

Klamath Falls Resource Area Planning Update Summer 2008



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BLM/OR/WA/PL-08/068+1792

Cover Photograph: Crew 7 hiking into a fire, photograph by Evan LaRocca.



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Klamath Falls Resource Area
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IN REPLY REFER TO:
1614(014)

KLAMATH FALLS RESOURCE AREA PLANNING UPDATE Summer 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. 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. 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.

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 by the Fall of 2008.

Periodic updates on the process are published plan revision newsletters and on the BLM Internet web page at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/wopr>. The BLM maintains an extensive plan revision mailing list. Planning documents are available in printed format, on CD, or via the Internet. 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.

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 NEPA. Specifically, Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for the National Environmental Policy Act (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 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*

Field Manager

Klamath Falls Resource Area

SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED PROJECTS

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
CX = Categorical Exclusion, DNA = Determination of NEPA Adequacy, EA = Environmental Assessment, EIS = Environmental Impact Statement, DR = Decision Record						
Vegetation Treatments – Recent Decisions						
Klamath River Vegetation and Road Treatments Decision Record #1	Klamath River Canyon	#46	EA completed. Public comment closed 6/20/08.	Decision Record signed 7/1/08	FY 2009	Steve Hayner
Timber Management – New Projects						
PVJ Timber Sale EA – Density Management Timber Sale	T41S, R7E, Sec. 7, 9, 15	#17	EA completed. Public comment closes 7/8/08	Decision Record scheduled for Summer 2008	Proposed sale date August 2008	Mike Bechdolt
Buck 13 Timber Sale – Est. 30-40 acre timber sale near Buck Lake in Spencer Ck watershed. Density Mgmt and Regeneration Harvest	T.38S., R5E., Sec.13	#14	Public scoping done. EA in preparation	Summer 2008	Proposed sale date August 2008	Shane Durant
Buck 23 Timber Sale – 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.	Fall 2008 Decision Record scheduled for Sept. 2008	Proposed sale date October 2008	Mike Bechdolt
Cold Onion EA & Timber Sale – Est. 500+ acre timber sale in Jenny Creek Watershed – Density Mgmt and Regeneration Harvests	T38S., R.5E., Sec. 34 T.39S., R.6E., Sec. 2,11-13	#26	Public scoping done. EA in preparation	Fall 2008	Proposed sale date Spring 2009	Mike Bechdolt
Gerber Stew Stewardship Contract – New Projects						
2008 Juniper Yarding / Utilization EA – This will analyze the utilization of previously cut juniper on ten units totaling approximately 5,300 acres	Various locations	None	Initial scoping to be done April 2008	June 2008	July 2008	Mike Bechdolt
Lands/Minerals Management – Recent Decisions						
Happy Hollow Land Sale Decision Record	T38S, R11E, Sec.17	#1	Pending appraisal and Federal Register Notice.	DR signed 6/12/08.	FY 2008	Linda Younger
East Stukel Land Sale Decision Record	T40S, R11E, Sec. 9	#63	Pending appraisal and Federal Register Notice.	DR signed 6/12/08.	FY 2008	Linda Younger
Nancy Charley Trust Land Sale Decision Record	T38S, R5E, Sec.13	#14	Pending appraisal and Federal Register Notice.	DR signed 6/12/08.	FY 2008	Linda Younger
Wildlife Management – New Projects						
North Gerber Lek Vegetation Treatment	T 39S, R 14.5E, Sec 6	#44	CX in progress	FY 2008	FY 2008	Steve Hayner
Dog Hollow Vegetation Treatment	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

SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED PROJECTS BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT * KLAMATH FALLS RESOURCE AREA * 2795 ANDERSON AVENUE, BLDG. #25 * KLAMATH FALLS, OR 97603 PHONE NUMBER: (541) 883-6916						
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Prescribed Burning and Fuels Treatment – New Projects						
Chicken Hills DDR Fuel Treatment and Rx Fire	T40S, R7E, Sec. 29	#3	On hold	FY 2008	FY 2010	Matt Broyles
Bly Mountain Fuels Reduction and Range Improvement	Bly Mountain	#9	EA in progress	FY 2008	FY 2009	Matt Broyles
Recreation – New Projects						
Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Route Designation	Resource Area Wide	None	EA in progress	FY 2008	FY 2009	Scott Senter
Recreation – Recent Decisions						
Gerber South Boat Ramp Reconstruction Decision Record	Gerber South Campground	#6	EA completed. Public comment closed 5/5/08.	Decision Record signed 5/28/08	Fall 2008	Scott Senter
Hydrology – New Projects						
Wood River Channel Restoration	Wood River Wetland	#8	EA in progress	FY 2008	FY 2009	Andy Hamilton
Gerber Tributaries Riparian Thinning	Various	None	CX in progress	FY 2008	FY 2009	Andy Hamilton
Wood River Well Maintenance	Wood River Wetland	#8	CX in progress	FY 2008	FY 2009	Rob Roninger
Range Management – New Projects						
Kellison Allotment Grazing Lease Modification	T38S, R11E, Sec. 27, 34	#5	EA completed. Public comment closed 5/5/08.	FY 2008	FY 2008	Dana Eckard
Rajnus & Son Allotment Grazing Lease Modification	T40S, R12E, Sec. 5, 8, 9, 15, 17, 19-21	#7	EA completed. Public comment closed 5/5/08.	FY 2008	FY 2008	Dana Eckard
Interdisciplinary – Landscape Level Analysis						
RMP Revision – 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
Spencer Creek Landscape Analysis – Analysis of several proposed actions (road treatments, vegetation treatments, prescribed burning, etc.).	Spencer Creek 5 th 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
Rangeland Health Standards Assessments – in progress						
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.						
Haught Allotment (#0801)	Buck Butte	#43	None Known	Assessment in Progress	FY 2008	Dana Eckard
Mills Creek Allotment (#0865)	East of Malin	#36	None Known	Assessment in Progress	FY 2008	Dana Eckard
Bryant-Lyon Allotment (#0840)	East of Malin	#36	None Known	Assessment in Progress	FY 2008	Dana Eckard
Rajnus Bros. Allotment (#0849)	Southeast of Klamath Falls	#29	None Known	Assessment in progress	FY 2008	Amber Knoll
Swede Cabin (#0847)	Northeast of Bly, Oregon	#32	None Known	Assessment completed	FY 2008	Dana Eckard
7C Allotment (#0853)	Northeast of Bly, Oregon	#32	None Known	Assessment completed	FY 2008	Dana Eckard
Rangeland Health Standards Assessments – completed in FY 2008*						
North Horsefly (#0821)	Near Bly, Oregon	#27	None Known	Assessment completed	November 2007	Bill Lindsey
North Horsefly (#0823)	Near Bly, Oregon	#27	None Known	Assessment completed	November 2007	Bill Lindsey
Pope Allotment (#0848)	Southeast of Klamath Falls	#15	None Known	Assessment completed	November 2007	Amber Knoll
*A total of 68 Rangeland Health Standards Assessments have been completed to date, which encompasses approximately 90% of the KFRA.						

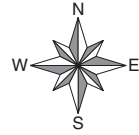
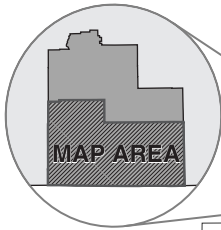
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT * KLAMATH FALLS RESOURCE AREA * 2795 ANDERSON AVENUE, BLDG. #25 * KLAMATH FALLS, OR 97603
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Yearly Scheduled Events - 2008

Event/Activity	Date	Location	Contact(s)	# of Participants (Employees/Public*)
Wilderness & Horse Packing Clinic	May 2-4	Klamath County Fairgrounds	Scott Senter	6/5000
International Migratory Bird Day	May 10	Veteran's Memorial Park	Steve Hayner	3/500
RAP Camp	June 15-21	Camp Esther Applegate	Scott Senter	4/75
Klamath County Fair	August 7-10	Klamath County Fairgrounds	Scott Senter	
National Public Lands Day	September 20	Topsy Campground	Scott Senter	
Sixth Grade Forestry Tour	September	Clover Creek Educational Area	Greg Reddell	





*Numbers of public participants for large events are estimates.



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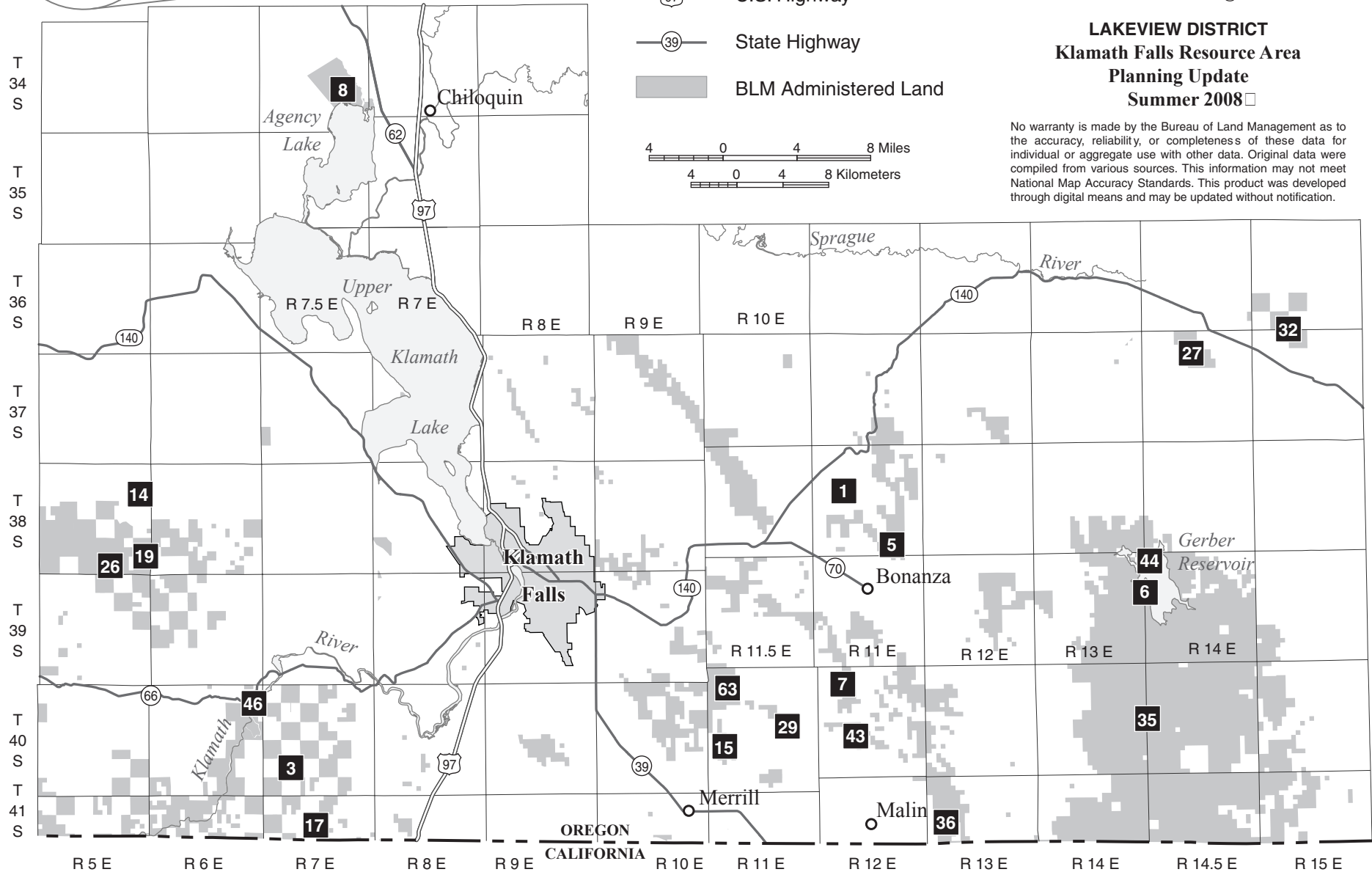


LEGEND

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

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

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

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