

Worksheet
Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Office: Andrews/Steens Field Office

Tracking Number (DNA #): DOI-BLM-OR-B070-2012-0048-DNA

Case File/Project Number:

Proposed Action Title/Type: Guided group trips with day use in Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA), Steens Mountain Wilderness and Diamond Craters within Three Rivers Resource Area.

Location/Legal Description: Primarily in Steens Mountain CMPA and Diamond Craters within Three Rivers Resource Area.

Applicant (if any): Silver Striders Guide Service, Pamela Kirk

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

Applicant Pamela Kirk of Silver Striders Guide Service requests issuance of a Special Recreation Permit (SRP) for authorization to conduct guided hiking and sightseeing day trips on portions of Burns District, Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The Silver Striders Guide Service would be conducting their services primarily in Diamond Craters within Three Rivers Resource Area and within Steens Mountain CMPA (See attached Maps). Applicant will use a passenger van to transport clients. There would be no off-road vehicle use and no overnight use. All wilderness and standard stipulations throughout Burns District would apply (See Stipulations).

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name*

Steens Mountain CMPA Record of Decision and RMP

Three Rivers Record of Decision/RMP

Steens Mountain Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Plan

Date Approved: 2005

Date Approved: 1992

Date Approved: 2005

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUPs, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP decisions (objectives, terms, and conditions):

Steens Mountain CMPA ROD/RMP, page 66, "Provide developed and undeveloped recreation opportunities while protecting resources, to manage the increasing demand for resource-dependent recreation activities." Objective #4 - "Manage visitor use in the CMPA to protect natural resources and to provide a variety of recreation opportunities." Objective #6 - "Manage commercial, competitive, educational, and organized group recreation activities."

Three Rivers RMP/ROD, Recreation Management, Page 2-107, Objective R 1. "Establish and manage intensive use areas, where the presence of high quality natural resources and the current or potential demand warrants intensive use practices to protect the area for their scientific, educational and/or recreational values while accommodating the projected increase in use for recreation activities specific to the areas".

Three Rivers RMP/ROD, Recreation Management, Page 2-111, Objective R 2. "Provide opportunities for unstructured recreation activities with the necessary facilities and services to accommodate a projected 24.5 percent increase in dispersed recreation use within the Three Rivers Resource Area from an estimated 84,000 visits in 1998 to an estimated 104,500 visits by the year 2000".

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action.

- Andrews/Steens Proposed RMP and Final EIS – 8/2004
- Three Rivers Proposed RMP and Final EIS – 9/1991
- Andrews Plan Amendment for Recreation Access Surrounding the Steens Mountain Loop Road, BLM/OR/WA/PL-93/30+1792, 6/30/1993
- Steens Mountain RAMP - 2/22/1985
- High Desert SRP EA OR-020-03-039
- Steens Mountain Packers Special Recreation Permit, EA OR-020-03-038, 9/24/03

List by name and date other documentation relevant to the proposed action (e.g., biological assessment, biological opinion, watershed assessment, allotment evaluation, and monitoring report).

- Management Plan for Diamond Loop Back Country Byway-1993
- Diamond Craters Recreation Management Plan, 1985
- A Needs Assessment was completed August 2011 in conformance with the Steens Mountain CMPA RMP/ROD.
- State, Local, and Tribal land use plans and regulations

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

The proposed action is a feature of the alternatives analyzed in the Steens Mountain Packers SRP EA, OR-020-03-038 and High Desert SRP EA, OR-020-03-039. These EAs analyzed hiking and scenic tours within Burns District including Steens Mountain Wilderness. The hiking routes used would vary with the clients' interests and the scenic tours would occur primarily on Steens Mountain Loop Road and Diamond Craters Loop Back Country Byway.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes, the range of alternatives from the above EAs is appropriate given the current environmental concerns, interests and resource values and based on the nature of the proposed action using existing roads, no new construction, and no off-road travel following the attached stipulations. The Steens Mountain Packers and High Desert Packers EAs analyzed one alternative to the Proposed Action, the No Action Alternative. The No Action Alternative would not authorize an SRP. No issues were identified in the existing EAs that would have generated additional alternatives and none were identified for this proposed action.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, rangeland health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

The Greater sage-grouse was and still is a BLM Sensitive species, but is now a Federal Candidate species under the Endangered Species Act following US Fish and Wildlife Service's review and determination that federal listing was "warranted but precluded by higher priorities" in 2010. The scope of this project would not have affects beyond those described in the existing NEPA documents. Activities associated with this permit would occur after breeding season (March 15-June 1) except for the period from about May 15 to June 1 when the lower gates on the Steens Mountain access roads could be open depending on weather conditions each year. Vehicles would be restricted to main roads by wet soil conditions in most places so disturbance would be limited to foot traffic by participants. If sage-grouse are encountered, then the group leader would direct participants away from the area so that sage-grouse would not be disturbed any further. Areas accessible for these activities are limited by road and trail conditions and seasonal closures on Steens Mountain (November to July).

Inventory of lands with wilderness characteristics has been completed within the CMPA. Three parcels within the CMPA were identified as possessing wilderness characteristics, but not given any special management. The areas within the CMPA are already protected by the mineral withdrawal, prohibition on cross-county motorized/mechanized vehicle use, ROW avoidance/exclusion areas and VRM classifications). There would be no affects to these areas with implementation of the proposed action; therefore, previous NEPA analysis is adequate for this activity.

Inventory of wilderness characteristics, in Diamond Craters was completed in March, 1980. Diamond Craters were found to lack wilderness characteristics and was eliminated from further Wilderness Review. An off-road vehicle designation limiting vehicle use to specific roads is already in effect to provide protection for the fragile natural features. There would be no affects to these areas with implementation of the proposed action; therefore, previous NEPA analysis is adequate for this activity.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

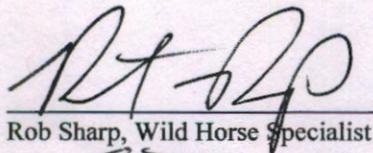
The direct and indirect effects of the current proposed action are unchanged from those identified in the above referenced EAs. The EAs sufficiently document the site-specific impacts related to the current proposed action.

North Steens Transmission Line Right-Of-Way and the North Steens Ecosystem Restoration Project are Reasonable Foreseeable Future Actions within the Steens Mountain area. The cumulative impacts associated with these projects and the Steens Mountain Packers and High Desert Packers SRP EAs would not be measurable as the types of activities do not change any features on the landscape. Implementation of the proposed action is limited to hiking and use of existing roads.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

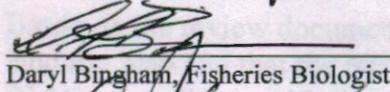
Yes, public involvement is adequate; all of the above referenced EAs included public notices both in the newspaper and posted on the BLM website. There were no public comments.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting or participating in the NEPA analysis and preparation of this worksheet.



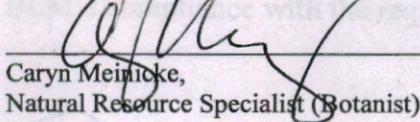
Rob Sharp, Wild Horse Specialist

10/24/12
Date



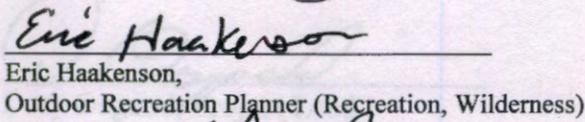
Daryl Bingham, Fisheries Biologist

23 OCT 2012
Date



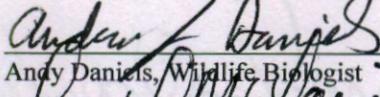
Caryn Meinicke,
Natural Resource Specialist (Botanist)

10.26.12
Date



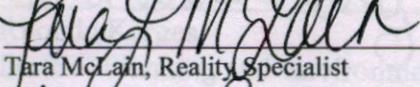
Eric Haakenson,
Outdoor Recreation Planner (Recreation, Wilderness)

10/22/12
Date



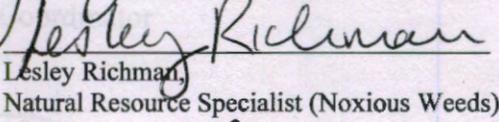
Andy Daniels, Wildlife Biologist

10/24/12
Date



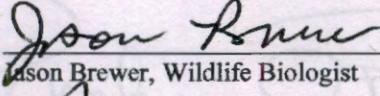
Tara McLain, Reality Specialist

10/24/12
Date



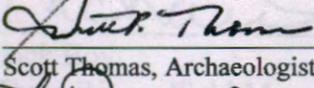
Lesley Richman,
Natural Resource Specialist (Noxious Weeds)

10/23/12
Date



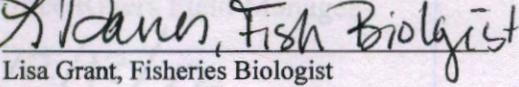
Jason Brewer, Wildlife Biologist

10/23/12
Date



Scott Thomas, Archaeologist

10/24/12
Date



Lisa Grant, Fisheries Biologist

10/23/2012
Date

Note: Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

F. Others Consulted: Identify other individuals, agencies or entities that were consulted with as part of completing the NEPA analysis.

High Desert Outfitters, Chuck Messner
Steens Mountain Advisory Council
Steens Mountain Packers Inc.

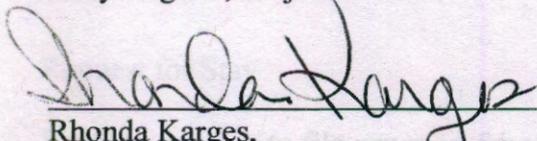
Conclusion (If you found that one or more of these criteria is not met, you will not be able to check this box.)

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

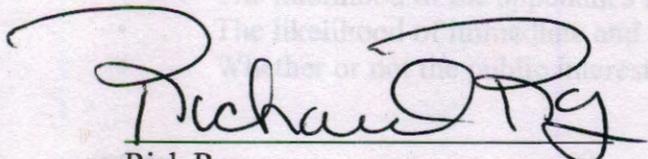
Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.


Dory Osgood, Project Lead

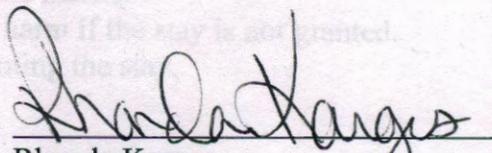
10-23-12
Date


Rhonda Karges,
District Planning and Environmental
Coordinator

12/18/12
Date


Rick Roy,
Three Rivers Field Manager

12/18/12
Date


Rhonda Karges,
Andrews/Steens Field Manager

12/18/12
Date

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.

(Only include the following language if a lease, permit or other authorization is not issued or other program-specific regulations do not apply)

Decision

The final decision of the authorized officer to approve a permit, modify, cancel or deny a permit or take action against a permit may be protested or appealed. Protests shall be filed with the authorized officer. Protests must be received by the authorized officer within 15 days of receipt of the proposed decision by the affected party. This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA), Office of the Secretary, in accordance with regulations contained in 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 4 and Form 1842-1. If an appeal is filed, your notice of appeal should be filed with the Andrews Resource Area Field Manager, Burns District Office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738, within 30 days following receipt of the final decision. The appellant has the burden of showing the decision appealed is in error. A copy of the appeal, statement of reasons, and all other supporting documents should also

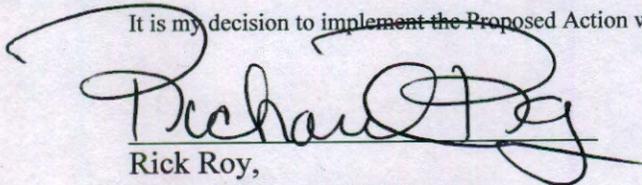
be sent to the Regional Solicitor, Pacific Northwest Region, U.S. Department of the Interior, 805 SW Broadway, Suite 600, Portland, Oregon 97205. If the notice of appeal did not include a statement of reasons for the appeal, it must be sent to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, 801 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia 22203. It is suggested appeals be sent certified mail, return receipt requested.

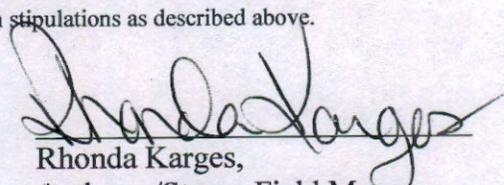
Request for Stay

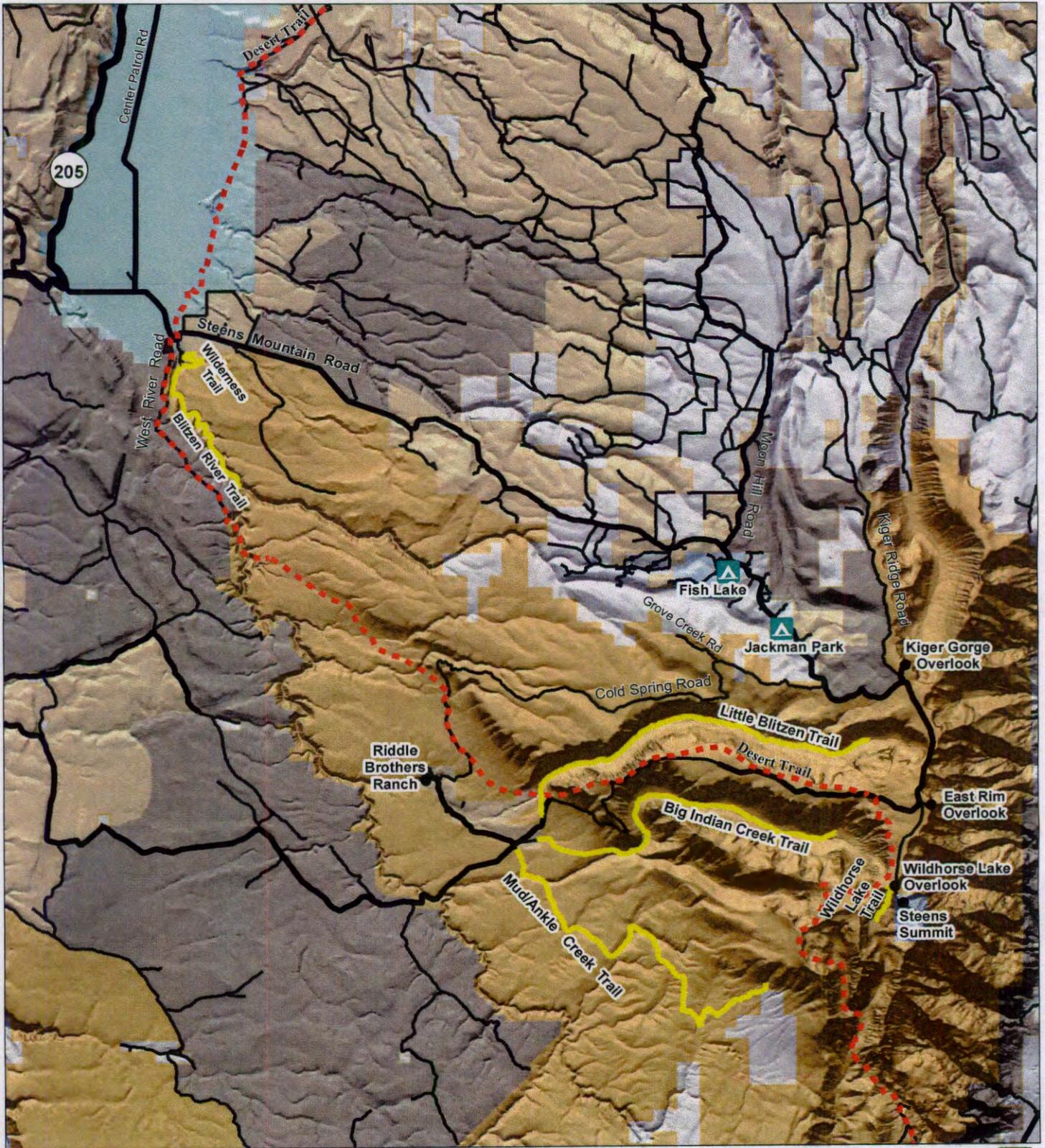
Should you wish to file a motion for stay pending the outcome of an appeal of this decision, you must show sufficient justification based on the following standards under 43 CFR 4.21:

- The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied.
- The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits.
- The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted.
- Whether or not the public interest favors granting the stay.

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action with stipulations as described above.

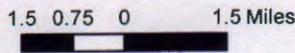

Rick Roy,
Three Rivers Field Manager


Rhonda Karges,
Andrews/Steens Field Manager



Silver Striders Guide Service Map 2

- | | | | |
|--|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------|
| | Campground | | Wilderness Study Area |
| | Trails | | Steens Mtn. Wilderness |
| | High Desert Trail | | Bureau of Land Management |
| | Paved Road | | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service |
| | Non-Paved Improved Road | | State |
| | Natural Road Surface | | Private |

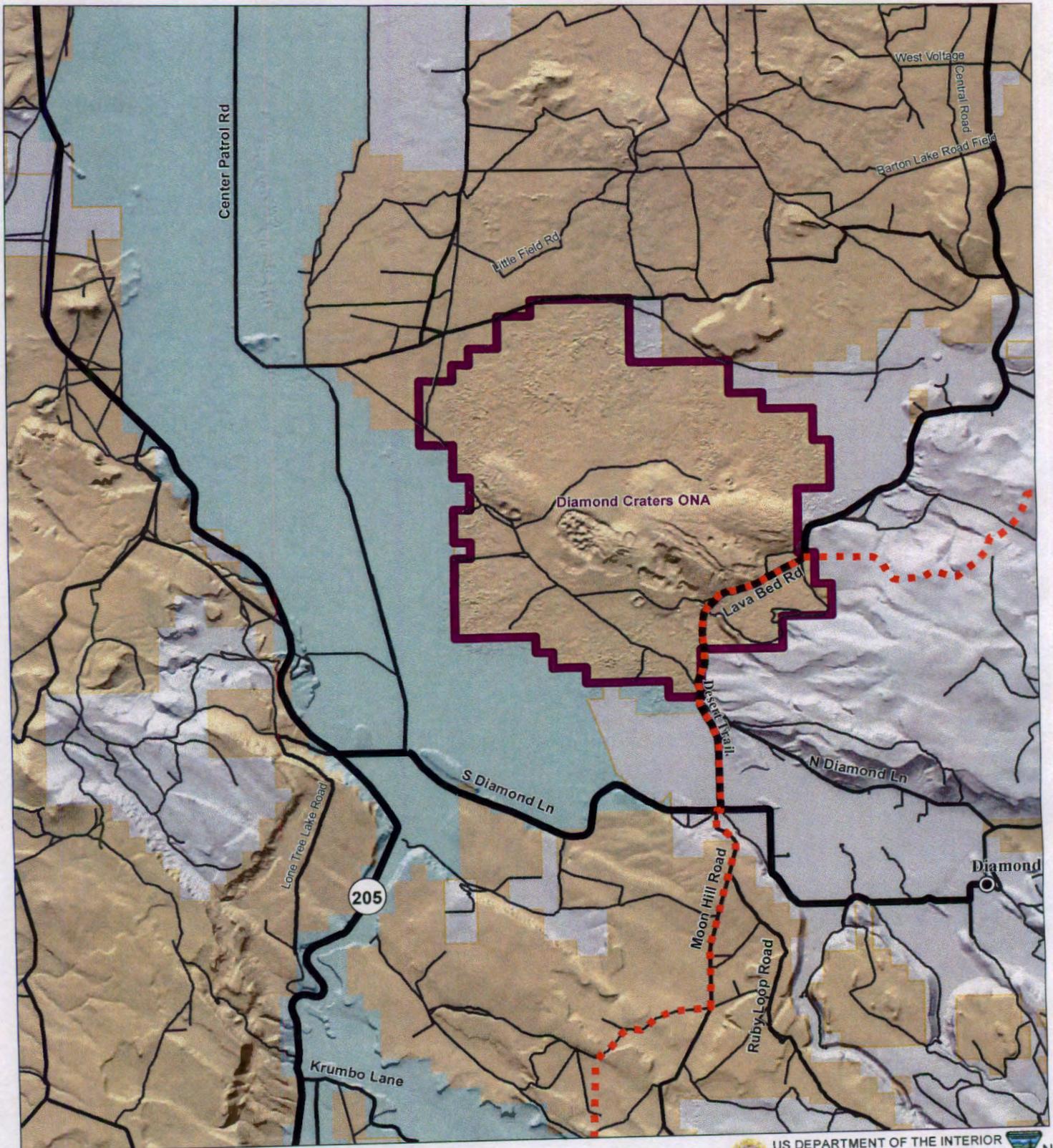


US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 Bureau of Land Management
 Burns District, Oregon

DOI-BLM-OR-2012-0048-DNA

Note: No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources and may be updated without notification.

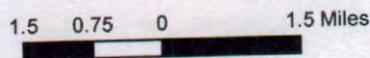
MXD/SilverStriders_Dory2.mxd
 9/13/2012 khazen



Silver Striders Guide Service Map 1

- High Desert Trail
- ▭ Diamond Craters ONA
- ▬ Paved Road
- ▬ Non-Paved Improved Road
- ▬ Natural Road Surface

- ▭ Bureau of Land Management
- ▭ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- ▭ Private




 US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 Bureau of Land Management
 Burns District, Oregon
DOI-BLM-OR-2012-0048-DNA
 Note: No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data was compiled from various sources and may be updated without notification.
 MXD/SilverStriders_Dory1.mxd
 9/13/2012 khazen

