INTRODUCTION
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 in the southern portion of the area called the Gerber Block. 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 BLM-managed land in the KFRA.

The two alternatives analyzed are described below:

Proposed Action Alternative
Treatments included in the Proposed Action Alternative, described in detail in the EA, include:

- excavation of approximately eight acres to remove overburden/topsoil and extract rock material
- use of approximately three acres to stockpile the overburden/topsoil and for staging/crushing rock material from the quarry
- increasing the width of a small segment of the road into the proposed quarry site one to two feet to accommodate heavy equipment traffic
- limbing and decking juniper removed during clearing and access road improvement activities for use as firewood or other products
- piling and burning of material that is not utilized
- redistribution of stockpiled topsoil and revegetation with native plant when the quarry is no longer in use

No Action Alternative
Although the actions listed above would not be implemented, periodic maintenance of the roads in the area (grading and applying cinders) would likely continue.

DECISION
It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action Alternative as described and analyzed in the Mainhaul Quarry EA.

Mitigation
As part of this action, Project Design Features (PDFs) described in the EA will be applied.

DECISION RATIONALE
Implementation of the Proposed Action fully meets the purpose and need identified in the EA.

The No Action Alternative is rejected because it would not meet the purpose and need to provide a source of gravel to accomplish needed road maintenance in the Gerber Block.
Resources Not Present
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: threatened/endangered species, prime and unique farmlands, mining claims, floodplains, paleontological resources, hazardous materials, roadless areas, wilderness areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), and wilderness study areas.

Environmental Consequences
Implementation of the proposed action is consistent with the effects analyzed in the EA and the Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement, September 1994 (RMP/EIS). Implementation of the PDFs described in the EA and the KFRA Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary, June 1995 (KFRA ROD/RMP) will minimize the effects to the affected resources and result in no impacts greater than those described in the EA and the RMP/EIS.

Public Involvement
Notification that the project had been proposed and was being analyzed was made in early January 2010. On February 19, 2010, the public was notified of the completion of the EA and the beginning of a formal thirty (30) day public comment period through publication of a legal notice in the local newspaper (The Herald and News) and posting of the EA on the BLM web site. One comment letter was received electronically and the commenter asked some clarifying questions. The question topics included visibility, landforms, topsoil stockpiling and weeds. The responses to the questions will be provided directly to the commenter. In considering the responses to these questions I find that the comments did not raise new information that would imply any significant impacts to the environment.

PLAN CONFORMANCE
On July 16, 2009 the U.S. Department of the Interior, withdrew the Records of Decision (2008 ROD) for the Western Oregon Plan Revision and directed the BLM to implement actions in conformance with the resource management plans for western Oregon that were in place prior to December 30, 2008.

Project planning and preparation of National Environmental Policy Act documentation for this project began after the effective date of the 2008 ROD, and thus this project was designed to comply with the land use allocations, management direction, and objectives of the 1995 KFRA ROD/RMP.

CONCLUSION
Based on the information in the Mainhaul Quarry EA and in the project administrative record, I conclude that the EA and this DR contain the requisite site specific information to implement the proposed action and represents a thorough analysis of potential effects associated with the proposed actions. These actions will help to provide a reliable source of rock to accomplish needed road surface improvement.

The actions will comply with the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, 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).

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
All impacts were local in nature. No significant impacts were identified. No impacts beyond those anticipated in the KFRA RMP/EIS would occur. Refer to the attached Finding of No Significant Impact.
ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

Any party adversely affected by this decision may appeal within 30 days after notice of the decision (Legal Notice in *The Klamath Falls Herald and News*, Klamath Falls, Oregon) in accordance with the provisions of 43 CFR Part 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:

Manager, 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 the:

Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of the Regional Solicitor
805 SW Broadway, Suite 600
Portland, OR 97205

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

Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearing and Appeals
4015 Wilson Boulevard
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 other way, 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.

/s/ Donald J. Holmstrom  
Donald J. Holmstrom  
Manager, Klamath Falls Resource  
3/12/10  
Date
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 accessing 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 setting a precedent 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 impact to unique or special resources providing religious, employment, subsistence or recreation opportunities. Implementation of the actions could 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:


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

/s/ Donald J. Holmstrom
Donald J. Holmstrom
Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area

3/12/10
Date