

September 14, 2001

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INTERAGENCY HUNTER INFORMATION STATION PLANNED

Local organizations and agencies will be setting up the annual hunter information station at Erickson's Sentry Supermarket in Hines according to Tom Dyer, U. S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Burns District Manager. The station will serve hunters on Thursday and Friday, September 27 and 28. Hours of operation will be 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days.

Hunters can purchase maps, pick up a variety of informational brochures and flyers (including hunting regulations), and learn about current access closure areas, any fire restrictions and other hunting related issues. Of particular interest this year are the access changes on Steens Mountain resulting from passage of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000," says Dyer. "The Act established several special designations, among which is the Steens Mountain Wilderness Area in the high country on Steens."

"A number of two-track roads which had customarily been used for hunting access to the area which is now congressionally designated wilderness have been closed, while several roads were excluded from the act and remain open," says Miles Brown, BLM's Andrews Resource Area Field Manager. He encourages hunters and other recreationists to stop in at the hunter station and pick up a copy of the current access map so they can plan their hunt and not be surprised by

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any of the road closures and restrictions on some activities within the new wilderness.

The following organizations are participating in the hunter station: Erickson's Sentry Super Market, Harney County, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Forest Service, and the BLM.

Note: Erickson's Sentry Supermarket will provide free coffee and will arrange for a hunter's breakfast, beginning at 7 a.m on Thursday and Friday.

For more information on the hunter station, call the BLM Office at (541) 573-4400 or the Forest Service Office at (541) 573-4300 during business hours on weekdays.

*******TO REPORT WILD FIRES, CALL 573-1000*******

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