

BLM News

Bureau of Land Management
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F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

STEENS MOUNTAIN LOOP ROAD TO BE OPEN TO FISH LAKE CAMPGROUND

The lower portion of the Steens Mountain North Loop Road will be open to vehicle travel on Friday, June 11, 2004, announced Karla Bird, U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Burns District Andrews Resource Area Field Manager. Although heavy snow still exists on higher portions of the road, recent warm weather has melted the remaining snowdrifts in lower elevations permitting vehicle access to Fish Lake Campground. Access beyond the snowline will be blocked off until higher elevation drifts melt. For public safety and resource protection, visitors are asked to respect the roadblocks and limit travel on the Loop Road to areas *below* the snowline.

With access available on the Loop Road, Fish Lake Campground will be open and in full-service. Visitors will find 23 campsites, vault toilets, picnic tables, fire pits with grills, a day-use picnic area, boat ramp, and boat dock. Fishing, nonmotorized boating, hiking, and wildlife viewing are popular activities in the area. The gate just prior to Jackman Park Campground will continue to be closed until the remaining snow melts and/or is plowed, allowing maintenance crews to prepare the area for full use.

For more information on current Loop Road conditions or camping opportunities on Steens Mountain, visit the Burns District Office at 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon, call (541) 573-4400, or visit our Web site at www.or.blm.gov/Burns.