



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Klamath Falls Resource Area
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E-Mail Address: Klamath_Falls_Mail@or.blm.gov
Website: <http://www.or.blm.gov/Lakeview/kfra/index.htm>

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1790/5400 (ORL040)

March 18, 2011

Scoping letter for Lost Project Area Environmental Assessment

Dear Interested Parties:

The Klamath Falls Resource Area (KFRA) is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate and analyze an assortment of resource management opportunities and their effects on the environment. The analysis will occur on a portion of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered lands called the Lost Project Area (See attached maps). I am asking for your help in identifying issues and concerns that you may have regarding the proposed actions described below. Your comments will assist BLM in developing alternatives to the proposed actions.

We are looking to expand our public involvement processes on the Lost Project beyond what we have traditionally done in the past for similar projects. One of the additional things we are planning is to host a field trip to the project area for any interested parties on Wednesday, April 27th or Saturday, April 30th. Your expressed interest in attending a field trip is requested by phone at (541) 883-6916, by email at Klamath_Falls_Mail@blm.gov or by returning the enclosed RSVP card. We may also schedule an open house meeting to get additional input from the public before finalizing the EA. We will notify you of further details regarding this event in the near future.

The proposed Lost Project Area consists of approximately 13,340 acres in the Spencer Creek Watershed including approximately 6,600 acres of BLM lands (see map 1 for further details).

The KFRA has a need to manage this area to meet land use plan objectives from the 1995 KFRA Record of Decision/Resource Management Plan and to implement recommendations from the Spencer Creek Pilot Watershed Analysis. The purpose of the proposed treatments is to assist in meeting that need. In addition, the Spencer Creek Pilot Watershed Analysis, completed in 1995, identified resource concerns and management recommendations for the entire watershed including the proposed Lost Project Area.

The following are the primary needs for action identified by KFRA to date:

- There is a need to maintain and improve the vigor and resiliency of forest stands in all land allocations in the planning area.
- There is a need to manage these lands in accordance with the Oregon and California railroad and Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant Lands Act of 1937 (O&C Act).
- There is a need within the planning area to reduce hazardous fuels.
- There is a need within the planning area to maintain and improve riparian reserve habitat.
- There is a need to meet the recommendations in the current northern spotted owl recovery plan.
- There is a need to provide additional recreation opportunities, for motorized off-highway use and non-motorized trails.
- There is a need to manage an appropriate transportation system.

Proposed Treatments (see map 2 for further details)

The following actions have been identified as part of the proposed action for this EA:

- On approximately 880 acres, mechanical thinning and removal of selected trees three inches in diameter and larger to enhance or create multi-storied uneven-aged stands. Most of the trees removed over seven inches in diameter would be sold as timber.
- Approximately 115 acres of land designated as Late Successional Reserve (LSR) is planned for treatment to attain desired LSR characteristics.
- On approximately 100 acres, mechanical or manual thinning of selected trees, generally less than seven inches in diameter, to enhance tree vigor and to begin moving these stands toward a multi-storied structure. Most of the trees would be removed as biomass or by piling and burning.
- Planting trees in openings and under stocked areas.
- Aspen restoration treatments in riparian and non-riparian areas would include mechanical and manual cutting and removal of encroaching conifers from aspen stands and the use of prescribed fire.
- On approximately 100 acres, thinning in riparian reserves to maintain and improve forest stand conditions and to meet Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) objectives.
- In all the treatment units, residual fuels (slash) would be treated either by removal as biomass or by piling and burning. Approximately 80 acres would be treated with prescribed fire in an under burn.
- There are approximately six miles of road to be reclosed that were closed or decommissioned during past projects, but have been re-opened by the public over time. All of the re-closures are planned to be implanted with natural barriers.
- A number of closed roads would be temporarily re-opened to provide access into proposed timber sale units and would be re-closed when sale operations are complete. About 200 feet of temporary new road construction is planned for access into timber sale units and would be closed when operations cease.
- Creation of an off-highway vehicle (OHV) play area within and adjacent to an abandoned quarry near Clover Creek. This may involve associated recreation developments such as designated camping/picnic areas and other OHV trails. There would be approximately 0.2 miles of road that was previously closed that would be re-opened to provide access into this area.
- Constructing a non-motorized hiking and fishing trail along Spencer Creek.

Initial Issues and Concerns

In addition to internal concerns rose by the interdisciplinary team regarding management of resources, recent lawsuits or administrative actions have highlighted the need to focus our analysis and alternative development on the following potential issues and concerns:

- A new recovery plan for Northern Spotted Owl is currently being written.
- There have been recent changes in internal direction for Survey and Manage species.

For further information, contact Sarah Diehr or Don Hoffheins at 541-883-6916. To submit issues or questions please send your letter to:

Don Holmstrom, Field Manager- Klamath Falls Resource Area
2795 Anderson Avenue, Building 25
Klamath Falls, OR. 97603

You may also contact us or submit your comments electronically at the following address:
Klamath_Falls_Mail@blm.gov

To facilitate planning, it would be beneficial if your comments were submitted before May 6th, 2011. Once an Environmental Assessment has been prepared, the public will be notified again and will have an opportunity to review and provide comments on the proposed action and analysis.

NOTE: Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Klamath Falls Resource Area Office during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. 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 or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

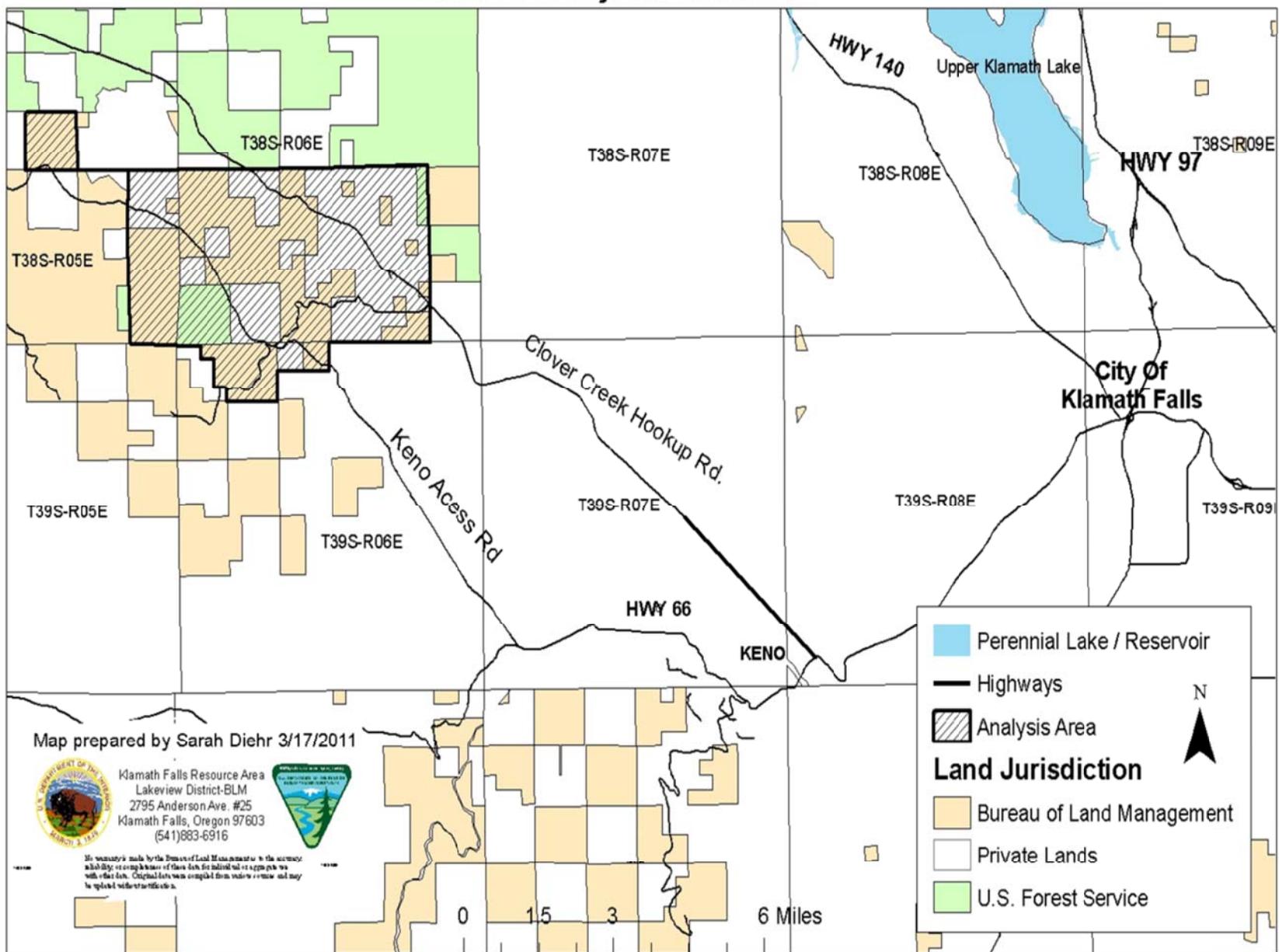
Sincerely,

/s/ Donald J. Holmstrom

Donald J. Holmstrom
Field Manager

Enclosure

Lost EA Project Location



Map prepared by Sarah Diehr 3/17/2011



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

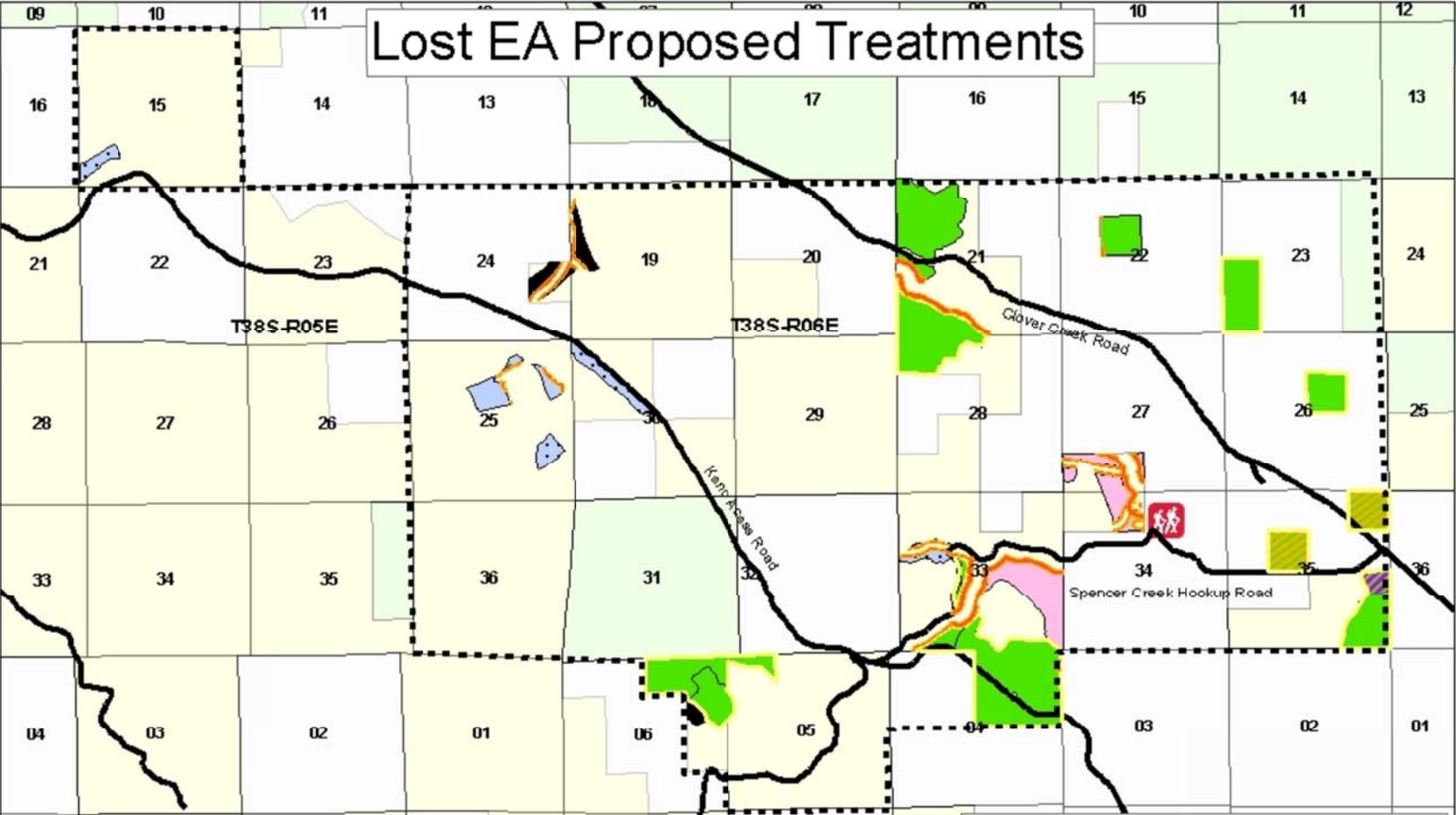


No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for national use or application with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources and may be updated without notification.



Perennial Lake / Reservoir
 Highways
 Analysis Area
Land Jurisdiction
 Bureau of Land Management
 Private Lands
 U.S. Forest Service

Lost EA Proposed Treatments



Fishing Trailhead - approx .5 mi of trail	OHV Play Area w/Uneven aged Management- approx. 20 acres
Analysis Area	Uneven Aged Management/Prescribed Burning- approx. 80 acre
Bureau of Land Management	Uneven Aged Management- approx. 790 acres
Private Lands	Late Successional Reserve Management- approx 115 acres
U.S. Forest Service	<7" Thinning manual- approx. 33 acres
Proposed Timber Sale	<7" Thinning mechanical- approx. 67 acres
Major Road	Aspen Restoration- approx. 36 acres
	Riparian Thinning- approx 100 acres



Map prepared by Sarah Diehr 3/8/2011

* Acre calculation for OHV area are not included in total area calculation, they have already been counted as Uneven aged management acres.



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Lost Project Area Tour

Name: _____

of attendee's: _____

Phone #: _____

Wednesday, April 27th Saturday, April 30th

- * Please check appropriate box and return to sender
- * May also respond via email to: [Klamath Falls Mail@blm.gov](mailto:Klamath_Falls_Mail@blm.gov)
or by telephone at 541-883-6916