



April 17, 2024

Shane M. Alderson

Commission Chair
salderson@bakercountyor.gov

Christina Witham

Commissioner
cwitham@bakercountyor.gov

Bruce A. Nichols

Commissioner
bnichols@bakercountyor.gov

US Forest Service
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
Shaun McKinney, Forest Supervisor
1550 Dewey Ave., Suite A
Baker City, OR 97814
Shaun.mckinney@usda.gov

US Forest Service
Malheur National Forest
Ann Niesen, Forest Supervisor
PO Box 909
John Day, OR 97845
Ann.niesen@usda.gov

US Forest Service
Umatilla National Forest
Eric Watrud, Forest Supervisor
72510 Coyote Rd.
Pendleton, OR 97801
Eric.watrud@usda.gov

Dear Forest Supervisors:

The Baker County Board of Commissioners is requesting Coordination between Baker County and the Wallowa Whitman, Umatilla & Malheur National Forests for the Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revision pursuant to Baker County Ordinance No. 2001-1: An Ordinance Establishing A Process For Baker County Input To State And Federal Plans, Programs And Projects Affecting Land And Natural Resources In Baker County and Baker County Resolution No. 2009-1020: Establishing Coordination Between Baker County And Federal Agencies And State Agencies Involved With Federal Agencies and the Baker County Natural Resource Plan adopted July 20, 2016.

In entering into this coordination agreement, we recognize our current position on the Blues Intergovernmental Council and the Memorandum of Understanding FS Agreement No. 23-MU-11061400-127 signed by Baker County as being in addition to coordination with the USDA Forest Service throughout the entirety of the Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revision.

The ultimate goal Congress has set for the Coordination process is consistency between federal and local plans, policies and actions. Pursuant to the Baker County Natural Resource Plan, "It is the Purpose of the Baker County Natural Resources Plan to set forth the policies of Baker County in regards to the use, and access to, natural resources located on public land. It is a Baker County

Board of Commissioners priority to engage in coordination with federal and state agencies to provide for the health, safety and welfare and economic benefits of its natural resources for its citizens. The Baker County Board of Commissioners will exercise its legal right to full participation in the planning processes utilized by state and federal agencies for developing and implementing land use plans and actions within the County. The Baker County Board of Commissioner's interests extend to land use plans or action formulation, development and implementation, including monitoring and evaluation. Baker County directs that all decisions be based on current, relevant, peer reviewed science and data, which take into account multiple land uses within all plans or actions.

The use of public land is critical to the health, safety and welfare and economic stability of Baker County citizens. The Baker County Board of Commissioners recognizes the inherent natural beauty and the quality of life afforded to the citizens and visitors to Baker County.

The Board knows and values the importance of private property rights, water rights, open roads systems and RS 2477 right-of-ways, the multiple uses for all public lands within Baker County and the quality and quantity of the natural resources. The Board of Commissioners accepts that it is its duty and obligation to enter into coordination for official resource planning activities and that federal and state agencies must fulfill their requirement to coordinate with the County's plan to seek to ensure consistency between plans as required by federal and state laws."

US Forest Service

Baker County Board of Commissioners

See Attached

Shaun McKinney,
Wallowa Whitman Forest
Supervisor

Shane M. Alderson

Shane M. Alderson, Chairman

See Attached

Eric Watrud,
Umatilla Forest Supervisor

Christina Witham

Christina Witham, Commissioner

See Attached

Ann Niesen,
Malheur Forest Supervisor

Bruce A. Nichols

Bruce A. Nichols, Commissioner



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest
1550 Dewey Avenue, Suite A
Baker City, OR 97814

Umatilla National Forest
Malheur National Forest

File Code: 1580
Date: April 23, 2024

Baker County Commissioners
1995 Third Street
Baker City, Oregon 97814

Dear Baker County Commissioners Alderson, Whitham and Nichols,

Thank you for your letter and request for Coordination between Baker County and the Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla and the Malheur National Forests for the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision dated April 17, 2024. We would also like to acknowledge and express our appreciation to Baker County for entering into the Blues Intergovernmental Council Memorandum of Understanding FS Agreement No. 23-MU-11061400-127 in addition this request for coordination.

The three Forest Supervisors of the Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla and Malheur National Forests will support and actively engage with Baker County in Coordination on the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision. We value our working relationship with the county and all its citizens. Thank you for this opportunity to work together toward healthy and sustainable forests and economies.

Sincerely,

SHAUN P. MCKINNEY
WALLOWA-WHITMAN FOREST SUPERVISOR

ERIC WATRUD
UMATILLA FOREST SUPERVISOR

ANN NIELSON
MALHEUR FOREST SUPERVISOR

