

DECISION RECORD

for the

Stiles Spring Prescribed Fire Environmental Assessment

DECISION

My decision is to implement the Proposed Action (Alternative A) of the Stiles Spring Prescribed Fire Environmental Assessment.

Alternative A - This alternative proposes prescribed fire on approximately 1200 acres of federal land. Approximately 800 acres will cover 100% of the area in an underburn while approximately 400 acres will receive a 40-60 % broadcast burn of fuels. All burns will be ignited to achieve a mosaic pattern of burned and unburned fuels.

NEED FOR THIS DECISION

The lack of natural fire the past several years has allowed the continuous buildup of fuels to extreme levels. These fuels include natural fuels, very old logging slash, and a limited area of old thinning slash.

MITIGATION MEASURES

- No fire will be ignited within 50 feet of Riparian Reserves. Fire will be allowed to back into Riparian Reserves, contingent on maintaining a light intensity burn;
- All equipment and vehicles will be cleaned prior to operating or leaving a job site that has noxious weed populations. All dirt, grease and plant parts will be removed by a pressure hose or other method acceptable to the contracting officer;
- Construct fire lines to protect cultural sites, raptor nests, and/or vegetation patches including clumps of pine seedlings/saplings;
- Construct waterbars on fire trails to minimize erosion;
- Exclude constructing firelines through cultural sites;
- Protect historic sites from fire damage;
- Exclude areas of stacked rock features within burn units;
- Implement procedures that discourage ignition within known cultural site boundaries and retain archaeological sites within unburned islands;

LIMITATIONS ON IMPLEMENTING THE DECISION

No Limitations

DECISION RATIONALE

Up to three prescribed burn entries would be conducted within approximately a 10-year period to achieve the objectives. The first burn would normally be in the spring to reduce the chance of burning all the duff and to reduce the potential for tree mortality. The second burn would be a few years later, either in the spring or fall, when conditions exist that limit tree mortality, and retain duff and soil. The third burn would be in the fall to reduce the 1000 hour fuels.

The Stiles Spring Prescribed Fire Project will 1) reduce the potential for a wildfire in areas having heavy fuel loadings and vegetation changes that developed with fire exclusion; 2) reintroduce fire into areas where fire has influenced natural development and maintenance of ecosystem composition, structure, and function; and 3) restore sustainable function and structure to plant communities to improve forest health in fire-adapted ecosystems.

The decision stated above is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Final Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (June 1995), the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl, the Klamath Falls Resource Area Fire Management Programmatic EA (No. OR-014-94-09), and the Klamath Falls Resource Area Integrated Weed Control Plan EA (No. OR-014-93-09). The impacts created by the above decision do not require further analysis as noted in the FONSI determination.

The Environmental Assessment and FONSI were sent out for a public comment and review period of 30 days. The comment and review period ad was published in the Herald & News on December 15, 1999. No comments were received during the comment period.

Administrative Remedies

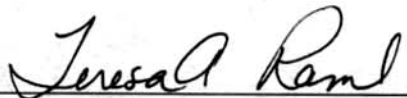
Protests of this decision must be filed with the Field Manager within 15 days after publication of this notice in the Herald and News, BLM /Klamath Falls Field Office, 2795 Anderson Avenue, Bldg. 25, Klamath Falls, OR 97603. Protests should contain a written statement of reasons for protesting the decision. To be considered complete, a protest must contain, at a minimum:

- 1) the name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest,
- 2) a statement of the issue or issues being protested,
- 3) a statement of the parts of the specific EA being protested by referencing specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables, maps, etc. included in the document,
- 4) a copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that you submitted during the planning process or a reference to the date the issue or issues were discussed by you for the record,
- 5) a concise statement explaining why the Field Manager's decision is believed to be incorrect.

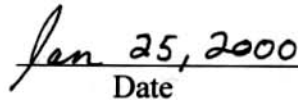
This is a critical part of your protest. Document all relevant facts. As much as possible, reference or cite the planning documents, environmental analysis documents, and available planning records (for example, meeting minutes or summaries, or correspondence).

A protest which merely expresses disagreement with the Field Manager's proposed decision, without any data, will not provide us with the benefit of your information and insight. In this case, the Field Manager's review will be based on the existing analysis and supporting data.

Before deciding to file a protest, I encourage you to please contact me to determine if your concerns might be met in some way other than via a protest or to assist you in the protest process if it is appropriate. This notice meets the requirement for purposes of protests under 43 CFR subpart 5003 – Administrative Remedies. Thank you for your continued interest in the multiple use management of your public lands.



Teresa A. Raml
Teresa A. Raml
Manager, KFRA



Jan 25, 2000
Date