

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

**Draft Finding of No Significant Impact  
for the  
Mainhaul Quarry Environmental Assessment  
(#DOI-BLM-OR-L040-2010-0006-EA)**

## **Background**

The Interdisciplinary Team for the Klamath Falls Resource Area (KFRA), Lakeview District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the impacts of developing a small rock quarry. Actions consist of excavation of approximately eight acres to remove overburden/topsoil and extract rock material and using another area of approximately three acres to stockpile the overburden/topsoil and for staging/crushing rock material from the quarry. A small segment of the road into the proposed quarry site will be increased one to two feet in width to accommodate heavy equipment traffic. When the quarry is no longer in use, the stockpiled topsoil would be redistributed over the site as part of the restoration process. Juniper removed during clearing and access road improvement activities would be limbed and decked at designated locations on the quarry site for use as firewood or other products. Material that is not utilized (tops, limbs and other brush) would be piled and burned.

The project area is located east of Bonanza and south of the Gerber Reservoir within the Klamath Falls Resource Area. The material extracted from the quarry would be used to put rock surfacing (gravel) on the main travel routes in the area known as the Gerber Block, the largest contiguous block of Bureau of Land Management-managed land in the Klamath Falls Resource Area.

## **Analysis of Potential Effects**

The proposed action and the “no action” alternative were analyzed for significant effects as per the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations - 40 CFR § 1508.27. The following criteria listed under 40 CFR § 1508.27(b) were considered and found to be not applicable 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 precedents for future actions with significant effects.

The following unique characteristics (Critical Elements of the Human Environment), listed in 40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(3), are not present and will not be affected: prime or unique farmlands; floodplains; wilderness; solid or hazardous waste; Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs).

In regard to 40 CFR § 1508.27 (b)(8), no adverse impacts are expected to cultural, scientific, or historical resources. The proposed area has been surveyed for cultural resources using BLM Class III survey methods. Surveys for cultural resources were conducted and known sites will be avoided. There are no sites, structures or objects listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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.

As per 40 CFR § 1508.27(b)(10), this action conforms to all applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations. 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. Consultation with local tribal governments has not identified any unique or special resources providing religious, employment, subsistence or recreation opportunities. Implementation of the actions would provide some employment opportunities that would involve local contractors who engage in similar types of work throughout Klamath County and the state of Oregon.

Pursuant to Executive Order 13212, the BLM must consider effects of this decision on National Energy Policy. There will be no known adverse effect on National Energy Policy. Within the project area there are no known energy resources with commercial potential and energy producing or processing facilities.

### **Determination**

The anticipated environmental effects contained in the environmental assessment, are based on the most current science, professional judgment, and experience of the Interdisciplinary (ID) team and Klamath Falls Resource Area staff. Based on the information within the environmental assessment, it is my determination that none of the alternatives analyzed constitute a significant impact affecting the quality of the human environment greater than those addressed in the:

- Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/FEIS, September 1994) and its Record of Decision (ROD, June 1995)
- Klamath Falls Resource Area Integrated Weed Control Plan EA (1993).
- Final Environmental Impact Statement, Vegetation Treatments on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States (1991).
- Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project and the Eastside Draft Environmental Impact Statement (ICBEMP, May 1997).

Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement, or a supplement to the existing RMP or Environmental Impact Statement, is not necessary and will not be prepared.

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Donald J. Holmstrom  
Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area

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Date