

July 2, 2002

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**STEENS MOUNTAIN LOOP ROAD OPENS IN TIME FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY**

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has opened the entire Steens Mountain Loop Road reports Miles Brown, Andrews Field Manager. According to Brown, "BLM maintenance crews cleared the remaining snow drifts late last week to permit traffic to travel completely around the scenic drive." He cautions travelers to drive carefully and expect to encounter road maintenance equipment and slight delays as crews will be grading and fixing various segments of the road over the next few weeks and periodically throughout the summer. As always, drivers should also be watchful for wildlife, livestock, and wild horses on the loop road and highway 205.

All developed campgrounds are now open with full services and have overnight camping fees in effect. Fees for the Jackman Park and South Steens Campgrounds are \$6 per vehicle per night; Page Springs and Fish Lake Campground fees are \$8 per vehicle per night.

The BLM asks visitors to the Steens to avoid side roads at higher elevations at this time as they are still wet in places and winter runoff has caused some washouts in a few locations.

**For more information on condition on Steens Mountain and for other recreation opportunities in BLM's Burns District, call (541) 573-4400 weekdays between 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The following website also provides information on public lands within the Burns District: <[www.or.blm.gov/burns/](http://www.or.blm.gov/burns/)>.**

**\*\*\*\*\*TO REPORT WILD FIRES, CALL 573-1000 24 HOURS A DAY\*\*\*\*\***