

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

**Finding of No Significant Impact
for the
North Horsefly Allotment Boundary Fence Environmental Assessment
(#DOI-BLM-OR-L040-2009-0009-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 constructing approximately 2.8 miles of 4-strand wire fence. The fence would be built to BLM specifications that allow for wildlife passage. This design uses smooth (non- barbed) wire for the bottom strand at a height of 16 inches to allow for wildlife passage under the fence. The top three wires are barbed with the top wire being at a height of 40 inches to allow for deer and elk crossing. The spacing between the top two wires would also be 12 inches to allow for easier crossing. Gates would be built along the fence at points where it crosses roads and trails and at locations that allow for the ingress and egress of livestock and horses.

The North Horsefly Allotments (#0821 and #0823) are located south and west of Bly, Oregon within the Klamath Falls Resource Area. The purpose of the proposed project is to improve livestock distribution and control drift from BLM-administered lands onto the U.S. Forest Service (USFS)-administered lands. Currently there is no fence to separate the two BLM-administered North Horsefly Allotments (#0821 and #0823) from each other and from the adjoining U.S. Forest Service (USFS)-administered Horsefly Allotment, Big Meadow Pasture. The lack of boundary fences has resulted in repeated livestock drift from the BLM allotment #00821 and early season forage utilization on wet meadow and stream riparian areas on the USFS-administered Horsefly Allotment, Big Meadow Pasture. This situation has led to higher than desired levels of utilization on the USFS riparian areas from repeated grazing use and the need for increased compliance checks by BLM and USFS personnel and increased time permittees have had to spend herding livestock back to authorized use areas.

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. Numerous historic can isolated finds and one large historic can dump were located and

recorded. A determination of no historic properties affected was determined, as the historic property was found to be ineligible to the National Register of Historic Places by the BLM.

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 adverse effect to any unique or special resources providing religious, employment, subsistence or recreation opportunities.

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.

/s/ D.K. Hoffheins (for)
Donald J. Holmstrom
Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area

8/4/10
Date