

Klamath Falls Resource Area
Optional Plan Conformance Review/NEPA Compliance Record
and/or Categorical Exclusion Review

Klamath Falls Resource Area Project File Number - Klamath Falls R.A. (OR-O14 KCER-01-24)

Proposed Action Title/Type: Tree pruning

Location of Proposed Action: This CX covers one pruning unit within the Klamath Falls Resource area (see attached map). Approximately 38 acres are included.

Description of Proposed Action: The project area is a 20 year old pine plantation. On 110 trees per acre, all limbs below 9' in height would be cut flush with the main stem. Purpose is to reduce the occurrence of knots, and improve the future value of wood products from the plantation. Cutting would be done by a crew using hand or power saws.

No implementation on the ground until surveys and clearances are completed.

PART 1: PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW. This proposed action is subject to the following land use plan: Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary, June 1995. (Ref. Page 55, and Appendix E, pages E-6, and E-7; R-II).

The proposed action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3).

Signature of Reviewer: /s/ D.K.Hoffheins

Remarks: _____

PART 2: NEPA REVIEW

A. Categorical exclusion review. This proposed action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4, C.4. It has been reviewed and None of the exceptions described in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Signature of Reviewer: /s/ D.K.Hoffheins Title: Planner

B. Existing EA/EIS review. This proposed action is addressed in the following existing BLM EA/EIS: Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary (KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS), June 1995.

This EA/EIS has been reviewed against the following criteria to determine if it covers the proposed action:

1. The proposed action is a feature of, or essentially the same as, the alternative selected and analyzed in the existing document.
2. A reasonable range of alternatives was analyzed in the existing document.
3. There has been no significant change in circumstances or significant new information germane to the proposed action.
4. The methodology/analytical approach previously used is appropriate for the proposed action.
5. The direct and indirect impacts of the proposed action are not significantly different from those identified in the existing document.
6. The proposed action would not change the previous analysis of cumulative impacts.
7. Public involvement in the previous analysis is appropriate coverage for the proposed action.

Signature of Reviewer: Not Applicable

Remarks: References to the proposed action are found on the following pages of the KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS: ROD, p. R-11, 55, E-6, E-7.

Surveys needed for special status plants and animals, for cultural resources, and other resources as necessary:

1) will be completed 2) are not needed (Circle one).

	Initials	Date
SSS Animal Surveys	<u>G.S.</u>	<u>10/15/01</u>
Botanical Surveys	<u>L.W.</u>	<u>10/15/01</u>
Cultural Review	<u>M.D.</u>	<u>10/15/01</u>
Other Surveys	_____	_____

PART 3. DECISION. I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures identified below.

Mitigation Measures/Other Remarks: Sensitive concerns will be addressed according to Specialist direction.

Work will begin only on projects areas that have been surveyed and cleared. For wildlife screening, unpruned buffers along the roads at the north and west sides of the unit, would be left untreated.

Authorized Official: /s/ Teresa A. Raml

Date: 10/24/01

Categorical Exclusion No. KCER-01-24

Name: Tree Pruning

Description of Proposed Action: On a 20 year old pine plantation, 110 trees per acre would have all branches on the bottom 9' of stem cut flush with the main stem. Cutting would be done by a crew using hand saws or small chain saws.

Location of Proposed Action: East of Buck Lake, north of Keno Road (See attached map)

Categorical Exclusion Review: The proposed pruning has been reviewed and qualifies as a categorical exclusion based on 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4 C(4), which provides for thinning and brushing.

The proposal has also been screened to determine if any special circumstances exist that would warrant NEPA analysis and documentation. This project does not meet the criteria for exception under 516 DM 2.3A (3):

1. Health and Safety; 2. Unique Resources; 3. Controversial; 4. Risks; 5. Precedent; 6. Cumulative; 7. Cultural and Historical; 8. Threatened or Endangered Species; 9. Flood plains, Wetlands or Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act, 10. Violate Law.

Specialist Review and Mitigation Measures: A review of the proposed action was completed by resource specialists and their concerns have been incorporated into project design. Potential impacts can be further mitigated by the following measures:

Leaving a one-tree-wide unpruned buffer along the roads at the north and west edges of unit, for wildlife screening.

Determination and Decision: I have reviewed the Proposed Action in accordance with the above exceptions, specialist's reviews, and determine that the proposed project is a categorical exclusion; therefore no additional environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, with mitigation measures identified above.

/s/ Teresa A. Raml

Field Manager

10/24/01

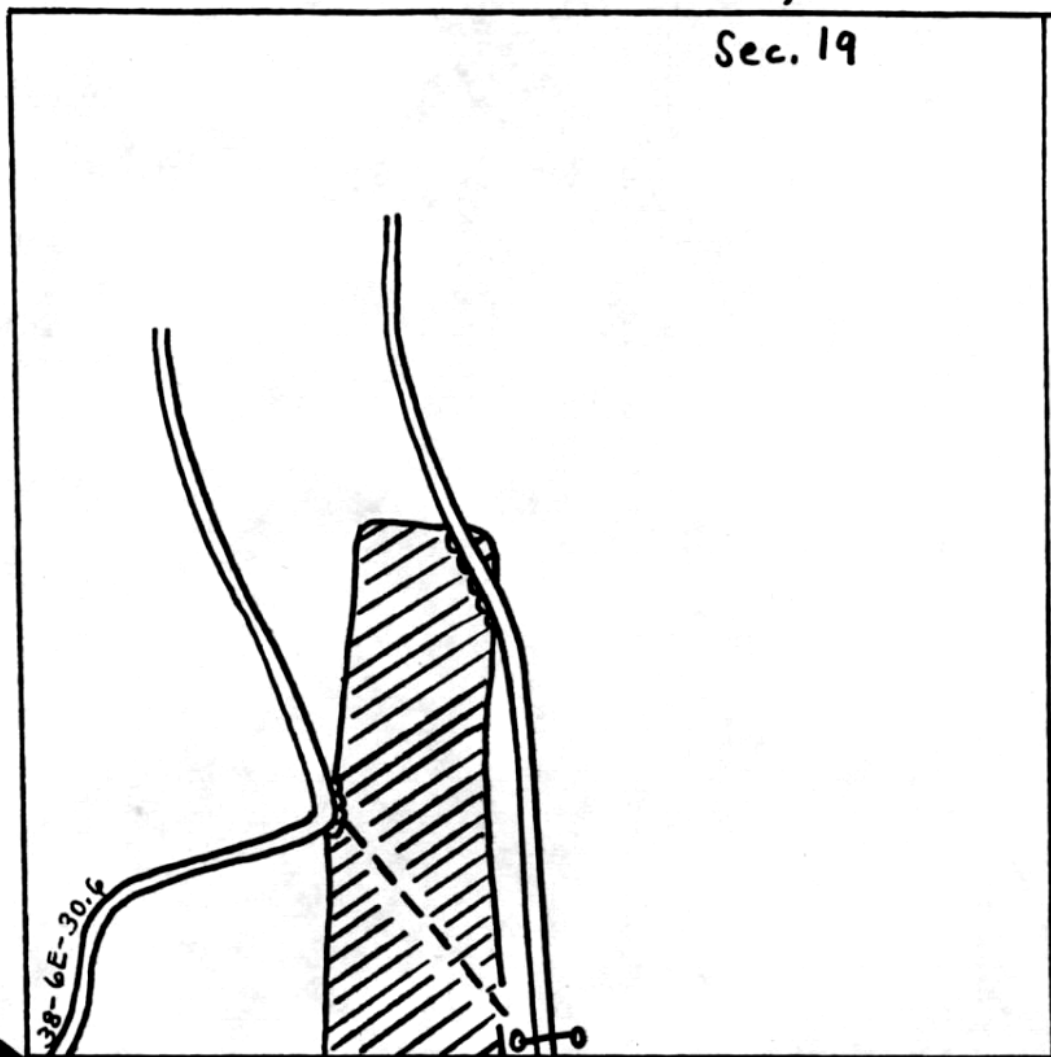
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


T. 38 S., R. 6 E.

Sec. 19

Scale:
1" = 1,000'



PRUNING PROJECT MAP

-  Project Area (38 acres)
-  Paved Road
-  Rock Road
-  Trail
-  Gate
-  Property Boundary
-  Unpruned Buffer (1-tree wide)