Revised Forest Plan once it is finalized by the Regional Forester. Our aim is to keep improving the condition of these National Forests while also supporting the prosperity and well-being of local communities. For example, the Revised Forest Plan was designed to contribute to the recovery of Endangered Species Act-listed fish, including salmon and steelhead, as well as other species, while continuing to support multiple uses such as timber harvest and livestock grazing.

The Revised Forest Plan honors the time and energy invested by many people since 2004. Since then we have worked with a diversity of partners to organize more than 120 opportunities for public and stakeholder input, plus many other informal opportunities for information exchange. The values of transparency and inclusiveness have guided the plan revision process at each phase. Although this approach has taken more time, it has resulted in a stronger Revised Forest Plan that represents the many different views, uses and interests in these National Forests.

We are grateful to each person who has invested time in this planning effort. We also appreciate those who continue to engage in the objection process. The objection-filing period is scheduled to end Aug. 28. If you would like to file an objection, please carefully follow the instructions provided in the Federal Register Notice and the Objection Process Brochure, both available on our website. It is the responsibility of Objectors to demonstrate their standing on specific issues based on their previous substantive formal comments submitted during the 2010 formal scoping period or the 2014 formal comment period.

The next step after the objection-filing period will be a 90-day resolution period overseen by a Washington, D.C.-based Reviewing Official. Keep in mind that individuals or entities with standing may request Interested Person status as an alternative to filing an objection. Interested Persons may participate in resolution discussions about specific issues raised by Objectors.

To have standing, Interested Persons must have previously submitted substantive formal comments related to the objection issues during the 2010 formal scoping period or the 2014 formal comment period. Interested Persons must file a request to participate as an Interested Person within 10 days after a "legal notice of objections received" has been published following the objection-filing period. In their request, the Interested Persons must identify the specific issues that they have interest in discussing during the objection meeting(s) in order to participate in those discussions. We will provide further instructions on how to request Interested Person status shortly after the objection-filing period concludes.

For now, if you have participated in this plan revision process over the years, please accept our sincere thanks for your contributions.

### My Voice ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Steven K. Beverlin, Forest Supervisor Malheur National Forest; Eric Watrud, Forest Supervisor; Umatilla National Forest; Thomas Montoya, Forest Supervisor, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest contributed to this letter.

My Voice columns reflect the views of the author only. My Voice columns should be 500-700 words or as space allows. Submissions should include a portrait-type photograph of the author. Authors also should include their full name, age, occupation and relevant organizational memberships. We edit submissions for brevity, grammar, taste and legal reasons. We do not fact check. We reject those published elsewhere. Send columns to La Grande Observer, 1406 5th St., La Grande, Ore., 97850, fax them to 541-963-7804 or email them to [news@lagrandeobserver.com](mailto:news@lagrandeobserver.com).



## Your views

### Fleshman: Four-way stop needed at intersection of Gekeler and 12th Street

To the Editor:  
This letter is directed to City Manager Robert Strope.

It appears that the time for studying a traffic change at Gekeler Lane and South 12th Street is at hand, and I would appreciate you presenting the problem to those who have control over such matters.

The four-way traffic at this intersection really needs to become a four-way stop in order to give everyone an equal chance at proceeding on their way. This intersection is home to the Short Stop, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the Grande Ronde Retirement Residence and Faith Lutheran Church. It has become a very busy part of south La Grande and deserves a thorough study of the growing problem at this time.

At the present, Gekeler Lane

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is a through street. Both Gekeler Lane and South 12th Street are busy primary passageways for people living in homes at the southern far end of those neighborhoods as well as from homes and apartments on Gekeler Lane.

A four-way stop would give everyone an equal chance to attend to business, school and other affairs without a prolonged wait for traffic on Gekeler Lane to permit cars on South 12th to proceed. It could also have a secondary effect of slowing traffic to meet the 25 mph law.

I have noticed that folks on their own are trying to ease the situation in many instances so all traffic is given an equal chance to move on, but a four-way stop would make it official and reduce the chance of an accident.

Accidents have not yet occurred simply because of the considerate folks at the wheel.

Please give my suggestion study and advance it to the proper channels in appropriate haste.

Dorothy Swart Fleshman  
La Grande

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**Oregon Legislature:** Legislative documents and information are available online at [www.leg.state.or.us](http://www.leg.state.or.us).

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