



## **Blue Mountains Forest Partners (BMFP)**

**History:** 2006—status quo unacceptable: forest, industry, and community suffering

**Membership:** Relevant parties/interest groups, community members and community partners

**Mission:**

Blue Mountains Forest Partners is a diverse group of stakeholders who work together to create and implement a shared vision to improve the resilience and well-being of forests and communities in the Blue Mountains (website).

Without the social acceptance of appropriate forest management, little will change (website).

To engage in advocacy, science, and economic education to advance achievement of forest and community resilience (Bylaws).

**First project:** Dad's, in the upper John Day Basin; 3 years to reach agreement on 7000 acres.

**Now:** Agreement reached on 30,000 to 40,000 acre projects in half the time.

**2012:** Awarded a Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) grant worth \$2.5 million annually through 2019 (joint effort by Harney County Restoration Collaborative, Malheur National Forest, and BMFP)

**2015:** Original CFLRP project boundary expanded to include over 870,000 acres for treatment with an additional \$1.5 million award, for a total \$4 million investment in the Malheur (map)

**Approach:** Socially developed, scientifically informed treatments that target restoration and forest health in a manner that sustains or enhances the socio-economic vitality of communities in Grant and Harney counties.

**Success:** Increased trust and understanding have resulted in significant increases in the pace, scale, and quality of work on the Malheur National Forest; provided timber volumes to avoid mill closure; set the stage for additional infrastructure development in the area.

**Summary:** By working with a variety of interested parties BMFP has been able retool attitudes and approaches to public land management that have resulted in significant benefits to Grant County.

## **Benefits to Local Communities: CFLRP Funding And 10 Year Stewardship Contract**

September 27, 2013 through February 29, 2016

The Malheur 10-year Stewardship Contract has provided substantial benefit to local communities in Grant and Harney counties since it began.

Grant County has enjoyed most of these benefits due to the fact Iron Triangle LLC, which holds the 10-year Stewardship Contract, is headquartered here, as is Malheur Lumber Company and the majority of district and administrative offices that make up the Malheur National Forest.

Direct benefits include an increased number of jobs and increased salaries associated with these jobs. The Malheur NF hired an additional 48 permanent employees and scores of seasonal staff to help ensure it meets its project planning, development, and administrative obligations. Iron Triangle, Malheur Lumber Company, and other subcontractors together have hired 50 new employees to help ensure project implementation obligations and commitments are met.

Malheur Lumber has maintained operations, increased employment, and is moving forward with increasing capacity through improvements to the boilers based on the timber supply that will result from the Stewardship Contract.

To meet Stewardship Contract wage rates, Iron Triangle has increased the wages it pays its employees by nearly \$1,000,000; to satisfy project requirements, it has increased the number of contractors it uses in both counties and increased investment in equipment by over \$5,000,000.

In Grant County, Iron Triangle utilizes 4 contractors for logging and 2 contractors for hand-thinning and piling. In Harney County, Iron Triangle has hired 2 additional employees and utilizes 3 logging contractors.

Since the Stewardship Contract began, unemployment numbers in Grant and Harney counties have dropped from 14% and 11.7%, respectively, to 8.1% and 6.8%.

Home sales within Grant County have increased by over 200% since 2012, the year before the Stewardship Contract (and accelerated restoration) really got going on the Malheur NF (from 34 home sales in 2012 to 108 in 2015).

Grant School District #3 has experienced a halt to its nearly 15-year decline in enrollment, from a high of 990 students to a low of 587 students, and in fact experienced a 4.8% increase to 615 students. This has resulted in additional local school funding coming from the State of Oregon.

Indirect and induced benefits have been realized in all sectors of our economies, resulting in overall increased employment, increased wages and benefits to many employees, increased school enrollment, and increases in home sales.