

# **Klamath Falls Resource Area Planning Update Spring 2009**



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**BLM/OR/WA/PL-09/030+1792**

**Cover Photograph: Cattle grazing near Adobe Reservoir (file photo)**



# 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](mailto:Username@or.blm.gov)

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
1614(014)

## KLAMATH FALLS RESOURCE AREA PLANNING UPDATE Spring 2009

**Planning Update General Information** – This Planning Update provides information about activities proposed on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Klamath Falls Resource Area. The table included 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.

**The New Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan** – The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Revision of the Resource Management Plans (RMPs) of the Western Oregon Bureau of Land Management was released on October 9, 2008. A copy of the FEIS is available online at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/index.php>. After a protest period and review of protests received, six Records of Decision to implement six new RMPs specific to each westside district were signed on December 30, 2008. Electronic copies of the Klamath Falls Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan are available online at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/lakeview/plans/lakeviewrmp.php>. These documents are also available in printed format or on CD.

**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.

If you have any questions on this update or recommendations for improvement, please notify us in person or call (541) 883-6916. The information contained in this Planning Update is also available on our website at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/lakeview/plans/> . In order to reduce printing costs, please contact us if you wish to be removed from the mailing list.

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						
<b>Timber Management – New Projects</b>						
<a href="#">Cold Onion Forest Health Treatments EA</a> – 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	EA completed. Public comment ends 4/3/09	Spring 2009	Proposed sale dates Cold Creek-Summer 09 Onion Springs – Fall 09	Shane Durant
<b>Adobe West Timber Sale DR to the South Gerber Forest Health Treatments EA (#OR-014-04-06)</b>	T41S, R14½E, Sec. 14-16, 21-23	#10	DR in progress	Summer 2009	FY 2009	Shane Durant
<b>Gerber Stew Stewardship Contract – New Projects</b>						
<a href="#">2008 Juniper Yarding / Utilization EA</a> – This EA analyzes the utilization of previously cut juniper on units totaling approximately 2,300 acres	Various locations	None	EA completed. Public comment ends 4/3/09	Spring 2009	FY 2009	Mike Bechdolt
<b>2009 Juniper Disposal EA</b> - This EA analyzes the utilization of previously cut juniper on units totaling approximately 3,000 acres.	Various locations	None	EA in progress	FY 2009	FY 2010	Madeline Campbell
<b>Wildlife Management – New Projects</b>						
<b>Dog Hollow/Lower Midway Waterspreader 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>Range Management – New Projects</b>						
<b>North Horsefly Allotment Fence</b>	North Horsefly Allotment	#27	EA in progress	FY 2009	FY 2009	Dana Eckard
<b>Prescribed Burning and Fuels Treatment – New Projects</b>						
<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>Klamath River Raft Race</b>	Upper Klamath River	#46	CX in progress	FY 2009	FY 2009	Grant Weidenbach
<b>Swan Lake Rim Trail Construction</b>	Swan Lake Rim	#7	EA in progress	FY 2009	FY 2010	Grant Weidenbach
<b>Hydrology/Fisheries – New Projects</b>						
<b>Wood River Channel Restoration EA</b>	Wood River Wetland	#8	EA in progress	FY 2009	FY 2009	Andy Hamilton
<b>Pitchlog Crossing Stream Restoration EA</b> – Installation of 3 flood culverts to reclaim original floodplain and repair incised channel	T39S,R14E, Sec. 25	#6	EA in progress	FY 2009	FY 2009	Andy Hamilton
<b>Placement of Large Wood in Spencer Creek</b> – Decision Record #2 to EA #OR-014-04-08 for helicopter portion of proposed action	Spencer Creek	#9	Design and DR in progress	FY 2009	FY 2009	Rob Roninger
<b>Wood River Canal Water Control Structure</b> – Oregon spotted frog habitat enhancement	Wood River Wetland	#8	CX in progress	FY 2009	FY 2009	Rob Roninger

**SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED PROJECTS**

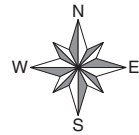
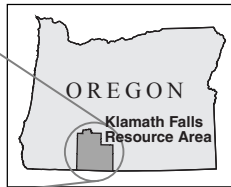
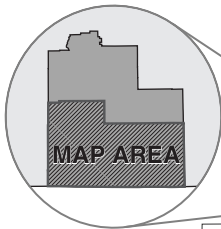
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT \* KLAMATH FALLS RESOURCE AREA \* 2795 ANDERSON AVENUE, BLDG. #25 \* KLAMATH FALLS, OR 97603  
 PHONE NUMBER: (541) 883-6916

PROJECT TITLE & DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MAP REF. #	STATUS OF ANALYSIS	ANALYSIS COMPLETION	PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION	CONTACT
<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	<a href="#">ROD</a> signed 12/30/08.	<a href="#">FEIS</a> released 10/9/08.	FY 2009	Don Hoffheins
<b>Spencer Creek Landscape Analysis</b> – Analysis of several proposed treatments (roads, vegetation, prescribed burning, etc.).	Spencer Creek 5 <sup>th</sup> Field Watershed	None	Initial scoping complete. EA in progress	FY 2009	2009-2015	Eric Johnson
<b>Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) Route Designation</b>	Resource Area Wide	None	Inventory completed. EA in progress	FY 2012	FY 2012	Scott Senter

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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.						
Haight 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
<b>Rangeland Health Standards Assessments – completed in FY 2009</b>						

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND OUTREACH</b>				
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT * KLAMATH FALLS RESOURCE AREA * 2795 ANDERSON AVENUE, BLDG. #25 * KLAMATH FALLS, OR 97603 PHONE NUMBER: (541) 883-6916				
<b>Yearly Scheduled Events - 2009</b>				
Event/Activity	Date	Location	Contact(s)	# of Participants (Employees/Public*)
Wilderness & Horse Packing Clinic	May 1-3	Klamath County Fairgrounds	Scott Senter	
International Migratory Bird Day	May 9	Veteran's Memorial Park	Steve Hayner	
RAP Camp	June 15-19	Camp Esther Applegate	Scott Senter	
Klamath County Fair	August 6-9	Klamath County Fairgrounds	Scott Senter	
Sixth Grade Forestry Tour	September 22-24	Clover Creek Educational Area	Madeline Campbell	
National Public Lands Day	September 26	Topsy Campground	Scott Senter	





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

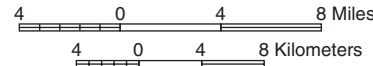


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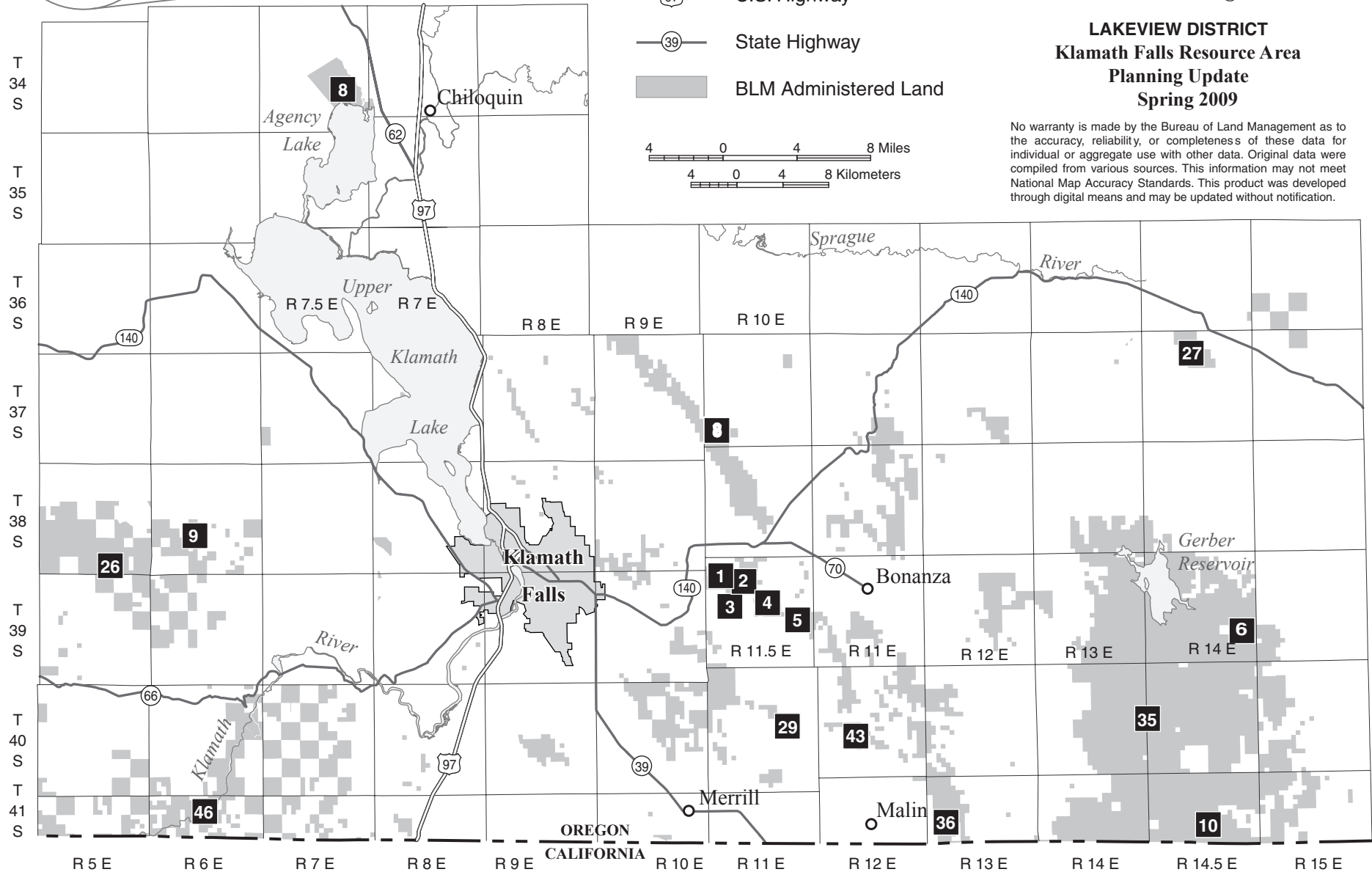
**LEGEND**

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



**LAKEVIEW DISTRICT  
Klamath Falls Resource Area  
Planning Update  
Spring 2009**

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

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