

many years to implement. The resource area has begun to implement this plan during the last year. The progress made to date is noted in the "Plan Implementation Summary for FY95 and Work Planned for FY96" section which follows. One major component of the Resource Management Plan which was recently completed is a series of mineral restriction maps (figures 4-6) which outline areas within the resource area where various types of mineral development are restricted.

Upper Klamath Basin/Wood River Resource Management Plan

This plan focuses on wetland restoration on about 3200 acres located about 25 miles north of Klamath Falls, Oregon (figure 3). The Klamath Falls Resource Area purchased 1,540 acres (the south half) of the Wood River property in July 1993 with money appropriated by Congress. The 1,680 acres north half was purchased in FY95 through an additional Congressional appropriation. The resource area is continuing to pursue land disposal of isolated parcels of public land to meet the part of the appropriations mandate that requires public lands within Klamath County be returned to private ownership to offset tax impacts to the county. Historically wetland habitat, the property was diked and drained to serve as irrigated pastureland for over 50 years.

No management direction was specified by Congress when the funds were appropriated. So the BLM prepared a draft and final Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) to guide future management in the area based, in part, on input provided by the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, American Land Conservancy, Klamath Basin Water Users Advisory Council, Wood River Wetland Team (an informal public working group), and members of the public. A Record of Decision was issued in December 1995. Implementation to date has included:

1. Relocation of the entrance gate.
2. Construction of a parking lot at the entrance.
3. Resurfacing the Wood River bridge.
4. Completion of annual monitoring report.
5. Planting of willows and cottonwoods.
6. Cooperative sucker telemetry study with Bureau of Reclamation.
7. Completed permit process for Section 404 of the Clean Water Act.
8. Formation of partnerships through a Challenge Cost Share Agreement that includes: BLM, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, The Klamath Tribes, Oregon Trout, Ducks Unlimited, and Tulana Farms.
9. Complete engineering survey and design work for construction phase of the restoration project.
10. Completed consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as required, under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.
11. Initiated construction phase of the restoration project.

The Wood River Wetland Team met in May of 1996, to discuss plan implementation, and will continue to meet periodically during the implementation phase of the project. The team meetings are open to anyone who wants to participate and is our effort to let people be more involved in plan development and implementation. If you are interested in learning more about this restoration project contact Wedge Watkins at 541-885-4110.