

**Decision Record
for the
Klamath River Canyon Oak Thin
and Big Bend Fuels Reduction
EA # OR 014-06-02**

Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management Lakeview District, Klamath Falls Resource Area (BLM), has completed an environmental assessment (EA) that analyzed alternatives for proposed treatments in the Klamath River Canyon. The Klamath River Canyon Oak Thin and Big Bend Fuels Reduction Environmental Assessment (#OR-014-06-02) was developed by the Klamath Falls Resource Area Interdisciplinary Team based on the current conditions within the project area to meet the directions and objectives set forth in the Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan (RMP). These treatments include: thinning approximately 210 acres of Oregon White Oak and California Black Oak by manual cutting, conducting a prescribed burn on approximately 900 acres, and reseeded approximately 275 acres of the burned area with native seeds.

The overall objectives of the proposed treatments are to: reduce oak density and allow the remaining trees to produce an increased overall mast (acorn) production to benefit wildlife, reduce fuel loads in the canyon, and reduce noxious weed populations in the prescribed burn area by reintroducing native seeds.

Decision

My decision is to implement the Proposed Action, including all “Project Design Features” described in the Klamath River Canyon Oak Thin and Big Bend Fuels Reduction EA. This alternative will consist of the thinning of oaks; followed by piling the cut oaks and burning the piles, conducting a prescribed burn and dispersing native seeds in the burned area.

Public Involvement

The Klamath River Canyon Oak Thinning project has been identified in the Klamath Falls Resource Area Planning Update since the Summer of 2004. The EA was made available for public review in July 2006. No comments were received during the 30-day comment period.

Consultation and Coordination

Pursuant to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), species protected under the ESA were evaluated for potential impacts from the proposed project. A “No Effect” Determination was made for all Listed, Proposed, and Candidate species from the proposed project.

Cultural Resource surveys were conducted as required by the Oregon BLM-SHPO protocol. All identified cultural resources will be avoided during project activities. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be notified of the project in accordance with 36 CFR 805.5 (b).

Decision Rationale

The decision to implement the Proposed Alternative meets the purpose and need as identified in the Klamath River Canyon Oak Thin and Big Bend Fuels Reduction EA and furthers the implementation of the Klamath Falls RMP.

No public comments were received for the proposed action and I believe this EA provides a thorough site-specific analysis of the proposed project and the potential impacts to affected species and habitats.

Based on the information in the Klamath River Canyon Oak Thin and Big Bend Fuels Reduction EA, I conclude that none of the alternatives analyzed constitutes a significant impact affecting the quality of the human environment greater than those addressed in the Final Klamath Falls Resource Area Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), September 1994, and other analysis documents. The cumulative effect of this decision combined with other actions for vegetation treatments fall within the range of effects analyzed in the RMP EIS. As such, in conjunction with this decision, I have signed a Finding of No Significant Impact.

This decision is also consistent with the Endangered Species Act, the Native American Religious Freedom Act and cultural resource management laws and regulations. It is also consistent with Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and will not have any adverse impacts to energy development, production, supply and/or distribution per Executive Order 13212.

Administrative Remedies

Any party adversely affected by this decision may appeal within 30 days after receipt of the decision in accordance with the provisions of 43 CFR Parts 4.4. The notice of appeal must include a statement of reasons or file a separate statement of reasons within 30 days of filing the notice of appeal. The notice of appeal must state if a stay of the decision is being requested and must be filed with the Field Manager at:

Klamath Falls Resource Area
Bureau of Land Management
2795 Anderson Ave., Building 25
Klamath Falls, OR 97603.

A copy of the notice of appeal, statement of reasons, and other documents should be sent to:

Regional Solicitor - Pacific Northwest Region
U.S. Department of the Interior
Lloyd 500 Building, Suite 607
500 N.E. Multnomah Street
Portland, OR 97232.

If the statement of reasons is filed separately it must be sent to:

Department of the Interior Board of Land Appeals
Office of Hearings and Appeals
801 North Quincy Street, Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22203.

It is suggested that any notice of appeal be sent certified mail, return receipt requested.

Before deciding to file an appeal, I encourage you to contact me to determine if your concerns might be met in some way other than via an appeal, or to assist you in the appeal process if it is appropriate. Thank you for your continued interest in the multiple use management of your public lands. This notice constitutes the decision notification for purpose of protests under 43 CFR subpart 5003 B Administrative Remedies.

/s/ Heather Bernier, for
Barbara Machado, Acting Manager
Klamath Falls Resource Area

9/6/06
Date