



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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June 10, 2015

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1790 (ORL040)

To: All Concerned Citizens

The Klamath Falls Resource Area (KFRA) of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is preparing the New Hayden Fox Environmental Assessment (EA) #DOI-BLM-OR-L040-2015-15-EA to evaluate the effects of various vegetation treatments on wildlife habitat, soils, hydrology, and other resources.

Background

The New Hayden Fox EA includes only the unburned portion of the original Hayden Fox project area that is outside of the Oregon Gulch Fire perimeter. The original Hayden Fox EA (#DOI-BLM-OR-L040-2013-04-EA) was completed in April of 2014 but a decision was not issued because the Oregon Gulch Fire burned approximately two-thirds of the original Hayden Fox project area in August, 2015. The effects of treatments on the burned Hayden Fox units were analyzed in the Oregon Gulch Fire Salvage and Rehabilitation EA (#DOI-BLM-OR-L040-2015-01-EA) completed in February, 2015. All of these documents and associated maps can be viewed on our website at the following address: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/lakeview/plans/plans-search.php>

The proposed New Hayden Fox project area consists of approximately 3,678 acres of BLM land within the 8,574-acre project boundary (see attached map). Treatments are proposed on approximately 1,450 acres of BLM lands and would include (1) commercial thinning (timber sale); (2) pre-commercial thinning; (3) brush mowing; and (4) hazardous fuels treatments.

Purpose & Need for Action

The purpose of this project is to implement the 1995 KFRA Record of Decision (ROD)/Resource Management Plan (RMP). Purposes for implementing the New Hayden Fox project include:

- Contribute to meeting KFRA's annual Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) of 5.91 million board feet (MMBF)
- Improve the resiliency of forest stands to drought, insect, and disease
- Reduce hazardous fuels to lower the risk of high intensity, stand-replacing wildfires

- Improve big game winter range forage quality and quantity
- Reduce size and number of noxious weed populations
- Remove young and intermediate aged junipers to reduce competition with other plant species

Need

The BLM has a statutory obligation under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), which directs that “[t]he Secretary shall manage the public lands in accordance with the land use plans developed under section 202 of this Act when they are available . . .” The RMP of June 1995 guides and directs management on BLM lands. The BLM also has a statutory obligation under the Oregon and California Railroad and Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant Lands Act of 1937 (O&C Act) to produce a sustainable supply of timber and other forest commodities on O&C lands. The majority of lands in the New Hayden Fox project area are allocated as Matrix lands (3,200 acres), with 107 acres of District Designated Reserve (DDR) and 371 acres of Riparian Reserves (RR).

Matrix lands have RMP objectives to produce a sustainable supply of timber and other forest commodities as stated in the KFRA RMP and Oregon and California (O&C) Lands Act of 1937, which can be met by offering commercial timber products and other forest commodities to local and regional timber-related businesses. The latter two allocations have goals to protect and enhance conditions of late- successional ecosystems and meet Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives, respectively.

Proposed Treatments

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

Table 1. Treatments Proposed by Land Use Allocation

		Treatment Type Proposed (acres)			
Land Use Allocation	Definition/Objectives from 1995 RMP	Commercial Thinning	Plantation Thinning	Brush Mowing	Hazardous Fuels Treatment
Matrix	Matrix (General Forest Management Area) lands have objectives to produce a sustainable supply of timber and other forest commodities to provide jobs and contribute to community stability.	1,025	172	90	1,287
DDR/LSR	In District Designated Reserves (DDRs)/Late Successional Reserves (LSRs), treatments are designed to protect and enhance conditions of late-successional and old growth forest ecosystems, which serve as habitat for species including the northern spotted owl.	107	0	0	107
Riparian Reserves (RR)	Riparian Reserves are lands along streams and unstable and potentially unstable areas where special standards and guidelines direct land use. Goals are to meet Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives.	0	0	9	46

Commercial Thinning (Density Management)- This treatment refers to thinning trees of all size classes using uneven-aged silvicultural prescriptions. Approximately 1,025 acres of this treatment is proposed. Manual and mechanical harvesting methods would be used to cut and remove designated timber. Group selection would be used to reduce tree densities within areas of less than five (5) acres to levels required for preferred species regeneration. This tool helps create variability within the stand while treating areas infected by dwarf mistletoe and root rot diseases. These areas may also be treated with understory thinning, oak thinning, hazardous fuels reduction, conifer planting, and juniper removal where applicable.

Commercial thinning using a partial cutting prescription is proposed within one DDR/LSR, totaling 107 acres.

Vegetation treatments including commercial timber harvest using a partial cutting prescription and plantation thinning are proposed within designated Critical Habitat for the northern spotted owl, totaling 330 acres.

Pre-commercial thinning- This treatment refers to thinning of small commercial and non-commercial sized trees in previously planted stands. Approximately 172 acres of this treatment are proposed. These stands are typically younger in age than most natural stands, are less variable in diameter distribution and species composition, and are more evenly spaced. Mechanical harvesting would be used in these stands to cut and remove designated trees.

Brush Mowing- Mechanical mowing of brush (ceanothus spp.) is proposed on approximately 99 acres to improve forage conditions for deer and other wildlife species. This treatment would include removal of western junipers less than approximately 150 years old and thinning clumps of small diameter oaks.

Hazardous Fuels Treatments- The proposed treatments would include prescribed fire (underburning and pile burning), manual cutting, piling and burning and brush mowing.

Public Scoping Input Requested

The BLM is asking for your help in identifying issues and concerns that you may have regarding the proposed New Hayden Fox project. We are seeking your comments to assist in developing alternatives to the proposed actions.

We are also interested in hearing about any projects you may be planning near the Hayden Fox project area, including the type of project and time frame.

Please submit your comments by June 26, 2015 to be most effective in BLM's planning schedule. To submit issues or questions about the proposed treatments, I encourage you to submit them via email at the following address: BLM_OR_KF_Mail@blm.gov and identify your comments as being for the "New Hayden Fox EA." If you desire to send a letter via regular mail, please use the address in our letterhead, ATTN: Field Manager.

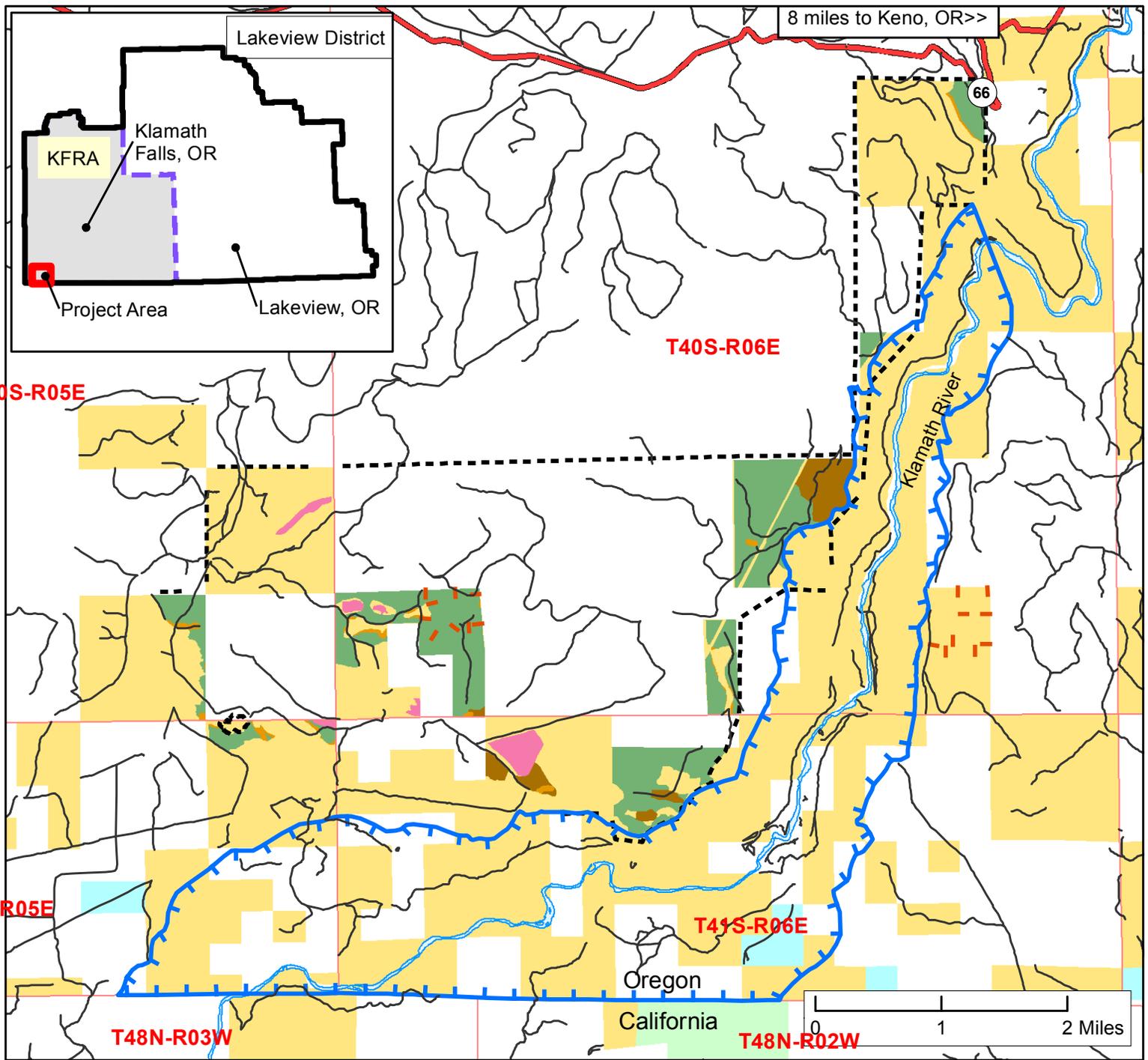
Once an Environmental Assessment has been prepared, the public will be notified again and will have an opportunity to review and provide comments on the proposed action and analysis. For further information, contact Chris Jensen at 541-885-4190.

Note: Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or street address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. 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,

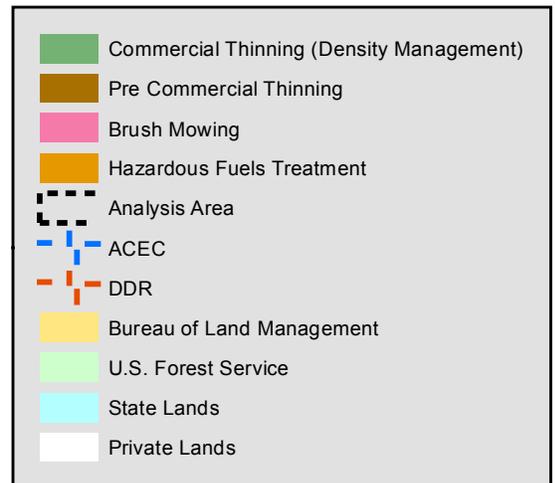
/s/ Shane Durant, acting for

Donald J. Holmstrom



New Hayden Fox EA

Lakeview District
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 2795 Anderson Ave. Bldg. 25
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No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources and may be updated without notification.

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