

June 25, 2004

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### EAST STEENS MOUNTAIN FIRE CLOSURE TO BE IN EFFECT

A regulated fire closure on the east side of Steens Mountain, including the Pueblo Mountains, Alvord Desert, and a portion of the Trout Creek Mountains, will be in effect beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 2, 2004, reports U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Burns District Manager Dana Shuford.

The regulated fire closure prohibits the following acts on affected land:

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire or stove fire, including charcoal briquette fire (43 CFR 9212.2).

NOTE: Liquefied and bottled gas stoves and heaters are permitted provided they are used within an area at least 10 feet in diameter that is barren or cleared of all flammable material.

2. Smoking while traveling in timber, brush or grass areas, except in vehicles on roads, on barren areas or cleared areas at least 3 feet in diameter, or on boats on rivers or lakes (43 CFR 9212.2).
3. Operating any type of motorized vehicle off developed roadways. Parking of vehicles on roadways must be done in an area barren of flammable materials (43 CFR 9212.2(b)(1)).

NOTE: Developed roadways are those that are clear of flammable debris, berm to berm.

Pursuant to 43 CFR 9212.3(a), the following persons are exempt from this order:

1. Persons with a permit specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Any Federal, State, or local officer or a member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of official duty.

##### MORE #####

Land affected by the closure is within the following boundary: from Hwy 78 and East Steens Road, southwest along the crest of Pueblo Mountains to the Oregon/Nevada border, and along the Burns District boundary east and north until it reaches the East Steens Road at Hwy 78. For a map of the closure area, visit the Burns District Office at 28910 Hwy 20 West in Hines, Oregon, or check the Burns Interagency Fire Zone (BIFZ) Web site at [www.or.blm.gov/Burns/Fire](http://www.or.blm.gov/Burns/Fire).

The fire closure is necessary due to the onset of hot, dry summer weather, depleting fuel moisture, and the abundance of cured vegetation. Land affected contains important bighorn sheep, mule deer, antelope, elk, and upland bird habitat, and is subject to fast down-slope winds, making fire fighting difficult and dangerous.

Visitors are asked to use extreme caution when visiting public lands this time of year, and are reminded that ignition of fireworks on all public land within the Burns District is prohibited (43 CFR 9212.2).

The East Steens Mountain closure will remain in effect until further notice.

For more information, contact the BIFZ at (541) 573-4545.