

Blue Mountain Land Exchange – Oregon

Final Environmental Impact Statement

Malheur, Umatilla, and
Wallowa-Whitman National Forests



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Pacific Northwest
Region

September 2006



Blue Mountain Land Exchange – Oregon Final Environmental Impact Statement

September 2006

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOREST SERVICE

P.O. BOX 907

BAKER CITY, OR 97814

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE
TO AVOID PAYMENT OF POSTAGE
\$300

PRIORITY MAIL
US POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA FOREST PERMIT
Permit No. G40

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TTY). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Cover drawing courtesy of Patty Bradford, 24 year volunteer for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, Unity Ranger District.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Malheur National Forest
P.O. Box 909
John Day, OR 97845

Umatilla National Forest
2517 SW Hailey Avenue
Pendleton, OR 97801

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
1550 Dewey Avenue
P.O. Box 907
Baker City, OR 97814

File Code: 1950-3

Date: October 6, 2006

Dear Interested Party:

Enclosed is a copy of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Blue Mountain Land Exchange – Oregon.

The FEIS analyzes a proposal and alternatives to exchange land between Clearwater Land Exchange-Oregon, a third-party facilitator, and the Forest Service.

The preferred alternative identified in the FEIS is Alternative 5. A Record of Decision will be mailed separately documenting the decision made from the enclosed analysis.

For further information, please contact Alicia Glassford, Team Leader at 541-426-5689 or Linda Vore, Lands Program Manager at 541-523-1249. The FEIS is also available on the internet at www.fs.fed.us/r6/w-w/projects/bmle.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Markley

RICHARD E. MARKLEY
Deputy Forest Supervisor
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Enclosure



Environmental Impact Statement for the Blue Mountain Land Exchange – Oregon

Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests Oregon

Lead Agency: US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

Responsible Officials: Gary L. Benes, Forest Supervisor
Malheur National Forest

Kevin D. Martin, Forest Supervisor
Umatilla National Forest

Steven A. Ellis, Forest Supervisor
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

For Further Information Contact: Linda G. Vore, Realty Specialist
Wallowa-Whitman N. F.
P.O. Box 907
Baker City, OR 97814
541-523-1249

Abstract: This Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) analyzes a Proposed Assembled Land Exchange between Clearwater Land Exchange-Oregon, facilitator, and the Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture, involving lands within the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests of Region 6. The affected counties include Baker, Grant, Morrow, Umatilla, Union and Wallowa. All forests are acquiring and conveying land parcels. The purpose of the Proposed Land Exchange is to provide for more efficient cost effective management of National Forest System lands through consolidation of existing Federal lands and to acquire and protect habitat for Threatened and Endangered species and lands within Congressionally Designated Areas. The identified significant issues include: 1) exercise of American Indian Treaty rights and cultural uses, 2) water quality, 3) fisheries, 4) old growth associated species, and 5) social and economic environment. This FEIS analyzes the Proposed Land Exchange, No Action, Purchase, Deed Restriction and Preferred Alternatives. Cause-effect relationships are disclosed so the reader can track the effects of each alternative and identify how these effects relate to the significant issues.

This page intentionally left blank