

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**  
Public Toilets  
at  
Green Mountain Campground and Sunstone Collection Area

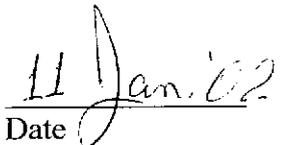
EA# OR-010-2002-01

The Bureau of Land Management, Lakeview District, Lakeview Resource Area, has analyzed a proposal and several alternatives to install one toilet at Green Mountain Campground and to replace the existing toilet at Sunstone Collection Area. The objectives of this proposal are to provide sanitary conditions and safe facilities for the two public use areas. The Green Mountain Campground presently does not have a toilet facility, resulting in public use of the area surrounding the campground for personal waste disposal. A toilet facility would provide for sanitary control of personal waste. The existing toilet facility at the Sunstone Collection Area is dated, needs constant repairs, and is not up to current standards for public use. The proposed installation of a new toilet facility would meet today's standards for public safety and quality of facility.

This project is in conformance with the High Desert Management Framework Plan and Integrated Noxious Weed Control Program EA. There are no wetlands, floodplains, wild and scenic rivers, known hazardous waste areas, areas of religious concern, or prime or unique farmlands in the immediate project areas. Neither adverse nor beneficial impact is anticipated to fisheries, lands, minerals and energy resources. Surveys found no threatened or endangered plants or animals, and found no cultural or paleontological resources in the proposed project areas.

On the basis of the analysis contained in the attached EA and all other available information, my determination is that none of the alternatives analyzed would constitute a major federal action which would adversely impact the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is unnecessary and will not be prepared.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott R. Florence, Manager  
Lakeview Resource Area

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

EA Number: OR-010-2002-01

PROJECT TITLE/TYPE: Installation of One Toilet at Sunstone Collection Area and One Toilet at Green Mountain Campground

PROJECT LOCATION: (see attached map).

BLM OFFICE: Lakeview Resource Area, Lakeview District

LEASE/SERIAL/CASE FILE #: N/A

APPLICANT (if any): N/A

CONFORMANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAND USE PLAN: This proposed action is subject to one or more of the following land use plans.

Name of Plans: High Desert and/or Warner Lakes Management Framework Plans (MFPs), as amended (1982, 1983, 1989, and 1995), Lakeview Grazing Management FEIS and ROD (1982), Oregon Wilderness FEIS and ROD (1989 and 1991), Wilderness Interim Management Policy (1995), Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in Thirteen Western States FEIS and ROD (1991), Supplement to the Northwest Area Noxious Weed Control Program FEIS and ROD (1987), Integrated Noxious Weed Control Program EA #OR-013-93-03 (1994), Lakeview District Fire Management Plan - Phase 1 (1998), Wildland and Prescribed Fire Management Policy (1998), Emergency Fire Rehabilitation Handbook (1998), Rangeland Reform '94 FEIS and ROD (1995), and Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Livestock Grazing Management for Public Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in the States of Oregon and Washington (1997).

PURPOSE and NEED FOR ACTION:

**Sunstone Collection Area:**

There is currently a vault toilet at Sunstone. This toilet was installed in 1979 and, through use, weather and vandalism over the years, is in disrepair and in need of replacement. Constant maintenance is required to keep this toilet in acceptable condition to serve the public. The need for replacing this old toilet with a new toilet facility is to better serve the public and to reduce the yearly maintenance costs associated with the existing, older toilet.

**Green Mountain Campground:**

The Green Mountain Campground was constructed in 1985. The campground consists of 5 gravel pads and campsites. There was an Environmental Assessment (EA) done prior to the campground construction that didn't include installation of a vault toilet at the time of the campground construction, but did mention that the provision of a toilet was in the long range plan for the campground. The EA states.. "There would not be an attempt to establish water at the campsite or to provide new toilet facilities in the area at this time; however, the long range plan does provide for water and toilet facilities in the future..." (EA OR-101-87-35.) Over the years, visitor use has increased to a level that a toilet needs to be installed to meet the needs of this increased public use and to safeguard the resources and sanitation conditions around the campground. Currently, visitors have two choices: hike up to the Green Mountain Lookout and use the toilet there, or use the wooded area surrounding the campground.

## DESCRIPTION of PROPOSED ACTION:

### **Sunstone Collection Area:**

The old toilet would be dismantled and hauled away; the vault would be pumped, then either filled with concrete or crushed/collapsed and covered with earth. A new Romtec toilet would be installed in the same general area as the existing toilet, so as not to impact a greater area than is already affected. This would involve digging a pit for the vault, pouring a concrete slab on top of the vault and placing a prefabricated toilet unit atop the slab. Surface disturbance would be on an approximate 30x30 foot area, with recovery of vegetation back to the edge of the slab once installed. The site has been surveyed for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species, cultural resources, and paleontological resources; none exist at or near the site.

### **Green Mountain Campground:**

A Romtec toilet would be installed within the campground area. This would involve digging a pit for the vault, pouring a concrete slab on top of the vault and placing a prefabricated toilet unit atop the slab. Surface disturbance would be on an approximate 30x30 foot area, with recovery of vegetation back to the edge of the slab once installed. The new toilet site has been surveyed for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, cultural resources, and paleontological resources; none exist at or near the site.

## ALTERNATIVES:

- #1) NO ACTION - Leave the existing sites the way they are.
- #2) ALTERNATIVE 1 - Install the new toilet at Sunstone, and leave Green Mountain Campground as is.
- #3) ALTERNATIVE 2 - Install the new toilet at Green Mountain Campground, and leave Sunstone as is.
- #4) ALTERNATIVE 3 (PREFERRED PLAN) - Install new toilets at both sites Sunstone and Green Mountain Campground

## AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT:

### **Sunstone Collection Area:**

The public Sunstone collection area lies in the corner of the Basin and Range physiographic province. At an elevation of about 4600 feet, the area is characterized by relatively low relief, extreme seasonal temperatures and low precipitation. The area is primarily used by recreationists searching for sunstones (semi-precious feldspar crystals that occur in a basalt flow). Numerous mining disturbances and temporary occupancies occur in the surrounding area. A large informative sign and vault toilet are prominent within the public collection area. Other uses include cattle grazing and hunting.

The high desert, volcanic terrain supports three main vegetative communities in this area; big sagebrush, low sagebrush, and varieties of desert saltbrush. Besides the native bunchgrasses, there is a significant intrusion of crested wheatgrass seedings and cheatgrass, the result of several wildfires. No noxious weeds have been identified in this area.

Predominant wildlife includes rabbits, hares, rodents, birds, reptiles, and antelope. There are no known threatened or endangered species that inhabit the area.

### **Green Mountain Campground:**

The campground sits in a saddle between two small hills just below the fire lookout on Green Mountain. At an elevation of 5100 feet, topography in the area is level to steep hillside. Most of the country is dominated by juniper and sagebrush, with an annual precipitation of 12-16 inches per year. Most of the precipitation occurs during the winter and early spring with thunder storms occurring during the summer.

The campsite is located within 3 miles of two wilderness study areas; Squaw Ridge and Four Craters Lava Beds. The area is show on the attached map. The area is dominated by dark gray flow basalt outcrops filled with sandy loam soils. Vegetation in the Green Mountain area consists of primarily western juniper, some sagebrush, and bunch grass communities. Some vegetation trampling has occurred in the campsite due to increased human activity. The area offers recreation opportunities for primitive and non-primitive recreation related to hunting, sightseeing, hiking, nature study and Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use.

The campsite is located in a deer winter range based on the deer densities in the area during October to April each year. Predominant wildlife includes rabbits, hares, rodents, birds, reptiles, deer, and antelope. There are no known threatened or endangered species that inhabit the area.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:**

The potential environmental impacts resulting from the alternatives relative to the following critical resource values were evaluated. The following is a summary of the results:

<b>Critical Element/ Resource Value</b>	<b>Affected</b>		<b>Critical Element/ Resource Value</b>	<b>Affected</b>	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Air Quality		X	T & E Species		X
ACEC/RNAs		X	Wilderness		X
Cultural Resources		X	Wild & Scenic Rivers		X
Farmlands, Prime/Unique		X	Hazardous Wastes		X
Floodplains		X	Water Quality		X
Native American Cultural/ Religious Concerns		X	Wetlands/Riparian Zones		X
Low Income/ Minority Populations		X	Noxious Weeds		X

## DESCRIPTION of OTHER IMPACTS:

### #1) NO ACTION

Sunstone Collection Area: Continued high level of maintenance to keep this facility operational would be anticipated.

Green Mountain Campground: The area in and around Green Mountain Campground would continue to degrade as people use it for waste elimination.

### #2) ALTERNATIVE 1

Sunstone Collection Area: This would reduce the level of maintenance for the facility, because the new toilet will require less upkeep.

Green Mountain Campground: The area in and around Green Mountain Campground would continue to degrade as people use it for waste elimination.

### #3) ALTERNATIVE 2

Green Mountain Campground: This would reduce the degradation of the site as people have access to the new facility for waste elimination.

Sunstone Collection Area: Continued high level of maintenance to keep this facility operational would be anticipated.

### #4) ALTERNATIVE 3 (PREFERRED PLAN)

Sunstone Collection Area: This would reduce the level of maintenance for the facility, because the new toilet will require less upkeep.

Green Mountain Campground: This would reduce the degradation of the site as people have access to the new facility for waste elimination.

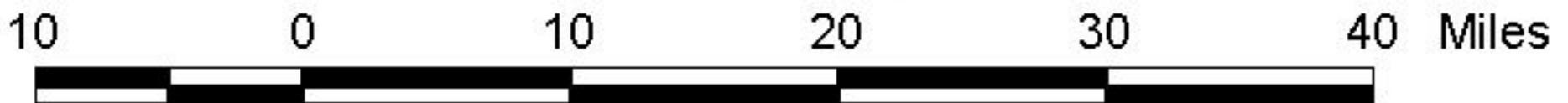
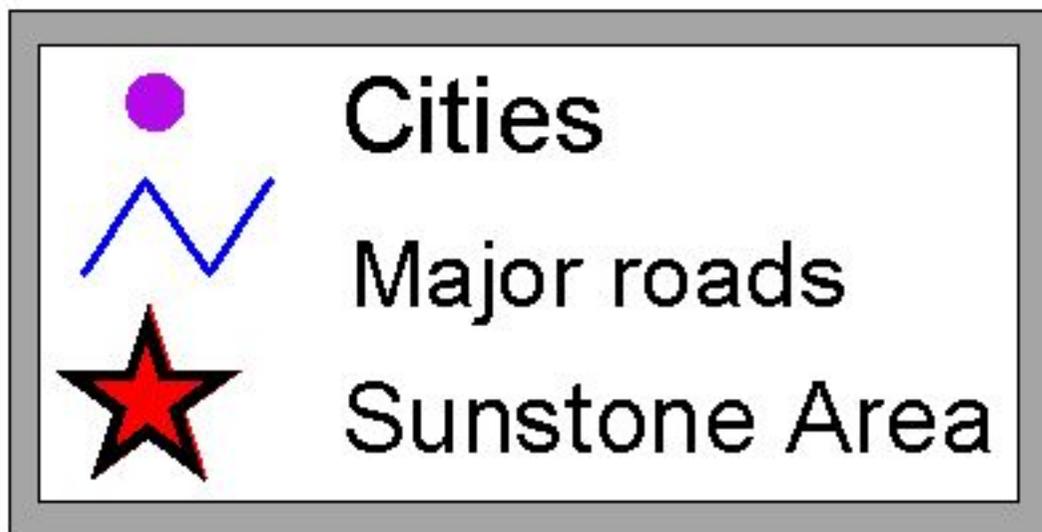
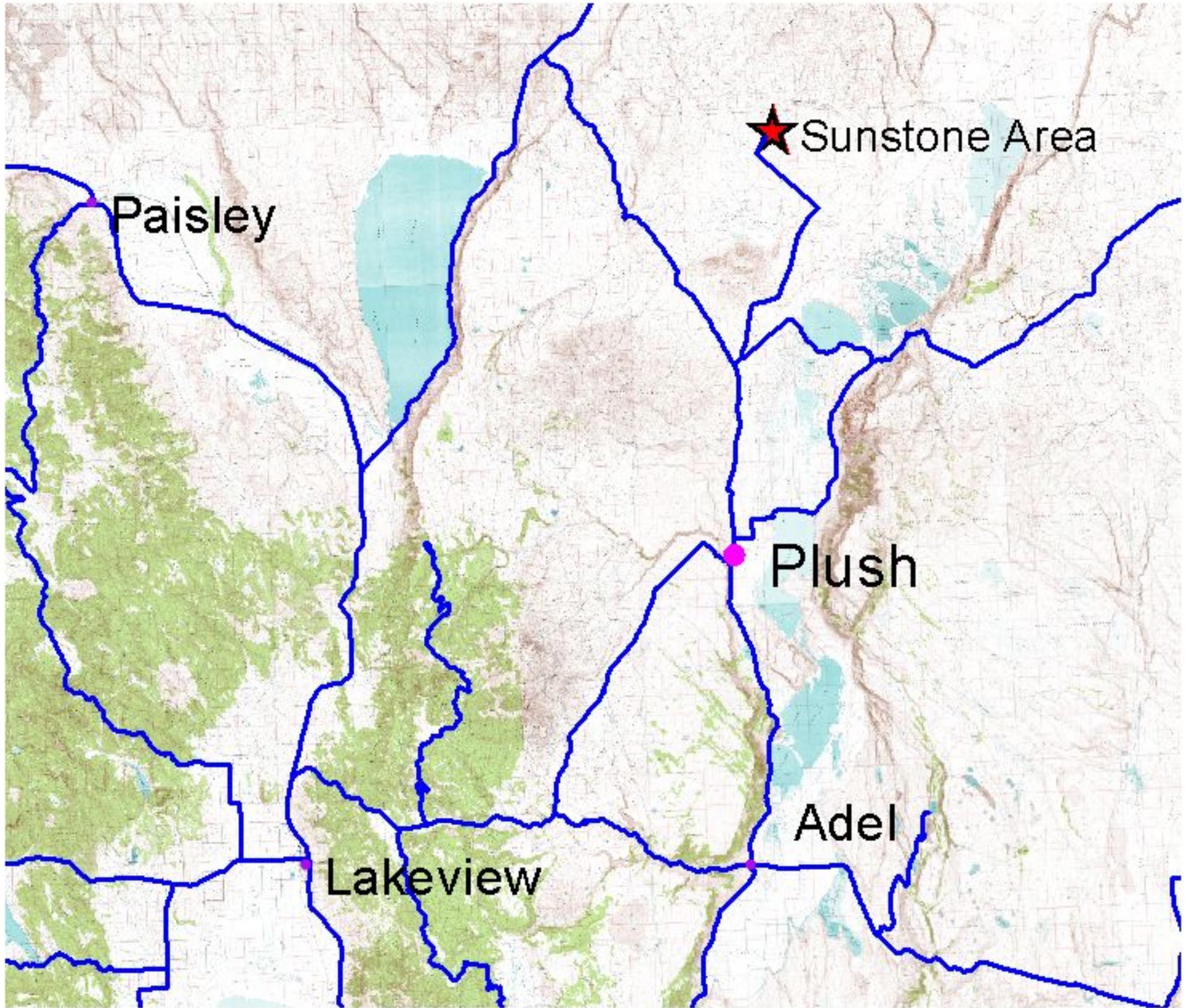
## DESCRIPTION of MITIGATION MEASURES and RESIDUAL IMPACTS:

NOXIOUS WEED CONSIDERATIONS: No noxious weeds are known to be in the surrounding areas. The installation areas will be monitored, and any new noxious weeds will be removed or treated

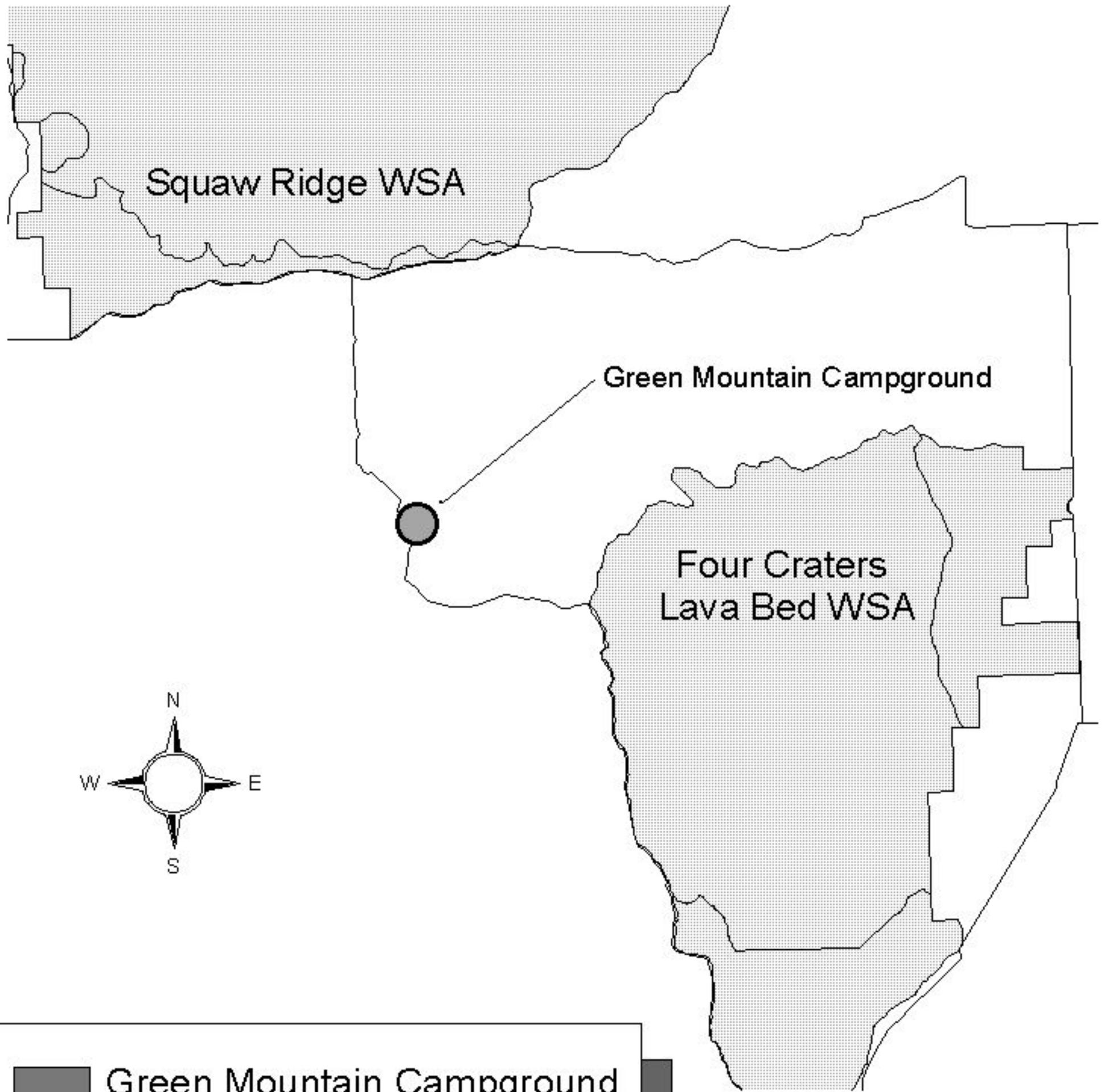
## PERSONS/AGENCIES CONSULTED:

PREPARER: Shannon Theall, Recreation Technician

# Sunstone Proximity Map



# Green Mountain Area



-  Green Mountain Campground
-  Major Roads
-  Wilderness Study Areas