

**RECORD OF PLAN CONFORMANCE AND
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

Project Name: Bitterbrush and Curl-leaf Mountain Mahogany

Planting

Project Location: Various (see Proposed Action Description)

BLM Office: Lakeview District, Klamath Falls Resource Area

CX Log #: CX-08-06

Lease or Serial #: N/A

County: Klamath County, Oregon

A. Background

Description of Proposed Action:

This Categorical Exclusion will cover the bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*) and mountain mahogany (*Cercocarpus ledifoliosus*) planting that is planned to be implemented over the next five years on the east side rangelands of the Klamath Falls Resource Area.

The planting will consist of using hand tools to dig small holes to plant the seedlings. The project will also consist of the installation of protective tubes around each seedling. All areas proposed for planting will have been pre-treated for western juniper management. The treated western juniper will be cut, piled, and either burned or otherwise utilized. The bitterbrush and curl-leaf mountain mahogany seedlings will be planted within the burned pile areas and/or skid trails that resulted from the western juniper treatment.

The project areas for the first year of implementation (2008) are proposed to consist of planting 12,000 bitterbrush seedlings and 5,000 curl-leaf mountain mahogany seedlings on approximately 433 acres. The proposed project areas are Lower Midway and Twenty-One (see Map 1). In subsequent years (2009-2012), additional areas would be planted with a range of 10,000 to 30,000 seedlings on an average of approximately 200 acres per year.

To prevent the spread of noxious weeds, all vehicles and equipment will be cleaned prior to operating on BLM managed lands. Removal of all dirt, grease, and plant parts that may carry noxious weed seeds or vegetative parts is required and may be accomplished with a pressure hose.

Cultural surveys were conducted and known sites were delineated prior to implementation of the juniper treatment projects. The delineated sites were avoided during project activity so no juniper piles or skid trails were established within cultural site boundaries. Cultural sites were avoided during the original juniper treatments and will continue to be avoided during bitterbrush planting.

Botanical clearances for the proposed project areas were performed prior to juniper management treatments. The project is planned to occur within burn piles and skid trails, and therefore, no special status plant species will be impacted as a result of the project activities.

Purpose and Need for the Project:

The purpose of the project is to provide future deer forage and wildlife habitat by reestablishing the shrub community in the area. The proposed project areas are within deer winter or transitional range and will provide forage during the winter months for deer, as well as, forage and structure for other wildlife year round. This type of planting has been considered successful in the past in reestablishing the shrub community.

Proposed Implementation:

Project implantation is expected to occur in April of 2008-2012.

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

Land Use Plan Name, Date Approved:

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

The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP because it is specifically provided for in the following LUP decision(s): Refer to page 32, Table 2.

The proposed project has been reviewed and found to be in conformance with one or more of the following BLM plans, programmatic environmental analyses or policies:

- Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States FEIS and ROD (1991)
- Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program FEIS and ROD (1985) and Supplement (1987)
- Integrated Weed Control Plan (IWCP) 1993
- Rangeland Reform '94 FEIS and ROD (1995)
- Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the States of Oregon and Washington (1997)
- Standards for Land Health for Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the States of Oregon and Washington (1998)
- Interior Columbia Basin Strategy Scientific Documentation (2003)
- National Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy (2004)
- Greater Sage-Grouse Conservation Strategy and Assessment for Oregon, Draft (2005)

C. Compliance with NEPA

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 11.5, C(3), (3) Seeding or reforestation of timber sales or burn areas where no chaining is done, no pesticides are used, and there is no conversion of timber type or conversion of nonforest to forest land. Specific reforestation activities covered include: seeding and seedling plantings, shading, tubing (browse protection), paper mulching, bud caps, ravel protection, application of non-toxic big game repellent, spot scalping, rodent trapping, fertilization of seed trees, fence construction around out-planting sites, and collection of pollen, scions and cones.

The proposed action is categorically excluded from further analysis or documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) provided none of the Extraordinary Circumstances listed in 516 Departmental Manual 2, Appendix 2 (5/27/04) are met. The proposed action will:

CX Extraordinary Circumstances Documentation		
The proposed categorical exclusion action will:	YES	NO
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
Rationale: The project will not have any significant impacts on public health or safety.		
2.2 Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
Rationale: The project will not have any significant impacts on any of the natural resources or unique geographic characteristics described in 2.2.		
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)].		X
Rationale: This project does not have any highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts for alternative uses of available resources.		
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown		X

environmental risks.		
Rationale: This project does not have any highly uncertain or significant environmental effects nor does it involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: This project does not establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision about future actions with significant environmental effects.		
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
Rationale: This project is not directly related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		
2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
Rationale: The project will not significantly impact any properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.		
2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
Rationale: The project will not have any significant impact on any species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species list or any designated critical habitat for the species.		
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
Rationale: This project does not violate any laws imposed for the protection of the environment.		
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
Rationale: This project does not have any effect on low income or minority populations.		
2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		X
Rationale: This project does not limit access or significantly adversely effect any Indian sacred sites.		
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X
Rationale: The standard stipulations for noxious weeds will be followed with regards to this project.		

The proposed action would not meet any of the above extraordinary circumstances, or fail to comply with Executive Order 13212 (Actions to Expedite Energy-Related Projects) – to avoid direct or indirect adverse impact on energy development, production, supply, and/or distribution.

D. Surveys and Consultation

Surveys and/or consultation may be needed for special status plants and animals, for cultural resources, and other resources as necessary (appropriate fields are Initialed and Dated by responsible resource specialist):

Surveys	Are Completed	Will Be Completed	Are Not Needed
SS Animals			SH 3/13/08
SS Plants	DLE 3/13/08		
Cultural Resources	MD 3/13/08		
Consultation	Is Completed	Will Be Completed	Is Not Needed
SS Animal Consultation*			SH 3/13/08
Botanical Consultation			DLE 3/13/08
Cultural Consultation			MD 3/13/08
*(SS = Special Status)			

Remarks:

E. Decision

The proposed project has no potential for significant impacts because all of the work will be performed by hand. The proposed action is consistent with the specific requirements of the published categorical exclusion because the project will be performed in areas already treated for juniper management with the planting of seedlings occurring in disturbed burn piles and skid trails.

The proposed action would not create adverse environmental impacts or require the preparation of an environmental assessment (EA) or environmental impact statement (EIS). The proposed action has been reviewed against the criteria for extraordinary circumstances (listed above) as identified in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2. The application of this categorical exclusion is appropriate, as there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action is, therefore, categorically excluded from additional NEPA documentation.

It is my decision to proceed with the Proposed Action.

F. Signature

Authorizing Official: /s/ Donald J. Holmstrom
(Signature)

Date: 3/24/08

Name: Donald J. Holmstrom

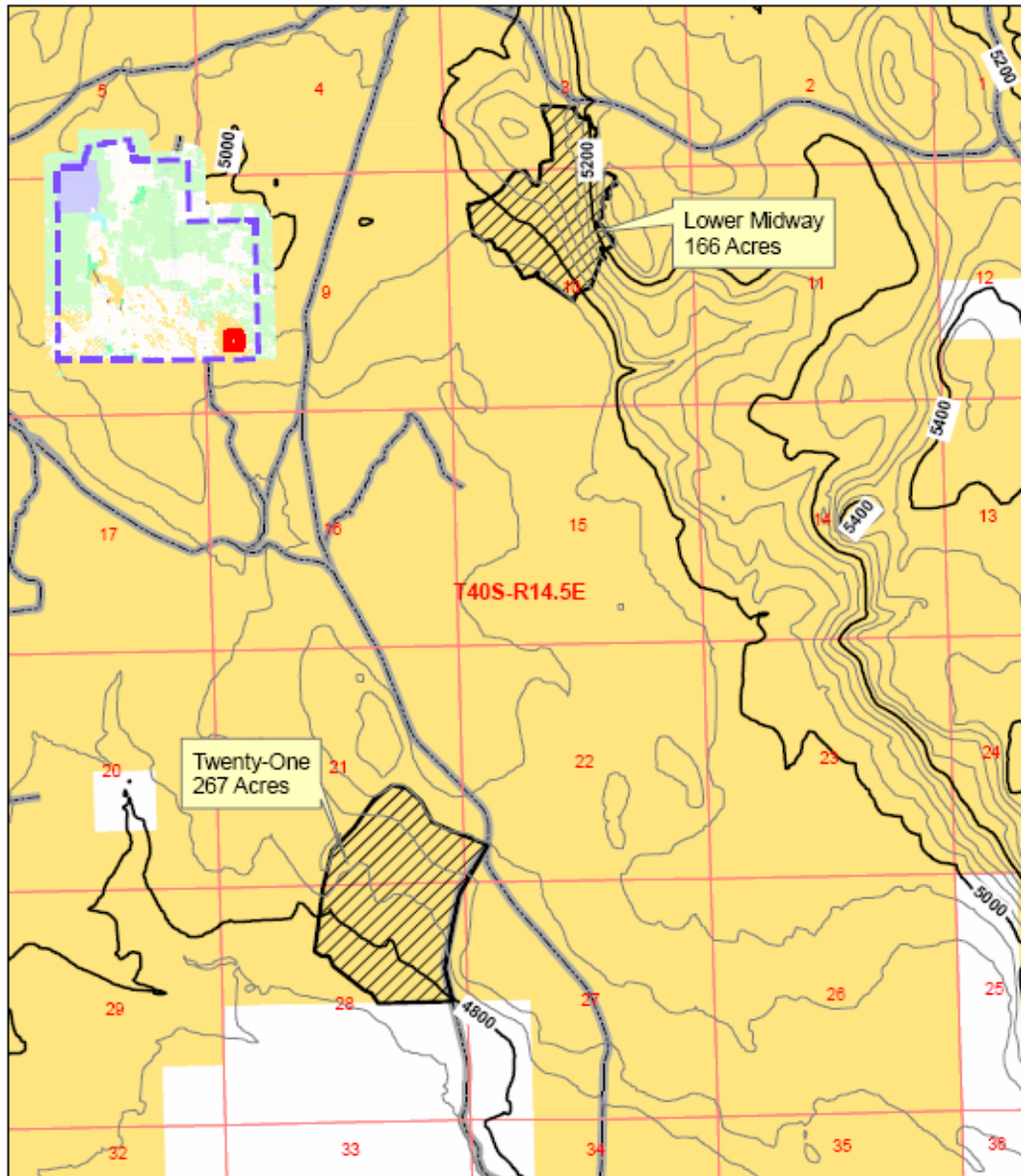
Title: Field Manager, Klamath Falls Resource Area

G. Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

Steve Hayner, Klamath Falls Resource Area, 2795 Anderson Avenue, Building 25, Klamath Falls, Oregon 97603-7891 or telephone: 541-883-6916.

2008 Bitterbrush and Mountain Mahogany Planting Units



Legend

Twenty-One Unit

Roads

Contours (40 ft.)

Index

Minor

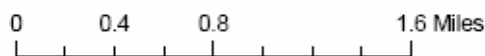
Major

KFRA Land Jurisdiction

JURISCODE

BLM

Pvt.



Map of 2008 Bitterbrush and Mountain Mahogany Planting Units
 Prepared by: BLM/KFRA/USFS/USDA
 Date: 10/20/08
 Scale: 1:50,000
 Projection: UTM
 Contour Interval: 40 feet
 Data Source: BLM/KFRA/USFS/USDA
 Contact: [illegible]
 [illegible]

This map was prepared by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, availability, 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.