28910 Hwy 20 West • Hines, Oregon 97738 • http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns Contact: Tara Martinak (541) 573-4400 • Release No. OR-020-08-05 • December 1, 2008

STEENS MOUNTAIN LOOP ROAD TO BE CLOSED FOR WINTER SEASON

HINES, Oregon – Effective Wednesday, December 10, the Steens Mountain Loop Road will be closed for the winter season. Locked gates near Page Springs Campground just east of Frenchglen and at Black Canyon, approximately 4 miles east of Highway 205 in Catlow Valley, will prevent travel around the entire Loop Road until next spring or summer.

As soon as adequate snow pack exists, the North Loop Road Winter Recreation Program will get underway, allowing visitors to access the snowline beyond the closed gate near Page Springs Campground for cross-country skiing, limited snowmobiling, and other recreation activities. The southern portion of the Loop Road is not part of the Winter Recreation Program - motorized access or use beyond the closed gate at Black Canyon is prohibited.

Page Springs Campground will be the only campground on Steens Mountain available for use during the winter with reduced fees of \$4 per vehicle per night. Visitors are reminded that weather on Steens Mountain can change dramatically within minutes. Be prepared, drive with caution and let someone know of your travel plans.

For further information on road or weather conditions, or to inquire about the North Loop Road Winter Recreation Program, please contact the BLM at (541) 573-4400 or visit our office at 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon.

