

# Ochoco and Deschutes National Forests and Prineville District, Bureau of Land Management

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News and Information  
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### **Public Meetings Scheduled for John Day Basin Resource Management Plan (RMP)**

PRINEVILLE, OR—A new planning process, the John Day Basin RMP, was officially announced today for public lands located in the John Day Basin area of the State of Oregon. The planning area encompasses 456,000 acres of Prineville Bureau of Land Management lands scattered throughout a larger block of public land that stretches from Seneca north to the Columbia River. These public lands include scenic landscapes in portions of Grant, Wheeler, Sherman, Wasco, Jefferson and Morrow counties.

The John Day Basin public lands are currently managed by three separate management plans—the John Day, Two Rivers and Baker Resource Management Plans. All three of these plans were written 15 or more years ago and they do not adequately address current concerns and issues of managing this unique area. This planning process provides an opportunity to amend and update the existing plans. In addition, 40,000 acres of land in the North Fork of the John Day were acquired by the Prineville BLM in the Oregon Land Exchange Act of 2000. These more recently acquired public lands require a land use plan to guide management decisions and any subsequent projects proposed for the area.

Key topics that the John Day Basin RMP will cover include public land access and travel management, off highway vehicle use, special management areas, scenic quality, land tenure status and management of the newly acquired lands. The planning effort will thoroughly consider not only the ecological environment and access issues, but the social and economic impacts to local communities and counties, as well.

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The public is encouraged to participate in this planning process by sharing their knowledge of the identified John Day Basin lands with the planning team. A number of public meetings have been scheduled in several communities across the state (see below). The BLM will provide the latest available maps that display roads and BLM lands within the John Day Basin at these meetings. The BLM asks those attending the meetings to come prepared to review the maps and describe locations where land ownership or public access may not be clear or locations where the maps appear to be incorrect. The planning team is also interested in learning how these lands are currently used by residents and visitors and what they value most about the land.

Written comments are being accepted via e-mail at [John\\_Day\\_Basin\\_RMP@blm.gov](mailto:John_Day_Basin_RMP@blm.gov) or via U.S. mail to : Brent Ralston, Project Manager, Prineville BLM, 3050 NE 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Prineville, OR 97754. Please include any data and analysis that you believe should inform the management of public lands in the John Day Basin. **Please provide your comments by March 31, 2006 for full consideration.**

For more information contact Brent Ralston, project manager, at the email and postal addresses listed above or via telephone at (541) 416-6700. Information, including a map of the planning area will be available soon at the following website:  
<http://www.blm.gov/or>.

#### **John Day Basin RMP Meeting Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>March 20, 2006</b>	<b>6-9 PM</b>	<b>John Day Outpost Restaurant 201 West Main</b>
<b>March 21, 2006</b>	<b>6-8 PM</b>	<b>Pendleton Convention Center 1601 Westgate</b>
<b>March 22, 2006</b>	<b>5-8 PM</b>	<b>Fossil Family Services Building 401 4<sup>th</sup> Street</b>
<b>March 23, 2006</b>	<b>6-9 PM</b>	<b>Bend Shilo Inn 3105 NE OB Riley Rd.</b>
<b>March 27, 2006</b>	<b>6-8 PM</b>	<b>Forest Grove Senior Center 2037 Douglas Street</b>