

**Worksheet**  
**Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and NEPA Adequacy (DNA)**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

**A. Introduction**

**BLM Office:** Klamath Falls Resource Area

**Lease/Serial/Case File No.** 01-08

**Proposed Action Title/Type:** Oak Thin and Juniper Removal in the Klamath River Canyon

**Location of Proposed Action:** T. 41S, R. 6E, Sections 7 and 8

**Description of the Proposed Action:** BLM proposes to treat oak woodland stands in the Upper Klamath River Canyon. Fire suppression has resulted in smaller, stunted, and overcrowded trees with poor mast production. The proposed units consist of approximately 160 acres of Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*), California black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) trees and a small proportion of invasive juniper (*Juniperus occidentalis*). The units also contain some scattered pine trees (*Pinus ponderosa*) and a mixture of brush species. The proposed units are located at T. 41S, R. 6E, Sections 7 and 8. The treatment is a hand thin accomplished with chain saws. The work consists of selectively cutting oaks and all juniper less than 12" dbh and selectively girdling oaks and all juniper greater than 12" dbh to increase moisture, growing space, and mast (acorn) production of oak trees. Oaks will be spaced approximately 30' apart, leaving 2 or 3 large oaks per acre. The selection of oaks to be left will be based on dbh, size of crown, presence of cavities and proximity to other large oaks and pines. Because of the small proportion of black oak, it will be favored over white oak when selecting trees to retain.

Ladder fuels will be cleared away from large pine and oak trees. Material including brush and small trees, and decadent branches will be removed 10' from the drip line of the trees. Snags of all tree species will be retained and protected and all ladder fuels will be cleared 10' away from snags. The cut oak may be available for utilization (i.e. firewood) and remaining slash will be burned. Treatment areas may be interplanted with shrubs and/or grasses to restore native plant communities.

**Applicant (if any):** \_\_\_\_\_ (NA) \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Conformance with one or more of the following Land Use Plans (LUPs) and/or Related Subordinate Implementation Plans:**

LUP Name: **Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (KFRA RMP/EIS) dated September 1994, and, Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary (KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS).**

Date Approved: **June 1995**

XX The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUPs because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decisions:

The KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS discusses the treatment of hardwood stand in the Species Specific Actions of the Wildlife Habitat section (page 35) specifically to maximize mast production in up to 50% of harvested areas to benefit wild turkeys and wintering deer populations. Vegetation manipulation is also discussed in the range section of the KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS (page 63 and Appendix H, pages 68-69). Management of white oak woodlands to meet wildlife, range and biological diversity objectives is also addressed in the KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS (Appendix E, page 12).

The proposed oak units are within the Edge Creek Allotment (Allotment Number 0102). This allotment has been identified as containing critical deer wintering habitat (Appendix H, page 6). This allotment allows for 500 acres of potential range improvements in the form of vegetation manipulation and control. To date, 181 acres of this allotment have received some form of vegetation manipulation. There is 8,860 acres of public land in this allotment.

The Topsy/Pokegama Landscape Analysis also identifies fire as one of the key factors contributing to the production of large, mature oaks with larger crops of mast production. As a result of fire suppression, oaks are smaller, with lots of stems or shoots growing from the base of the oaks (page 61). It is important, once the oak thin is completed, to burn the slash left on the ground to deal with these “stemy” shoots.

\_\_\_\_\_ The proposed action is in conformance with the LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions) and, if applicable, implementation plan decisions.

**C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.**

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

Klamath Falls Resource Area Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (KFRA RMP/EIS dated September 1994),

Klamath Falls Resource Area Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan and Rangeland Program Summary (KFRA ROD/RMP/RPS) dated June 1995,

Klamath Falls Resource Area’s Programmatic EA on Prescribed Burning #OR-014-94-9

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., source drinking water assessments, biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, rangeland health standard’s assessment and determinations, and monitoring the report).

Topsy/Pokegama Landscape Analysis dated July 1996

**D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria****1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed?**

Yes. The current action is discussed in the Wildlife Habitat section, Vegetation section, and the Grazing Management section of the KFRA RMP/EIS. Prescribed burning effects are analyzed in the KFRA's Programmatic EA on Prescribed Burning.

**2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values, and circumstances?**

Yes. Within several sections of the KFRA RMP/EIS, the current proposed action is addressed with respect to environmental concerns, interests and resource values. Hardwoods and vegetation manipulation alternatives, such as brushfield management, are analyzed on pages 28, 38, 51 and 65 in Chapter 4 - Environmental Consequences,

**3. Is the existing analysis adequate and are the conclusions adequate in light of any new information or circumstances (including, for example, riparian proper functioning condition [PFC] reports; rangeland health standards assessments; Unified Watershed Assessment categorizations; inventory and monitoring data; most recent Fish and Wildlife Service lists of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species; most recent BLM lists of sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis of the proposed action?**

Yes.

**4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA document(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?**

Yes.

**5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Does the existing NEPA document sufficiently analyze site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action?**

Yes. Concerns were raised during the review of NEPA adequacy about visual impacts. The Visual Resource Management Class II guidance states that low levels of change are acceptable but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Due to the selective thinning and location of units on a bench, this project will not be visible from the Klamath River and shoreline or other key viewpoints. There will be short-term impacts to visitors using the adjacent road. Limbs and brush will be evident as they dry during the season after cutting. Blackening of surface soils and some residual stems will be evident following prescribed burning. Long-term scenic quality will be maintained or enhanced due to the healthier oak woodland stands and reduced opportunity for catastrophic wildfire.

**6. Can you conclude without additional analysis or information that the cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the current proposed action are**

**substantially unchanged from those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)?**

Yes. There is an on-going analysis for a river management plan that was not discussed in the RMP. This project meets the objectives for managing the area and is consistent with issues raised during scoping for the management plan.

**7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequately for the current proposed action?**

Yes.

**E. Interdisciplinary Analysis:** Identify those team members conducting or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource Represented</u>
Michelle Durant	Archeologist	Archeology
Joe Foran	Fuels Management Specialist	Fuels
Bill Johnson	Silviculture/Forester	Silviculture
Bill Lindsey/Dana Eckard	Range Management Specialists	Range
Gayle Sitter	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife
Scott Senter	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Scenery
Don Hoffheins	Resource Area Planner	NEPA
Trish Lapomardo	Wildlife Biologist	DNA Author

**F. Mitigation Measures:** List any applicable mitigation measures that were identified, analyzed, and approved in relevant LUPs and existing NEPA document(s). List the specific mitigation measures or identify an attachment that includes those specific mitigation measures. Document that these applicable mitigation measures must be incorporated and implemented.

Stand Protection - In order to protect remaining vegetation, slash should be pulled back and stacked for burning at least ten (10) feet from leave trees and snags. {B.J.}

**CONCLUSION**

X Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM’s compliance with the requirements of NEPA.

Note: If one or more of the criteria are not met, a conclusion of conformance and/or NEPA adequacy cannot be made and this statement cannot be initialed.

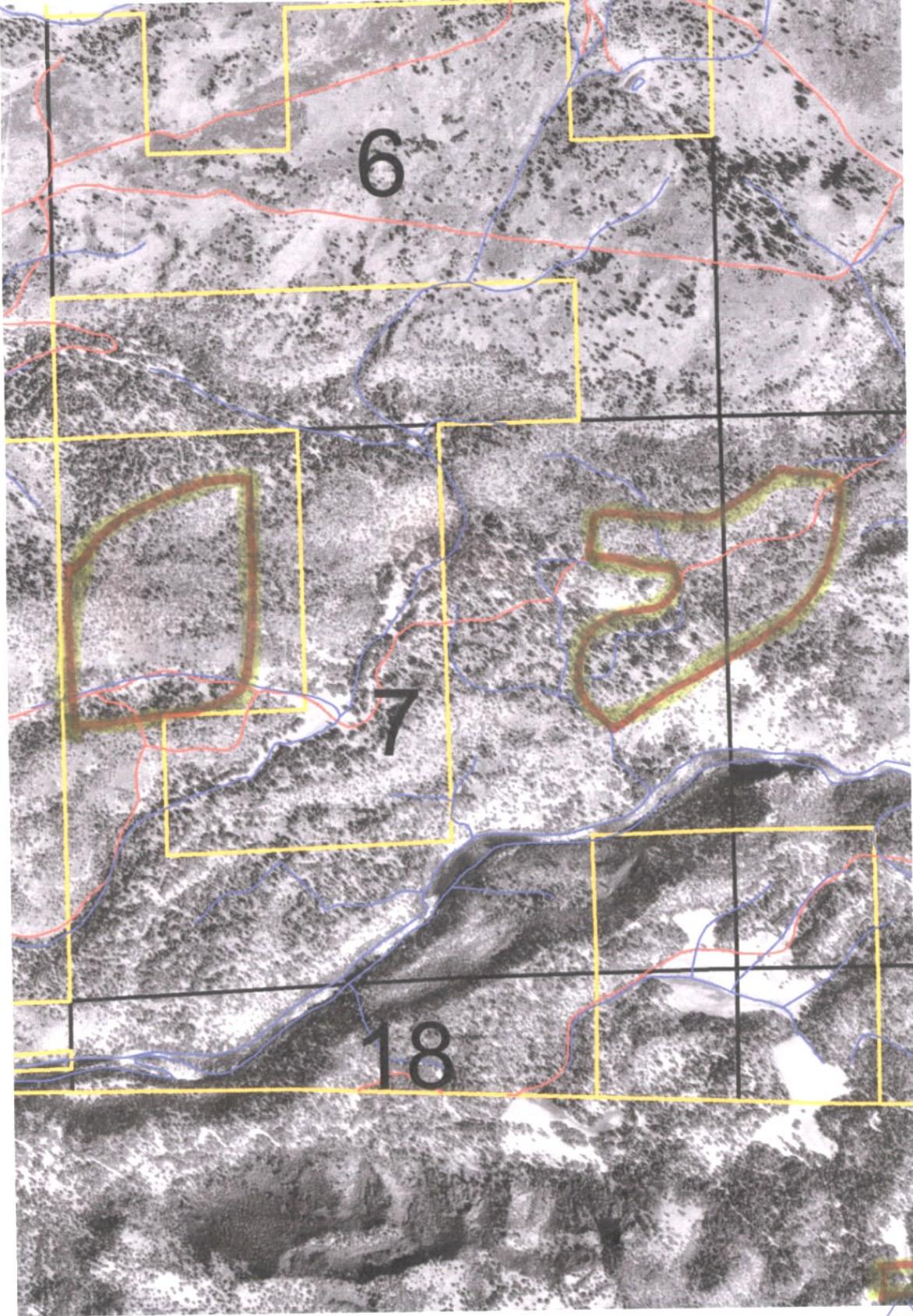
/s/ Teresa A. Raml

Signature of the Responsible Official

June 20, 2001

Date

# Oak Thin Project Areas



T. 41S, R. 6E, Sec. 7 & 8

0.7 0 0.7 Miles

- Oak
- Hyd
- Roads
- Kfo211299
- Pls