

# Chapter I

## INTRODUCTION



## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

**A. Purpose**

This Forest Plan establishes the direction for the Malheur National Forest for the next 10 to 15 years when used in conjunction with Forest Service Manuals and Handbooks and the Pacific Northwest Regional Guide. It will guide all natural resource management activities and establish management standards for lands administered by the Malheur National Forest. It describes resource management practices, levels of resource production and management, and the availability and suitability of lands for resource management

The Forest Plan will ordinarily be revised on a 10-year cycle or at least every 15 years. It also may be revised whenever the Forest Supervisor determines that conditions or demands in the area covered by the Plan have changed significantly or when changes in Resource Planning Act policies, goals, or objectives would have a significant effect on Forest programs. The Forest Supervisor will review the conditions on the land covered by the plan at least every 5 years to determine whether conditions or demands of the public have changed significantly

This Forest Plan embodies the provisions of the National Forest Management Act, the implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 219), and other guiding documents

The land assignments, goals, objectives, standards, and monitoring and evaluation requirements comprise the Forest Plan's management direction. However, the projected outputs, services, and rates of implementation are dependent on the annual budget allocations

**B. Relationship to Other Documents****Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision**

This Forest Plan sets forth the direction for managing the land and resources of the Malheur National Forest. The Plan results from extensive analysis and considerations addressed in the accompanying Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision. The planning process and the analysis procedures used to develop this Plan are described or referred to in the FEIS. The FEIS also describes other alternatives considered in the planning process. Specific activities and projects will be planned and implemented to carry out the direction in this Plan. The Forest will perform environmental analysis on these projects and activities. This subsequent environmental analysis will use the data and evaluations in the Forest Plan and FEIS as its basis. Environmental analysis of projects will be tiered to the FEIS accompanying this Forest Plan.

**Regional Guide**

The Regional Guide for the Pacific Northwest Region as amended December 8, 1988, provides direction for National Forest Plans. It includes standards and guidelines addressing major issues and management concerns considered at the Regional level to facilitate Forest planning.

**Other Plans**

This Forest Plan serves as the single land management plan for the Malheur National Forest. All other land management plans are replaced by the direction in this Forest Plan, see Chapter V, Section B for a listing of existing plans that this Forest Plan supersedes.

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### C. Plan Structure

The plan is presented in seven sections, each briefly described as follows:

Chapter I is the introduction which describes the purpose of the Plan, discusses the Plan's relationship to other documents, summarizes the content, and establishes the area covered by the Plan.

Chapter II provides a summary of the Analysis of the Management Situation. It includes brief descriptions of resource management situations, demand and supply conditions for various commodities and services, productivity potentials, *use and development opportunities, and information needs.*

Chapter III summarizes the major public issues and management concerns, explaining how each was resolved in the planning process.

Chapter IV describes the goals, objectives, and standards established for the period of the Plan. Included is a section describing multiple resource prescriptions that are specific to each management area.

Chapter V includes implementation direction, a plan for monitoring and evaluating Forest Plan implementation, and a description of the process for Plan amendment and revision.

Chapter VI contains a glossary of terms, acronyms and abbreviations used in this document

The seventh section includes Appendices A-N.

### D. Forest Description

The Forest's 1,459,422 acres are located in eastern Oregon, approximately equidistant from the borders of Washington, Idaho, and Nevada (see Figure I-1). The Strawberry Mountain Range, part of the Blue Mountains, extends east to west through the center of the Forest. This range splits the Forest into two geologic provinces, the Columbia Basin to the north and the Great Basin to the south. *Elevations on the Forest vary from 3,900 feet (at the Forest boundary south of Mt. Vernon, Oregon) to 9,038 feet on Strawberry Mountain.* The result is a diverse and productive landscape of grasslands, sage, and juniper; forests of pine, fir, and other tree species; and mountain lakes and meadows.

The northern part of the Forest is drained by the John Day River System into the Columbia River Basin. The southern part of the Forest is drained, principally, by the Silvies River System into the Great Basin, and by the Malheur River System into the Snake River.

These lands are in Grant (1,119,161 acres), Harney (293,876 acres), Baker (45,786 acres) and Malheur (599 acres) counties. The Forest is within a day's drive from Portland, Oregon. Principal access routes are U.S. 26 and U.S. 395, winding two-lane, rural routes. There are two main population centers: the John Day Valley from Dayville to Prairie City, and a 5-mile radius around Burns.

FIGURE I-1  
FOREST LOCATION MAP

# Malheur National Forest



