



December 1, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STEENS MOUNTAIN LOOP ROAD CLOSED FOR WINTER SEASON

The Burns District U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would like to report the closure of the lower sections of the Steens Mountain Loop Road for the winter season. Effective Tuesday, December 2, 2003, the gate at Page Springs Campground near Frenchglen on the North Loop segment and the Black Canyon gate located approximately 4 miles east of Highway 205 on the South Loop segment will be closed. Following the closure, the North Loop Road Winter Recreation Program will get underway.

Winter recreationists on Steens Mountain can participate in a number of activities including hiking, snowshoeing, cross-county skiing, and *limited* snowmobiling. Large groups and those interested in *driving* past the Page Springs gate to the snowline must obtain a permit and gate key from the Burns District Office before accessing the mountain. Visitors are encouraged to submit permit application packets as early as possible to guarantee timely processing.

The public is reminded that the *South* Steens Loop Road is not part of the Winter Recreation Program - *motorized* access or use is prohibited. Also, Page Springs will be the only campground available for use throughout the winter, with reduced fees of \$4 per vehicle per night.

For further information on the North Loop Road Winter Recreation Program or to inquire about obtaining a winter recreation permit for the Steens, please contact the BLM at (541) 573-4400 or visit our office at 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon. You may also check the Burns District Web site at <<http://www.or.blm.gov/Burns>> for additional help.