FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Designation of Critical Habitat
for the
Salt Creek Tiger Beetle *(Cicindela nevadica lincolniana)*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is designating critical habitat for the Salt Creek tiger beetle *(Cicindela nevadica lincolniana)* pursuant to section 4 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). In total, the designation encompasses approximately 1,110 acres (449 hectares) in four separate units in Rock, Little Salt, Oak, and Haines Branch Creeks in Lancaster and Saunders counties in Nebraska. Designated critical habitat is located on private and government lands. No Tribal or Department of Defense lands are included within the designated critical habitat area and thus, no potential exclusions of these lands are anticipated. No exclusions are anticipated based on preparation of an economic screening analysis, which showed that no specific areas or sectors will be unduly impacted as a result of probable incremental economic impacts.

The Service has concluded that the designation of critical habitat for the Salt Creek tiger beetle will have minimal impacts on the natural and human environment.

- Beneficial impacts for the Salt Creek tiger beetle are expected through habitat redundancy and focused conservation activities as well as increased awareness about critical habitat along Little Salt, Rock, Oak and Haines Branch Creeks Units. Conservation actions will benefit other fish, wildlife, and plant species.

- Total incremental costs of section 7 consultations, including administrative and project modification costs, are likely to be less than $540,000 in a given year. Costs represent forecast reduction in land values and additional costs associated with highway construction and maintenance.

- Critical habitat does not affect land ownership or establish a refuge, wilderness, reserve, preserve, or other conservation area. A critical habitat designation does not apply to activities on private or other non-Federal lands that do not involve a Federal nexus.

Based on a review and evaluation of the information contained in the Environmental Assessment, it is my determination that the designation of critical habitat for the Salt Creek tiger beetle does not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment under the meaning of section 102(2)(c) of the NEPA of 1969 (as amended). As such, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Eliza Hines
Acting Nebraska Field Supervisor

4.25.14
Date