



Welcome to Warner Wetlands!

Warner Valley and Hart Mountain were formed thousands of years ago when massive faults in the earth's crust shifted. During the last ice age, a vast lake filled the valley. The remnants of this ancient lake today are known as the Warner Lakes, a 40 mile chain of lakes that includes the Warner Wetlands. Each spring and fall, thousands of birds visit the wetlands during their annual migrations. This high desert wetland habitat is also critical for many other plant, wildlife, and fish species. Being a closed basin for thousands of years allowed the evolution of some unique fish species in the area, including endemic Warner Sucker and Warner Lakes Redband Trout.

The Warner Wetlands was designated as both an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and a Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) in 1989. It comprises a 52,033 acre area of seasonally flooded pothole lakes along the base of Hart Mountain. The ACEC was established to protect the Warner Valley's unique wetland features and restore critical wildlife habitat. The SRMA was established to provide high quality recreation opportunities while protecting other important resource values. Limited development within this sensitive environment allows for recreational use while maintaining the ecological integrity of the area.



American White Pelican



Seaside Heliotrope



Mule Deer



BASIN & RANGE
VIEWING TRAIL
SOUTHERN OREGON

Warner Wetlands

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management



Directions to the Site

From Lakeview, Oregon, travel north on U.S. Highway 395 for six miles, and turn east on Highway 140 for approximately 15 miles to County Road 3-13, known locally as the Plush Cutoff Road. Travel on this road for 18 miles to Plush, Oregon. From Plush, travel north for 0.8 miles, and turn east on County Road 3-12. Drive approximately four miles to the Hart Bar Interpretive Site, located at the base of Hart Mountain.

Know Before You Go

- This area is remote and may not have cellular service.
- Numerous recreational opportunities exist for bird watching, hunting, fishing, camping, and boating; however, most of these activities are dependent on water levels which can fluctuate dramatically.
- Contact the Bureau of Land Management's Lakeview Field Office to receive updated information about current conditions and water levels before planning a trip to the Warner Wetlands.

District Contact Information

The Bureau of Land Management
Lakeview District
Lakeview Field Office
1301 South G Street
Lakeview, OR 97630
(541) 947-2177

blm.gov/office/lakeview-field-office

BLM Oregon Map Store

The Bureau of Land Management offers a variety of highly detailed use-specific maps through the Avenza Mobile App. Many maps of BLM managed areas such as Warner Wetlands or The Oregon Badlands Wilderness can be downloaded for free to your mobile device.



Region 6 Avenza Maps

Avenza Maps is a mobile map application that enables you to download maps for offline use on your Apple iOS or Android smartphone or tablet. Use your device's built-in GPS to track your location on the map. Saved maps do not need a live network connection.



Recreation Opportunities

Camping

The wetlands area is open for dispersed camping. Keep all vehicles on routes posted "Designated Route." Visitors should bring all necessary camp gear and water with them, pack out all trash and leave areas in better condition than found. Areas exist along the lake shores for both tents and RVs. The nearest developed campgrounds are located on Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge and the Sunstone Public Collection Area.



White-faced Ibis

Fishing

Crappie, bass, and bullhead fishing is a popular pastime for late spring and summer anglers. An occasional native Redband Trout will also show up in the catch. Hart Lake usually provides fishing opportunities during dry cycle periods as well as wet. The Warner Sucker, an endangered species endemic to the Warner Valley, must be released if caught. It is the only sucker species in the Warner Valley. Always check state regulations and license requirements before fishing.

Hunting

Waterfowl hunting is a popular activity throughout Warner Wetlands during the fall. Good numbers of Canada geese, mallards, widgeon, pintail and other dabbling ducks can be found throughout the area, with redheads, scaup and other divers concentrated on the larger lakes. Mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and coyotes are also popular species to hunt in the area. Always check state regulations, and license and tag requirements before hunting.

Recreation Opportunities

Facilities

The Hart Bar Interpretive Site, Warner Valley Overlook, and the Warner Valley Canoe Trail offer unique opportunities to experience and enjoy the Warner Wetlands. The Hart Bar Interpretive Site has restrooms, sheltered picnic tables, and interpretive panels. From Hart Bar, visitors can stretch their legs on a 0.8 mile out-and-back hiking trail to a wildlife viewing blind. From the viewing blind, more eager visitors can continue into the wetlands with additional opportunities for bird watching on the 1.5 mile loop trail, returning directly to Hart Bar. The Warner Valley Overlook affords a panoramic overview of the wetlands with the desert buttes to the west and south, and interpretive panels along a short hike to the overlook.

Off-Highway Vehicle Use

All motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads and trails, posted as "Designated Route." During wet years, portions of many of these roads (especially those crossing channels and lake bottoms) may be flooded and impassable.

Boating/Canoeing

Boating opportunities are dependent on the water levels of the lakes which can fluctuate dramatically, both seasonally and from year-to-year. Hart Lake is typically available for boating during both low and high-water years. Motorized boating is allowed throughout the wetlands, although personal motorized watercraft (i.e. Jet Skis and WaveRunners) are not allowed. During wet years, experienced paddlers can explore the 10 mile Warner Valley Canoe Trail. The trail follows the channels connecting Campbell, Turpin, and Stone Corral Lakes.



Hydrological Cycle

The amount of water in the lakes is determined primarily by the volume of snowmelt and rain in the surrounding basin. Enough precipitation needs to occur in the basin to fill Crump Lake (south of Hart Lake) high enough so the overflow fills Hart Lake and the overflow from Hart Lake fills the lakes to the north. With an evaporation rate of as much as 42 inches per year, the water levels of all the lakes can fluctuate widely from one year to the next.



Pronghorn



Redband Trout



Wildlife

Wetlands provide habitat for many aquatic, semi-aquatic, and terrestrial wildlife species. The plant communities and productive nature of wetlands provide nursery / brood-rearing areas, nesting sites, escape cover, and plentiful food for invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, fish, birds, and mammals. In the arid west, these ecosystems are an exceedingly small percentage of the larger landscape and are therefore, important to maintain for the viability of wildlife populations over the long term.

Geology

Warner Valley was formed when large faults in the earth's crust moved. Portions of the crust, called grabens, moved down, and others, called horsts, moved up, forming Hart Mountain and the long north-south valley.

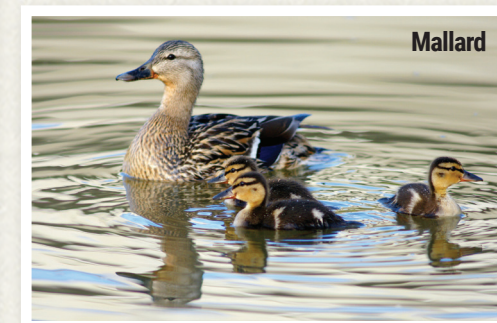
During the last ice age, a huge lake filled the valley with water as much as 200 feet deep. The lakeshore beaches of this event can be seen on the eastern side of the valley below Hart Mountain. The remnants of this ancient lake remain today as a complex chain of lakes approximately 40 miles long that are separated by a unique series of bow-shaped dunes, formed by the prevailing south winds.

Bird Watching

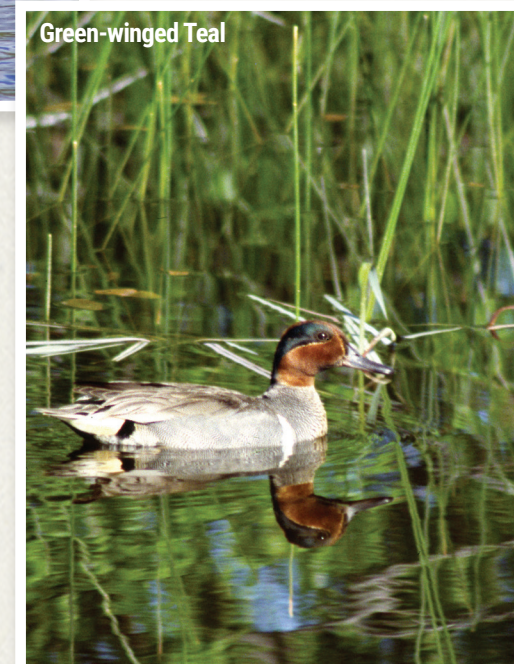
Birders may find varied and numerous species at the wetlands year-round, including many species of raptors, waterfowl, shorebirds, secretive marsh birds, and songbirds. Spring and fall however, bring higher numbers and additional species, especially waterfowl (ducks, geese, swans, and coots) and shorebirds. The Warner Wetlands is an integral part of the Southern Oregon - Northeastern California (SONEC) region, a high priority landscape for conservation. Birds use the Warner Valley as a flyway during migration and these Wetlands serve as an important stopover site to rest and refuel along their journey. In many years, mid-March and October are peak times for overall abundance of waterfowl. Migration timing varies by species, with some being earlier migrators and others late migrators. Timing of peak numbers may also vary by year depending on weather events throughout the western United States. Some species remain and use Warner Wetlands as a breeding area or are present as year-round resident birds. Warner Wetlands supports several BLM Sensitive Species, such as American White Pelican, Yellow Rail, and Snowy Egret.



Ring-necked Duck



Mallard



Green-winged Teal



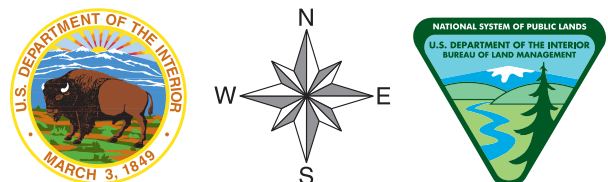
Sandhill Crane



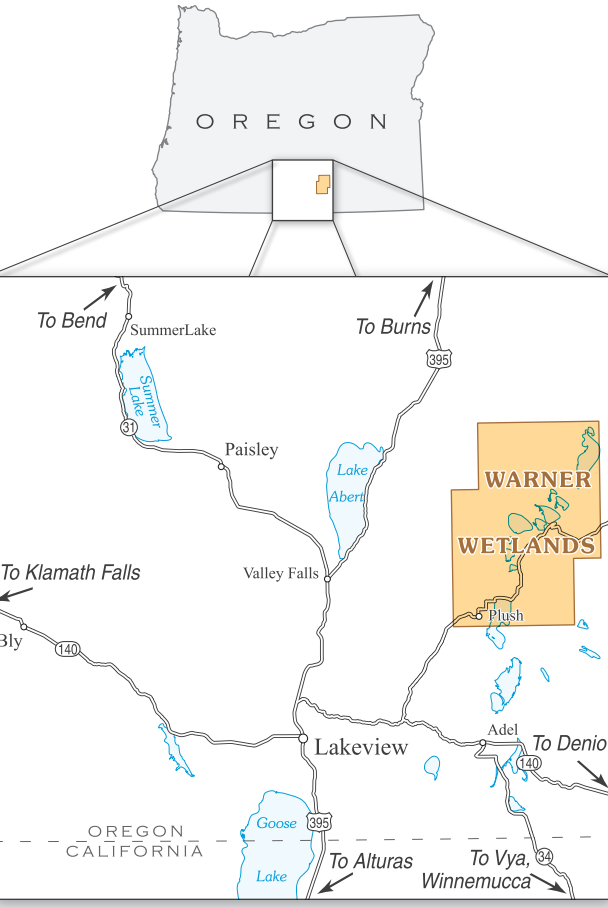
Clark's Grebe



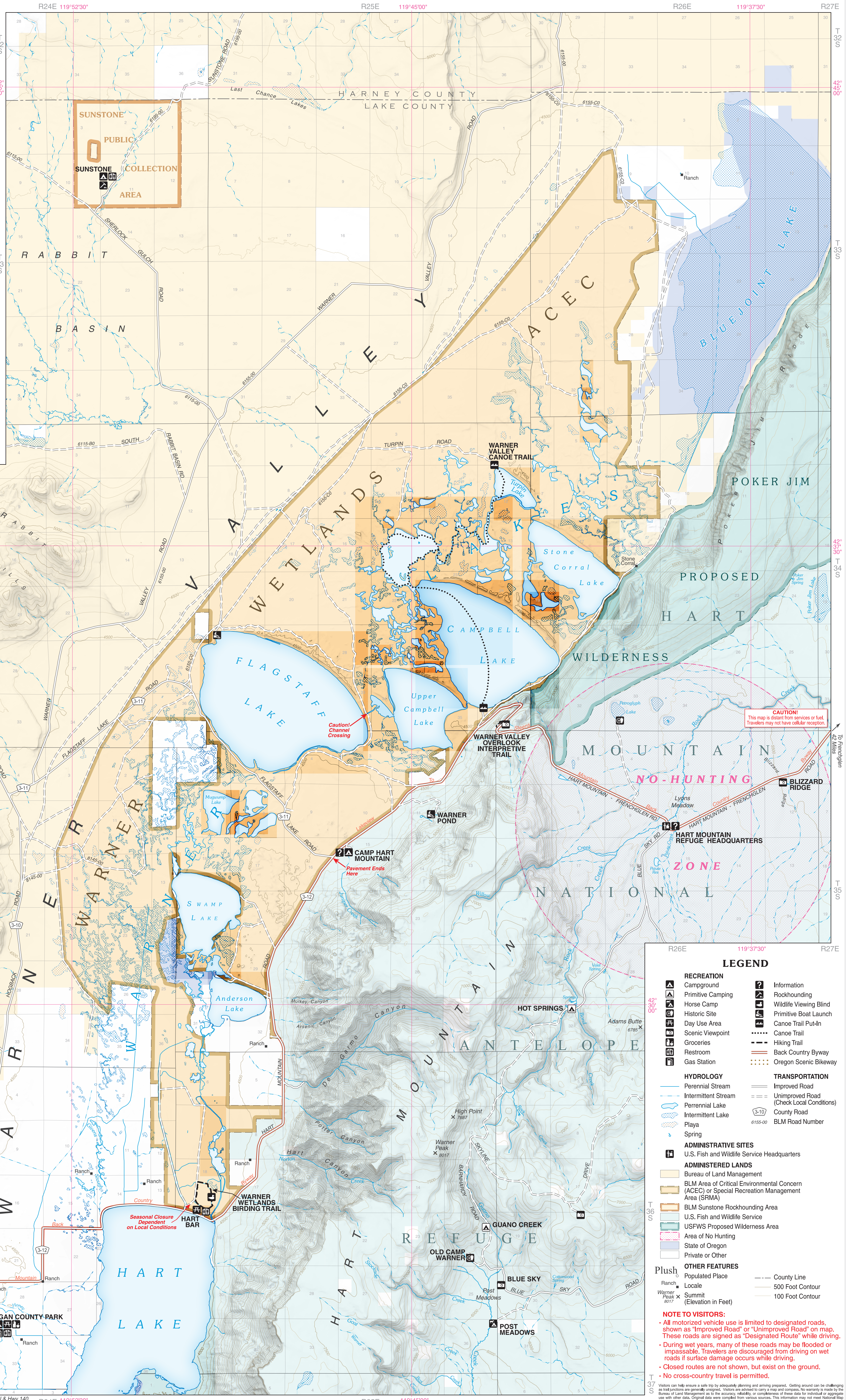
WARNER WETLANDS



Scale 1:63,360 OR 1 Inch = 1 Mile
 Projection: Albers Equal Area Conic Datum: North American of 1983
 Central Meridian: -119.75 Elevation Shown in Feet



CAUTION!
 This map is distant from services or fuel.
 Travelers may not have cellular reception.



LEGEND

	RECREATION		Information
	Campground		Rockhounding
	Primitive Camping		Wildlife Viewing Blind
	Horse Camp		Primitive Boat Launch
	Historic Site		Canoe Trail Put-In
	Day Use Area		Canoe Trail
	Scenic Viewpoint		Hiking Trail
	Groceries		Back Country Byway
	Restroom		Oregon Scenic Bikeway
	Gas Station		
	HYDROLOGY		TRANSPORTATION
	Perennial Stream		Unimproved Road (Check Local Conditions)
	Intermittent Stream		County Road
	Perennial Lake		BLM Road Number
	Intermittent Lake		
	Playa		
	Spring		
	ADMINISTRATIVE SITES		
	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters		
	Bureau of Land Management		
	BLM Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) or Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)		
	BLM Sunstone Rockhounding Area		
	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service		
	USFWS Proposed Wilderness Area		
	Area of No Hunting		
	State of Oregon		
	Private or Other		
	OTHER FEATURES		County Line
	Populated Place		500 Foot Contour
	Locale		100 Foot Contour
	Summit (Elevation in Feet)		

NOTE TO VISITORS:
 - All motorized vehicle use is limited to designated roads, shown as "Improved Road" or "Unimproved Road" on map. These roads are signed as "Designated Route" while driving.
 - During wet years, many of these roads may be flooded or impassable. Travelers are discouraged from driving on wet roads if surface damage occurs while driving.
 - Closed routes are not shown, but exist on the ground.
 - No cross-country travel is permitted.