Decision Record for the
Horton Rim/Dairy and Windy Ridge Rangeland Health Treatments,
Habitat Restoration, and Urban Interface Protection
Environmental Assessment
EA # OR-014-01-02

Introduction

This project is designed to improve rangeland health by removing invasive juniper, reintroducing fire into the ecosystem, and by creating fuel breaks to protect the local urban interface in the Horton Rim/Dairy and Windy Ridge area. Western juniper has been actively invading the shrub steppe communities in the Pacific Northwest for the past 120 years. More than 90% of the eight million acres of western juniper woodlands in the region have developed over the past 100 years. As shrub steppe communities are converted to juniper woodlands, community structure, composition, function, processes, and wildlife habitat suitability are altered. This habitat conversion into juniper woodlands negatively impacts many wildlife species by reducing suitable forage and habitat conditions. This project will reverse this trend by restoring the shrub steppe habitat and increasing forage and suitable habitat for many wildlife species and especially those that are reliant on this community.

Decision

My decision is to implement the Proposed Action (Alternative 1), including all “Project Design Features and Mitigating Measures” described in the Horton Rim/Dairy and Windy Ridge Rangeland Health Treatments, Habitat Restoration, and Urban Interface Protection Environmental Assessment (EA # OR-014-01-02). This Alternative will consist of the removal of invasive juniper, Urban Interface Protection fuel treatments, the planting of native shrubs and grasses, and prescribed fire.

Mitigation

Mitigation as described in the “Project Design Features and Mitigating Measures” Section of the Proposed Action (EA, pp 11-12) will be implemented in order to protect those resources that may be affected by the Proposed Action.

Decision Rationale

The objectives of the proposed project are to restore the shrub-steppe community, protect the local urban interface, and reintroduce fire into an ecosystem that evolved with fire as an integral part. This will involve the removal of invasive western juniper on up to 3000 acres within the project plan area by mechanical and manual methods, the mowing of vegetation to create fire breaks, conducting prescribed fire operations, and potentially planting native shrubs and grasses.

The Environmental Assessment and FONSI were sent out and made available for a public comment and review period of thirty (30) days. The comment and review period advertisement was published in the Herald and News on February 19th, 2002. Comments received were
considered in making this decision. The impacts created by this decision do not require further analysis as noted in the FONSI determination.

The decision is consistent with the goals and objectives of the:
Klamath Falls Resource Area Management Plan and Record of Decision (RMP ROD, June 1995)
Klamath Falls Resource Area Fire Management EA (OR-014-94-09)
Klamath Falls Resource Area Integrated Weed Control Plan EA (OR-014-93-09)

Administrative Remedies

This Decision Record notice, published on July 14th, 2002, constitutes the decision document for purposes of appeal. Any party adversely affected by this decision may appeal within 30 days after receipt of the decision in accordance with the provisions of 43 CFR Parts 4.21(b).

The notice of appeal must state if a stay of the decision is being requested and must be filed with the Field Manager, Klamath Falls Resources Area, Bureau of Land Management, 2795 Anderson Ave., Building 25, Klamath Falls, OR 97603. A copy of the notice of appeal, statement of reasons, and other documents should be sent to the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, Lloyd 500 Building, Suite 607, 500 N.E. Multnomah Street, Portland, OR 97232. If the statement of reasons is filed separately it must be sent to the Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22203. It is suggested that any notice of appeal be sent certified mail, return receipt requested.

Before deciding to file an appeal, I encourage you to contact me to determine if your concerns might be met in some way other than via an appeal, or to assist you in the appeal process if it is appropriate. Thank you for your continued interest in the multiple use management of your public lands.

[Signature]
Field Manager
Klamath Falls Resource Area
Lakeview District, BLM

July 9, 2002