

# Blues Intergovernmental Council Video Script Outline

*Draft. Last Updated 05/04/2022*

## INTRO

**Start with video with music under:** (short sound bites with footage/images of people, places and activities) why people love or care about Blue Mountains, what makes them unique, how people are connected to the land.

**Tribal leader-** *Tribal connections to the Blue Mountains. Historical and cultural information. Why land management is so important.*

**Mark Owens** – *community connections, what makes Blue Mountains important/unique. How people are connected.*

**Narration or graphic:** How many lands managed federally by the Forest Service under Forest Plan:

**Craig Trulock and Eric Watrud** – *overview of the Blue Mountains. Agency mission, Connections to multiple use*

*Talking Points:*

- The three national forests covered by the management plan — the Umatilla, Wallowa-Whitman and Malheur — are collectively known as the Blue Mountain Forest cover over 5 million acres and make up a third of Oregon’s national forest land.
- The lands are managed and used for multiple purposes and include many unique ecological and cultural landscapes.
- Thinking amount of timber collectively offered each year, recreation opportunities including hunting and Wilderness, grazing, watersheds for communities, other metrics. (I can pull some of that information from POW books but wanted to check on what you are thinking.)

## HISTORY

**History of the Forest Plan: narration or graphic** – Timeline graphic to cover the below key timeframes.

### **TIMELINE:**

- *Public involvement began in 2004 and scoping of the proposed action was initiated in 2010.*
- *In 2014, published the Draft EIS.*
- *In 2015, to add context to the public comments, we decided to analyze two additional Alternatives in the Final EIS.*
- *In 2016-2017, we engaged with other government entities and re-initiated Tribal consultation. The Forests also reengaged through newsletters, audio broadcasts, and online FAQs.*
- *In 2018, we published the Final EIS, three Revised Forest Plans, and a Draft Record of Decision and initiated the Objection Process. The Forest Service received approximately 350 objections to the Forest Plans and had more than 300 people participated in objection resolution*

*meetings held across Eastern Oregon.*

- *On March 14, 2019, Forest Service Acting Deputy Chief and Reviewing Officer, Chris French, issued a letter to the Pacific Northwest Regional Forester, Glenn Casamassa, with instructions to withdraw the Draft Record of Decision, Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and the three Revised Forest Plans.*
- *In November 2019, we began working with affected Tribes, Counties, States, and federal regulatory agencies (called the Blues Intergovernmental Council) to identify options for a path forward including developing desired conditions for the Forest Service's consideration.*

**Susan Roberts:** *community impacts, perceptions and issues perceived with Forest Plan process and relationship with the Forest Service.*

**GRAPHIC/NARRATION: Key issues identified in objection process:** economics; access; management area designation; pace and scale of restoration; grazing; fire and salvage logging; coordination between agencies; and wildlife.

- The counties argued the agency's plan would close roads and limit livestock grazing while failing to thin enough of the woods to boost timber jobs or lower the risk of large wildfires.

### **What brought the group together?**

**Susan Roberts:** *objections to Forest Plan, extensive dialogues over period of about 8 months in 2019 between the county commissioners from eastern Oregon and the USDA Forest Service.*

**Craig or Eric:** *Recognition needed all the government entities at the table, value of relationship building and understanding perspectives across all spectrums of government to inform durable Forest Plans that reflect the broad interests in sustaining the National Forests in the Blue Mountains.*

### **VOICES OF THE BIC**

**Steve P. (WDFW):** *role in working with the Forest Service and land management. Value of being member of the BIC. Purpose of BIC*

**Calla (Burns Paiute Tribe);** *role in working with land management and professional. Value as she sees it in being member of BIC. Purpose of BIC*

#### **Talking Points that could be woven in:**

- The purpose of the BIC as defined in the draft operating charter is to “serve as an overarching entity for planning and guidance around land management issues related to the Blue Mountain Forests (consisting of the Wallowa-Whitman, Malheur, and Umatilla Forests), including but not limited to the forest plan revisions.”
- The BIC believe that working together will expedite and support the implementation of effective, sustainable management strategies on the ground that will advance environmental health and socio-economic goals for local communities dependent on the Blue Mountains.

- The BIC envisions that their work together will provide a new way for intergovernmental action to be part of the solution while respecting each entity's laws, regulations, policies, and authorities.

## **CLOSING**

**(Popcorn of info between co-conveners):** *Work done so far. Goals moving forward. Let us know what you think! Ways to provide feedback or to get information.*

**Closing:** The BIC's intent is to collaboratively develop a durable, sustainable Forest Plan that can be supported by these entities and guide management of the Blue Mountain National Forests over the next 15-20 years.