

# **Klamath Falls Resource Area Planning Update Fall 2008**



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**BLM/OR/WA/PL-08/098+1792**

**Cover Photograph: Bertha, the big bullfrog, with radio transmitter. Photo by Zia Gray.**



# United States Department of the Interior



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IN REPLY REFER TO:  
1614(014)

## KLAMATH FALLS RESOURCE AREA PLANNING UPDATE Fall 2008

**Planning Update General Information** – This Planning Update provides information about activities proposed on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Klamath Falls Resource Area. A table is included that provides the location and brief description of most activities proposed within the Resource Area. (Refer to the map following the table.) Additional information can be obtained from the contact person listed in the project descriptions or the Resource Area Planner. As certain projects reach stages for public involvement, news releases and public notices may be published in the Herald and News. If you have any questions on this update or recommendations for improvement, please notify us in person or call (541) 883-6916. In addition, please contact us if you wish to be removed from the mailing list.

Written comments to a specific environmental assessment should be sent or delivered to the Field Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area, by the close of (or postmarked by) the last day of the comment period specified. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

**Western Oregon Plan Revision Process Update** – The draft environmental impact statement was released on August 9, 2007 for public review and comment. The comment period closed on January 11, 2008, and after consideration of public comments, a proposed resource management plan and final environmental impact statement will be issued in the fall of 2008.

Periodic updates on the process are published as plan revision newsletters located on the BLM Internet web page at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/wopr>. Planning documents are available in printed format, on CD, or via the Internet. The BLM maintains an extensive plan revision mailing list. If you wish to be on either the postal or electronic mailing list, please write to Western Oregon Plan Revisions, POB 2965, Portland, Oregon 97208; or call 503-808-6629, or email [orwopr@blm.gov](mailto:orwopr@blm.gov).

**Forestry Categorical Exclusions** - Certain activities within the BLM's forestry program have been categorically excluded from preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The purpose of a categorical exclusion is to eliminate the need for unnecessary paperwork under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Specifically, Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for NEPA at 40 CFR §1508.4 state that:

*“Categorical exclusion’ means a category of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and which have been found to have no such effect in procedures adopted by a Federal agency in implementation of these regulations (Sec. 1507.3) and for which, therefore, neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is*

*required...Any procedures under this section shall provide for extraordinary circumstances in which a normally excluded action may have a significant environmental effect.”*

In implementation of the NEPA regulations, the BLM has developed categorical exclusions for certain forest silvicultural activities, such as reforestation, pre-commercial treatments, brush control, sample tree falling, and salvage, commercial thinning, and hazardous fuels reduction of limited acres. In developing categorical exclusions, the BLM demonstrated through rulemaking procedures how these actions do not typically result in significant environmental effects and set forth the methodology and criteria used to define the categories of actions. These rulemaking procedures included extensive public involvement and input, and CEQ review, regarding appropriate limits on the use of the categorical exclusion to assure that any categorically excluded action would remain within the effects of actions covered in the analysis for the rulemaking.

As such, in deciding whether to proceed with such actions, the BLM will review their particular conditions to ensure that no extraordinary circumstances exist, as listed in the Department of the Interior’s NEPA Manual at 516 DM 2, Appendix 2 that would preclude the use of a categorical exclusion. The Klamath Falls Field Office maintains an on-site NEPA register that lists ongoing actions, and seeks information from the public as to whether extraordinary circumstances exist for any of these ongoing actions that are categorically excluded. An “extraordinary” circumstance is one that could have significant environmental effects beyond the “ordinary” circumstances already described and considered as applicable to the excluded actions in the rulemaking procedure. These categorically excluded actions, by regulation, do not require the documentation necessary for an EA or EIS. The public was also provided a formal opportunity to participate in the agency’s review and approval of these categorically excluded activities. Given this context, the BLM may choose to proceed with these actions as part of the ordinary course of business in managing forest land with the posting of a notice of decision on the District internet site. This notice would advise the public of the formal administrative review process for these individual actions available under 43 CFR §4.450. Depending on circumstances, however, the BLM may invoke, by publishing a notice in a local newspaper of record, the administrative review process under 43 CFR §5003 for certain individual forest management actions.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Donald J. Holmstrom*  
Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area

<b>SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED PROJECTS</b>						
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT * KLAMATH FALLS RESOURCE AREA * 2795 ANDERSON AVENUE, BLDG. #25 * KLAMATH FALLS, OR 97603						
PHONE NUMBER: (541) 883-6916						
PROJECT TITLE & DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MAP REF. #	STATUS OF ANALYSIS	ANALYSIS COMPLETION	PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION	CONTACT
<b>CX = Categorical Exclusion, DNA = Determination of NEPA Adequacy, EA = Environmental Assessment, EIS = Environmental Impact Statement, DR = Decision Record</b>						
<b>Timber Management – New Projects</b>						
<b>Buck 23 Timber Sale</b> – An estimated 400 acre timber sale in the Spencer Creek watershed near Buck Lake. Includes Density Management and Regeneration Harvest	T38S., R5E., Sec. 23, 26, 27, & 36	#19	EA/FONSI complete.	Decision Record scheduled for Fall 2008	Proposed sale date November 2008	Mike Bechdolt
<b>Cold Onion EA &amp; Timber Sale</b> – for the Cold Creek and Onion Springs timber sales in Jenny Creek Watershed	T38S., R.5E., Sec. 33, 34 T.39S., R.6E., Sec. 2,11-13	#26	Public scoping done. EA in preparation	Winter 2008	Proposed sale dates Cold Creek - Spring 09 Onion Springs – Fall 09	Mike Bechdolt
<b>Timber Management – Recent Decisions</b>						
<a href="#">PVJ Timber Sale EA – Density Management Timber Sale Decision Record</a>	T41S, R7E, Sec. 7, 9, 15	#17	EA completed. Public comment closed 7/8/08.	Decision Record signed 7/29/08	Sold on August 27, 2008	Mike Bechdolt
<a href="#">Buck 13 Timber Sale Decision Record</a> – Est. 30-40 acre timber sale near Buck Lake in Spencer Ck watershed. Density Mgmt and Regeneration Harvest	T.38S., R5E., Sec.13	#14	EA completed. Public comment closed 8/10/08.	Decision Record signed 8/27/08	Proposed sale date September 17, 2008	Shane Durant
<b>Gerber Stew Stewardship Contract – New Projects</b>						
<b>2008 Juniper Yarding / Utilization EA</b> – This will analyze the utilization of previously cut juniper on ten units totaling approximately 5,300 acres	Various locations	None	Initial scoping April 2008. EA in preparation.	Fall 2008	Spring 2009	Mike Bechdolt
<b>Lands/Minerals Management – Recent Decisions</b>						
<a href="#">Burlington-Northern Communication Site Building Replacement</a>	Hamaker Mountain	#2	CX completed	7/22/08	Fall 2008	Don Hoffheins
<a href="#">Quicksilver Chip Haul road Use Right-of-way</a>	Willow Valley	#6	CX completed	7/28/08	Fall 2008	Mike Bechdolt
<b>Wildlife Management – New Projects</b>						
<b>Dog Hollow Vegetation Treatment</b>	T40S, R14E, Sec 12,13,24 T40S, R14.5E, Sec 7, 16-20, 28-30	#35	CX in progress	FY 2009	FY 2009	Steve Hayner
<b>Prescribed Burning and Fuels Treatment – New Projects</b>						
<b>Chicken Hills DDR Fuel Treatment and Rx Fire</b>	T40S, R7E, Sec. 29	#3	On hold	FY 2009	FY 2010	Matt Broyles
<b>Bly Mountain Fuels Reduction and Range Improvement</b>	Bly Mountain	#27	EA in progress	FY 2009	FY 2009	Matt Broyles
<b>Recreation – New Projects</b>						
<b>Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Route Designation</b>	Resource Area Wide	None	EA in progress	FY 2009	FY 2009	Scott Senter
<b>Hydrology – New Projects</b>						
<b>Wood River Channel Restoration</b>	Wood River Wetland	#8	EA in progress	FY 2008	FY 2009	Andy Hamilton

**SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED PROJECTS**

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 PHONE NUMBER: (541) 883-6916

PROJECT TITLE & DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MAP REF. #	STATUS OF ANALYSIS	ANALYSIS COMPLETION	PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION	CONTACT
<b>Hydrology – Recent Decisions</b>						
<a href="#">Wood River Well Maintenance</a>	Wood River Wetland	#8	CX completed	8/1/08	Fall 2008	Rob Roninger
<a href="#">Gerber Tributaries Riparian Thinning</a>	Various	None	CX completed	9/15/08	Fall 2008	Andy Hamilton
<b>Range Management – New Projects</b>						
<a href="#">Kellison Allotment Grazing Lease Modification</a>	T38S, R11E, Sec. 27, 34	#5	EA completed. Public comment closed 5/5/08.	FY 2009	FY 2009	Dana Eckard
<a href="#">Rainus &amp; Son Allotment Grazing Lease Modification</a>	T40S, R12E, Sec. 5, 8, 9, 15, 17, 19-21	#7	EA completed. Public comment closed 5/5/08.	FY 2009	FY 2009	Dana Eckard
<b>Interdisciplinary – Landscape Level Analysis</b>						
<b>RMP Revision</b> – As per the final settlement agreement to the American Forest Resource Council vs. BLM litigation, the BLM is directed to revise RMPs in western Oregon by December, 2008.	Resource Area Wide	None	FEIS in preparation.	FY 2008	RMP Revision – FY 2009	Don Hoffheins
<b>Spencer Creek Landscape Analysis</b> – Analysis of several proposed actions (road treatments, vegetation treatments, prescribed burning, etc.).	Spencer Creek 5 <sup>th</sup> Field Watershed	None	Initial scoping complete. EA in progress	FY 2009	2009-2015	Eric Johnson

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PROJECT TITLE & DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MAP REF. #	SPECIAL AREAS AFFECTED	STATUS OF ANALYSIS	COMPLETION DATE	CONTACT
<b>Rangeland Health Standards Assessments – in progress</b>						
These assessments compare the monitoring information collected against the five Standards for Rangeland Health and propose management changes if current grazing use is not meeting the Standards, or not making significant improvement towards meeting them. Changes are implemented through the grazing decision or agreement process.						
<b>Haught Allotment (#0801)</b>	Buck Butte	#43	None Known	Assessment in Progress	FY 2008	Dana Eckard
<b>Mills Creek Allotment (#0865)</b>	East of Malin	#36	None Known	Assessment in Progress	FY 2008	Dana Eckard
<b>Bryant-Lyon Allotment (#0840)</b>	East of Malin	#36	None Known	Assessment in Progress	FY 2008	Dana Eckard
<b>Rajnus Bros. Allotment (#0849)</b>	Southeast of Klamath Falls	#29	None Known	Assessment in progress	FY 2008	Amber Knoll
<b>Swede Cabin (#0847)</b>	Northeast of Bly, Oregon	#32	None Known	Assessment completed	FY 2008	Dana Eckard
<b>7C Allotment (#0853)</b>	Northeast of Bly, Oregon	#32	None Known	Assessment completed	FY 2008	Dana Eckard
<b>Rangeland Health Standards Assessments – completed in FY 2008*</b>						
<b>North Horsefly (#0821)</b>	Near Bly, Oregon	#27	None Known	Assessment completed	November 2007	Bill Lindsey
<b>North Horsefly (#0823)</b>	Near Bly, Oregon	#27	None Known	Assessment completed	November 2007	Bill Lindsey
<b>Pope Allotment (#0848)</b>	Southeast of Klamath Falls	#15	None Known	Assessment completed	November 2007	Amber Knoll
<b>Harpold Chaining Allotment (#0836)</b>	Near Bonanza, Oregon	#1	None Known	Assessment completed	November 2007	Dana Eckard
*A total of 68 Rangeland Health Standards Assessments have been completed to date, which encompasses approximately 90% of the KFRA.						

**ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH**

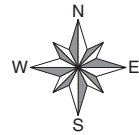
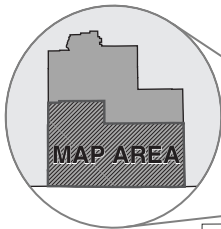
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**Yearly Scheduled Events - 2008**

<b>Event/Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact(s)</b>	<b># of Participants (Employees/Public*)</b>
<b>Wilderness &amp; Horse Packing Clinic</b>	May 2-4	Klamath County Fairgrounds	Scott Senter	6/5,000
<b>International Migratory Bird Day</b>	May 10	Veteran's Memorial Park	Steve Hayner	3/500
<b>RAP Camp</b>	June 15-21	Camp Esther Applegate	Scott Senter	4/75
<b>Klamath County Fair</b>	August 7-10	Klamath County Fairgrounds	Scott Senter	8/45,000
<b>National Public Lands Day</b>	September 20	Topsy Campground	Scott Senter	10/41
<b>Sixth Grade Forestry Tour</b>	September 23-25	Clover Creek Educational Area	Greg Reddell	3/800

\*Numbers of public participants for large events are estimates.







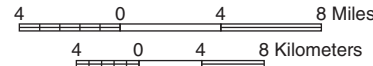


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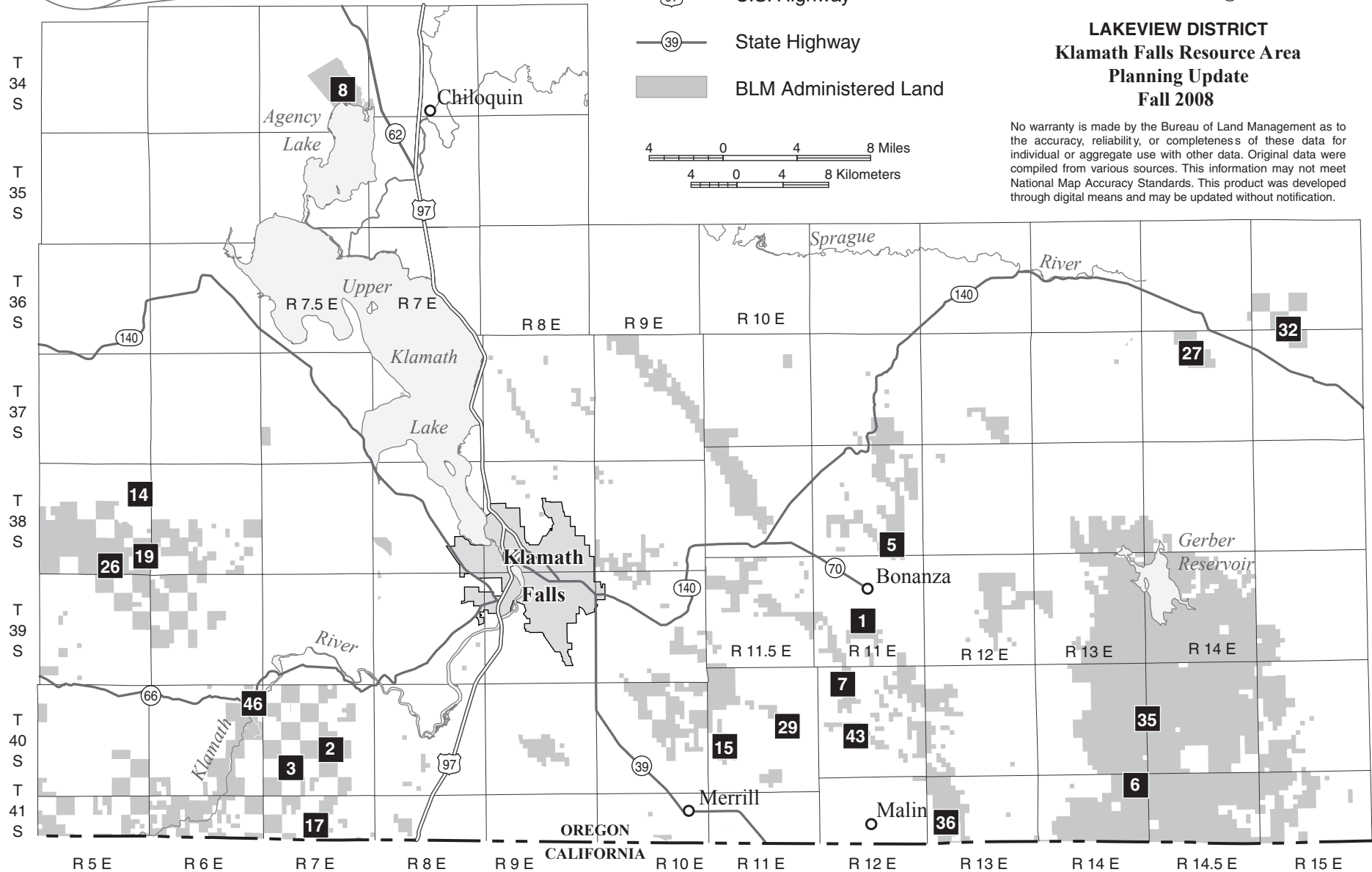
**LEGEND**

-  Project Location
-  U.S. Highway
-  State Highway
-  BLM Administered Land



**LAKEVIEW DISTRICT  
Klamath Falls Resource Area  
Planning Update  
Fall 2008**

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