



2001 Annual Report

The Umatilla National Forest encompasses 1.4 million acres of your public lands. These are places that are our backyards and provide valuable experiences, services and products to our communities and our nation. We want to update you on some of the programs and services we have been emphasizing on your National Forest.

Our program revolves around long term investments in watershed health. Our basic resources are soil and water - if we start with taking care of these, other programs will have a strong foundation. Emphasis on national forest lands has changed significantly over the last decade. We are rapidly moving from programs focused on annual outputs of good and services to a more long term look at sustainable watersheds for us to enjoy today and for our children in the future. Traditional products that are provided from these public lands are still important and contribute to our communities. These products will be the result of managing healthy, sustainable watersheds.

We continue to emphasize riparian improvement, reintroducing controlled prescribed fire back into the landscape, providing recreation opportunities, and managing vegetation to move toward more resilient, sustainable conditions. In addition, our staff is increasing our participation in community based activities, such as watershed councils, rural economic assistance, and a host of community efforts. We strive to be good stewards of the land and responsible members of our communities.

A key part of our management is staying closely in touch with the latest science, changing public desires and expectations, and to ever changing interpretation of existing laws. As owners of these lands, you play an important role with us. We will continue to value your input, partnerships, and needs through these complex and challenging times.

Jeff Blackwood, Forest Supervisor

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