

# Communication and Engagement Strategy

Blues Intergovernmental Council ———— Forest Plan Revision



**BIC**

BLUES INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
COUNCIL

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**Website:**

<https://www.pdx.edu/policy-consensus-center/blue-mountains-intergovernmental-council>

# Communication and Engagement Strategy

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# Framework

## Introduction/Background

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Each National Forest and Grassland in the United States is governed by a Land Management Plan (Forest Plan) in accordance with the National Forest Management Act (NFMA). Forest Plans set desired conditions, standards, and guidelines for management, protection, and use of the Forest. Monitoring conditions ensures projects are done in accordance with Forest Plan direction and determines effects that might require a change in the Forest Plan.

The Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman Forest Plans provide management direction for approximately 5.5 million acres of public lands and working forests under Forest Service management in eastern Oregon and southeastern Washington. The Forest Service began efforts to revise the Forest Plans in 2004, with the goal of replacing the existing Forest Plans that took effect in 1990. Updating the Forest Plans is important for providing a framework to address current economic, social, and ecological conditions in and around the Blue Mountains area. Multiple uses provided by the National Forest, including livestock grazing, timber harvest, forest recreation, tourism, and subsistence activities, are all important to economic and social life in the Blue Mountains area.

In February 2014, the Forest Service published a Draft EIS with eight Alternatives for an extended 150-day formal comment period, which yielded over 1,000 comment letters and over 4,000 unique comments. In total, the Forest Service organized 120 formal opportunities for input during the plan revision process, in addition to informal opportunities for information sharing with the public and stakeholders. Two additional modified Alternatives were analyzed in the FINAL EIS. However, when the Final EIS and draft Records of Decision were released in 2018, strong concerns were raised across the board that comments submitted were not reflected or even addressed in the final products. The Forest Service received 350 objections to the Forest Plan, subsequently leading to the decision and documents being formally withdrawn on March 14, 2019.

Following the withdrawal of the Blue Mountains Forest Plans, leadership from the Forest Service met with the Eastern Oregon Counties Association in April 2019, to better understand concerns and identify opportunities to approach forest planning and management in a new way. The participants recognized the need to work together at a larger scale, which included other government entities within and surrounding the Blue Mountains geographic area.

The Blues Intergovernmental Council (BIC) officially formed on Nov. 22, 2019, 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. Members consists of leaders from Federal, State, Local and Tribal Governmental entities surrounding the Blue Mountains in both Oregon and Washington.

BIC members convened around the common purpose of providing sustainability for our communities economic and social-cultural health and enhancing environmental stewardship.

The BIC serves as a government-to-government forum for members to work together to create zones of agreement to guide programmatic planning, frame future work to achieve mutual goals, identify innovative pilots, remove barriers to working together, and align work for implementation of efforts. The BIC aims to seek mutual understanding as the basis for joint recommendations and actions to the Forest Service on planning and land management. Recommendations made by the BIC help provide important overarching intent that the Forest Service can use when reinitiating the Forest Plan Revision NEPA process.

## Purpose

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This communication and engagement strategy outlines the approach, actions, and products for BIC members to use when engaging with key external stakeholders about accomplishments and work completed by the BIC, progress of the Forest Plan Revision process, and to gain feedback that can improve and inform the BIC's work and Forest Plan Revision process in the Blue Mountains.

The purpose of this communication and engagement strategy is to:

1. Define the public outreach, involvement, and processes that the BIC will use to engage with external audiences and each other.
2. Identify specific actions and communication tools that BIC members will use to provide consistent information, solicit input, and engage in dialogue with community members to understand issues and help the Forest Service consider solutions that balance the diversity of needs and interests.
3. Help BIC members build trust and improve relationships with each other and the communities within and surrounding the Blue Mountains.
4. Ensure timely, accurate, and consistent communications about the BIC and Forest Plan Revision process. Help identify or clarify issues, conflicts, constraints, values, beliefs, or expectations.
5. Support shared learning and understanding between the Forest Service and public participants.

## About this Plan

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BIC members are all leaders within their respective government organizations. As part of the BIC's goals to be transparent and ensure that community interests and input are represented, BIC members will engage people throughout the Forest Service's Plan Revision process using a spectrum of public participation methods. BIC members will determine which methods are the most appropriate depending on the intent of the engagement, work being developed, budget and staff capacity.

This communication and engagement strategy is a tool and a resource for the BIC to use for public engagement.

*See Engagement Plan on page 10*

## Key Audiences and Information Needs

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### External Audiences

Throughout the Forest Plan Revision process, the BIC will strive to outreach to all the diverse stakeholders who have an interest in the management of the Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests, including (but not limited to) the interest categories listed below. Note that every individual likely belongs to several categories. The purpose of this list is to identify ways to conduct outreach and engagement at various levels and timeframes.

- Business, e.g. Chambers of Commerce, local businesses that serve tourists/recreationists
- Clubs and Community Groups
- Educators, students (at all levels)
- Ecology and Wildlife
- Energy (including Renewable Energy such as Biomass Processing and Wind, and Transmission)
- Environmental Interests
- Extractive Uses (including Mining and Timber)
- Fire Safety and Community Protection groups
- Forest Collaborative Groups
- Gatherers (e.g. Fuelwood, Mushrooms, Traditional Plants)
- Grazing permittees
- Governments/Agencies
  - Local, State, County, Municipal and other Federal Agencies, including Land Management and Resource Agencies
- Industry (i.e. timber or biomass purchasers)

- Local Community Resident
- Low-income populations
- Media
- Native American Tribes, Federally Recognized and Non-Recognized
- Minority and under-represented communities
- Non-Organized Users
- Private landowners
- Recreational permittees
  - Dispersed (e.g. packers, guides)
  - Developed (e.g. campgrounds, resorts, ski areas)
- Recreational users (locally based, urban, national, and international)
  - Dispersed (e.g. anglers, artists, backcountry / cross-country skiers, birdwatchers, boaters, equestrians, hikers, hunters, motorized driving (e.g. ATV, OHV, 4x4), mountain bikers, rock hunters, snowshoers)
  - Developed (e.g. campers, picnickers, resort skiers)
- Scientists
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts/Natural Resource Conservation Districts
- University Researchers and Students
- Volunteer and stewardship groups
- Water Supply Interests (e.g. local residents, local municipalities)
- Youth and NGOs that provide opportunities to youth (i.e. YCC, Boy/Girl Scouts, 4-H programs, future Farmers of America)

### Internal Audiences

- Current BIC members
- New BIC members
- Other personnel within BIC members' organizations

*See Appendix XX for full list of target audiences*

## Tactics and Methods for Disseminating Information

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### External Communications and Engagement

The BIC will seek to use the full spectrum of traditional and non-traditional communication and collaboration methods to engage and collaborate with the diverse publics that are interested in management of the Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. The focus is on users of the three National Forests and those interested in management of the Forests.

Method	Tools
<b>In-Person Forums</b>	Round tables Listening sessions Workshops Science symposiums Field Tours Open Houses “Pint Night” Individual stakeholder meetings “Learning on the Land” science focused field trip Citizen Science event Media interviews
<b>Digital Tools</b>	Videos e-newsletters interactive info-graphics website Blog subscription platforms (i.e. Constant Contact) Interactive feedback mapping tool Story Map
<b>Interactive</b>	Webinars Story maps Interactive maps Live Streams Zoom/Teams meetings Radio spots
<b>Social Media</b>	Facebook Twitter Instagram Blog Podcast YouTube/Flick’r
<b>E-Communications</b>	News releases Newsletters

Method	Tools
	Constant Contact Surveys
<b>Print publications</b>	Brochures Flyers/posters Mailers/postcards Magazine/newspaper articles Fact sheets Business cards (could be with QR code) Comment forms Newsletter Briefing packets
<b>Community Events</b>	Farmers markets County fairs Educational field tours Youth engagement programs (i.e. outdoor school) Conservation education activities

### Internal Communications

Long-term success for the BIC will require significant communication with the Forest Service, constituents, and each other. Accordingly, some outreach tools and methods are designed to facilitate communication and trust between BIC members and the Forest Service. The following tactics have been identified to assist with ensuring open and transparent communications.

- BIC members will seek feedback from constituents they represent and share regular updates/feedback to the BIC at regular meetings.
- Create a toolkit of communications material about the BIC to assist with transition
- Quarterly Newsletter
- Other?

### General Principles Guiding Communication

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These principles were developed from the BIC.

- Maintain clarity, consistency, and transparency with regard to expectations, process, sideboards (i.e. law, regulation, and policy that restricts what is possible), and timeline. This includes communicating in



plain language.

- Seek to repair and build trust and relationships with communities in the Blue Mountains.
- Meet commitments, follow through and connect input to outcomes and decision.
- Serve as ambassadors to help be the bridge that connects the communities to the federal process and vice versa.
- Explain why input was incorporated, or why not. Bring the public along with understanding process and decisions.
- Offer ways to engage on topics of interest and tailor outreach to audience, diversity of strategies and messages.
- Provide opportunities for people where they already interact with the BIC and Forest Service.
- Get out in the communities and the field.
- Achieve small successes that build trust and a sense of concrete accomplishment.

## Roles and Responsibilities

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Ensuring robust public and internal engagement is a team effort. Each member brings with them a host of skillsets and personal contacts that can be leveraged to ensure broad public outreach. Below is an overview of the key responsibilities of various participants.

- **Lead/Point of Contact:** Co-conveners serve as the primary point of contact for the BIC and consist of leadership from the Forest Service and representative leadership of the eastern Oregon counties.
- **Media Contact:** BIC conveners will serve as the initial point of contact for all media inquiries,
  - BIC conveners may designate other BIC members to speak on behalf of the BIC.
  - BIC members may speak to the media individually but must make it clear they are not speaking on behalf of the BIC.
- **General External Engagement:** All BIC members are expected to engage in dialogue as appropriate, to bring feedback to the BIC, work together to understand issues and consider solutions that balance a variety of needs in Forest Plan Revision.
- **Communications Team:** works with facilitator, steering committee, and full BIC to prepare materials that aid in providing information or engagement opportunities.
- **Product Reviewers:** The BIC steering committee will review all communication products and materials prior to finalizing and dissemination.
- **Other?**

# Engagement Plan

## Summary of Public Engagement Activities

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This section serves as an executive summary of the key public involvement activities, outcomes, timing, and responsibilities that could be used for each phase of the planning process. This provides a snapshot of the key public involvement opportunities now and throughout various phases of the Forest Service's planning efforts.

As guided by the 2012 planning rule, Forest Plan Revision will include three phases:

1. **Assessment:** The purpose of the assessment phase is to gather existing relevant information on Forest conditions and trends and use this information to rapidly evaluate the sustainability of existing ecological, economic, and social conditions and trends within the context of the broader landscape. The assessment is used to help identify the need to change the existing plan, and to inform the development of plan components and other plan content.
  - a. **Public participation:** the intent of public participation in the assessment phase is to provide the opportunity for the public to share its knowledge of existing forest conditions and identify concerns about trends and perceptions of risks to social, economic and ecological systems. Accordingly, feedback shared with BIC members will be crucial to helping the Forest Service understanding key issues and interests to inform the analysis.
2. **Plan Revision and NEPA:** The goal of the Plan Revision phase is to decide which parts of the Forest Plan will be revised, and to develop, analyze, and adopt a revised plan. This work will be structured by the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process and will be complemented by additional opportunities for communication and collaboration above and beyond what is required by NEPA.
  - a. **Public participation:** Public participation opportunities are provided to identify public interests and concerns regarding the plan area, help the BIC work with the Forest Service to develop agreements relevant to plan components, include the public in designing effective plan components, and ensure other participation as needed. Public participation early in this phase of the planning process (in particular, public feedback or comment on the preliminary need for change) will help ensure that the focus of the planning effort reflects public concerns and community needs.
3. **Implementation and Monitoring:** After a revised Forest Plan is adopted, the Forest will enter the monitoring phase, the purpose of which is to monitor Forest conditions to determine whether a change to the plan or change to the monitoring program is warranted based on new information, whether a new assessment may be needed, or whether there is no need for change at that time. The Planning Rule requires a monitoring evaluation report every two years after adoption of a new Forest Plan.
  - a. **Public participation:** The intent of public participation during implementation and monitoring is

full transparency, to give people access to all information that is developed through monitoring activities, and to obtain public feedback on what the monitoring information suggests about the effectiveness of the land management plan.

## Action Plan

This table outlines various engagement opportunities the BIC could pursue, separated out by each phase of the Forest Service’s planning processes. In addition to the activities outlined here, BIC members are encouraged to pursue outreach and involvement activities that best suit the needs of their specific target audiences at any time.

\*See Appendix 2 for descriptions of Spectrum Levels

Audience	Desired Outcome	Activity and Spectrum Level*	Timing	Responsibility
<b>Pre-Assessment</b>				
<b><i>Build understanding of Forest Planning Process and BIC</i></b>				
ALL AUDIENCES	Provide platform for information to be made available for external audiences and internal BIC members.	<b>Website</b>  (Inform)	COMPLETED	BIC Facilitation Team  <b>Status:</b> COMPLETED
BIC MEMBERS	Provide information regarding BIC for new members and increased shared learning.	Develop <b>orientation packet</b> and make available to BIC members on website.  (Inform)	Spring 2022	BIC Facilitation Team  <b>Status:</b>
ALL AUDIENCES	Provide awareness and education on BIC and accomplishments.	<b>Infographic</b> of timeline for BIC organization and work. *could be used on social media, website, handout.  (Inform)	Spring 2022	Public Outreach Team  <b>Status:</b>
FOREST SERVICE WO STAFF	Provide clarity regarding purpose and work of BIC and support for Forest Service moving forward with forest plan revision.	<b>Letter of Support</b> from BIC steering committee to Forest Service leadership.  (Inform)	Spring 2022 (May)	Public Outreach Team, BIC steering committee  <b>Status:</b>
FOREST COLLABORATIVE GROUPS	Provide clarity regarding purpose and work of BIC, seek feedback on public engagement strategy.	<b>Presentation/discussion</b> at each Forest Collaborative Group’s regular meetings.  (Inform, Consult)	Spring/Summer 2022	BIC members connected to that collaborative, appropriate Forest Supervisor, Public Outreach Team

Audience	Desired Outcome	Activity and Spectrum Level*	Timing	Responsibility
				<b>Status</b>
County NRACs	Provide clarity regarding purpose and work of BIC, seek feedback on public engagement strategy.	<b>Presentation/discussion</b> at each Forest Collaborative Group's regular meetings.  (Inform, Consult)	Spring/Summer 2022	BIC members connected to that collaborative, appropriate Forest Supervisor, Public Outreach Team  <b>Status</b>
BIC MEMBERS	Enhance opportunities for shared learning, identify common goals, build relationships/trust.	<b>Field tour</b> to visit project area under planning on a National Forest.  (Collaborate)	Spring/Summer 2022 <i>*(to be repeated in out-years)</i>	Full BIC, Steering Committee, Facilitation Team.  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES	Share information regarding BIC activities, awareness/education.	<b>Distribute business cards</b> with QR code to BIC members to have available when engaging.  *Also provide to key community partners/locations as appropriate (i.e partner groups, Chambers).  (Inform)	Fall 2022	Public Outreach Team. Final review by Steering Committee  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES	Share information regarding BIC activities, awareness, education	<b>Brochure/flyer</b> that highlights who BIC is, with QR code for where information is available and how people can provide feedback to BIC. Have available at offices, visitor centers, etc.  *Also provide to key community partners/locations as appropriate.  (Inform)	Fall 2022	Public Outreach Team. Final review by Steering Committee  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES	Provide opportunity for feedback from public about work the BIC is doing or Forest Plan Revision	<b>E-survey and hardcopy survey</b> forms that people can complete and share with BIC members.  (Consult)	Spring/Summer 2022)	Public Outreach team. Final review by Steering Committee  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES (Particularly media)	Share information regarding BIC activities, awareness/education.	<b>News release</b> about who the BIC is, work done to date, why formed, future work, how to get information/share feedback.  (Inform)	Summer 2022	Public Outreach Team, final review by Steering Committee.  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES	Share information regarding BIC activities, awareness/education.	<b>Social media</b> campaign each government entity can share about BIC and work being accomplished, how to get information, etc.	As appropriate to amplify key updates	Public Outreach Team  <b>Status:</b>

Audience	Desired Outcome	Activity and Spectrum Level*	Timing	Responsibility
		(Inform)		
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES	Share information regarding BIC activities, awareness/education	<b>Local community events</b> (i.e. farmer's markets, county fairs). BIC members that are participating have information materials available to hand out.  (Inform)	Summer 2022	BIC members, Public Outreach Team  <b>Status:</b>
ALL AUDIENCES	Share information regarding BIC activities, awareness/education.	<b>Video</b> regarding BIC, who we are, why we formed, work accomplished, and goals.  (Inform)	Fall 2022	Public Outreach Team, Co-Conveners. Final review by Steering Committee  <b>Status:</b>
BIC MEMBERS	Share updates on activities of various BIC members, welcome new members, keep information and shared learning opportunities going, build trust.	<b>Newsletter</b> to send out quarterly to BIC members  (Inform)	Fall 2022	Facilitation Team. <b>Potential youth intern project?</b> Final review by Steering Committee  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES (county or community specific)	Share information regarding BIC activities/education. Provide open forum	<b>Open Houses</b> Opportunity for public to drop by and have unorganized conversation with members of BIC.  (Inform, Consult)	Anytime	Various spectrum of BIC members.  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES (media)	Share information, provide clarification about BIC activities	<b>Radio spot</b> with Elkhorn Media Group or other  (Inform)	Fall/Winter 2022	Various BIC members  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES	Share information regarding BIC activities/education. Provide open forum	<b>Zoom "town hall"</b> . Virtual engagement about BIC, purpose and updates on work moving forward, seek input on BIC activities.  (Inform, Consult)	Winter 2022 (and out-years)	Various spectrum of BIC members, FS staff?  <b>Status:</b>
<b>ISSUE/TOPIC</b> SPECIFIC AUDIENCE	Provide information and clarity on BIC's purpose, impacts to stakeholder and how they can be involved. Bring feedback to BIC.	<b>Individual stakeholder meetings</b> (deliberate relationship building)  (Involve)	Winter 2022 (and beyond)	Various spectrum of BIC members.  <b>Status:</b>
<b>ISSUE/TOPIC</b> SPECIFIC AUDIENCE	Provide information and clarity on BIC's purpose, impacts to stakeholder and how they can be involved. Bring feedback to BIC	<b>Targeted phone calls</b> (individual or small group)  (Inform, Consult)	Anytime	Various spectrum of BIC members  <b>Status:</b>

Audience	Desired Outcome	Activity and Spectrum Level*	Timing	Responsibility
<b>Assessment</b>				
<b>Develop Preliminary Draft Plans on BIC recommendations</b>				
ALL AUDIENCES	Keep up-to-date information available for external audiences and internal BIC members regarding process and BIC working material.	<b>Website</b>  (Inform)	Ongoing	Facilitation Team  <b>Status:</b> Ongoing.
BIC MEMBERS	Share updates on activities of various BIC members, welcome new members, keep information and shared learning opportunities going, build trust.	<b>Newsletter</b> to send out quarterly to BIC members  (Inform)	Quarterly	Facilitation Team. <b>Potential youth intern project?</b> Final review by Steering Committee  <b>Status:</b>
FOREST COLLABORATIVE GROUPS	Provide clarity regarding purpose and work of BIC, seek feedback on process.	<b>Presentation/discussion</b> at each Forest Collaborative Group’s regular meetings.  (Inform, Consult)	As appropriate, prior to FS roll out of scoping	BIC members connected to that collaborative, appropriate Forest Supervisor, Public Outreach Team  <b>Status</b>
County NRACs	Provide clarity regarding purpose and work of BIC, seek feedback on process.	<b>Presentation/discussion</b> at each Forest Collaborative Group’s regular meetings.  (Inform, Consult)	As appropriate, prior to FS roll out of scoping	BIC members connected to that collaborative, appropriate Forest Supervisor, Public Outreach Team  <b>Status</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES	Share information regarding proposed action, BIC’s role, how to be involved/get information.	<b>Email announcement</b> to key constituents/stakeholders for various BIC members, with links to BIC information and Forest Service planning documents. Could be forward of FS documents.  (Inform)	Concurrent with Forest Service outreach efforts	Various spectrum of BIC members.  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES	Provide opportunity for feedback from public about work the BIC is doing or Forest Plan Revision	<b>E-survey and hardcopy survey</b> forms that people can complete and share with BIC members.  (Consult)	Ongoing	Public Outreach team. Final review by Steering Committee  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES (county or community)	Share information regarding proposed action, BIC’s role, activities and Forest Plan	<b>Open Houses</b> Opportunity for public to drop by and have unorganized conversation with members of BIC and FS IDT.	Anytime	Various spectrum of BIC members, FS staff.

Audience	Desired Outcome	Activity and Spectrum Level*	Timing	Responsibility
specific)	Revision process/status. Provide open forum	(Inform, Consult)		<b>Status:</b>
ALL AUDIENCES	Promote joint problem solving and identification of solutions	<b>Partner-led Design Forum workshop.</b> Either jointly as BIC/FS IDT or in partnership with a state university, convene a workshop designed to focus dialogue on the key considerations for the proposed new Forest Plans.  <i>* Suggested format for the workshop could be a one-day workshop with multi-interest group participation (and open to the public) replicated in 3-4 locations</i>  (Consult, Collaborate)	Concurrent with Forest Service outreach efforts	BIC members, Forest Service ID Team, state university  <b>Status:</b>
<b>ISSUE/TOPIC</b> SPECIFIC AUDIENCE	Provide information and clarity on process, ways people can be involved. Bring feedback to BIC.	<b>Individual stakeholder meetings</b> (deliberate relationship building)  (Involve)	Winter 2022 (and beyond)	Various spectrum of BIC members.  <b>Status:</b>
<b>ISSUE/TOPIC</b> SPECIFIC AUDIENCE	Provide information and clarity on process, discuss impacts to stakeholder and how they can be involved. Bring feedback to BIC	<b>Targeted phone calls</b> (individual or small group)  (Inform, Consult)	Anytime	Various spectrum of BIC members  <b>Status:</b>
BIC MEMBERS	Enhance opportunities for shared learning, build relationships/trust.	<b>Field tour</b> to visit project area under planning on a National Forest.	Spring/Summer	Full BIC, Steering Committee, Facilitation Team.  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES	Increase understanding of various components within Forest Plan and what it means to resources communities care about.	<b>Series of short VIDEOS</b> – topic based. Could include a feedback form for questions.  (Inform, Consult)	Anytime	Various BIC members, Public Outreach Team  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES (Particularly media)	Share information regarding BIC activities, awareness/education.	<b>News release</b> with updates on BIC work done to date, what heard from public, how to get information/share feedback.  (Inform)	As appropriate	Public Outreach Team, final review by Steering Committee.  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES	Share information regarding BIC activities, awareness/education.	<b>Social media</b> campaign each government entity can share about BIC and work being accomplished, how to get information, etc.  (Inform)	As appropriate to amplify key updates	Public Outreach Team  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL	Share information,	<b>Radio spot</b> with Elkhorn Media	Concurrent	Various BIC members

Audience	Desired Outcome	Activity and Spectrum Level*	Timing	Responsibility
AUDIENCES (media)	provide clarification about BIC activities	Group or other  (Inform)	with Forest Service outreach efforts	<b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES	Share information regarding BIC activities, awareness/education	<b>Local community events</b> (i.e. farmer’s markets, county fairs). BIC members that are participating have information materials available to hand out.  (Inform)	As they are scheduled in various communities	BIC members, Public Outreach Team, FS staff.  <b>Status:</b>
YOUTH	Engage youth in natural resource management, amplify outreach efforts.	<b>Student led-projects</b> (have students assist with visitor or community surveys, work with schools or youth organizations, activities at Outdoor schools)  (Inform)	Anytime	Various spectrum of BIC members, FS staff  <b>Status:</b>
<b>Phase 2 – Plan Development</b>				
<b>NEPA Process- Scoping/DEIS Comment Period/Objections</b>				
		<i>Develop plan components and monitoring program.</i> <i>Spectrum Level: Collaborate</i>		
ALL AUDIENCES	Share updates on Forest Plan Revision process and BIC working materials.	<b>Website</b>  (Inform)	As completed.	BIC Facilitation Team  <b>Status:</b>
BIC MEMBERS	Share updates on activities of various BIC members, welcome new members, keep information and shared learning opportunities going, build trust.	<b>Newsletter</b> to send out quarterly to BIC members  (Inform)	Quarterly	Facilitation Team. <b>Potential youth intern project?</b> Final review by Steering Committee  <b>Status:</b>
BIC MEMBERS	Enhance opportunities for shared learning, build relationships/trust.	<b>Field tour</b> to visit project area under planning on a National Forest.  (Collaborate)	Spring/Summer	Full BIC, Steering Committee, Facilitation Team.  <b>Status:</b>
FOREST COLLABORATIVE GROUPS	Provide clarity regarding purpose and work of BIC, seek feedback on process.	<b>Presentation/discussion</b> at each Forest Collaborative Group’s regular meetings.  (Inform, Consult)	Ongoing	BIC members connected to that collaborative, appropriate Forest Supervisor, Public Outreach Team  <b>Status:</b>



<b>Audience</b>	<b>Desired Outcome</b>	<b>Activity and Spectrum Level*</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
County NRACs	Provide clarity regarding purpose and work of BIC, seek feedback on process.	<b>Presentation/discussion</b> at each Forest Collaborative Group's regular meetings.  (Inform, Consult)	Ongoing	BIC members connected to that collaborative, appropriate Forest Supervisor, Public Outreach Team  <b>Status</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES	Provide opportunity for feedback from public about work the BIC is doing or Forest Plan Revision process	<b>E-survey and hardcopy survey</b> forms that people can complete and share with BIC members.  (Consult)	Concurrent with Forest Service outreach efforts and as BIC work products complete.	Public Outreach team. Final review by Steering Committee  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES (Particularly media)	Share information regarding BIC activities, awareness/education.	<b>News release</b> with updates on BIC work done to date, what heard from public, how to get information/share feedback.  (Inform)	As appropriate	Public Outreach Team, final review by Steering Committee.  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES	Share information regarding BIC activities, awareness/education.	<b>Social media</b> campaign each government entity can share about BIC and work being accomplished, how to get information, etc.  (Inform)	As appropriate to amplify key updates	Public Outreach Team  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES (media)	Share information, provide clarification about BIC activities	<b>Radio spot</b> with Elkhorn Media Group or other  (Inform)	Concurrent with Forest Service outreach efforts or other key BIC announcements	Various BIC members  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES	Share information regarding proposed action, BIC's role, how to be involved/get information.	<b>Email announcement</b> to key constituents/stakeholders with links to BIC information and Forest Service planning documents  (Inform)	Concurrent with Forest Service outreach efforts	Various spectrum of BIC members.  <b>Status:</b>
<b>ISSUE/TOPIC</b> SPECIFIC AUDIENCE	Provide information and clarity on BIC's purpose, impacts to stakeholder and how they can be involved. Bring feedback to BIC.	<b>Individual stakeholder meetings</b> (deliberate relationship building)  (Involve)	Ongoing	Various spectrum of BIC members.  <b>Status:</b>
<b>ISSUE/TOPIC</b> SPECIFIC AUDIENCE	Provide information and clarity on process, discuss impacts to stakeholder and how they can be	<b>Targeted phone calls</b> (individual or small group)	Ongoing	Various spectrum of BIC members

Audience	Desired Outcome	Activity and Spectrum Level*	Timing	Responsibility
	involved. Bring feedback to BIC	(Inform, Consult)		<b>Status:</b>
ALL AUDIENCES	Promote joint problem solving and identification of solutions	<p><b>Partner-led Design Forum workshop.</b> Either jointly as BIC/FS IDT or in partnership with a state university, convene a workshop designed to focus dialogue on the key considerations for the proposed new Forest Plans.</p> <p><i>* Suggested format for the workshop could be a one-day workshop with multi-interest group participation (and open to the public) replicated in 3-4 locations</i></p> <p>(Consult, Collaborate)</p>	Concurrent with Forest Service scoping efforts	BIC members, Forest Service ID Team, state university, FS staff  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES (county or community specific)	Listen to concerns or stories of communities and organizations.	<p><b>Community Listening Sessions.</b> In-person or virtual (i.e. Zoom) listen to concerns, answer questions and gain input to take back to full BIC and FS IDT.</p> <p>(Inform, Consult)</p>	<p>Following scoping</p> <p>Leading up to DEIS comment period</p>	Various spectrum of BIC members  <b>Status:</b>
<b>ISSUE/TOPIC</b> SPECIFIC AUDIENCES	Share information, clarify materials and seek input and ideas to take back to Forest Service. Promote joint problem solving.	<p><b>Issue-based Forums.</b> In-person or virtual (i.e. Zoom), based on audiences, key topics and BIC availability</p> <p>(Inform, Consult)</p>	Concurrent with Forest Service outreach efforts during various phases of planning	Various spectrum of BIC members, Public Outreach Team, FS IDT?  <b>Status:</b>
ALL AUDIENCES	Promote joint problem solving and identification of solutions	<p><b>Partner-led technical workshop.</b> Either jointly as BIC or in partnership with a state university, convene a technical workshop designed to focus dialogue on the key issues the proposed new Forest Plans should address.</p> <p><i>* Suggested format for the technical workshop could be a one-day workshop with multi-interest group participation (and open to the public) replicated in numerous communities/counties.</i></p> <p>(Consult, Collaborate)</p>	During DEIS comment period	BIC members, Forest Service ID Team, state university  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES	Increase understanding of various components within Forest Plan and what it means to resources communities care about.	<p><b>Series of short VIDEOS</b> – topic based. Could include a feedback form for questions.</p> <p>(Inform/Consult)</p>	Anytime	Various BIC members, Public Outreach Team  <b>Status:</b>
YOUTH	Engage youth in natural	<b>Student led-projects</b> (have students	Anytime	Various spectrum of

Audience	Desired Outcome	Activity and Spectrum Level*	Timing	Responsibility
	resource management, amplify outreach efforts.	assist with visitor or community surveys, work with schools or youth organizations, activities at Outdoor Schools)  (Inform)		BIC members  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES	Share information regarding BIC activities, awareness/education	<b>Local community events</b> (i.e. farmer's markets, county fairs). BIC members that are participating have information materials available to hand out.  (Inform)	As they are scheduled in various communities	BIC members, Public Outreach Team, FS staff  <b>Status:</b>
		<i>Support to FS public engagement</i>  (Consult)		
<b>Phase 3 – Implementation and Monitoring</b>				
		<i>Implementation of monitoring with the public/partners.</i> <i>Spectrum Level: Collaborate</i>		
ALL AUDIENCES	Share updates on Forest Plan Revision process and BIC working materials.	<b>Website</b>  (Inform)	As completed.	BIC Facilitation Team  <b>Status:</b>
BIC MEMBERS	Shared learning and ensure coordinated implementation	<b>Dedicated workshop</b> on how Forest Plan Revision will be implemented and monitoring.  (Collaborate)	Upon decision	Facilitation Team  <b>Status:</b>
BIC MEMBERS	Enhance opportunities for shared learning, build relationships/trust.	<b>Field tour</b> to visit project area under planning on a National Forest.	Spring/Summer	Full BIC, Steering Committee, Facilitation Team.  <b>Status:</b>
<b>ISSUE/TOPIC</b> SPECIFIC AUDIENCE	Provide information and clarity on decision and BIC's involvement, discuss impacts to stakeholder and how they can be involved. Bring feedback to BIC	<b>Targeted phone calls</b> (individual or small group)  (Inform, Consult)	Anytime	Various spectrum of BIC members  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES	Provide opportunity for feedback from public about work the BIC is doing or Forest Plan Revision decision/implementation	<b>E-survey and hardcopy survey</b> forms that people can complete and share with BIC members regarding questions or concerns on implementation.	Ongoing post-decision	Public Outreach team. Final review by Steering Committee  <b>Status:</b>

Audience	Desired Outcome	Activity and Spectrum Level*	Timing	Responsibility
		(Consult)		
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES (Particularly media)	Share information regarding BIC activities and accomplishments	<b>News release</b> with updates on BIC work done to date, how to get information/share feedback, BIC process moving forward.  (Inform)	Post-Decision	Public Outreach Team, final review by Steering Committee.  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES	Share information regarding BIC activities and accomplishments	<b>Social media</b> campaign each government entity can share about BIC work accomplished, how to get information, etc.  (Inform)	As appropriate to amplify key updates	Public Outreach Team  <b>Status:</b>
EXTERNAL AUDIENCES (media)	Share information about BIC activities, accomplishments, any work moving forward.	<b>Radio spot</b> with Elkhorn Media Group or other  (Inform)	As appropriate	Various BIC members  <b>Status:</b>
BIC MEMBERS	Share updates on activities of various BIC members, welcome new members, keep information and shared learning opportunities going, build trust.	<b>Newsletter</b> to send out quarterly to BIC members  (Inform)	Quarterly	Facilitation Team. <b>Potential youth intern project?</b> Final review by Steering Committee  <b>Status:</b>

# Appendix 1

## Key Messages

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### Key Message 1: About the Blues Intergovernmental Council

The Blues Intergovernmental Council (BIC) is an overarching entity of leaders from Federal, State, Local and Tribal Governmental entities surrounding the Blue Mountains. The BIC formed to develop recommendations to the Forest Service for planning and guidance around land management issues related to the Blue Mountain Forests (consisting of the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests) including but not limited to the forest plan revisions.

#### Talking Points:

- Following the withdrawal of the Blue Mountains Forest Plans, leadership from the Forest Service met with the Eastern Oregon Counties Association in April 2019, to better understand concerns and identify opportunities to approach forest planning and management in a new way.
- The participants recognized the need to work together at a larger scale, which included all government entities within and surrounding the Blue Mountains geographic area.
- BIC members convened as a government-to-government forum around the common purpose of providing sustainability for our communities economic and social-cultural health and enhancing environmental stewardship.
- The BIC serves as a forum for members to work together to create zones of agreement to guide programmatic planning, frame future work to achieve mutual goals, identify innovative pilots, remove barriers to working together, and align work for implementation of efforts.
- The BIC aims to seek mutual understanding as the basis for joint recommendations and actions to the Forest Service on planning and land management. Recommendations made by the BIC help provide important overarching intent that the Forest Service can use when reinitiating the Forest Plan Revision NEPA process.
- These discussions do not replace the NEPA process, Tribal consultation, or other regulatory requirements.

### Key Message 2: Work Accomplished by the BIC

The BIC is working together on the most prevalent key issues in the Blue Mountains Forest Plans that emerged from the prior planning effort. Since convening in 2019, the BIC has achieved several accomplishments, including developing Operating Principles, and finalizing recommendations for Desired Conditions on key resources that the Forest Service can use as overarching guidelines when reinitiating Plan Revision.

Talking Points:

- During the 2018 objection process the Forest Service received approximately 350 objections to the Forest Plans and had more than 300 people participate in objection resolution meetings held across eastern Oregon.
- After the BIC convened in 2019, members identified six key issues from the withdrawn Forest Plans that had raised the most concerns. The BIC agreed that developing recommendations for the Forest Service on those key resource areas would be crucial starting points for developing Forest Plans that would be more broadly supported across the Blue Mountains.
- The BIC formed subcommittees to develop zones of agreement around desired conditions on the six prevalent key issues, which included livestock grazing, fisheries, hydrology, forest health, access and socioeconomics.
- Through numerous meetings that occurred over a yearlong timeframe, BIC members worked together to develop mutually agreeable desired conditions for each of the six key resource areas.
- As of Jan. 25, 2022, all the desired conditions have been endorsed by the full BIC, except socioeconomics.
- One of the most polarizing issues in Forest Plan revision is access. The BIC ultimately endorsed the desired conditions that the subcommittee developed with a minority report.
- The BIC-endorsed desired conditions serve as recommendations to the Forest Service to inform revision of forest plans for the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests.
- These discussions do not replace the NEPA process, Tribal consultation, or other regulatory requirements.

**Key Message 3: Defining Desired Conditions**

Desired conditions describe specific social, economic, or ecological characteristics that serve as goals for land and resource management actions. Desired conditions are expressed in broad general terms and are timeless in that they have no specific date by which they are to be completed.

**Key Message 4: The Blues Intergovernmental Council's long-term goals**

The BIC aims to provide sustainability for communities economic and social-cultural health and enhancing environmental stewardship. The BIC will continue to work together as a government-to-government forum toward these goals by creating zones of agreement, guiding programmatic planning, identifying innovative pilots, and aligning work for implementation of efforts.

Talking Points:

- The BIC will work with the Forest Service through the life of Forest planning efforts to incorporate concerns, interests and common values that reflect the diverse interests of the communities that surround and use the Blue Mountains.
- BIC members commit to remain at the table, seek mutual understanding of other BIC members' perspectives, and identify joint recommendations around Forest Service land management.

- Specific or other goals?

What other topic-specific key messages does the BIC want?

## Appendix 2

### Spectrum of Public Participation

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Public participation methods align with those identified in the 2012 Planning Rule and include informing, consulting, involving, and collaborating as described here:

- **Informing:** The BIC will provide participants and other target audiences with balanced and objective information, including assisting them in understanding work products prepared as part of the BIC's process and charter. The BIC will also seek to share information with constituents regarding the status and intent of work products prepared by the Forest Service.
- **Consulting:** The BIC will obtain participants' feedback on draft work products as appropriate.
- **Involving:** The BIC will work directly with participants to ensure that their concerns and ideas are consistently understood and that the Forest Service considers them in the development of work products.