

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

28910 Hwy 20 West • Hines, Oregon 97738 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>

Contact: Rob Perrin (541) 573-4400 • Release No. OR-020-08-07 • November 27, 2007

Steens Mountain Loop Road Closed for the Winter Season

BURNS, Oregon – Effective Monday, December 3, the lower sections of the Steens Mountain Loop Road will be closed for the winter season reports U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Andrews Resource Area Field Manager Karla Bird. The gate near Page Springs Campground just east of Frenchglen and the gate at Black Canyon, approximately 4 miles east of Highway 205 in Catlow Valley, will be closed 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.

About BLM

The BLM manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1.8 billion, also administers 700 million acres of subsurface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, and cultural resources on the public lands.

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