

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Klamath Falls Resource Area**

**Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)  
for  
BUCK MOUNTAIN ROAD ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
#DOI-BLM-OR-L014-2012-002-EA**

**Background:**

The Klamath Falls Resource Area (KFRA), Lakeview District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), has completed the environmental assessment (EA) for the Buck Mountain Road, which is located in T39S, R6E, Section 19. The EA considered three alternatives. One alternative was not analyzed in detail (EA, pp. 3) because building a temporary road multiple times to provide access to the same area was not practical. The two alternatives analyzed in detail consist of the no action alternative and the proposed action (EA, pp. 2-3).

The Buck Mountain Road Environmental Assessment (EA) tiers to the Cold Onion Forest Health Treatments (EA) # OR-014-08-01 and analyze the same project area. The only proposed action in the Buck Mountain Road EA is within the analysis area analyzed in the Cold Onion EA (see Figure 1). The Cold Onion EA analyzed the effects of proposed vegetation treatments and other management actions in and adjacent to the Cold Onion project area on BLM lands.

**Proposed Action:**

Construct a ¼ mile of road at the end of road 39-6E-19 to allow for removal of harvested material from the adjacent plantation.

**Analysis of Potential Effects:**

The following Critical Elements of the Human Environment are not present and will not be affected, so no unique characteristics would be impacted (Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations - 40 CFR § 508.27(b) (3)): Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC); prime or unique farmlands; floodplains; wilderness; waste, solid or hazardous; and Wild and Scenic Rivers.

The action is consistent with Executive Order 12898 which addresses Environmental Justice. No potential impacts to low-income or minority populations have been identified internally by the BLM or externally through public notification and involvement. Correspondence with local tribal governments has not identified any unique or special resources providing religious, employment, subsistence or recreation opportunities. Employment would involve local contractors who engage in similar types of work throughout Klamath County.

Surveys have not been performed in this area for cultural resources due to the heavy brush throughout the area. Surveys will be performed after the area has been slashbusted as part of the vegetation treatment, but before the road is built. As a consequence, there will be no adverse impacts to scientific, cultural, or historical resources (40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(8)).

Field surveys for Special Status and Survey and Manage botanical species were conducted on the timber sale area as documented in the Cold Onion EA (Cold Onion EA p. 23). No special status species or Survey and Manage species were found in the area in which the proposed action will be implemented. Species found in other areas are found in the Cold Onion EA (p. 23).

The special status species described in the Cold Onion Forest Health EA are associated with mature forest stands and not associated with pine plantation habitat and therefore would not be found in this habitat type. Based on this assumption, there would be no additional impacts from this proposed action to special status species than those impacts already assessed in the Cold Onion Forest Health EA.

The BLM consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on the effects of timber harvest on Northern spotted owls. The Buck Mountain plantation thinning treatments described and the proposed road construction are not within any known spotted owl territories. The ¼ mile of proposed road construction would occur within habitat classified as spotted owl dispersal habitat and the proposed road construction and plantation thinning would not change that classification or the determinations made by the BLM for the actions consulted on under the Cold Onion EA. The proposed road construction is outside of the 2012 Proposed Critical Habitat for the spotted owl.

The BLM notified the FWS about the proposed road building needed to complete the plantation thinning. On May 21, 2012 the FWS agreed that the proposed road would not trigger re-initiation and the Cold Onion Forests Health Biological Opinion (8-10-09-08F0009) would meet our Section 7 consultation requirements.

There will be no significant impacts to any special status species or habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act [40 CFR § 1508.27 (b)(9)]. Surveys of the proposed treatment area were conducted for Threatened and Endangered species and special status species. Refer to the analysis on pages 16 through 26 of the Cold Onion EA for a discussion of survey protocols and results. Implementation of mitigations and project design features (Appendix B of the Cold Onion EA) as part of the proposed action would be sufficient to avoid significant impacts to potential habitat for special status species.

Of the ten points listed under 40 CFR § 1508.27(b), the following were considered and found not to apply to this action: significant beneficial or adverse effects; significant effects on public health or safety; effects on the quality of the human environment that are likely to be highly controversial; anticipated cumulatively significant impacts; highly uncertain or unknown risks; and no precedents for future actions with significant effects.

This action conforms with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations (40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(10)). Impacts on the human environment will not exceed those anticipated in the PRMP/EIS.

Pursuant to Executive Order 13212, the BLM must consider effects of this decision on National Energy Policy. Within the project area there are no known energy resources with commercial

potential, and no pipelines, electrical transmission lines, energy producing or processing facilities (EA, p. 10) and there will be no known adverse effect on National Energy Policy.

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the environmental assessment, I have determined that this action will not have any significant impact on the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and an environmental impact statement is not required. I have further determined that the proposed action conforms to management direction from the 1995 KFRA *Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (ROD/RMP).

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Donald Holmstrom  
Field Manager

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Date