

Next Steps

As the BIC continues to engage regularly with the Forest Service throughout the Forest Plan Revision process, the BIC will also actively engage with the public in order to better understand concerns, and provide another avenue for the public to ensure the agency hears community input, concerns and ideas that can inform the content of the Forest Plans.

As an intergovernmental forum, the BIC is available to the public as a bridge between the Forest Service and communities surrounding the Blue Mountains. By serving in this capacity the BIC aims to help build trust, find zones of agreement between diverse interests, provide clarity about the planning process and plan components, complement Forest Service public outreach efforts, and bring continual feedback to the Forest Service regarding ways to improve the process or products.

All BIC meetings are open to the public. The BIC generally meets on the last Tuesday of every month.

Get Involved

You are an important part of the revision process. Your input matters! Forest Plans should reflect the diverse interests and desires of the people who use the forest - even when they don't agree. While the BIC is available as a resource to help ensure the Forest Service understands local interests and concerns the public will also have numerous opportunities to provide feedback directly to the Forest Service during the Forest Plan Revision process through various public engagements and specified formal comment periods. Information regarding these opportunities will be shared by the Forest Service once plan revision is initiated. Please participate in this process, we need your help!

MORE INFORMATION



<https://bit.ly/3O2vUID>



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BIC

BLUES INTERGOVERNMENTAL
COUNCIL



Background

The Forest Service previously attempted to revise the Blue Mountains Forest Plans in northeast Oregon and southeast Washington with a planning effort that spanned 15 years. However, when the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and draft Records of Decision were released in 2018, the Forest Service received widespread feedback that the Revised Plans were difficult to understand and potentially confusing to implement, which ultimately resulted in the documents being withdrawn on March 14, 2019.

Following the withdrawal of the Forest Plans, leadership from the Pacific Northwest Regional Office and the Malheur, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests met with local elected leaders in April 2019 to better understand concerns and identify opportunities to approach forest planning in a new way that ensures community voices are heard throughout the process. The participants recognized the need to explore unique approaches, identify common ground, and work together at a larger scale. The various government entities within and surrounding the Blue Mountains geographic area officially came together and formed the BIC in November 2019.



Who is the BIC?

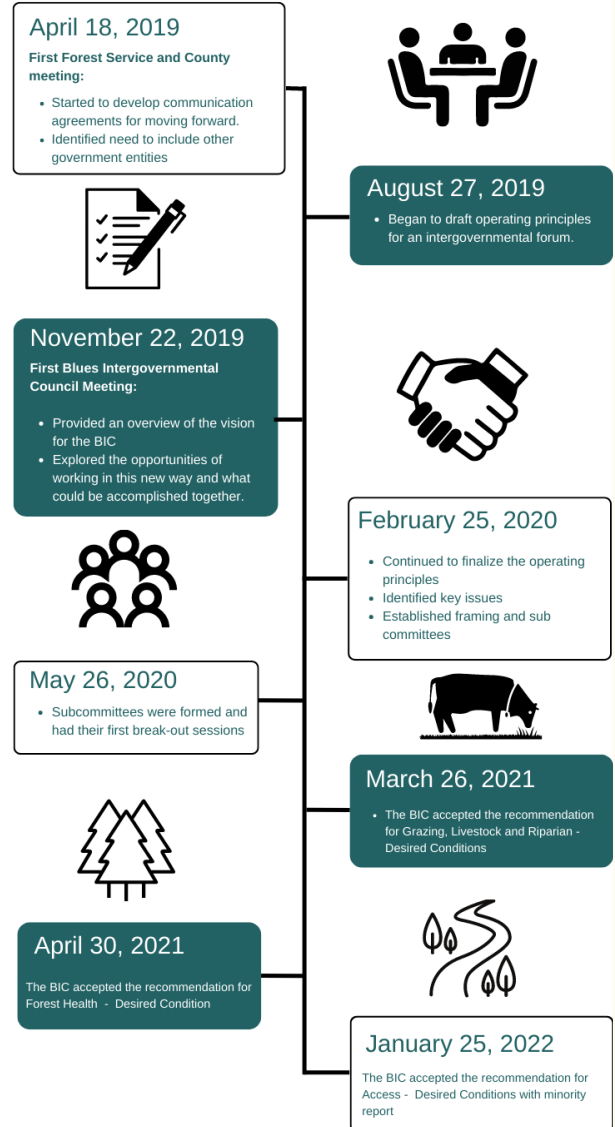
The Blues Intergovernmental Council (BIC) members include leaders from all 14 local counties, as well as federal, state, and tribal government entities. The diverse membership of the BIC ensures numerous perspectives and interests are represented.

BIC Goals: To understand differences and identify common ground

BIC members aligned around the common goals of working together to support healthy forests and healthy communities. The Blue Mountains Forest Plan is an important part of providing for the sustainable needs of the landscape and the needs of current and future generations. The BIC members are committed to understanding differences and identifying solutions that consider the diverse perspective of stakeholders surrounding the Blue Mountains. Through these discussions, the BIC can help inform the development and implementation of durable Forest Plans by working through ongoing forest management challenges together.

Visit the BIC's website to review the BIC's joint desired condition recommendations for Forest Service consideration in the Revised Blue Mountains Forest Plans.

BIC Accomplishments



Your input matters! We need your voice to develop Forest Plans that makes sense for our communities. Visit the BIC website for upcoming engagement opportunities and links to connect directly with the Forest Service to share your input.