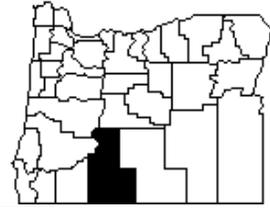
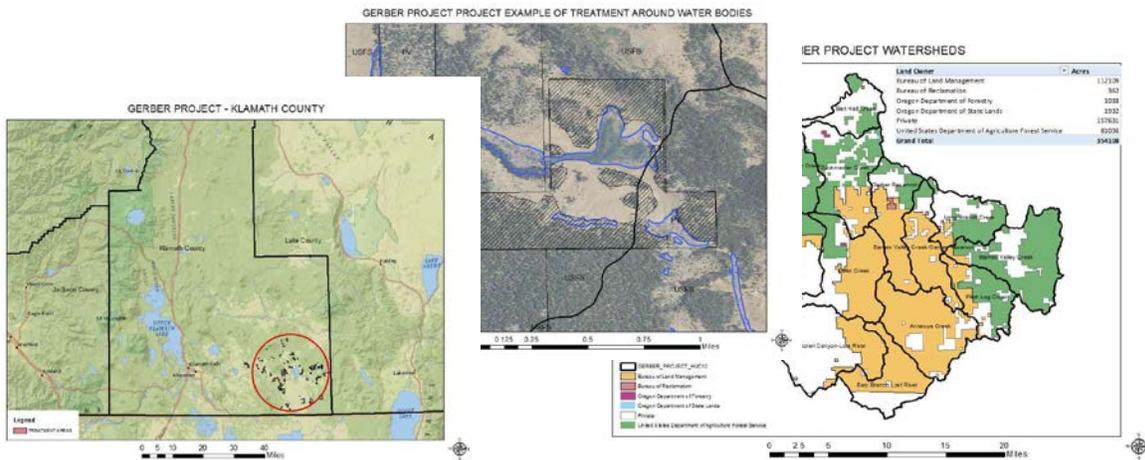


2016-2020 Klamath County NRCS Long Range Plan

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The Klamath County Natural Resources Conservation Service, (NRCS) has developed a Long Range Plan (2016-2020) to strategically address specific natural resource concerns within Klamath County, Oregon. NRCS is collaborating with conservation partners that include federal, state, and local agencies and organizations to fulfill the objectives of this plan.



Klamath County Natural Resource and Socio-Economic Priorities

Forest and Rangeland Health – Upper Lost River (Gerber Reservoir watershed), Fremont-Winema National Forest East Hills and Lobert Project Areas

Over stocked conifer forests and western Juniper encroached rangeland areas are found throughout Klamath County. However, specific areas are targeted for treatment alongside public lands such Fremont-Winema National Forest. Some of these areas are in and around fire risk communities are a priority for treatment. Beetle killed trees in Klamath County, such as around Gearhart Wilderness area and Collier memorial State Park are susceptible to wildfire that would cause damage to water resources and neighboring communities. These area is targeted for treatment under three specific areas in the County, the Gerber Reservoir watershed, USFS East Hills and USFS Lobert project areas. Each of the three projects intend to be an “all-lands” approach within a few years as NEPA planning is completed on National Forest.

Encroachment of western juniper has occurred in much of southern portion of the county, especially within the Upper Lost River watershed that starts in California. Impacts include limited water availability, forage availability and wildlife habitat. Juniper has been found to restrict the benefit of direct precipitation in low precipitation zones such as this, and springs flow less than what may have been flowing before juniper are as dense as it is today. NRCS has begun a CIS that addresses the Gerber Reservoir watershed conditions. ODF is assisting private landowners, NRCS and USFS through an all-lands approach which will supported by the NRCS-ODF contribution agreement and the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA), under Farm Bill Categorical Exclusion (CE) authority.

Klamath and Lake County NRCS, ODF, and USFS offices will coordinate across county boundaries, through the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership all-lands forest health planning and implementation model, which will utilize Oregon’s NRCS CIS approach, and funding through Joint Chief’s and RCPP alternatives. Other conservation partners include OSU Forest Extension, private forest consultants, landowners, BLM, State Forests, watershed councils, SWCD’s etc.

Water Conservation, Supply and Quality – Upper Lost River

Klamath County has been in a drought situation for a number of years, with possibly the greatest impacts to the agricultural community within the Upper Lost River watershed. Irrigation water availability has been very limited in a number of areas but most impacts occur in the Upper Lost River watershed, where solely relying on Clear Lake and Gerber Reservoirs which have impaired watersheds.

One long-term solution to increasing water availability regardless of the level of precipitation is upland forest thinning and removal of Western juniper. Fire suppression has occurred west-wide which has allowed for forest and rangeland conditions to further reduce water yield with increased water quality problems.

Klamath NRCS Focus

NRCS staff will focus on resource concerns over the next 5 years where technical capacity exists within conservation partners, specifically ODF, USFS, OSU, KSWCD, and KWP. Improving upland conditions that addresses risk of wildfire, terrestrial habitat, surface water availability, in-stream flow and water quality will include activities such as forestry and rangeland thinning projects (western juniper and overstocked conifer stands), irrigation water delivery and irrigation system improvements.

Under current socio-economic conditions, concerns for wildfire within forested areas, and collaboration among conservation partners, the Gerber Reservoir watershed and the Fremont Winema National Forest's Lobert and East Hills project areas are likely to be the most successful "all-lands" projects over the next 5 to 10 years. The collaboration building within the Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership that includes USFS, OSU, ODF, Nature Conservancy, forest consultants, and landowners seems to have the greatest momentum in the Klamath and Lake County towards forest treatment which is currently a priority for local leaders and citizens at this time.

NRCS has already started to focus on forest thinning and removal of juniper in the Gerber Reservoir watershed. This is then linked to the Upper Lost River floodplain, which contains irrigated lands impacted by drought. NRCS and other conservation partners will begin in 2017 to focus more effort on irrigation delivery and utilization efficiency within the Langell Valley Irrigation District. A NRCS CIS and/or national water quality initiative plan is expected to be developed in 2017 or 2018 in preparation for implementation following with NRCS (EQIP and/or RCPP) and BOR's Water Smart program. OWEB funds are also being sought by the SWCD and Klamath Watershed Partnership for technical assistance planning support.

Ongoing Klamath NRCS Workload

Active EQIP, CSP and WRP contracts are currently being administered by the field office, with new WRP contract and CUA workload building with support from the Portland and Redmond wetlands team. Field office staff will continue to administer existing projects while also work on new conservation plans for EQIP, CSP and WRP.

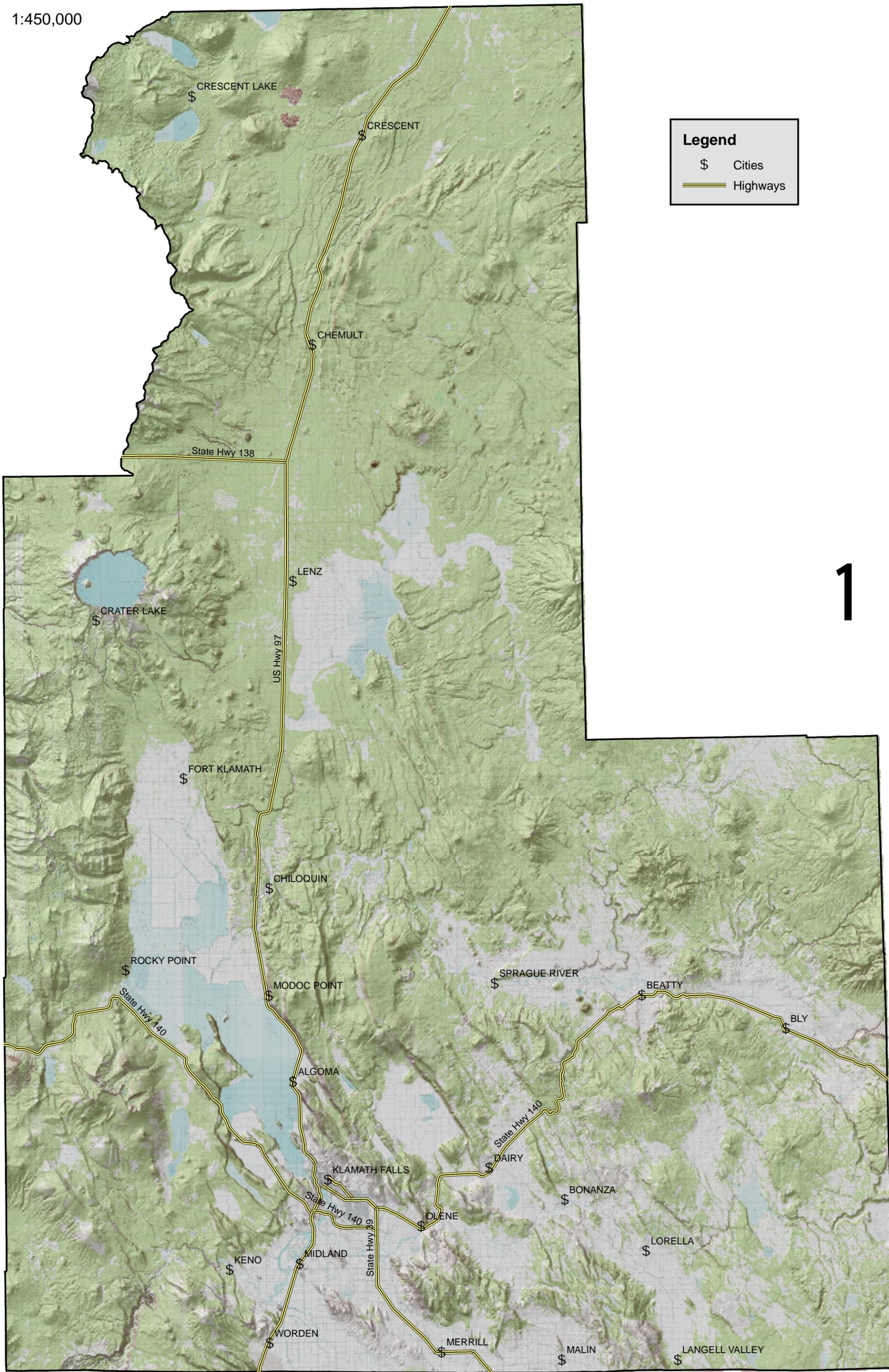
Following maps depict general information about Klamath County and includes maps of the current and proposed project areas.

Long Range Plan - Klamath County, Oregon Topography and Shaded Relief

1:450,000

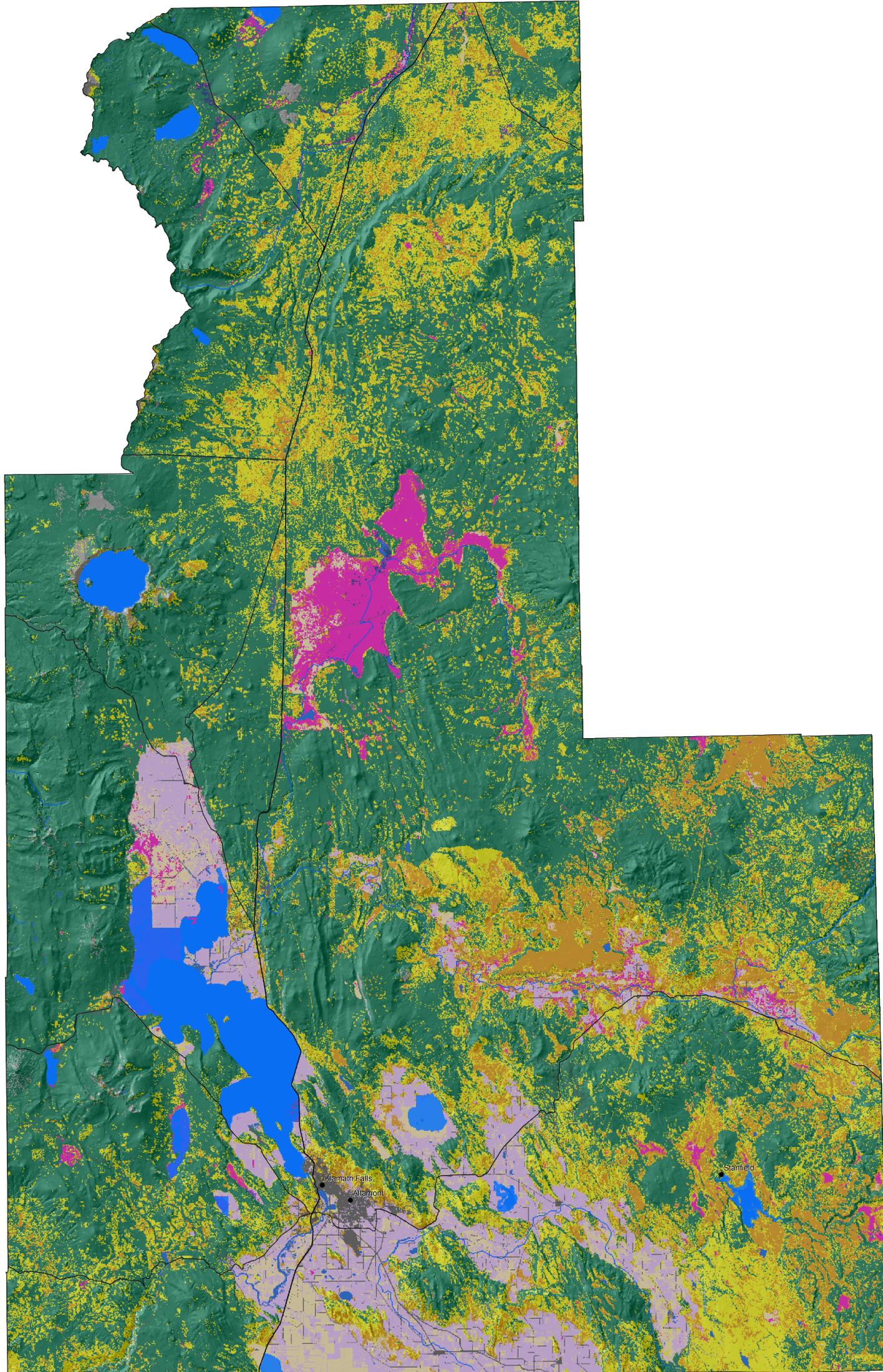
Legend

- \$ Cities
- Highways



1

Land Use/Land Cover Klamath County, Oregon



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Source: National Land Cover Dataset, USGS 2001.

Land Use/Land Cover

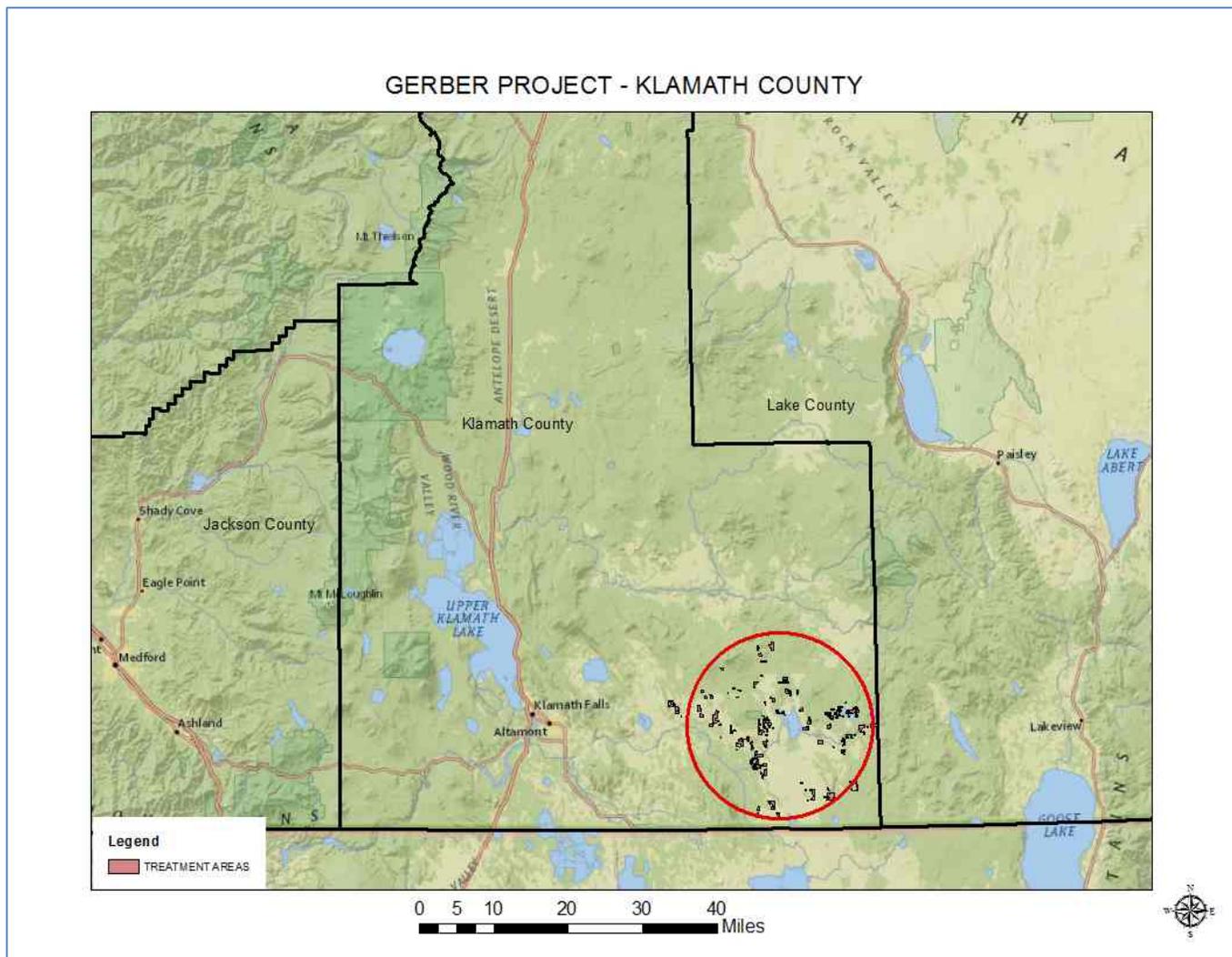
 Cultivated Crops	 Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands
 Deciduous Forest	 Open Water
 Evergreen Forest	 Shrub/Scrub
 Mixed Forest	 Woody Wetlands
 Hay/Pasture	 Developed Land/Open Space
 Herbaceous	 Barren Land



GERBER FOREST AND WESTERN JUNIPER PROJECT

NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS)

The Gerber Forest and Western Juniper Project CIS includes the Gerber Reservoir and Portions of the Upper Lost River watershed.



Lobert and East Hills Projects Fremont-Winema National Forest



Figure 1. Lobert Restoration Project Vicinity Map within the Klamath Tribes' former 1954 reservation, Klamath County, Oregon

