



United States Department of the Interior



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November 27, 2013

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1790 (ORL040)

To All Interested Parties:

Public Scoping Input

The Klamath Falls Resource Area (KFRA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is preparing the Walter's Glade Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the effects of various vegetation treatments on wildlife habitat, soils, hydrology, and other resources. The proposed project area consists of approximately 5,988 acres of BLM land within the 7,664-acre project boundary, located in the southwestern corner of Klamath County (see map). Treatments are proposed on approximately 3,302 acres of BLM lands and would include thinning and hazardous fuels treatments. The majority of the project area is located within Designated Critical Habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) and proposed management actions will be designed to be consistent with the NSO Critical Habitat Rule (USFWS 2012) and the Recovery Plan (USFWS 2011) for the NSO.

The BLM is asking for your help in identifying issues and concerns that you may have regarding the proposed Walter's Glade project described below. We are seeking your comments to assist in developing alternatives to the proposed actions.

Purpose & Need for Action

The purpose of this project is to implement objectives in the 1995 KFRA Resource Management Plan (RMP), which include the following:

- Produce a sustainable supply of commercial timber products and other forest commodities to support local and regional timber-related businesses.
- Improve the resiliency of residual stands to drought, insects, and disease.
- Conduct active management in NSO Designated Critical Habitat to develop forest stands into NSO high value habitat, or treat for ecological purposes where appropriate.
- Reduce hazardous fuels to lower the risk of high intensity, stand-replacing wildfires.
- Improve riparian conditions and habitat for associated aquatic 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 by him under section 202 of this Act . . .” The KFRA RMP of June 1995 is the current land use plan that guides and directs management on these BLM lands. The RMP has allocated the majority of lands being analyzed to Matrix, with some being District Designated Reserve (DDR) and Riparian Reserves (RR). The RMP objective of Matrix lands is to produce a sustainable supply of timber and other forest commodities as stated in the 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 DDR and RR land use allocations have goals to protect and enhance conditions of late-successional ecosystems and meet Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives, respectively.

Proposed Treatments

The following treatments have been identified as part of the proposed action for this EA and will be applied throughout the “Proposed Treatment Units” shown on the map.

- **Thinning** – As part of the proposed action, approximately 1,411 acres would be commercially thinned (timber sale) using uneven-aged silvicultural prescriptions. Approximately 534 acres of non-commercial (small diameter) thinning in previously planted stands and natural stands is also proposed throughout the treatment units. Manual and mechanical harvesting methods would be used to cut and remove designated timber. Portions of these areas may be treated with conifer planting and juniper removal where applicable.

Thinning in Riparian Reserves (RR) may be proposed in these units to promote and improve hydrologic function once stream surveys are completed for the analysis

- **Hazardous fuels treatments**- A variety of hazardous fuels treatments are proposed throughout the project area including prescribed fire, manual cutting, piling and burning, and brush mowing. Hazardous fuels treatments alone are proposed on 80 acres, however various hazardous fuels treatments are proposed within thinning units as well.
- **Road Management** - Harvesting would occur primarily from existing roads; the condition of the road system would be improved as needed for forest product removal. An estimate of approximately one-half (0.5) mile of temporary road spurs may be constructed where necessary to reduce log skidding distances and associated impacts to soils and other resources.

Potential Treatments

The “Potential Treatment Units” displayed on the map represent approximately 1,265 acres that may be analyzed for possible treatment in alternatives to the proposed action, depending upon further analysis.

Initial Issues and Concerns

Besides internal concerns raised by the interdisciplinary team regarding management of resources, recent public input, lawsuits, and administrative actions have highlighted the need to focus our analysis and alternative development on the following potential issues and concerns:

- Meeting objectives of the Recovery plan and Designated Critical Habitat for the northern spotted owl
- Providing for sustainable timber production as required by the O&C Act
- Managing timberlands to improve forest health and vigor
- Reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire

Comments Requested

Please submit your comments by December 30, 2013 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 "Walter's Glade 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 Terry Austin at 541-883-6916.

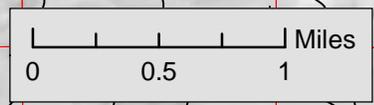
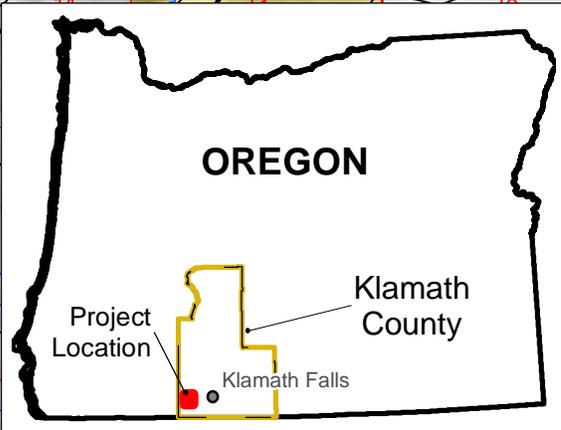
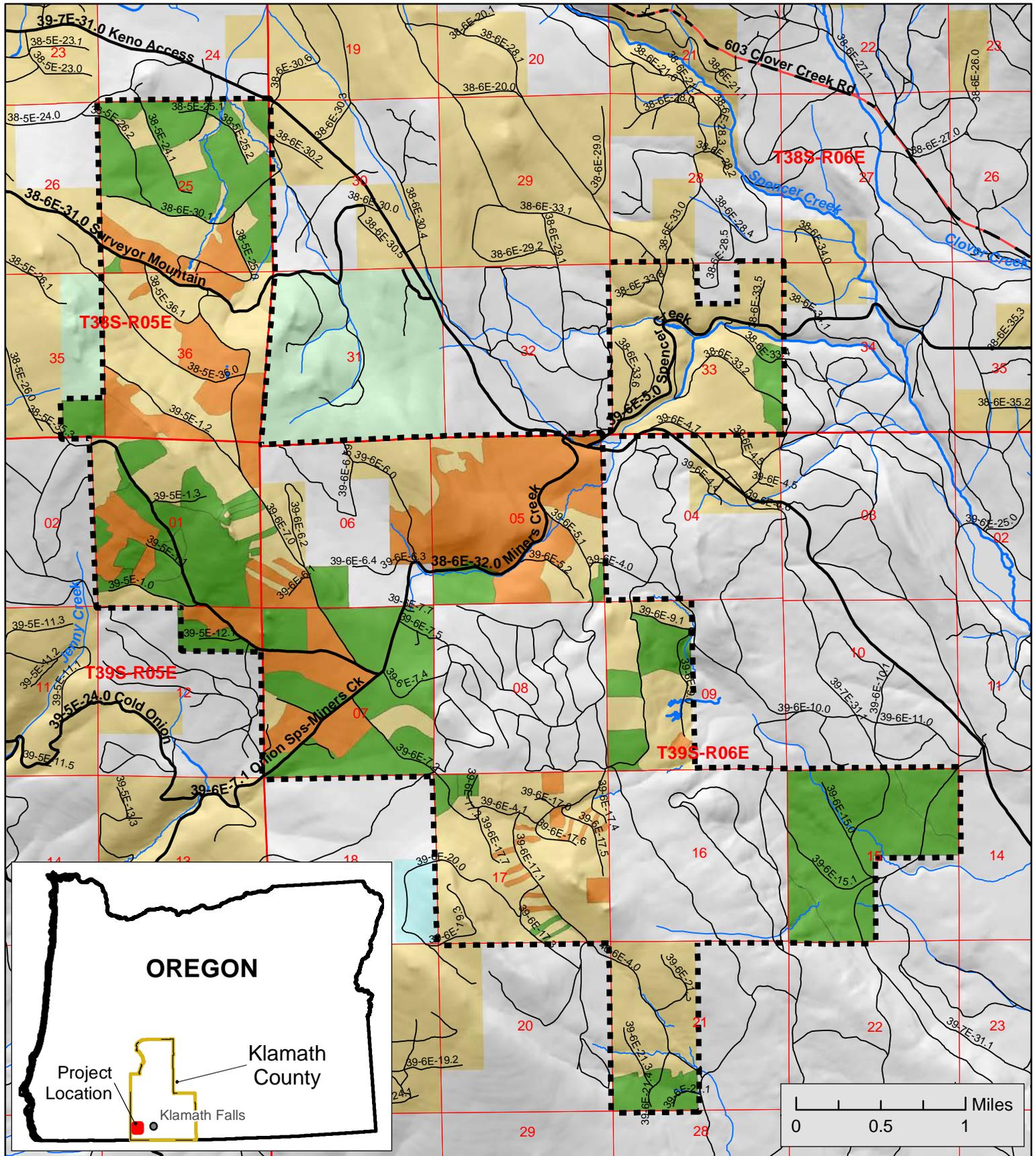
NOTE: Comments, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Klamath Falls Resource Area Office during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. 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/ Donald J. Holmstrom

Donald J. Holmstrom
Field Manager

Enclosure
TA;kjn waltersglade.scoping



	Analysis_Area		Proposed Treatment Units
	Major road		Potential Treatment Units
	Intermediate road		Bureau of Land Management
	Minor road		State Lands
	Perennial Stream		Private Lands
	Intermittent Stream		U.S. Forest Service



Walter's Glade Environmental Assessment
Klamath Falls Field Office
Lakeview District - Bureau of Land Management
2795 Anderson Ave. #25
Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603-7891
(541)883-6916

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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