

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

**Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)  
Southwest Gerber Habitat Restoration Environmental Assessment  
(DOI-BLM-OR-L040-2010-001-EA)**

**Background:**

The Klamath Falls Resource Area (KFRA) of the Lakeview District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the impacts of different management alternatives to meet the following objectives: 1) implement actions to meet land use plan objectives from the 1995 Klamath Falls ROD/RMP, 2) implement recommendations from the Gerber-Willow Valley (GWV) Watershed Analysis, 3) improve and restore rangeland and riparian habitat to provide quality winter range for mule deer and quality sagebrush steppe habitat for a variety of wildlife species, and 4) provide opportunities for the public and local industry to utilize materials (i.e. as firewood, logs, chips or biomass) generated from restoration activities where ecologically appropriate.

The proposed project area is located in the KFRA, southeast of Klamath Falls, Oregon. The analysis area is in the southwest portion of the largest contiguous block of public land in the KFRA, and includes portions of three 5th Field watersheds: Rock Creek-Lost River, Langell Valley-Lost River, and Gerber Reservoir-Miller Creek. Treatments are proposed only on BLM-administered lands.

The proposed actions include: removal of encroaching western juniper within sagebrush steppe and juniper woodland habitat, including hand cutting of juniper along Miller and Antelope Creeks, firewood and biomass utilization, pile burning of material that is not utilized, temporary road construction and obliteration, planting bitterbrush and other native shrubs in units where piles are burned, seeding of disturbed areas with native species, construction of a livestock enclosure along a section of Antelope Creek, and installation of four metal pipe gates within the Klamath deer winter range closure area. The issues addressed in the EA concern potential impacts to rangeland vegetation, soils, water quality, air quality, socioeconomics, and other resources as they affect the ecosystem in the proposed project area.

**Analysis of Potential Effects:**

The alternatives including “no action” 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 (ACEC). 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 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. Refer to the EA for a discussion of special status species and habitat. Implementation of best management practices (BMPs) and project design features (PDFs) (described in Appendix A of the EA), as part of the proposed activities, would be sufficient to avoid significant impacts to potential habitat for 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, there are no known adverse effects on National Energy Policy.

**Determination:**

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

- Final - Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, September 1994 (FEIS).
- Final Environmental Impact Statement, Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States (1991)
- Aquatic Conservation Strategy Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision 2004 (ACS SEIS EIS/ROD – 2004)

Based on the conformance with the resource management plan and the lack of significant environmental effects, an Environmental Impact Statement, or a supplement to the existing RMP and Environmental Impact Statement, is not necessary and will not be prepared.

---

Donald J. Holmstrom  
Field Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area

---

Date