

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND APPROVAL

CX Number: DOI-BLM-OR-BO70-2011-0033-CX

Date: 6/01/2011

File Code (Project/Serial Number):

Preparer: Travis Miller

Title of Proposed Action: CMPA Road Maintenance

Regular and reoccurring road maintenance within the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA).

**Description of Proposed Action:**

The purpose of the proposal is to maintain safe road conditions within the CMPA boundary highlighted in the attached Maps. Roads will be maintained within the existing disturbed areas consistent with assigned maintenance levels 2 and 3 described in the CMPA RMP/ROD (M-2 & 3) and Steens Mountain Travel Management Plan (TMP) OR-05-027-021 EA or maintenance intensity 1 and 3 described in District Road Maintenance Policy Instruction Memorandum No. ORB000-2010-004. Roads may be graded, slides removed, drainage structures maintained, culverts or rock crossings installed to prevent accelerated erosion, and roadside brushing that will be done in a way that prevents disturbance to root systems and visual intrusions. Road maintenance will provide easier access for firefighting personnel, administration, and the public. This CX does not permit new construction/realignment or road upgrading activities to a different intensity/maintenance level.

All equipment will be cleaned prior to beginning work on new road locations to minimize opportunities for spread of weeds by seeds or other plant parts. Only certified weed-free rock would be used. Maintenance work would be completed only when the road is dry, and only within the existing roadbed.

**Legal Description:**

See attached Road Maintenance Maps.

**B. Conformance with Land Use Plan (LUP):**

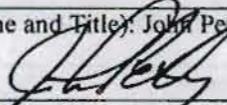
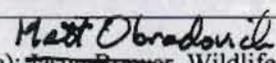
The proposed action is in conformance with the applicable LUP, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decision(s):

CMPA ROD/RMP August 2005, page RMP-15 *Operation and Maintenance Actions*, page RMP-61 and Map 13 (Only applies to the CMPA) in the Andrews Management Unit and Steens CMPA RMP Appendices (A-O) and Maps, August 2005 and overall LUP goals, page RMP-12.

**BLM Categorical Exclusion Reference (516 DM, Chapter 11):**

DOI Categorical Exclusion Reference (516 DM 2, Appendix 1): 1.7 "Routine and continuing government business, including...maintenance...and replacement activities..."

**Screening for Exceptions:** The following extraordinary circumstances (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) may apply to individual actions within the categorical exceptions. The indicated specialist recommends the proposed action does *not*:

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES DOCUMENTATION	
2.1	Have significant impacts on public health or safety.
Specialist (Print Name and Title): John Petty, Safety Officer	
Signature and Date:  6/8/11	
Rationale: No 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); flood plains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
Migratory Birds	
Specialist (Print Name and Title):  Matt Obradovich, Wildlife Biologist	

Signature and Date: <i>Matthew Phendel 6/07/2011</i>
Rationale: Maintenance work would be limited to previously disturbed areas (existing road), and occur over a relatively short period (less than a week). Birds in the immediate vicinity of the road may flush as equipment passes, but effects would be temporary and birds would likely return as soon as maintenance ceases. Some potential foraging habitat directly adjacent to roads may be affected, but the total area potentially directly impacted would be minimal relative to the habitat available beyond the road edges. Birds may forage in the road or along the edges of the road, but few are likely to nest in this area, and maintenance activities would not affect populations.
<u>Historic and Cultural Resources</u>
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Scott Thomas, District Archaeologist
Signature and Date: <i>Scott Thomas 6/7/11</i>
Rationale: No cultural resources will be affected by this project as long as the maintenance activities occur within the road prism.
<u>Areas of Critical Environmental Concern/Research Natural Areas</u>
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Caryn Meinicke, Botanist
Signature and Date: <i>6-8-11</i>
Rationale: No impacts to RNAs or ACECs are anticipated as disturbance will not be increased in areas where roads enter RNAs or ACECs.
<u>Water Resources/Flood Plains</u>
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Lisa Grant, Fish Biologist
Signature and Date: <i>Andray Davies, Fish Biologist 6/7/2011</i>
Rationale: Proposal will have no additional effects on water resources.
<u>Soils, Biological Soil Crust, Prime Farmlands</u>
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Caryn Meinicke, Botanist
Signature and Date: <i>6-8-11</i>
Rationale: No significant impacts to soils, biological soil crusts or prime farmlands are anticipated.
<u>Recreation/ Visual Resources</u>
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Mike Kelly, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Signature and Date: <i>Mike Kelly 6-8-11</i>
Rationale: No significant impacts to recreation or visual resources are anticipated.
<u>Wilderness/Wild and Scenic River Resources</u>
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Eric Haakenson, Wilderness Specialist
Signature and Date: <i>Eric Haakenson 06/08/11</i>
Rationale: No impacts to Wilderness, WSAs or WSRs are anticipated.
<b>2.3</b> Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges, Planning and Environmental Coordinator
Signature and Date: <i>Rhonda Karges 6/13/11</i>
Rationale: There are no known highly controversial environmental effects or unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. The routes are open and have been assigned maintenance classes 2 and 3. The routes exist on the landscape and are shown on the TP and TMP maps. No new routes would be created.
<b>2.4</b> Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges, Planning and Environmental Coordinator
Signature and Date: <i>Rhonda Karges 6/13/11</i>
Rationale: There are no known highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or unique or unknown environmental risks. The routes are open and have been assigned maintenance classes 2 and 3. The routes exist on the landscape and are shown on the TP and TMP maps. No new routes would be created.
<b>2.5</b> Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges, Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Signature and Date:

*Rhonda Karges* 6/13/11

Rationale: No precedent for future actions or decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects would occur as road maintenance is an on-going activity on public lands. The routes are open and have been assigned maintenance classes 2 and 3. The routes exist on the landscape and are shown on the TP and TMP maps. No new routes would be created.

2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges, Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Signature and Date:

*Rhonda Karges* 6/13/11

Rationale: There are no known direct relationships to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. The routes are open and have been assigned maintenance classes 2 and 3. The routes exist on the landscape and are shown on the TP and TMP maps. No new routes would be created.

2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register (NR) of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Scott Thomas, District Archaeologist

Signature and Date:

*Scott Thomas* 6/7/11

Rationale: No NR eligible or listed historic properties would be affected by this project as long as maintenance activities are within the road prism.

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.

Endangered or Threatened Species-Fauna

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Jason Brewer, Wildlife Biologist

Signature and Date:

*Matthew Oberlander* 6/07/2011

Rationale: There are no federally listed species or Critical Habitat present in the area of disturbance.

Endangered or Threatened Species-Aquatic

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Lisa Grant, Natural Resource Specialist/Riparian

Signature and Date:

*Sindsay Davies, Fish Biologist* 6/7/2011

Rationale: No Threatened or Endangered Species or Critical Habitat is affected by the proposed action.

Endangered or Threatened Species-Flora

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Caryn Meinicke, Botanist

Signature and Date:

*Caryn Meinicke* 6-8-11

Rationale: No T&E species of flora are present or critical habitat

2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges, Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Signature and Date:

*Rhonda Karges* 6/13/11

Rationale: No known law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment would be violated.

2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges, Planning and Environmental Coordinator

Signature and Date:

*Rhonda Karges* 6/13/11

Rationale: Implementation would not result in a disproportionately adverse effect on minority or economically disadvantaged populations as such populations do not occur in or near the project area.

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).

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Scott Thomas, District Archaeologist

Signature and Date: *Joan Suther* 6/13/11

Rationale: Access to and use of sacred sites would not be affected by this action.

**2.12** Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or nonnative 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).

Specialist (Print Name and Title): Lesley Richman, District Weed Coordinator

Signature and Date: *Lesley Richman* 6/10/11

Rationale: Noxious weeds are known to be present in or in close proximity to the areas proposed for road maintenance. Treatments are on-going. The weeds are not present in sufficient quantity to be considered a significant impact at this time.

**Additional review (As determined by the Authorized Officer):**

**RMP conformance and CX review confirmation:**

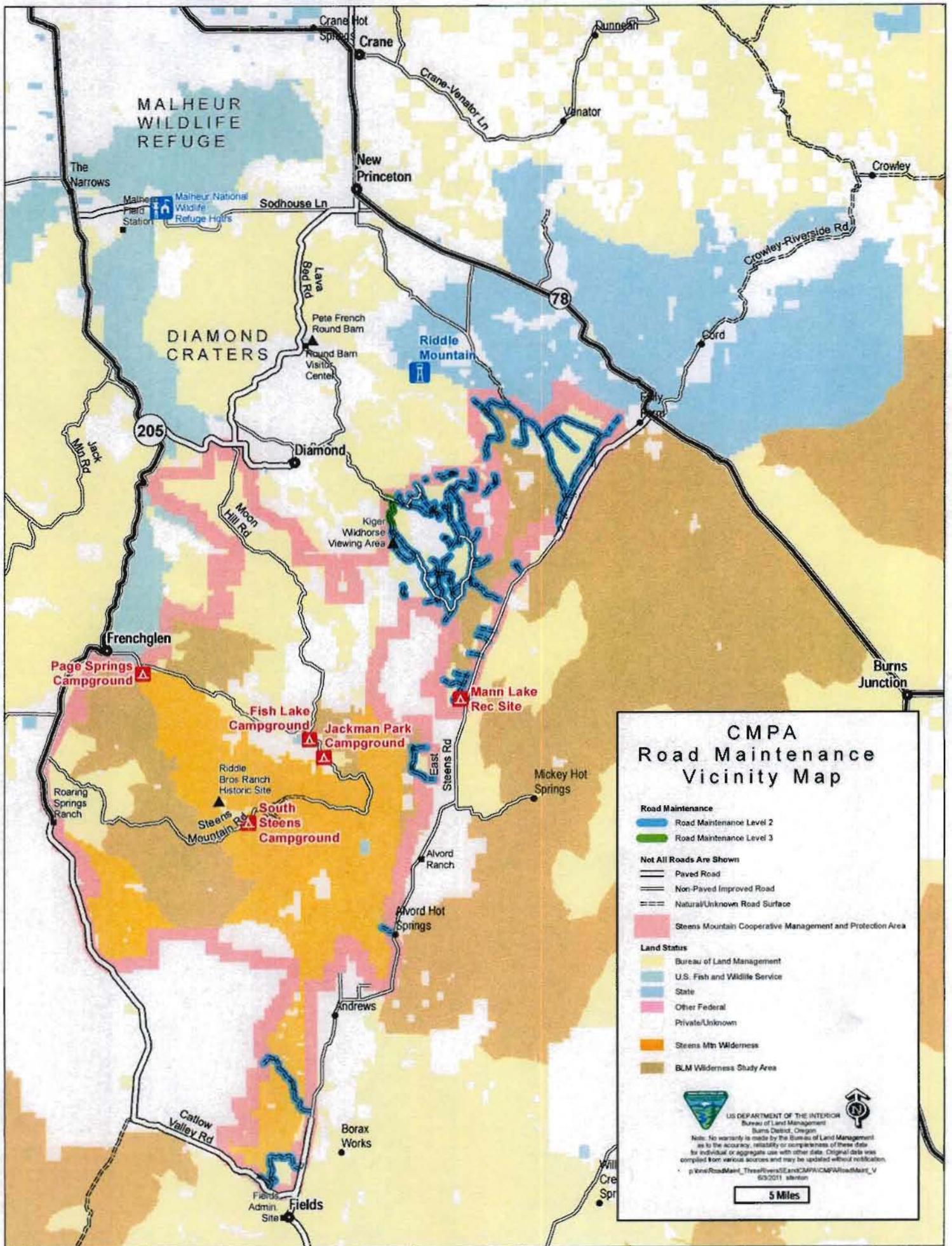
Specialist (Print Name and Title): Rhonda Karges, District Planning/Environmental Coordinator

Signature and Date: *Rhonda Karges* 6/13/11

**Management Determination:** Based upon review of this proposal, I have determined the Proposed Action is in conformance with the LUP, qualifies as a categorical exclusion and does not require further NEPA analysis.

Authorized Officer (Print Name and Title): Joan Suther, Andrews Resource Area Field Manager

Signature and Date: *Joan Suther* 6/13/11



MALHEUR WILDLIFE REFUGE

DIAMOND CRATERS

CMPA Road Maintenance Vicinity Map

Road Maintenance

- Road Maintenance Level 2
- Road Maintenance Level 3

Not All Roads Are Shown

- Paved Road
- Non-Paved Improved Road
- Natural/Unknown Road Surface

Land Status

- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- State
- Other Federal
- Private/Unknown
- Steen's Mtn Wilderness
- BLM Wilderness Study Area

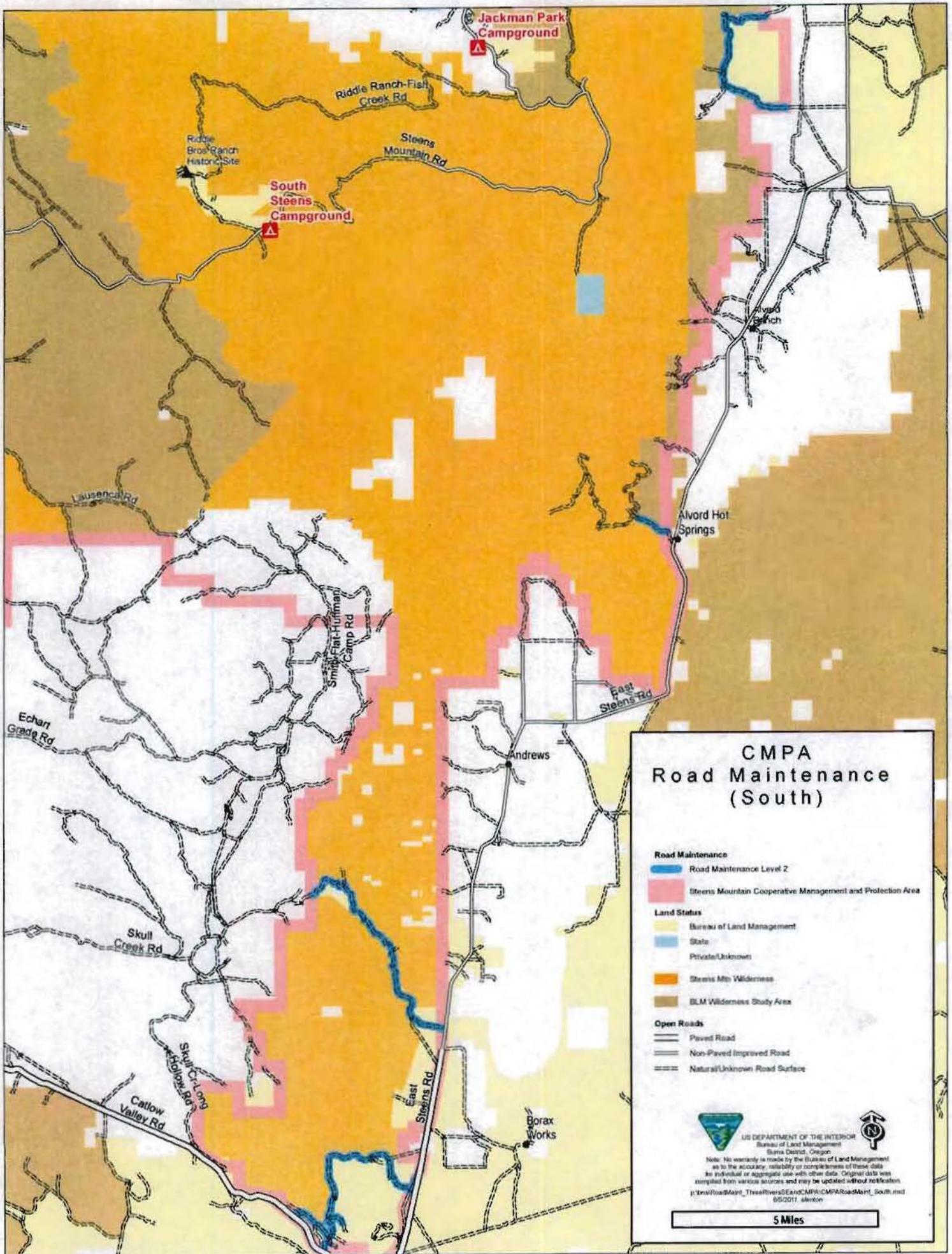


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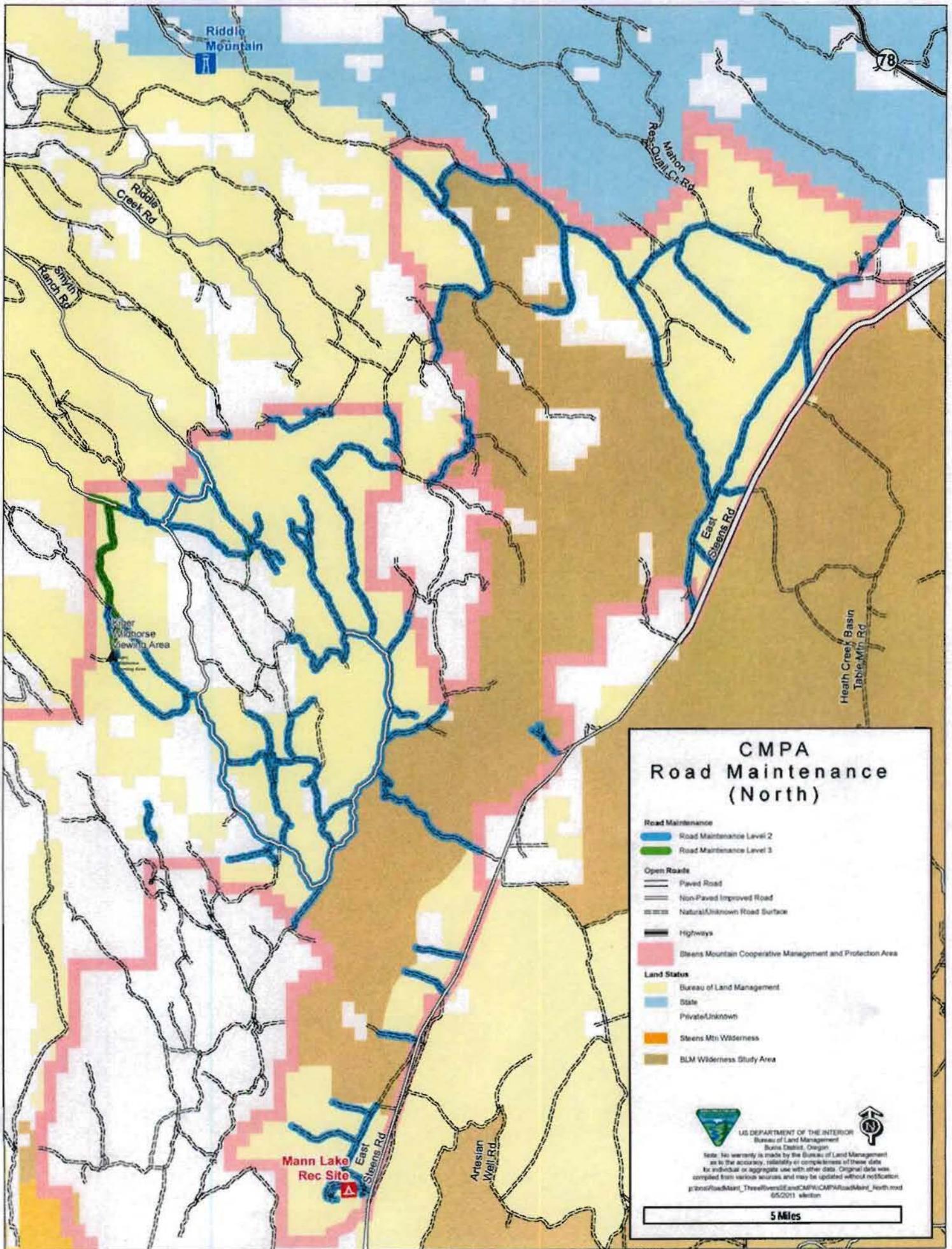
- Road Maintenance**
- Road Maintenance Level 2
  - Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area
- Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - State
  - Private/Unknown
  - Steens Mtn Wilderness
  - BLM Wilderness Study Area
- Open Roads**
- Paved Road
  - Non-Paved Improved Road
  - Natural/Unknown Road Surface



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5 Miles



### CMTA Road Maintenance (North)

- Road Maintenance**
- Road Maintenance Level 2
  - Road Maintenance Level 3
- Open Roads**
- Paved Road
  - Non-Paved Improved Road
  - Natural/Unknown Road Surface
  - Highways
- Steers Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area
- Land Status**
- Bureau of Land Management
  - State
  - Private/Unknown
  - Steers Mtn Wilderness
  - BLM Wilderness Study Area

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 Burns District, Oregon

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