

Klamath Falls Resource Area Planning Update Winter 2008



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BLM/OR/WA/AE-09/009+1792

Cover Photograph: Deer at the Lava Beds, photograph by Jay Cochran.



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Klamath Falls Resource Area
2795 Anderson Avenue, Building 25
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603-7891
Phone: (541) 883-6916 | Fax: (541) 884-2097
E-Mail Address: Username@or.blm.gov

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1614(014)

KLAMATH FALLS RESOURCE AREA PLANNING UPDATE Winter 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 final environmental impact statement was released on October 9, 2008. A copy of the final plan is available online at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/index.php>. The Bureau of Land Management made a decision to move forward with a 30-day public protest period related to the release of the Final EIS for the Western Oregon Plan Revisions that commenced on November 7, 2008 with publishing of a notice in the Federal Register. For information regarding the plan revision or protest processes and/or electronic copies of documents related to this effort, visit the BLM Internet web page at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/plans/wopr>. Planning documents are also available in printed format or on CD. Please write to Western Oregon Plan Revisions, POB 2965, Portland, Oregon 97208; or call 503-808-6629, or email 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

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						
Timber Management – New Projects						
Cold Onion EA & Timber Sale – 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-Summer 09 Onion Springs – Fall 09	Shane Durant
Timber Management – Recent Decisions						
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.	Decision Record signed 10/21/08.	Sold November 19, 2008	Shane Durant
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 April 2008. EA in preparation.	Fall 2008	Spring 2009	Mike Bechdolt
Wildlife Management – New Projects						
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
Wildlife Management – Recent Decision						
Wood River Osprey Platform Relocation	Wood River Wetland	#8	CX completed	CX completed 12/2/08	Winter 2008	Matt Broyles
Prescribed Burning and Fuels Treatment – New Projects						
Bly Mountain Fuels Reduction and Range Improvement	Bly Mountain	#27	EA in progress	FY 2009	FY 2009	Matt Broyles
Prescribed Burning and Fuels Treatment – Recent Decisions						
Klamath River Canyon Vegetation & Road Treatments DR #2	Klamath River Canyon	#46	EA completed	Decision Record signed 10/29/08	FY 2009	Steve Hayner
Recreation – New Projects						
Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Route Designation	Resource Area Wide	None	EA in progress	FY 2009	FY 2009	Scott Senter
Hydrology – New Projects						
Wood River Channel Restoration	Wood River Wetland	#8	EA in progress	FY 2008	FY 2009	Andy Hamilton
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 released 10/9/08.	FY 2008	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 2009	Dana Eckard
Mills Creek Allotment (#0865)	East of Malin	#36	None Known	Assessment in Progress	FY 2009	Dana Eckard
Bryant-Lyon Allotment (#0840)	East of Malin	#36	None Known	Assessment in Progress	FY 2009	Dana Eckard
Rajnus Bros. Allotment (#0849)	Southeast of Klamath Falls	#29	None Known	Assessment in progress	FY 2009	Amber Knoll
Barnwell Allotment (#0807)	East of Klamath Falls	#2	None Known	Assessment in progress	FY 2009	Dana Eckard
Horton Allotment (#0829)	East of Klamath Falls	#4	None Known	Assessment in progress	FY 2009	Dana Eckard
Ketcham Allotment (#0835)	East of Klamath Falls	#5	None Known	Assessment in progress	FY 2009	Dana Eckard
Windy Ridge Allotment (#0838)	East of Klamath Falls	#5	None Known	Assessment in progress	FY 2009	Dana Eckard
Marshall Allotment (#0841)	East of Klamath Falls	#1	None Known	Assessment in progress	FY 2009	Dana Eckard
Wilkinson Allotment (#0850)	East of Klamath Falls	#3	None Known	Assessment in progress	FY 2009	Dana Eckard
Rangeland Health Standards Assessments – completed in FY 2009						

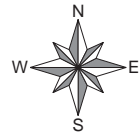
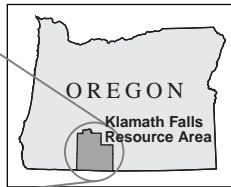
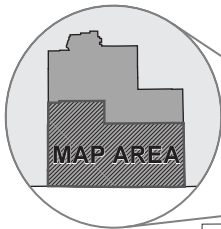
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT * KLAMATH FALLS RESOURCE AREA * 2795 ANDERSON AVENUE, BLDG. #25 * KLAMATH FALLS, OR 97603
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Yearly Scheduled Events - 2009

Event/Activity	Date	Location	Contact(s)	# of Participants (Employees/Public*)
Wilderness & Horse Packing Clinic	May	Klamath County Fairgrounds	Scott Senter	
International Migratory Bird Day	May	Veteran's Memorial Park	Steve Hayner	
RAP Camp	June	Camp Esther Applegate	Scott Senter	
Klamath County Fair	August	Klamath County Fairgrounds	Scott Senter	
National Public Lands Day	September	Topsy Campground	Scott Senter	
Sixth Grade Forestry Tour	September	Clover Creek Educational Area	Madeline Campbell	

*Numbers of public participants for large events are estimates.



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Bureau of Land Management

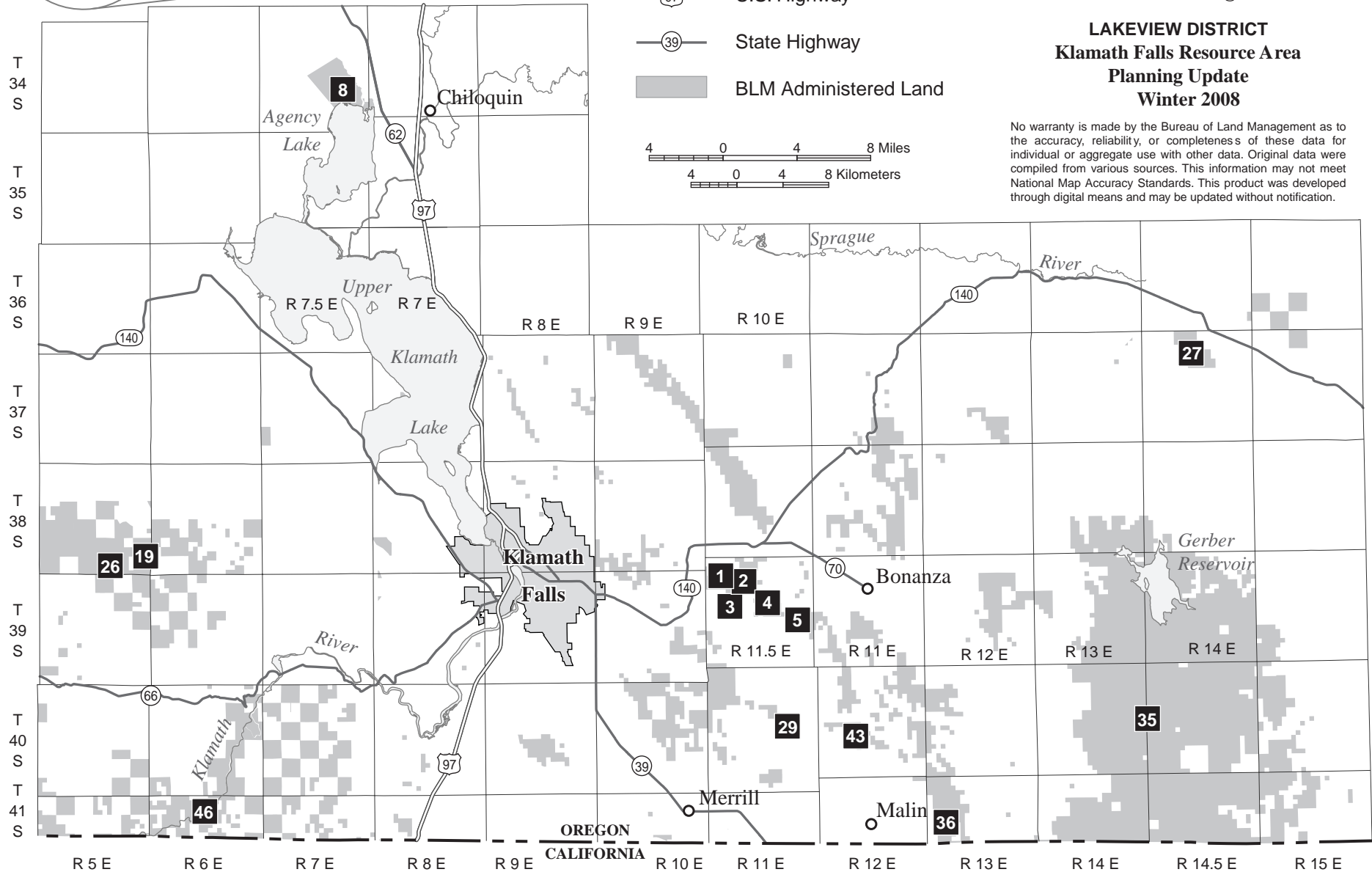
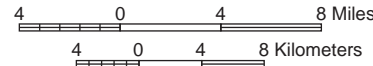


LEGEND

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

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

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**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

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2795 Anderson avenue, Building 25
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603-7891

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