



Department of Agriculture

Forest Service



Wallowa-Whitman National Forest



FY24 Program of Work

December 15, 2023

**PROGRAM OF WORK CONSULTATION
WALLOWA-WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST
FY24 PROGRAM OF WORK**

This booklet documents the National Forest Program of Work government-to-government and staff-to-staff consultation with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and Nez Perce Tribe.

The following meetings occurred to discuss the information in this booklet:

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation:

Natural Resources and Cultural Staff: _____
(Date)

Board of Trustees: _____
(Date)

Nez Perce Tribe:

Quarterly Staff Meeting: _____
(Date)

NPTEC: _____
(Date)

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest FY23 Forest Facts, Figures, and Accomplishments

FOREST LEADERSHIP AND STAFF

Forest Supervisor	Shaun McKinney
Deputy Forest Supervisor	Anthony Botello
Executive Assistant	Acacia Probert
Fire & Aviation Staff	Nathan Goodrich
Natural Resource Staff	Jim Brammer
Katrina Young	David Plummer
Customer Services Staff	Darren Goodding
Wallowa Mtns. Ranger	Brian Anderson
Wallowa Mtn. Deputy Ranger	Jamey Basye
La Grande District Ranger	Aric Johnson
Whitman District Ranger.	Stephaney Kerley
Forest Safety Manager	Lee Mercer
Heritage Program Manager	Cassandra Albush
Public Affairs Officer	Walter H. Lowell

NATIONAL FOREST ACRES **2,403,806**

Hells Canyon Nat'l Rec. Area (NRA)	636,379
Hells Canyon Wilderness (overlaps NRA)	217,757
Eagle Cap Wilderness	355,549
North Fork John Day Wilderness, WWNF	14,508
Monument Rock Wilderness	7,173

NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM ROADS

Total NF System Road Miles	9,135
Maintenance Miles	375

RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Campgrounds	55
Rental Cabins	4
Maintained Trailheads	77
Miles of Summer Trails	1,845
Miles of Winter Trails	1,170
Recreational Residences	43
Downhill Ski Area	1
Tram	1
Interpretive Sites	32
Viewpoints	9
Boating Sites	7
Snow Parks	4
Picnic & Day Use Sites	14

TIMBER OUTPUTS (MMBF = Million Board Feet)

Timber Volume Target	23 MMBF
Timber awarded:	52.89 MMBF
Saw Timber:	24.57 MMBF
Green Bio:	1.32 MMBF
Permits:	8.54 MMBF
Timber Harvested:	20.07 MMBF
Sawtimber:	18.18 MMBF
Green Bio:	1.89 MMBF

RESTORATION – SILVICULTURE

Planting Completed:	67 acres
Pre-Commercial Thinning Completed	6,916 acres

INVASIVE SPECIES

Treatments	450
Acres Invasive Plants Treated	4,029

RANGE MANAGEMENT

Number of Grazing Permits	108
Number of Grazing Permittees	102
Number of Active Grazing Allotments	104
Cattle Allotments	104
Cattle Permitted	28,830
Head Months Permitted	100,905
Cattle Authorized	100,905
Head Months Authorized	109,359
Horses or Mules Permitted	87
Sheep Allotments	3
Sheep Permitted & Authorized	3,369
Head Months Permitted & Authorized	15,118
Allotment Acres to Standard	303,841
Range Vegetation Improved	25,096

AQUATICS AND WILDLIFE

Fisheries Habitat Restored	21.6 stream miles
Stream Inventory	15 stream miles
Wildlife Habitat Restored	3,426 acres

FIRE AND FUELS MANAGEMENT

Hazardous Fuels Treated:

Prescribed Fire	5,757 acres
Wildfire	201,679 acres
Mechanical Treatment	10,714.4 acres
Acres Thinned	11,594.4 acres

Wildfire Management:

# Of Lightning Caused	21
Acres Burned	481.1 acres
# Of Human Caused	28
Acres Burned	12.9 acres

HERITAGE RESOURCES*

Total # Recorded Sites/Isolates	7,518
Total # Acres Surveyed	586,810
2022 Totals:	
Sites/Isolates Monitored	39
News Sites/Isolates Recorded	44
Field Survey Projects	1923
New Survey Acres	11,274

*Due to a software complication, these numbers don't include La Grande District

SHARED STEWARDSHIP

A successful Program of Work for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest involves contributions from many different entities – Tribes, states, federal agencies, counties, municipalities, private companies, non-profit organizations, and individual citizens. We work closely with partners to steward these public lands.

BENEFITS TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest supplies ecological, social, and economic benefits – including clean water, fish and wildlife habitat, timber and other forest products, livestock grazing, and diverse recreation opportunities. We directly employ over 250 people, who, together with partners and the landscape itself, make valuable contributions to the communities of northeastern Oregon, western Idaho, and southeastern Washington.

- Such sacred sites may also be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as historic properties of religious and cultural significance to Indian tribes.
- Sacred sites often occur within a larger landform or are connected through features or ceremonies to other sites or a larger sacred landscape. Agencies should consider these broader areas and connections to better understand the context and significance of sacred sites. Sacred sites may include, but are not limited to geological features, bodies of water, archaeological sites, burial locations, traditional cultural properties, and stone and earth structures.

This at least partially addresses a couple issues brought forward by the CTUIR and other American Indian tribes during the National “listening sessions”:

- For sacred sites where listing on the National Register of Historic Places is appropriate, they are potentially eligible as historic properties of religious and cultural significance to Indian tribes. This provides the clearest and most enforceable legal protection to the sites but may conflict with CTUIR members need to limit the dissemination of sacred information.
- “Sacredness” is often difficult, if not impossible, to limit to “specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location{s}” as called for in the definition provided by Executive Order 13007. The 2012 MOU recognizes this complexity by noting that specific sacred *sites* are often components of larger sacred *landscapes*.

Confidentiality of information about sacred sites provided by the CTUIR to the Forest Service is an important concern. The Policy Statement on the Confidentiality of Information about Indian Sacred Sites dated July 2015 offers guidance to Federal Agencies on how to approach this issue:

- When consulting with tribes to determine whether culturally sensitive locations may be affected by federal actions, federal agencies shall respect Tribal desires to keep information about such locations confidential to the extent legally possible. Many tribes cannot disclose, for cultural reasons, information about the location, the significance, and even the existence of traditional religious and cultural properties and places. Federal agencies must respect and recognize Tribal ownership of information.
- Agencies should seek to preclude, to the greatest extent possible, the possibility that disclosure of sensitive information may be required by the Freedom of Information Act or other authority. To that end, agencies and their contractors should request and record only that information about sacred sites that is absolutely necessary to support required administrative decisions.
- If a sacred site is determined to be an historic resource or an archaeological resource, then the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) may offer some protection of information. If, however, neither ARPA nor the NHPA apply, federal agencies may find it impossible to keep information about a sacred site confidential and should so advise the Tribe or religious leader prior to requesting sensitive information.

For more information, please visit the Forest Service Tribal Relations Sacred Sites webpage:
<https://www.fs.fed.us/spf/Tribalrelations/sacredsites.shtml>

Northern Blues Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program

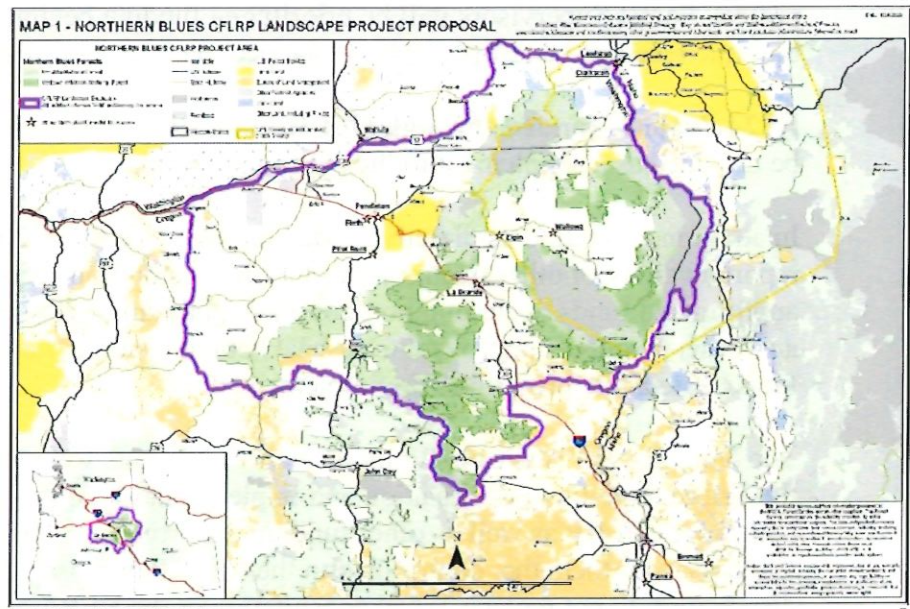
Program Area: Integrated Vegetation Management – Fire, Fuels, Timber and Silviculture

Project Contact: Eric Watrud, Umatilla National Forest, (541) 278-3752, eric.watrud@usda.gov
Shaun McKinney, Wallowa-Whitman, (541) 523-1201, shaun.mckinney@usda.gov

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Individual projects: NEPA already signed	NA	NA

Location: Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

Overview: The Northern Blues Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) is now beginning its third year of planning and implementing projects across a 10-million-acre landscape in NE Oregon and SE Washington. This landscape includes the entire Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests, as well as surrounding private and Tribal lands (see CFLRP boundary outline in adjacent map). The CFLRP award provides \$3 million of annual appropriations to be spent on National Forest lands for ten years.



The overall goal of the Northern Blues CFLRP is to promote resilient landscapes that provide increased management options, particularly with fire. The funding accelerates treatment timelines and reduces risks to adjacent landowners and communities surrounding the Northern Blues from the impacts of wildfire, insects and disease, noxious weeds, and degraded water quality. Implementing these treatments will provide forest managers greater opportunities to use prescribed fire. In addition, treatments will allow future wildfire to play a more natural role on the landscape and reduce exposure of firefighters and other responders during wildfire suppression.

Travel Management

Program Area: Travel Management

Location: Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Est. Implement. Year:
Record of Decision	TBD	TBD

Counties Involved: Wallowa County, Union County, Baker County

Brief Description of Project: The 2005 Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212) contains several parts that address the forest transportation system, and it is divided into three separate but related sections:

Subpart A addresses the analysis of a sustainable Forest Transportation System, also called a minimum road system analysis. Subpart A is a mandated analysis, not a decision. It includes recommendations on what the baseline road system needs are to manage lands and resources on the National Forest. Subpart A documents were released to the public in December 2015. For more information, please visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/WW-Travel-Management>.

Subpart B addresses the Designation of Roads, Trails, and Areas open to public motor vehicle use – also known as a Travel Management Plan. This work has been ongoing since 2007. The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest issued a Record of Decision in March 2012 and withdrew the decision in April 2012 to allow for additional public involvement and discussion. The analysis from Subpart A and previous work completed for Subpart B will be used to continue the process.

Once completed, the final decision will be displayed on a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) that will show roads, trails, and areas that are designated for motor vehicle use on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. As information becomes available, it will be posted on the web at: www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman.

Update on the MVUM for Hells Canyon National Recreation Area (HCNRA):

- The Motor Vehicle Use Maps for the HCNRA were released in August of 2022. The HCNRA MVUMs show the roads and trails, where forest visitors can take highway legal vehicles (such as passenger cars, pickup trucks, SUVs and motorcycles) and off highway vehicles (such as ATVs, UTVS – or side by sides, off road motorcycles, etc.) as designated by the [HCNRA Comprehensive Management Plan](#) in 2003.

Subpart C addresses use by over-snow vehicles. The policy was released in January 2015 by the Forest Service. Subpart C will designate roads, trails, and areas for over-snow motor vehicle use.

- Following the withdrawal of the Forest Plans, leadership from the Pacific Northwest Regional Office and the Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests met with various government entities within and surrounding the Blue Mountains geographic area. The Blues Intergovernmental Council formed in November 2019. The BIC consists of government leaders from impacted counties, states, federal and Tribal entities.
- The BIC has worked together over the past three years to identify options for a path forward including developing recommended desired conditions for the Forest Service's consideration. The BIC will continue to bring regular feedback to the Forest Service regarding content in draft documents and ways to improve the process and enhance public engagement. These discussions do not replace Tribal consultation or the NEPA process.
- This last summer we also officially entered the assessment phase of the revision. The Forest Service conducted 12 open houses (10 in person and 2 virtual) to begin gathering public feedback and educate the public about the revision process and timelines. Currently the Forest Service is drafting an assessment document, list of species of conservation concern, wilderness inventory, and wild/scenic rivers inventories for public review this winter. The plan team has hired several key staff including biologists, silviculturists, NEPA planners, recreation specialists, GIS specialists, and range specialists. The core Blue Mt team is also being supported by the Pacific Planning Services Group (PPSG) with numerous other SMEs as well.

Next steps: The formal Forest Service planning process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and further public engagement and Tribal consultations are anticipated to continue next year. We will gather public feedback on the draft assessment and inventories beginning in February, and we hope to sign an MOU with the BIC members before the end of the year.

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La Grande Ranger District

Ongoing Project Updates - Presented in Past Year Program-of-Work Booklets

Project Name	Project Description & Status	NEPA Process and Timeline
Sheep Creek Collaborative Vegetation and Fuels Management	<p>Primary goals for the project include enhancing collaborative learning and relationships while addressing vegetation and fuels management to reduce wildfire risk and improve landscape resiliency.</p> <p><u>Tribal Resources:</u> Project includes thinning within huckleberry plant communities, improves big game security through extending current travel management area to encompass archery season and through installation of gates/road closures. In addition, the project includes 36 acres of wet meadow and 1,118 acres of riparian vegetation restoration complimenting ongoing aquatic restoration activities aimed at benefiting salmon, steelhead, lamprey, bull trout and other aquatic organisms.</p> <p><u>Status:</u> Signature of Decision Notice awaiting the completion of consultation with USFWS and NMFS.</p>	EA: Decision expected Winter 2024. Estimated implementation begins Summer/Fall 2024.
Suffering Springs Vegetation Management	<p>The Suffering Springs vegetation management area is approximately 36,000 acres in the southernmost portion of La Grande Ranger District. The project area includes several private inholdings and over 20 miles of shared boundary with private and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land along the western and southern edges. A combination of non-commercial thinning, prescribed burning, and commercial harvest activities will aim to align forest structural and compositional conditions with the historic range of variation, reduce fuels to prepare the landscape for a return of wildfire, and promote forested conditions that benefit a variety of wildlife species.</p> <p><u>Tribal Resources:</u> Project activities are designed to improve vegetative conditions, including areas of huckleberry communities, and increase security for big game and other wildlife, enhancing important First Food opportunities.</p> <p><u>Status:</u> Field work to be completed summer of 2024.</p>	EA: Begin scoping Winter 2024.

Lobo Allotment Management Plan	<p>This allotment does not have an allotment management plan (AMP) but is currently permitted to graze 165 cow/calf pairs from June 16-October 15. The proposed action would ensure livestock grazing is compliant with the Forest Plan. Management techniques and principles regarding grazing timing, intensity, and rotation schedules will be assessed.</p> <p><u>Tribal Resources:</u> Management actions that have the potential to positively influence riparian vegetation and fisheries habitat are being considered. Tribes have expressed that impacts from cows can be a concern for these types of projects.</p> <p><u>Status:</u> Many resources specialists have surveyed the area.</p>	<p>Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA): Decision date unknown</p>
South Zone Developed Recreation Water Systems Improvements	<p>Many developed recreation site water systems have reached the end of their service life and need to be either updated or decommissioned. Potential improvements may include spring box replacement, replacing distribution systems (installing freeze-friendly water lines, fittings, and outlets) to help reduce future maintenance needs and failures. Decommissioning water systems would likely include removal of faucets and other end-user outlets and more associated infrastructure. Locations include Oregon Trail Interpretive Park, Bird Track Springs Campground, Moss Springs Trailhead, and Two Color Guard Station.</p> <p><u>Tribal Resources:</u> Potential impacts to Tribal resources will be assessed as specific water system improvement activities are identified, located and planned.</p> <p><u>Status:</u> Finalizing proposal and should begin NEPA this summer.</p>	<p>CE: Decision date unknown.</p>

Riparian Protection Fencing	<p>This project proposed adding 19.88 miles of riparian fence construction and reconstruction to create new exclosures and improve riparian pasture fences. The fences would prevent or limit livestock access to 9 miles of streams.</p> <p>These streams are listed steelhead and sensitive redband trout streams.</p> <p><u>Tribal Resources:</u> Limiting livestock access will reduce erosion and sedimentation in the creeks and will allow better protection of potential spawning and rearing habitat for fish.</p> <p><u>Status:</u> Resource specialists in the final stages of a consistency check with the Aquatic Restoration EA.</p>	<p>AREA Review Complete Winter 2024.</p> <p>Implementation Summer 2024.</p>
Off-Channel Water Developments	<p>27 off-channel livestock water developments are proposed for either new construction or reconstruction. These sites involve spring development and pond clean-out to facilitate livestock use in the uplands. These developments would improve water quality and riparian vegetation recovery along 11.5 miles of streams. Sheep and the Grande Ronde River contain listed chinook, steelhead and bull trout. Meadow Creek contains chinook and steelhead habitat. The rest of the streams contain listed steelhead and sensitive redband trout.</p> <p><u>Tribal Resources:</u> Developments would improve water quality and riparian vegetation recovery along the streams, allowing for improved First Foods conditions.</p> <p><u>Status:</u> Resource specialists are checking for consistency with range analyses.</p>	<p>Consistency check with existing Allotment Management Plans to be completed Winter 2024.</p> <p>Implementation to begin Summer 2024.</p>

Meadow Creek Piezometers and Gauge Stations

Program Area: Data gathering in preparation for Aquatic Restoration

Project Contact: Megan Hederman, megan.hederman@usda.gov

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year
Decision Memo	Summer 2024	Summer 2024

Location: Meadow Creek, Starkey Experimental Forest, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, T03S R34E Sections 35, 26, 27, and 24

Affected Counties: Union County

Brief Description of Project: This project is proposing the installation of 3 new surface water stream-gauge stations along Meadow Creek and 20 piezometer groundwater wells along the creek's floodplain. Installation is proposed for the summer of 2024. The purpose of this project is for researchers to evaluate the baseline hydrology of Meadow Creek and any hydrologic response to the proposed actions of the Meadow Creek Watershed Integrated Land Management Project.

The surface water gauges will likely have a small structure along the creek's bank to hold the recording equipment and a pressure-based device connecting into the stream to measure water level. The groundwater wells will be drilled by an authorized well driller, will likely be no deeper than 10 feet to hit groundwater, and have a piezometer placed in each to measure the changes in water levels. It's expected that they wouldn't impact more than a few square-meter area (circular area, 2 to 3 m in diameter), with most of the impact limited to a small area in the center where the actual well installation would occur.

Impacts to Tribal Resources: Impacts to Tribal resources will be evaluated during the planning process.

City of Cove Access Road Slump Repair

Program Area: Engineering/Road Repair

Project Contact: Jeffrey Fowlds, Jeffrey.fowlds@usda.gov

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year
Decision Memo	Spring 2024	Summer 2024

Location: National Forest System Road (NFSR) 6220, 45.2789, -117.7289

Affected Counties: Union County

Brief Description of Project: Project proposed by the City of Cove, Oregon: Project managers would like to install 55 feet of 12-inch ductile iron pipe along the north side of NFSR 6220 road to bridge over the 24 inch pipeline crossing. The pipe would have concrete headwalls at both ends to help divert the runoff water into the pipe as well as visibility for road maintenance crews. Project managers would also like to place a concrete cutoff wall/collar around the 24 inch High Density Polyethylene pipe before it crosses the road to help prevent water flow in the pipe bedding.

Tribal Resources: Impacts to Tribal resources will be evaluated during the planning process.

Wallowa Mountains Office

Contacts: Brian Anderson, District Ranger, (541)-426-5501, brian.t.anderson@usda.gov
Jamey Basye, Deputy District Ranger, (458)-345-1251, jamey.basye@usda.gov

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Cold Canal Vegetation Management
Determination of Nepa Adequacy

NORTH
1:425,000



<p>Sheep Creek Trail Bridge Replacement, HCNRA</p>	<p>The existing Sheep Creek Trail Bridge is a 3-span sawn timber structure that is 40 ft. in length and 6 ft. wide. Its concrete abutments were constructed within the active stream channel of Sheep Creek in 1962 or earlier. Routine inspections have identified that these abutments are being undermined by the stream and failure could occur at any time. The Forest Service proposes to remove the existing bridge and replace it with a new bridge built with abutments located entirely outside the active stream channel of Sheep Creek.</p> <p><u>Tribal Resources:</u> Replacing this bridge would provide continued access to the Snake River National Recreation Trail for Tribal members as well as the public.</p>	<p>CE – Decision Memo Decision date estimated 2025</p>
<p>Hells Canyon Complex Hydropower Project – Forest Service activities associated with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Relicensing Process</p>	<p>Idaho Power Corporation is seeking a new, up to 50-year license from FERC to manage the HCC. Its previous license expired in 2005, and Idaho Power has since been operating on temporary annual licenses. An interdisciplinary team of resource professionals from the Wallowa-Whitman and Payette National Forests has been working with staff from Forest Service Regions 4 and 6 to define modified or new Forest Service terms and conditions for submission to FERC under the Federal Power Act. These terms and conditions aim to protect and utilize National Forest lands and resources consistent with the Land and Resource Management Plans of the Wallowa-Whitman and Payette National Forests.</p> <p><u>Tribal Resources:</u> Principal concerns the Forest Service seeks to address during relicensing include the HCC’s impacts on Forest Service resources around Hells Canyon reservoir and in the Wild and Scenic Snake River corridor, and identifying appropriate mitigations for HCC’s operations, including restoring sand bars and beaches along the Snake River for recreation, protecting and restoring cultural sites, and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat.</p>	

Lick Creek Floodplain Restoration

Program Area: Aquatics, Fish and Watershed

Project Contact: Dana Nave, 541-426-5690, dana.nave@usda.gov

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Decision Memo	9/30/2024	2024 (if variance granted)

Location:

Affected Counties: Wallowa, OR

Brief Description of Project: The goal of this project is to improve ecological function and biological productivity for native fish and wildlife, and to fully connected Lick Creek to its floodplain so that the meadow holds more water for longer before slowly releasing it back into the creek.

Project Objectives:

- Bring up the base of Lick Creek so it wets the meadow more
- Add channel braiding – shallower channel, not as incised, more complex
- Restore wetland/meadow ecosystem
- Attract beavers by growing willow
- Improve habitat for juvenile Chinook and other aquatic species

Project design will focus on a Stage 0 approach for restoring impaired processes such as and floodplain inundation, water and sediment storage, and retaining aquatic habitat over time.

Impacts to Tribal resources: A cultural resource survey will be completed during the summer of 2024. This floodplain restoration project will improve spawning and rearing habitat for threatened Chinook, steelhead and bull trout.

Cold Canal DNA

Program Area: Integrated Vegetation Management, Fire, Fuels, Timber and Silviculture

Project Contact: Todd Pederson, 541-426-5514, todd.pederson@usda.gov

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
DNA	September 2024	2025

Location: 12.5 miles southeast of Joseph, Oregon. Within a 3-mile radius of Salt Creek Summit snow park.

Affected Counties: Wallow County, Oregon

Brief Description of Project: The Cold Canal Vegetation Management Project was authorized on December 3rd, 2015: <https://usfs.box.com/s/fkp6a144n7w017hhin5ubztf4vevdsnk>. The Forest Service now proposes to authorize a Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) for stand improvement acres not included in the original authorization. Under the proposed DNA, acres analyzed in Alternative B of the Environmental Assessment would also be authorized within the project area. Pertinent resource specialists have reviewed the current proposed actions and compared them to those actions previously analyzed.

Impacts to Tribal Resources: An in-depth review of the existing Sec. 106 clearances for the existing decision will be conducted. If it is determined that the areas identified in Alternative B of the Environmental Assessment were not completed to current standards, then a new Sec. 106 effort will be conducted.

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Whitman Ranger District

Ongoing Project Updates – Presented in Past Year Program-of-Work Booklet

Project Name	Project Description & Status	NEPA Process and Timeline
Baker City Watershed Fuels Management	<p>The purpose of this project is to reduce hazardous fuels between the Baker City Watershed and nearby private land. The band between the Watershed boundary and private land is almost entirely National Forest. Reduction of the existing fuel loads is expected to help protect the watershed and nearby private land holdings by reducing the risk of a high- intensity wildfire (crown fire) on public lands, and to provide a safer environment and better opportunities for firefighters to control a wildfire.</p> <p>This area has a history of wildfires, with an occurrence approximately twice the forest average. Proposed activities include reduction in fuel loading, the creation of shaded fuel breaks to improve the probability of controlling wildfire, the maintenance of high-quality water for Baker City’s municipal supply, and the re-introduction of fire as a management tool and to restore/recreate a more resilient ecosystem.</p> <p><u>Tribal Resources:</u> Anticipated to improve forage production and habitat for big game.</p> <p><u>Status:</u> Scoped project July 2022. Public meeting held in August. Projected to release draft EA in February 2024.</p>	EA: Estimated decision date in 2024 with implementation following decision.

<p>Clarks Vegetation Management Project</p>	<p>The overall objectives would be to improve the landscape's resiliency to disturbance, move the landscape towards the historic Range of Variability, contribute to local economy and provide a supply of forest products to the public, reduce threat of Wildfire to local communities within the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), and restore riparian vegetation.</p> <p>Treatment prescriptions objectives would include stand density management and tree species management to reduce susceptibility to disturbance, enhance old forest, and restore riparian hardwoods.</p> <p>Tools to achieve these objectives would include removal of excess biomass through timber harvest, stand improvement thinning, piling of slash and debris, and prescribed fire.</p> <p>Other resource improvements would be identified and analyzed through the NEPA process.</p> <p><u>Tribal Resources:</u> Huckleberry: Reduction of stand density and reducing shade tolerant tree species would improve the growth of shrub, forb, and grass species. Effects on big game, fish, and heritage would be analyzed during the NEPA process.</p> <p><u>Status:</u> Scoping occurred in August 2023. The draft EA will be prepared for review in spring 2024.</p>	<p>EA: Estimated decision date early 2025 with implementation following decision.</p>
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<p>Clear Creek Sno-Park Expansion</p>	<p>Clear Creek Sno-Park was constructed in 1994 and was intended to accommodate use for approximately 5 years, with a target of approximately 25-50 vehicles. Future expansion of the Sno-Park was known to be inevitable, and there is sufficient area for expansion to the north of the current site. The site is kept plowed using funds from the ODOT Sno-Park program.</p> <p>In recent years, weekend use has commonly filled the entire parking area plus vehicles needing to park along the access road and Rd. 6600. Vehicles have been blocked in at times. Ingress and egress could become a safety issue if there were an evacuation emergency.</p> <p><u>Tribal Resources:</u> No impacts on Tribal resources are expected currently.</p> <p><u>Status:</u> CE to be completed in 2024.</p>	<p>CE: Estimated decision in 2024 with implementation following decision.</p>
<p>Campground Water Sources</p>	<p>There are five campground water sources, spring boxes and / or cisterns that need maintenance or replacement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Fork Campground, 6.5 miles west of Unity (44.403542°, -118.307094°) Maintain / fence collection area, replace / upgrade spring 	<p>CE: Estimated decision in 2024 with implementation following decision.</p>

	<p><u>Tribal Resources:</u> Potential impacts to be evaluated through the NEPA process and Tribal consultation.</p> <p><u>Status:</u> Each sale requires a Decision. They would occur throughout the Fiscal Year as opportunities arise.</p>	
Whitman Stand Improvement Thinning II	<p>This project would reduce tree density by thinning seedling, sapling, and pole sized trees in existing reforestation units. Objective is to improve diameter growth, species composition, and improve resiliency to disturbance. These units were reforested after past timber harvest or wildfire either by planting or natural regeneration. Fuel treatments are planned where a thinning unit occurs along other ownership or within a pre-planned fuel-break. Otherwise, there are no fuel treatments planned.</p> <p><u>Tribal Resources:</u> Reduction of stand density and reducing shade tolerant tree species would improve the growth of shrub, forb, and grass species. Effects on big game, fish, and heritage would be analyzed during the NEPA process.</p>	CE: Decision date TBD
Huckleberry DFPZ	<p>A Defensible Fuel Profile Zone (DFPZ) project to reduce the fuel loading in strategic areas that would help in the aid in fire suppression on FS along private boundaries, ridgelines and or road corridors. Field work and analysis in FY23.</p> <p><u>Tribal Resources:</u> Reduction of stand density and reducing shade tolerant tree species would improve the growth of shrub, forb, and grass species. Effects on big game, fish, and heritage would be analyzed during the NEPA process.</p> <p><u>Status:</u> Scoping letter undergoing preparation.</p>	CE: Decision expected Spring 2024

Bull Run Meadows

Program Area: Aquatics, Fish and Watershed

Project Contact: (Will Glenn, 541-523-1248 and william.glenn@usda.gov)

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Decision Memo	December 2024	2025-2026

Location: The project is located on Bull Run Creek approximately 6 miles east of Granite, Oregon. T. 09S R. 36E Sections 19, 20, 27, 28, 29

Affected Counties: Grant County

Brief Description of Project: A partnership between the US Forest Service, Trout Unlimited, CTUIR, and the North Fork John Day Watershed Council is proposing a stream restoration project on approximately 4 miles of stream in the headwaters to Bull Run Creek. Bull Run Creek's headwater meadow complexes floodplain and channel habitats are not in proper functioning condition (hydrologic, geomorphic, and vegetative composition), due to historic human activities including beaver trapping/removal, overgrazing, mining, altered hydrology (dams, watering areas, and diversions), and channelization.

To restore and enhance the condition of the meadows, we plan on improving floodplain connectivity by using floodplain cut/fill approach in incised channels and floodplain habitats. We will consider actions like regrading valley bottom mine tailings to reset the valley closer to its historic condition, installing low tech structures (beaver dam analogs and post assisted log structures) along with adding large wood debris, and developing an adaptive management plan to ensure the long-term recovery of Bull Run Meadows.

Impacts to Tribal resources: The Forest Service is contracting Cultural Resource survey at the site and will adjust design plans based on the findings. The upper meadow has a pre-identified site with Traditional Cultural Properties and the partnership would like to work with the Tribes to further understand the site. The project will benefit the Tribal resources by maintaining and enhancing First Foods including water quality and habitat for native flora and fauna. Bull Run Creek is home to chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout.

Gimlet/Dry Beaver Habitat Resiliency Project

Program Area: Watershed, Fisheries and Wildlife

Project Contact: (Bob Hassmiller, 541-523-1344 and robert.hassmiller@usda.gov)

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Covered under Regional Aquatic Restoration EA (AREA)	9/30/2024	2025

Location: The project is occurring in tributaries of the North Fork Burnt River near Whitney Valley. T. 10S R. 36E Section 36. T. 10S R. 37E Sections 31 and 32.

Affected Counties: Baker County

Brief Description of Project: The project occurs on approximately 4.1 miles of Dry Creek and 2.6 miles of Gimlet Creek in the North Fork Burnt River Watershed, a state listed Beaver Emphasis Area. The current condition of these streams is an incised channel that is not connected to its floodplain. The stream has abundant water that drains quickly and slowly warms throughout the project reach. The goal of the project is to improve overbank flooding and increasing the water tables to benefit beaver habitat and maintain base flows as the climate changes and snowpack becomes altered.

To accomplish this, our partners at the Powder Basin Watershed Council will use local youth crews to build low tech structures like beaver dam analogs (BDAs) and post assisted log structures (PALs); small heavy equipment may be used for adding sediment behind these BDAs to improve hydrologic function and their persistence to store water. Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Project (CFLRP) funds have been secured to construct approximately six buck and pole exclosures to provide for mature willows to help self-seed the project reach. Encroached lodgepole pine will be felled into the streams to provide cover and floodplain roughness. The building of BDAs and instream structures will improve fish habitat, slow down surface flows, and increase floodplain saturation within the meadow.

Impacts to Tribal resources: The Whitman Ranger District will be completing a Cultural Resource survey at the site and will adjust design plans based on the findings. Project implementation will occur during the inwater work window to reduce impacts to fish populations in these reaches. The project will benefit Tribal resources by maintaining and enhancing First Foods including water and habitat for native wildlife, fish and plants.

West Wall Defensible Fuels Profile Zones (DFPZ)

Program Area: Integrated Vegetation – Fire, Fuels, Timber and Silviculture

Project Contact: Shaniko Cowie 406-579-1004, Shaniko.cowie@usda.gov

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Decision Memo	2023	2023/2024

Location: Forest Service land 2-10 miles west and north of Halfway, OR.
T 7S, R 45E, T 8S, R 45E,

Affected Counties: Baker

Brief Description of Project: A Defensible Fuel Profile Zone (DFPZ) project to reduce the fuel loading in strategic areas that would help in the aid in fire suppression on Forest Service managed lands along private boundaries, ridgelines and or road corridors. Field work and analysis in fiscal year 2023.

Impacts to Tribal resources: Potential impacts to be evaluated through the NEPA process and Tribal consultation.

OTEC/ Deems to McEwen

Program Area: Special Uses

Project Contact: Kris Wood, 541-523-1313, kristopher.wood@usda.gov

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Decision Memo	Spring 2024	Summer 2024

Location: OTEC ROW project parallels highway 7 from Deems Loop Road to McEwen, near Phillips Lake. T10S, R38E, SEC.15-18

Affected Counties: Baker

Brief Description of Project: Oregon Trail Electric Company (OTEC) would like to replace approximately 27 power poles and mitigate hazards to a Right Of Way (ROW). Actions may include clearing large boulders, removing overgrown vegetation, and falling hazard trees from an estimated 1.7 miles of access roads. Most of the work needed is considered maintenance by the current operations/maintenance plan.

Impacts to Tribal resources: Potential impacts to be evaluated through the NEPA process and Tribal consultation.

ODFW/ Summit Ridge Comm Site/ MOTUS

Program Area: Special Uses

Project Contact: Kris Wood, 541-523-1313, kristopher.wood@usda.gov

Decision Type:	Estimated Decision Date:	Estimated Project Implementation Year:
Decision Memo	FY24	FY24

Location: Summit Ridge Station location Specifics: (44.854884, -117.156800)
T.8S, R.45E, SEC24

Affected Counties: Baker

Brief Description of Project: Motus station equipment and antennas are proposed to be installed on Forest Service managed lands using a pop-up tower system, 20ft above ground within a 30 square foot ground area. The pop-up tower includes a ground mast, four to six antennas, coaxial cables, solar panels, and a bin containing power and electronic parts. This tower would require three guy lines each tied to ground anchors for tower stability. Anchors are 30 inch rebar stakes pounded in the ground diagonally towards the mast base, at a 45-degree angle. Exact location may vary within 30 yards to allow for best suitable location.

Impacts to Tribal resources:

Potential impacts to be evaluated through the NEPA process and Tribal consultation.