

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

**DECISION RECORD #4
FOR
COLD ONION FOREST HEALTH TREATMENTS EA #OR-014-08-01
PROJECT: ASPEN TREATMENTS**

INTRODUCTION

This Decision Record #4 applies to the aspen treatments that were analyzed in the Cold Onion Forest Health Treatments Environmental Assessment (EA) # OR014-08-01 (EA, page 40), completed in March of 2009. This EA analyzed multiple proposed actions with implementation proposed over a five to ten year period. It was anticipated that separate Decision Records would be prepared at the time specific projects were ready to be implemented. Previous Decisions include the following:

- 11/18/2009 - Decision Record #1: Cold Creek Timber Sale
- 7/17/2010 - Decision Record #2: Buck Mountain Plantation Treatments
- 8/17/2010 - Decision Record #3: Onion Springs Timber Sale

DECISION

It is my decision to implement the aspen treatments as proposed in the Cold Onion Forest Health Treatments EA. As part of this action, the Project Design Features (PDFs) listed in Appendix B of the EA and applicable Best Management Practices (BMPs) in Appendix D of the KFRA ROD/RMP will be applied. Aspen treatments were proposed on 100 acres in the EA, but will be implemented on approximately 30 acres, as shown on the attached map. Specifically, this decision will authorize the following actions:

- Hand-cutting up to 30 acres of conifer trees less than 12 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) within the aspen treatment units.
- Felled trees would be lopped and left on site within low conifer density areas.
- In high conifer density areas, the limbs and boles of trees less than six inch DBH would be piled and burned within 2 years.
- No new road construction will be needed.

DECISION RATIONALE

My decision to implement approximately 30 acres of aspen treatments as described in the proposed action meets the purpose and need identified in the EA and furthers the intent established in the Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan (RMP pg. 55) to improve riparian conditions as described in the EA.

The No Action Alternative, is rejected because it does not meet the resource management objectives for the aspen identified in the Klamath Falls RMP and the Northwest Forest Plan. It would not address or

alter many of the existing conditions and trends relative to healthy vegetative conditions, resource protection, and watershed restoration that were identified in the EA. With No Action, these conditions would not be improved or mitigated; certain undesirable ecological trends would continue unchanged and, in some cases, would be exacerbated with the passage of time.

Finding of No Significant Impact

No significant impacts were identified. There would be no impacts beyond those anticipated in the KFRA RMP/EIS. Refer to the accompanying Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Public Scoping and Review

The Klamath Falls Resource Area (KFRA) requested public scoping input on the Cold Onion EA on October 15, 2007. Four scoping response letters were received. Upon completion of the EA, the public was notified on March 2, 2009 and given an opportunity to comment during a formal thirty (30) day public comment period. Two comment letters were received. Field tours were conducted on September 29, 2009 and June 10, 2010 to address some of the comments raised. None of the comments were of the nature to cause the interdisciplinary team to revise the Environmental Assessment. No comments or concerns were expressed in relation to the proposed aspen treatments.

Endangered Species Act Consultation

Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) as required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (as amended) was completed for the Cold Onion Forest Health Treatments EA including the approximately 30 acres of aspen treatments described above. The BLM made a “Likely to Adversely Affect” determination for the Northern Spotted Owl due to the downgrading of some suitable habitat to dispersal habitat within two spotted owl territories as a result of the proposed timber sales under this EA. The aspen treatments described are within one spotted owl home range. The aspen treatment area is classified as spotted owl non-habitat. Therefore, the BLM determined the proposed aspen treatments would not affect spotted owls. The FWS concurred with this determination and issued a Biological Opinion (8-10-09-08F0009) on August 12th, 2009. The Service has determined that the proposed action will not jeopardize the continued existence of the northern spotted owl. The project does occur within NSO designated critical habitat. The BLM made a “No Effect” determination to critical habitat due to the project occurring in NSO non-habitat.

A “No Effect” determination was made for all other listed species.

Cultural Resources Consultation

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was notified of this project in accordance with 36 CFR §805.5(b). They have raised no objections to the BLM’s finding that it would not adversely impact sites of cultural or historic significance.

CONCLUSION

I have reviewed the public comments and have discussed them with the interdisciplinary team of specialists on my staff. The EA and this DR contain the requisite site specific information to implement the proposed action. The comments received do not provide any substantially new information or new analysis. Nor do they identify substantial new data gaps that would indicate additional analysis is

needed. Finally, the comments do not identify any significant new data which would alter the effects described in the EA.

I am confident that the Cold Onion EA plus the supplemental information, including responses to public comments which were included in the previous Decision Records 1, 2, and 3, in addition to the more comprehensive analysis done in the Klamath Falls Resource Area RMP/EIS to which the EA is tiered, represents a thorough analysis of potential effects associated with the aspen treatments.

Based on the information in the EA and project record, I conclude that this Decision is consistent with the Klamath Falls Resource Area RMP. The action will help to move this portion of the landscape towards the desired future condition considered in development of the RMP. The actions will comply with the Endangered Species Act, the Native American Religious Freedom Act, cultural resource management laws and regulations, and Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice). This Decision will not have any adverse effects to energy development, production, supply and/or distribution (per Executive Order 13212).

ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

Any person adversely affected by this decision may appeal it to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4. If an appeal is taken, a notice of appeal must be filed in this office (KFRA office) within 30 days of this decision for transmittal to the Board. If a notice of appeal does not include a statement of reasons, such statement must be filed with this office and with the Board within 30 days after the notice of appeal was filed. A copy of a notice of appeal and any statement of reasons, written arguments, or briefs, must also be served upon the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 805 SW Broadway, Suite 600, Portland, OR 97205.

The BLM will only accept an appeal submitted on paper that is either delivered in person or mailed/postmarked on or before the last day of the appeal filing period. A notice of appeal and/or request for stay electronically transmitted (e.g., email, facsimile, or social media) will not be accepted. A notice of appeal and/or request for stay must be on paper.

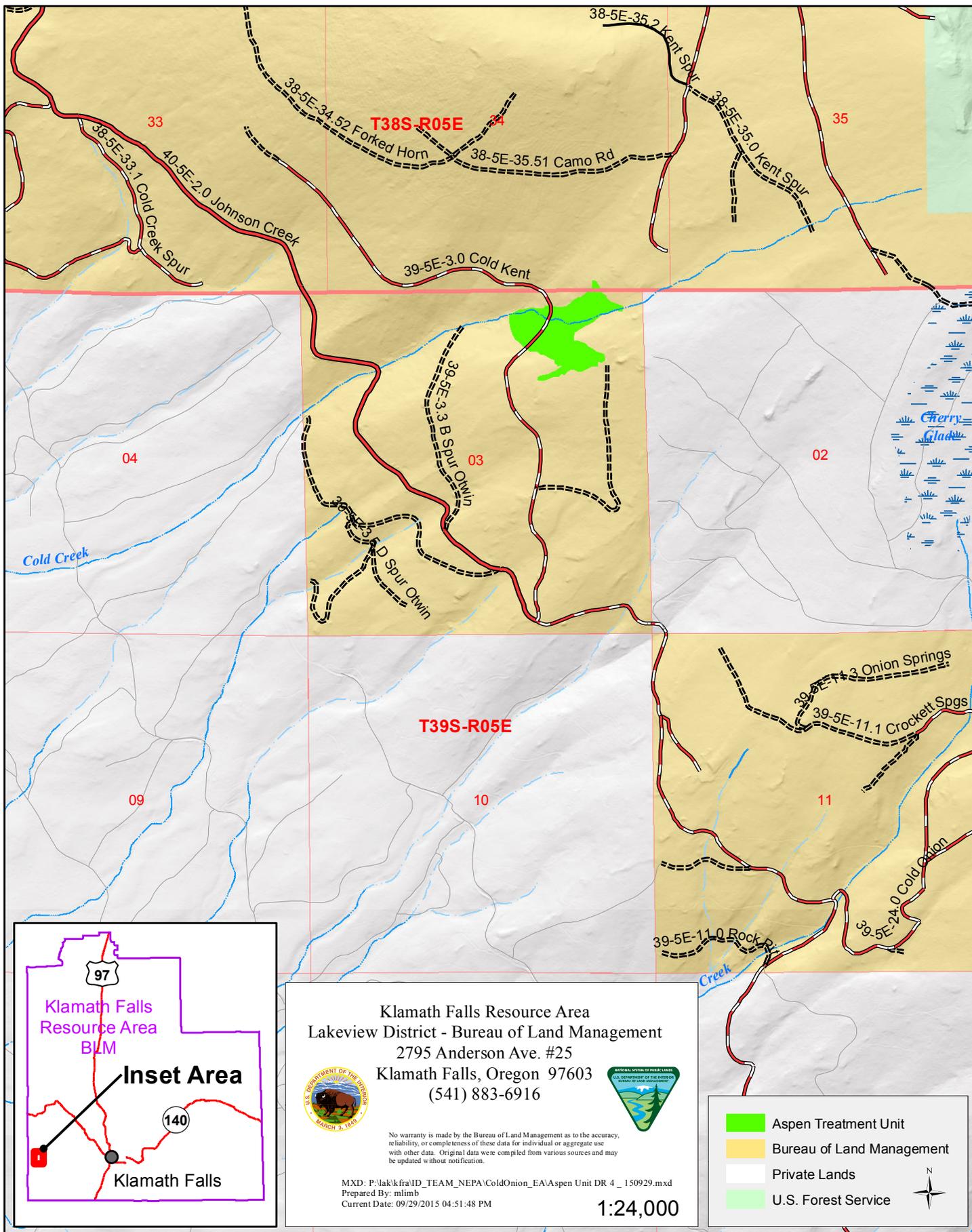
/s/ Donald J. Holmstrom

Donald J. Holmstrom, Field Manager
Klamath Falls Resource Area
Lakeview District, Bureau of Land Management

9/30/2015

Date

Cold Onion EA #OR-014-08-01 Decision Record #4



Klamath Falls Resource Area
 Lakeview District - Bureau of Land Management
 2795 Anderson Ave. #25
 Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603
 (541) 883-6916



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	Aspen Treatment Unit
	Bureau of Land Management
	Private Lands
	U.S. Forest Service