

STEENS MOUNTAIN RUNNING CAMP
SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

EA OR-027-02-022

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CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION: PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

A. Introduction

Founded in 1975, the Steens Mountain Running Camp (Camp) is an outdoor education, recreation, and fitness training camp for high school students. The Steens Mountain Camps, Inc., has held a commercial Special Recreation Permit (SRP) for the Camp since the early 1980's. Their current permit was issued in 2001 for 4 years of use. The Camp's activities are being analyzed in this document because no previous Environmental Assessment (EA) was conducted.

Camp events are conducted entirely within the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA). Most of their activities are on private land (the camp on Lake Creek is located on private land owned by the permittee); however, some activities are conducted on public land that are now in the Steens Mountain Wilderness (SMW) and the High Steens Wilderness Study Area (WSA) (Map 1). A main feature of the camp experience is the "Big Day," an all-day hike/run through the Big Indian and Little Blitzen Canyons, which are now part of the SMW. Since 1975, prior to the passage of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000 (Steens Act), a variety of other trails and routes across the Steens Mountain have also been used for the "Big Day." These included routes through Kiger Gorge, Little Wildhorse Canyon, Wildhorse Canyon, and the eastern rim of the mountain. The current trails and routes for the "Big Day" have been used for at least 18 years. These trails and routes have been used historically by sheep and cattle operations, pack outfitters, hikers, and horseback riders. The portions of these trails and routes that access the upper end and bottom of Big Indian Canyon are an alternate route for the High Desert Trail which is contained in the book *Desert Trail Guide* (1985). These same trails and routes are also contained in *One Hundred Hikes/Travel Guide Eastern Oregon* (2001) and *One Hundred Hikes in Oregon* (2000). Trails are paths evident by the casual observer, with some having been constructed and maintained, and others present simply due to continued use. Routes are paths that are not always evident to the casual observer, but have been used historically to access the canyons or gorges. They are not maintained other than by light use and are not evident at the beginning of the next summer.

The Camp has developed its program over the past 27 years with camper safety as a prime concern. Major Camp objectives are to allow adolescents to enjoy, engage, and respect wilderness beauty through running, hiking, exploring, and education. The Camp also provides a wilderness experience through sightseeing, ecological appreciation, wilderness values and ethics instruction, and personal growth. In addition, college credit is offered to participants.

In past years, the length of the Camp has varied between three weeklong sessions (either three running camps or two running camps and a football camp) and two sessions (one weeklong and one 10-day session). In recent years, the Camp has held two weeklong sessions in late July through early August. Participants are primarily high school athletes, college-age counselors, and coaches. Activities on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administered land, including the SMW, account for less than 20 percent of the entire time spent at the camp with approximately 17 hours spent in the SMW and the High Steens WSA (2001 Post-Use Report). No competitive activities, timed or endurance events take place in the SMW.

The issues of physical impacts, protection of wilderness character, and social impacts to other wilderness visitors, especially to natural quiet and solitude, have been raised in connection with the SRP activities in the SMW and High Steens WSA.

B. Purpose of and Need for Action

The purpose of the proposed action is to allow a specialized recreation activity to continue under permit. Evaluation of the impacts associated with this SRP would allow the BLM to comply with the Steens Act and the Wilderness Act of 1964, and to better manage the SRP through impact avoidance, permittee/BLM coordination, and monitoring.

C. Consistency with the Steens Act and the Wilderness Act

The Steens Act designated the SMW. The following Steens Act sections relate directly to the proposed action and alternatives in this EA.

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE; PURPOSES; TABLE OF CONTENTS

(b) PURPOSES.--

(1) To maintain the cultural, economic, ecological, and social health of the Steens Mountain Area . . .

(5) To provide for and expand cooperative management activities between public and private landowners in the vicinity of the Wilderness Area and surrounding lands.

(10) To maintain and enhance cooperative and innovative management practices between the public and private land managers in the Cooperative Management and Protection Area.

(11) To promote viable and sustainable . . . recreation operations on private and public lands.

(13) To authorize only such uses on Federal lands in the Cooperative Management and Protection Area that are consistent with the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 102. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION AREA.

(a) . . . to conserve, protect, and manage the long-term ecological integrity of Steens Mountain for future and present generations.

(b) OBJECTIVES.--

(2) to promote . . . , recreation, . . . , and other uses that are sustainable;

(4) to ensure the conservation, protection, and improved management of the ecological, social, and economic environment of the Cooperative Management and Protection Area, including geological, biological, wildlife, riparian, and scenic resources;

. . .

(5) to promote and foster cooperation, communication, and understanding and reduce conflicts between Steens Mountain users and interests.

SEC. 111 MANAGEMENT AUTHORITIES AND PURPOSES

(a) IN GENERAL -- The Secretary shall manage all Federal lands included in the Cooperative Management and Protection Area pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) and other applicable provisions of law including this Act, in a manner that--

(1) ensures the conservation, protection, and improved management of the ecological, social and economic environment of the Cooperative Management and Protection Area, including the geological, biological, wildlife, riparian, and scenic resources, North American Indian tribal and cultural and archaeological resources sites, and additional cultural and historic sites; and

(2) recognizes and allows current and historic recreational use.

SEC. 115. SPECIAL USE PERMITS

The Secretary may renew a special recreational use permit applicable to lands included in the Wilderness Area to the extent that the Secretary determines that the permit is consistent with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.). If renewal is not consistent with the Wilderness Act, the Secretary shall seek other opportunities for the permit holder through modification of the permit to realize historic permit use to the extent that the use is consistent with the Wilderness Act and this Act, as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 204. TREATMENT OF WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS.

(a) STATUS UNAFFECTED.—Except as provided in Section 502, any wilderness study area, or portion of a wilderness study area, within the boundaries of the Cooperative Management and Protection Area, but not included in the Wilderness Area, shall remain a wilderness study area notwithstanding the enactment of this Act.

(b) MANAGEMENT.—The wilderness study areas referred to in subsection (a) shall continue to be managed under Section 603(c) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1782(c)) in a manner so as not to impair the suitability of the areas for preservation as wilderness.

One section of the Wilderness Act of 1964 also relates directly to the proposed action and alternatives in this EA.

SEC. 4. USE OF WILDERNESS AREAS

(b) . . each agency administering any area designated as wilderness shall be responsible for preserving the wilderness character of the area and shall so administer such area for such other purposes for which it may have been established as also to preserve its wilderness character. . . .

Except as otherwise provided in this Act, wilderness areas shall be devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical use.

(c) Except as specifically provided in this Act, . . . , there shall be no commercial enterprise . . . within any wilderness area . . .

(d)(6) Commercial services may be performed within the wilderness areas . . . to the extent necessary for activities which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas.

The following analysis is used to determine if the proposed action and alternatives could be consistent with the Steens Act and the Wilderness Act.

1. Consistency with §1.(b)(1) of the Steens Act

All alternatives would help maintain the cultural, economic, and social health of the Steens Mountain Area through the continuation of the Steens Mountain Running Camp activities on public land.

2. Consistency with §1.(b)(5) and §1.(b)(10) of the Steens Act

Cooperative management activities between public and private landowners are enhanced as the Camp provides its participants with environmental education on a variety of subjects, including protection of cultural resources, wilderness values, and "Leave No Trace" ethics.

3. Consistency with §1.(b)(11) and §102.(b)(2) of the Steens Act

All alternatives would help promote viable and sustainable recreation operations in the Steens Mountain Area in that the Camp would continue to operate. The proposed action would include a football camp that was held from 1996 to 1998, but has not been held since. Under Alternatives B, C, and D the Camp may not be able to attract as many participants as it has in past years because the amount of time actually spent in Big Indian and Little Blitzen would be reduced. Alternative E would allow the Camp to continue operations as they have been held since 1999.

4. Consistency with §1.(b)(13) of the Steens Act

See Discussions 1 and 3 above. All alternatives would be consistent with the purposes of the Steens Act.

5. Consistency with §102.(a) of the Steens Act

All alternatives would help conserve, protect, and manage the long-term ecological integrity of Steens Mountain. Alternative A would provide the most protection, because all activities would be on existing roads. The proposed action and Alternatives B, C, D, and E also provide protection for Steens Mountain resources.

6. Consistency with §102.(b)(4) of the Steens Act

All alternatives would ensure the conservation, protection, and improved management of ecological, social, and the economic environment.

See Discussions 1, 3, and 5 above.

7. Consistency with §102.(b)(5) of the Steens Act

The BLM and the Camp are working cooperatively to locate trails and routes that would provide resource protection and would work together to develop any needed mitigation should any resource impacts be identified. These actions further cooperation and understanding between the BLM, the Camp, and the interested public.

8. Conformance with §111.(a)(1) of the Steens Act

See Discussions 1, 3, and 5 above. Under all alternatives Camp participants are briefed about cultural resources and the need for their protection. Additionally, there is a standard SRP stipulation on the permit concerning cultural resources.

9. Conformance with §111.(a)(2) of the Steens Act

All alternatives recognize and allow the current and historic recreational use as to the continuation of the permit, although to differing degrees. The number of participants is not changed except for Alternative D, which limits the number of participants in Big Indian and Little Blitzen. Alternative A changes the location of this historic use to outside the SMW. Alternatives B, C, and D partially continue the historic use location by moving one leg of the "Big Day" to the Cold Springs Road.

10. Conformance with §115. of the Steens Act

Alternative A is not in the SMW so this section of the Steens Act would not apply. All other alternatives would be consistent with the Wilderness Act. See discussions for Questions 12 and 13 below.

11. Conformance with §204.(b) of the Steens Act

The proposed action and Alternatives D and E include activities in portions of the High Steens WSA. These activities are in conformance with this section of the Steens Act and are consistent with BLM's Interim Management Policy for WSAs in that Camp activities would be substantially unnoticeable in the WSA as a whole and, therefore, would not jeopardize or negatively affect Congress' ability to find that the WSA has the necessary wilderness characteristics.

12. Conformance with §4.(b) of the Wilderness Act

Alternative A is not in the SMW so this section of the Wilderness Act would not apply. All other alternatives are in conformance with this section of the Wilderness Act by providing recreational and educational use and by fulfilling the purposes of the Steens Act.

13. Conformance with §4.(c) and §4.(d)(6) of the Wilderness Act

Alternative A is not in the SMW so these sections of the Wilderness Act would not apply. For all other alternatives, the Camp is a commercial enterprise, but provides a service which enables Camp participants to realize the recreational and educational purposes of the SMW.

Based on the above analysis, all alternatives are in conformance with the Steens Act and the Wilderness Act. They are carried forward for analysis in Chapter 4 of this EA.

D. Land Use Plan Conformance Statement

While the Andrews Management Framework Plan (MFP) is silent concerning the proposed action and alternatives, it is a stated objective of the MFP to "Provide a variety of recreation opportunities. . ." (p. 7).

E. Health and Safety

All alternatives provide for the health and safety of the Camp participants, but to differing degrees. Using the canyons (Proposed Action and Alternatives B, C, D, and E) would provide readily available water and would provide more protection from lightning storms than Alternative A. Emergency access into the canyons requires either horseback or helicopter evacuation for serious problems. Using the South Loop Road and the Riddle Ranch/Cold Springs Road (Alternative A) would provide motor vehicle access for emergencies and runner support. However, these roads are more exposed to various weather conditions, including lightning storms. The Riddle Brother Ranch/Cold Springs Road is a rough two-track road requiring high clearance four-wheel drive vehicles and may not reduce access time during emergencies. There are only two year-round water sources along the Riddle Ranch/Cold Springs Road that would be available for the participants.

CHAPTER II. ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

Actions Common to the Proposed Action and Cold Springs Road 1, Cold Springs Road 2, Limited Number, and No Action Alternatives

The Camp would use existing trails as much as possible. The BLM would minimally maintain these trails, according to EA OR-027-01-15, Steens Mountain Trail Maintenance. Where no trails exist, pre-event site inspections would determine the exact location(s) of the route(s). BLM would locate routes to avoid wet meadows, riparian areas, Special Status plant species, and areas visible from the Loop Road to minimize resource impacts. As it has in the past, the Camp would continue to instruct participants about cultural resources, wilderness values, and Leave No Trace, including how to protect solitude by limiting noise to conversations and not yelling during their public land activities.

BLM would monitor the trails and routes used by the Camp, as described in the Monitoring section. Any impacts would be assessed, evaluated for causal factors, and relationship to resource values determined. Mitigation of any impacts, including any changes in permittee operations, would be developed cooperatively.

Proposed Action

The Camp would continue a multiyear SRP for high-altitude training for high school athletes. The current SRP was issued in 2001 and runs through 2004. Two weeklong sessions would be held in late July through early August. The camp facilities are on private land on Lake Creek. A maximum of 150 participants/campers and up to 40 staff would participate in the running camp activities on public land each session.

Activities occurring on public land would include a short hike from the camp on private land to Fish Lake, short runs on North Loop Road, the "Big Day" hike/run, and a cross-canyon team run (Maps 1, 2, and 3). These activities are described in detail below.

Day 1. On Monday afternoon returning campers from previous years hike from camp to Fish Lake and then run back to camp along North Loop Road (Maps 1 and 3). First-year campers are bussed to the top of the mountain for an orientation and ecology/history briefing and are allowed to explore from the Kiger Gorge overlook to the top of Wildhorse Canyon. First-year campers then run back to camp on the North Loop Road for 1, 3 or 5 miles. Time spent on public land is approximately 5 hours. No activities occur in the SMW or the High Steens WSA.

Day 2. Tuesday, the "Big Day" - Most of the day's activities take place in the SMW. In the morning, participants ride buses up the Loop Road to the East Rim Overlook junction (Maps 1 and 2). From there they hike in one group down the South Loop Road to the head of Big Indian. They descend single file down a route into the canyon and follow the trail in the canyon bottom to the South Steens Campground, arriving between 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. After a short break, they hike to the Little Blitzen River, where they break into four to five groups for the run up Little Blitzen to the waterfall. The run consists of alternating between hiking and running every 60 seconds. From the waterfall, participants hike out of Little Blitzen via the Wet Blanket trail to the North Loop Road. Participants either ride the bus or walk/run back to camp. Most of the "Big Day" consists of hiking; running accounts for approximately 45 minutes to 1½ hours of time in SMW. Total time spent on public land is 12 hours.

Day 3. Wednesday - No activities on BLM-administered land.

Day 4. Cross-Canyon Team Run on Thursday - In the morning, participants are bussed to Naughty Girl Meadow and then hike and run up the North Loop Road to the Kiger Overlook turnoff (Maps 1 and 3). They then hike north on the Dingle/Cucamonga Creek Road for approximately 3⅓ miles and then each group runs cross-country, via a different route, approximately 2¼ miles west across McCoy Creek Canyon to the Pate Lake area, completing the activity by 1:00 p.m. The run from the Dingle/Cucamonga Creek Road to the Pate Lake area occurs in the High Steens WSA and on private land. From there, they ride buses back to camp. Total time spent on public land is 5 hours.

Day 5. Friday - Participants are bussed approximately 3 miles west on the North Loop Road and then run up the road to the camp gate (Maps 1 and 3). Time spent on public land is 2 hours. No activities occur in the SMW or the High Steens WSA.

A weeklong football camp in August, held from 1996 to 1998, is proposed for 2003 through 2004. Sixty to seventy participants would attend the football camp, with up to 30 staff members and coaches participating. Football camp activities would be the same as the running camp, except that the "Big Day" would be a hike/run up Little Blitzen to the North Loop Road from South Steens Campground.

In the proposed action, there would be 380 participants in Big Indian twice during a 2-week period and 480 participants in Little Blitzen and McCoy Creek over a 3-week period. The participants in Little Blitzen would be split into four to five groups. Each group is accompanied by two counselors. Participants of similar ability are grouped together, with the fastest participants leaving first.

Session	Number of Participants per Route			No. of Groups/Participants in BI	No. of Groups/Participants in LB	Hours in SMW/WSA
	Big Indian (BI)	Little Blitzen (LB)	Cross-Canyon (McCoy)			
1 - running camp	190	190	190	1/190	4/48	6-7/2
2 - running camp	190	190	190	1/190	4/48	6-7/2
3 - football camp	---	100	100	---	4/25	4-6/2
Total	380	480	480			

Alternative A - Existing Roads

All running camp activities would occur on existing roads outside of, but surrounded by, the SMW. The "Big Day" would involve a morning hike from the East Rim Overlook turnoff to South Steens Campground along the South Loop Road. The Cold Springs and Riddle Ranch Roads would then be used for the afternoon running/hiking leg back to the North Loop Road. The Cross-Canyon Team Run would need to be relocated to private land or roads on public land outside the High Steens WSA. The short hike to Fish Lake and runs on the North Loop Road would not change from the proposed action.

In this alternative, up to 380 participants would use the South Loop Road and 480 would use the Riddle Ranch and Cold Springs Roads.

Session	Number of Participants per Route		Hours in SMW/WSA
	South Loop	Cold Springs	
1 - running camp	190	190	0/0
2 - running camp	190	190	0/0
3 - football camp	---	100	0/0
Total	380	480	

Alternative B - Cold Springs Road 1

Participants would hike down either Big Indian or Little Blitzen Canyons for the morning leg of the "Big Day." There would be a maximum of 95 participants in each canyon at any time. To reduce group size each of the canyon groups would be split further into five groups who would leave the Loop Road at 10 to 15-minute intervals. The Cold Springs and Riddle Ranch Roads would be used by up to 190 participants on each "Big Day" for the afternoon leg of the hike/run.

The Cross-Canyon Team Run would need to be relocated to private land or roads on public land outside the High Steens WSA. The short hike to Fish Lake and runs on the North Loop Road would not change from the proposed action. The 100 football camp participants would hike/run up Little Blitzen from South Steens Campground to the North Loop Road and would be split into seven to eight groups who would leave the campground at 10 to 15-minute intervals.

In this alternative, there would be a total of 380 participants on the Riddle Ranch and Cold Springs Roads and 190 participants in Big Indian over a 2-week period. There would be 290 participants in Little Blitzen over a 3-week period. All use in the Little Blitzen and Big Indian would be in the morning, while the Riddle Ranch and Cold Springs Roads would be used in the afternoon.

Session	Number of Participants per Route			No. of Groups/Participants in BI	No. of Groups/Participants in LB	Hours in SMW/WSA
	Big Indian (BI)	Little Blitzen (LB)	Cold Springs			
1 - running camp	95	95	190	5/19	5/19	5/0
2 - running camp	95	95	190	5/19	5/19	5/0
3 - football camp	---	100	---	---	5/20	5-7/0
Total	190	290	380			

Alternative C - Cold Springs Road 2

The Cold Springs and Riddle Ranch Roads would be used by up to 190 participants on each "Big Day" for one leg of the hike/run. Big Indian and Little Blitzen would both be used for the other leg. One half of the group would start on the Cold Springs Road; the other half would run the canyons first. There would be a maximum of 48 hikers/participants in each canyon at any time.

The Cold Springs group (95 participants) would run down Cold Springs and Riddle Ranch Roads to the South Steens Campground in the morning. There they would split into two groups; each group (47 to 48 participants) would hike up one canyon. To reduce group size each canyon group would be split further into four groups who would leave at 10 to 15-minute intervals. The smaller groups would not start up the canyons in the afternoon until all hikers in the Canyons group are at the campground.

The Canyons group (95 participants) would split into two smaller groups (47 to 48 participants each). In the morning, one smaller group would hike down Little Blitzen; the other would hike down Big Indian. To reduce group size each canyon small group would be split further into four groups who would leave at 10 to 15-minute intervals. At South Steens Campground the groups would unite and run up the Cold Springs Road (95 participants) in the afternoon. This run would not start until all in the Cold Springs group have arrived at the campground.

The football camp participants (100) would be split into four groups of 12 to 13 each and would hike up Little Blitzen to the North Loop Road from South Steens Campground in the morning.

The Cross-Canyon Team Run would need to be relocated to private land or roads on public land outside the High Steens WSA. The short hike to Fish Lake and runs on the North Loop Road would not change from the proposed action.

In this alternative, there would be a total of 380 participants on the Riddle Ranch and Cold Springs Roads and 240 participants/hikers in Big Indian over a 2-week period. Over a 3-week period, 240 participants/hikers would traverse Little Blitzen. Both canyons and roads would be used during the morning and afternoon.

Session	Number of Participants per Route			No. of Groups/ Participants in BI	No. of Groups/ Participants in LB	Hours in SMW/ WSA
	Big Indian (BI)	Little Blitzen (LB)	Cold Springs			
1 - running camp	95	95	190	8/12	8/12	8-9/0
2 - running camp	95	95	190	8/12	8/12	8-9/0
3 - football camp	50	50	---	4/12	4/12	5-7/0
Total	240	240	380			

Alternative D - Limited Number Alternative

A maximum of 75 participants/hikers and up to 20 staff would be allowed in the canyons for the "Big Day." To reduce group size the "Big Day" participants/hikers would be split into six to seven groups who would leave the East Rim Overlook junction and South Steens Campground at 10 to 15-minute intervals. Activities for the other 75 participants would need to be relocated to private land or roads on public land outside the SMW. Other Camp activities would be the same as identified in the proposed action.

In this alternative, there would be 190 participants in Big Indian over a 2-week period and 285 participants in Little Blitzen over a 3-week period. Four hundred and eighty participants would cross the McCoy Creek drainage.

Session	Number of Participants per Route			No. of Groups/ Participants in BI	No. of Groups/ Participants in LB	Hours in SMW/ WSA
	Big Indian (BI)	Little Blitzen (LB)	Cross-Canyon (McCoy)			
1 - running camp	95	95	190	6/16	6/16	8-9/2
2 - running camp	95	95	190	6/16	6/16	8-9/2
3 - football camp	---	95	100	---	6/16	4-6/2
Total	190	285	480			

Alternative E - No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative is the continuation of the present SRP operations plan. This would be the same as the proposed action, except that the football camp session would not be held. There would be two 1-week camp sessions. Three hundred and eighty participants/hikers would use Big Indian, Little Blitzen, and McCoy Creek.

Session	Number of Participants per Route			No. of Groups/ Participants in BI	No. of Groups/ Participants in LB	Hours in SMW/ WSA
	Big Indian (BI)	Little Blitzen (LB)	Cross- Canyon (McCoy)			
1 - running camp	190	190	190	1/190	4/48	6-7/2
2 - running camp	190	190	190	1/190	4/48	6-7/2
Total	380	380	380			

Alternative Considered but Not Analyzed

Cancellation of the SRP is not analyzed in this EA because, as provided by Section 115 of the Steens Act, the purpose and need for this EA is for BLM to analyze various options for SRP renewal which provide for historic use to the extent it is consistent with the Wilderness Act. Given the mandate in Section 115 to seek opportunities for SRP holders to realize historic permit use, as well as the purpose and objectives of the Steens Act stated in Chapter 1(C) of this EA, BLM does not see a need at this time to analyze an option which completely cancels the permit. BLM believes it is possible to structure different alternatives for continuing the Camp in a manner consistent with the Wilderness Act.

As the alternatives show, one option is to continue Camp activities within the CMPA on roads that are not part of the designated Wilderness Area. With alternatives such as this available, there is not a need to analyze a cancellation alternative. BLM recognizes that this may be a different situation from other areas, including other designated wilderness areas, in that the Steens Act specifically addresses the efforts BLM should make to provide for historic SRP recreational use in the CMPA. By contrast, other wilderness areas may have no such specific statutory direction.

CHAPTER III. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

A. Critical Elements

The following critical elements of the human environment are not known to be present or would not be affected by the proposed action or alternatives in this EA:

- Adverse Energy Impacts
- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Environmental Justice
- Farmlands (prime or unique)
- Flood Plains

Migratory Birds
American Indian Religious Concerns
Paleontology
Wastes (hazardous or solid)
Water Quality (drinking/ground)

The following critical elements of the human environment are present and could be affected by the proposed action or alternatives in this EA:

1. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Three Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) occur in the project area. The Steens Mountain ACEC was designated for scenic qualities including the Steens escarpment, vista of the East Rim, and glacial cirques and valleys. The Little Blitzen Research Natural Area (RNA)/ACEC was established to protect several terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems including quaking aspen groves, snow deflation and snow cover communities, late-lying snowbeds, Special Status plant species, a mid-to-high elevation vernal pond, and a stream system originating in the subalpine zone. The Rooster Comb RNA/ACEC was established to protect a black cottonwood riparian area on the Little Blitzen River and a mountain mahogany/bluebunch wheatgrass plant community.

2. Noxious Weeds

There are numerous, relatively small infestations of noxious weeds on the Steens Loop Road, Moon Hill Road, and most of the project area. The larger infestations consist primarily of Canada thistle. Small populations of Canada and bull thistle have been found in the Kueny Corral area of Little Blitzen and the first one-half mile of the Little Blitzen Trail.

3. Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species

No threatened or endangered plants or animals are found in the project area.

Special Status animal species in the project area include Columbia spotted frog (Federal candidate), Greater sage-grouse, California bighorn sheep, sage sparrow, Northern goshawk, desert horned lizard, northern sagebrush lizard, spotted bat, Townsend's big-eared bat, and Preble's shrew.

The Columbia spotted frog has been found in the McCoy Creek drainage but has not been observed in the section east of Pate Lake. Special Status fish species in the project area are the Great Basin redband trout and the Malheur mottled sculpin.

Thirty-seven Special Status plant species are found on the upper Steens (Appendix A). Six species have been initially identified as occurring along the proposed running routes. Steens Mountain paintbrush occurs along the Dingle/Cucamonga Creek Road. Davidson's penstemon, weak-stemmed stonecrop, new sedge, gray moonwort, and Sierran spring beauty are found in or around the wet meadow at the head of Big Indian.

4. Wetlands/Riparian Zones

Both wetlands (wet meadows and bogs) and riparian areas (water-dependent systems bordering streams and wetlands) are found in the project area. Riparian conditions along Little Blitzen River, Big Indian Creek, and McCoy Creek have been determined to be in "Properly Functioning Condition." Wet meadows occur at the head of Big Indian and around springs.

5. Wild and Scenic Rivers

Big Indian Creek and Little Blitzen River are segments of the Donner und Blitzen Wild and Scenic River (WSR). All segments of the Donner und Blitzen WSR were designated as "Wild" in 1984. Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) associated with this WSR are scenic, geologic, recreational, fisheries habitat, wildlife, vegetation, and cultural (historic).

6. Wilderness/Wilderness Study Area

Camp activities could occur in both the SMW and the High Steens WSA. The SMW was designated in 2000 as part of the Steens Act. Wilderness values identified for both wilderness resources include the following.

Naturalness - Naturalness refers to an area which "generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable." (BLM Manual 8560 - Management of Designated Wilderness)

Both the High Steens WSA and the SMW are in outstanding natural condition. Existing humanmade features, fences, and ways (WSAs only), are generally not noticeable except when viewed from higher terrain or in the immediate vicinity. Cattle are licensed to use public land within the High Steens WSA.

Solitude - Solitude is defined as "the state of being alone or remote from habitations; isolation. A lonely, unfrequented, or secluded place." (BLM Manual 8560 - Management of Designated Wilderness)

Outstanding opportunities for solitude are enhanced by the varied and rugged topography. Vegetative screening in some areas, especially the creek and canyon bottoms, supplements the topographic screening. The running stream in the bottoms of the canyons provides screening for campers adjacent to the streams from sounds of hikers passing along the trails.

In wilderness there is an expectation that encounters with other users would be infrequent.

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation - Primitive and unconfined recreation is defined in 43CFR 6301.5 as nonmotorized types of outdoor recreation activities that do not require developed facilities or mechanical transport.

Outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation including hiking, backpacking, camping, horseback riding, hunting, fishing, and photography are present in the wilderness and WSA. Little Blitzen and Big Indian Canyons are popular use areas for recreationists.

Supplemental Values - Supplemental values are listed in the Wilderness Act as "ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value."

Supplemental values of both the wilderness and WSA are geology, scenery, vegetation, and wildlife. Historical values, including the remains of old homesteads, can be found in Little Blitzen and Big Indian.

B. Noncritical Elements

Bureau specialists have determined the following resources, although present in the project area, are not affected by the proposed action: geology/minerals, livestock grazing, vegetation, and wild horses.

The following noncritical elements are present and could be affected by the proposed action or alternatives in this EA:

1. Recreation

Recreation in the Andrews Resource Area is concentrated on and around the Steens Mountain Area. Approximately 48,000 people visited Steens Mountain in 2001. Most recreationists visit the area during the summer and fall. Winter use (snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing) is controlled through a gate and winter use permit system. Spring use occurs mostly in the Page Springs area. The primary recreation activities are sightseeing, camping, fishing, hiking, hunting, picnicking, horseback riding, photography, and backpacking.

Little Blitzen and Big Indian Canyons are two areas of relative high back-country use in the SMW, with approximately 400 people hiking or horseback riding in each canyon during the 4 to 5-month long 2001 season. The Camp is not included in these figures. During a given day, when the Camp is operating, there may be 0 to 12 people using the canyons, with the majority being day-use. Minimally maintained trails and routes are present in Little Blitzen and Big Indian Canyons. These trails and routes have been used historically by sheep and cattle operations, pack outfitters, hikers, and horseback riders.

The Big Indian Trail in the bottom of the canyon was once a two-track road, was closed to vehicle use in 1988. Some canyon campsites are within sight and sound of the trails. Campsites providing more solitude are available if preferred. The routes the Camp would use for access into and out of the canyons at their upper ends are not maintained and are occasionally used by hikers.

2. Socioeconomics

The primary economic activities in Harney County are ranching, manufacturing, and tourism. Federal, State, county, and local governments are the major contributors to the Harney County economy. A 1994 study found that tourism associated with the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge generated \$4.4 million in Harney County over a 1-year period. Unemployment in Harney County is among the highest in the state: 14.1 percent in 2001 and approximately 18 percent in 2002.

3. Soils

The soils crossed on the steep slopes from the Big Indian rim to the canyon bottom are shallow and are moderately susceptible to water erosion, especially when the surface rock is disturbed. The Little Blitzen and Big Indian Canyon bottom soils are derived from the Steens Mountain Basalt. These soils are generally deep (40 to 60 inches) to very deep (more than 60 inches) and are somewhat poorly to well-drained. Wet Blanket area soils are shallow and have low to moderate water erosion potential. McCoy Creek soils also have low to moderate water erosion potential.

4. Wildlife

Wildlife common to the area include mule deer, elk, pronghorn antelope, badger, coyote, mountain lion, jackrabbit, cottontail rabbit, pocket gopher, vole, other small mammals, golden eagle, red-tailed hawk, kestrel, turkey vulture, Cooper's hawk, mourning dove, American robin, northern flicker, sage thrasher, Brewer's sparrow, vesper sparrow, rock wren, green-tailed towhee, dusky flycatcher, many other migratory birds, and amphibians and reptiles.

5. Visual Resources

Most of the project area, the SMW and the High Steens WSA, is classified as Visual Resources Management (VRM) Class I. The VRM Class I objective is to preserve the existing character of the landscape. This class provides for natural ecological changes; however, it does not preclude very limited management activity. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be very low and must not attract attention.

The Fish Lake area is classified as VRM Class II. The VRM Class II objective is to retain the existing character of the landscape. The level of change to the characteristic landscape should be low. Management activities may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer. Any changes must repeat the basic elements of form, line, color, and texture found in the predominant natural features of the characteristic landscape.

CHAPTER IV. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

A. Critical Elements

1. Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

- a. Proposed Action and Cold Springs Road 1, Cold Springs Road 2, Limited Number, and No Action Alternatives

The continued use of trails and routes could affect the scenic qualities of the Steens Mountain ACEC. However, these routes would be located to minimize their visibility. Using the proposed route would not affect the Little Blitzen RNA/ACEC. The Rooster Comb RNA/ACEC would not be affected as long as the existing trail is used. There is little evidence that past routes used by the Camp are persistent, visibly evident, beyond the summer season.

- b. Existing Roads Alternative

ACECs would not be affected.

2. Noxious Weeds

- a. Proposed Action and All Alternatives

Noxious weeds within the CMPA could be spread by the participants' shoes and clothing carrying seeds to new areas. Ongoing noxious weed monitoring has not shown this to be a problem.

3. Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species

- a. Proposed Action and All Alternatives

The Columbia spotted frog and Special Status fish species would not be affected. Special Status animal species, particularly Greater sage-grouse and sage sparrows, could be displaced and habitat disturbed during the running camp activities, but overall disturbance in any one spot would be small because of short duration on any given day and spread out over a 3-week period.

Route layout would avoid Special Status plant populations, so any impacts would be avoided.

4. Wetlands/Riparian Zones

- a. Proposed Action and Cold Springs Road 1, Cold Springs Road 2, Limited Number, and No Action Alternatives

Where there are no established trails (routes) through wetlands or riparian zones (McCoy Creek and small areas at the head of Big Indian), there could be short-term impacts to riparian vegetation (evident trampling through the remainder of the summer). Current use does not indicate long-term impacts with full recovery (no evidence) by the following summer.

- b. Existing Roads Alternative

Wetlands and riparian zones would not be affected.

5. Wild and Scenic Rivers

Impacts to WSR ORVs are described as follows:

- a. Proposed Action and Cold Springs Road 1, Cold Springs Road 2, Limited Number, and No Action Alternatives

Scenic - A three-quarter mile temporary (seasonal) route would be evident within the upper portion of the Big Indian WSR segment. The route would be located to protect WSR scenic values by minimizing impacts to vegetation. Evidence of this route has historically not persisted beyond one summer season. No other impacts to WSR scenic values would occur.

Geologic - Geologic values would not be affected.

Recreational - These alternatives are consistent with providing recreational opportunities while protecting resource values. Encounters with other recreationists within the river corridor may interrupt solitude for approximately 5 to 7 minutes as the participants pass by. This impact would be short term and would vary depending upon user expectations. No physical impacts to recreation resources would occur.

Fisheries - Fishery resources would not be affected.

Wildlife - Some wildlife, e.g., birds and mule deer, would change location to avoid contact with the participants. This movement would not harm the wildlife species involved. Keeping participants on established routes and trails would protect WSR wildlife values.

Vegetation - Vegetation along established routes and trails would be stepped on by the participants. Plants would appear bent over, however, affects would be short term as plant mortality is not expected. Existing trails and route used do not show significant impacts to vegetation within the WSR corridor.

Cultural - Cultural resources are not evident along the designated routes and trails, therefore, no impacts would occur.

b. Existing Roads Alternative

WSR values would not be affected.

6. Wilderness/Wilderness Study Area

a. Analysis Common to the Proposed Action and Cold Springs Road 1, Cold Springs Road 2, Limited Number, and No Action Alternatives

Primitive and Unconfined Recreation - Opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation would still exist because the trails would remain narrow. Some recreationists, especially horseback riders, would be temporarily affected in relation to the length of time participants are encountered in each alternative and could temporarily be displaced by Camp running and hiking activities in the canyons.

Supplemental Values - Geologic supplemental values would not be affected. Impacts to the supplemental values of historic resources, scenery, vegetation, and wildlife are discussed in the Threatened, Endangered, and Special Status Species; Visual Resources; and Wildlife sections.

b. Proposed Action

Naturalness - Naturalness would generally not be affected along the existing trails and routes in Big Indian and Little Blitzen. The routes used to enter Big Indian and leave Little Blitzen (Wet Blanket) would seasonally become more apparent after being used by up to 480 participants and could attract additional public use to these routes and areas. However, these existing routes would be located to minimize their visibility and typically are not visible by the beginning of the following summer season. Running cross-country from the Dingle/Cucamonga Creek Road to Pate Lake by 480 participants would cause temporary surface disturbance and have not in the past created new routes in the High Steens WSA.

Solitude - If people are encountered, there would be impacts to solitude from up to 190 participants in one group hiking down Big Indian and from four groups of 48 running up Little Blitzen. The effects of meeting a large number of participants would vary with an individual's perception of solitude and would be dependent on group size and duration of exposure. The solitude of some hikers, backpackers, horseback riders, and campers in Big Indian and Little Blitzen would be affected by the unexpected numbers of participants. Hiking down Big Indian would take about 4 hours and the hikers would be fairly concentrated and continuous. Running up Little Blitzen in four to five groups would take about 2 to 3 hours. Football camp participants would take about 4 to 6 hours to hike through Little Blitzen. Many campsites are screened by vegetation and the sound of the running stream from participants. Solitude should not be affected in the High Steens WSA.

c. Existing Roads Alternative (Alternative A)

Wilderness values would not be affected.

d. Cold Springs Road 1 Alternative (Alternative B)

Naturalness - Naturalness would generally not be affected along the existing trails routes in Big Indian and Little Blitzen. The routes used to enter Big Indian and leave Little Blitzen (Wet Blanket) would seasonally become more apparent after being used by 190 to 290 participants and could attract additional public use to these routes and areas. However, these routes would be located to minimize their visibility.

Solitude - There would be impacts to solitude from up to 290 participants hiking down Big Indian and Little Blitzen. The number of participants using the canyons would be half of those identified in the proposed action. The effects of meeting groups smaller than in the proposed action would be less and would vary with an individual's perception of solitude. The solitude of some hikers, backpackers, horseback riders, and campers in Big Indian and Little Blitzen would be affected by the unexpected numbers of participants and frequency of meeting smaller groups. Hiking down Big Indian and Little Blitzen would take about 5 hours in smaller, dispersed groups. Football camp participants would take about 5 to 7 hours to hike through Little Blitzen in smaller dispersed groups. Many campsites are screened by vegetation and the sound of the running stream from participants.

e. Cold Springs Road 2 Alternative (Alternative C)

Naturalness - Naturalness would generally not be affected along the existing trails and routes in Big Indian and Little Blitzen. The routes used to enter Big Indian and leave Little Blitzen (Wet Blanket) would seasonally become more apparent after being used by up to 240 participants and could attract additional public use to these routes and areas. However, these routes would be located to minimize their visibility.

Solitude - There would be impacts to solitude from 47 to 50 participants in small (12 person) groups hiking up or down Big Indian and Little Blitzen. The solitude of some hikers, backpackers, horseback riders, and campers in Big Indian and Little Blitzen could be affected by meeting small groups of participants or hikers throughout the day, but would vary with an individual's perception of solitude. Hiking up or down Big Indian or Little Blitzen would take about 8 to 9 hours with small, dispersed hiking groups. Football camp participants would take about 5 to 7 hours to hike through Big Indian or Little Blitzen in small, dispersed groups. Many campsites are screened by vegetation and the sound of the running stream from participants.

f. Limited Number Alternative (Alternative D)

Naturalness - Naturalness would generally not be affected along the existing trails and routes in Big Indian and Little Blitzen. The routes used to enter Big Indian and leave Little Blitzen (Wet Blanket) would seasonally become more apparent after being used by up to 190 to 290 participants and could attract additional public use to these routes and areas. Running cross-country from the Dingle/Cucamonga Creek Road to Pate Lake by 480 participants would cause temporary surface disturbance and have not in the past created new routes in the High Steens WSA.

Solitude - There would be impacts to solitude from 95 participants hiking down Big Indian and 95 running up Little Blitzen in smaller 16 person groups. The effects of meeting groups smaller than in the proposed action would be less, and would vary with an individual's perception of solitude. The solitude of some hikers, backpackers, horseback riders, and campers in Big Indian and Little Blitzen would be affected by the numbers of participants and frequency of meeting smaller groups. Hiking down Big Indian would take about 5 to 8 hours and running up Little Blitzen in four to five groups would take 2 to 3 hours. Football camp participants would take 4 to 6 hours to hike through Little Blitzen. Solitude should not be affected in the High Steens WSA. Many campsites are screened by vegetation and the sound of the running stream from participants.

g. No Action Alternative

Naturalness - Naturalness would generally not be affected along the existing trails and routes in Big Indian and Little Blitzen. The routes used to enter Big Indian and leave Little Blitzen (Wet Blanket) would seasonally become more apparent after being used by up to 380 participants and could attract additional public use to these routes and areas. However, these routes would be located to minimize their visibility. Running cross-country from the Dingle/Cucamonga Creek Road to Pate Lake by 380 participants would cause temporary surface disturbance and would not create new routes in the High Steens WSA.

Solitude - There would be impacts to solitude from up to 190 participants in one group hiking down Big Indian and from four to five groups of 38 to 48 participants running up Little Blitzen, 100 fewer participants/hikers than the proposed action. The solitude of some hikers, backpackers, horseback riders, and campers in Big Indian and Little Blitzen would be affected by the numbers of participants. Hiking down Big Indian would take about 4 hours and the hikers would be fairly concentrated and continuous. Running up Little Blitzen in four to five groups would take 2 to 3 hours. Many campsites are screened by vegetation and the sound of the running stream from participants. Solitude should not be affected in the High Steens WSA.

B. Noncritical Elements

1. Recreation

a. Proposed Action and Cold Springs Road 1, Cold Springs Road 2, Limited Number, and No Action Alternatives

Potential impacts to the recreation experiences of other hikers, backpackers, and horseback riders from the increased numbers of participants/hikers in the canyons are described above in the Wilderness/ WSA *Primitive and Unconfined Recreation* discussion.

Camp activities would seasonally cause the routes into the canyons to become more apparent. As public recreation use in this area increases, more people may also use these routes. However, the routes at the tops of the canyons would be located to minimize their visibility to the public.

Motor vehicle use on the Loop Road would be affected when and where the running camp activities occur. Drivers would have to slow down to accommodate the participants/hikers. Parking of one to two running camp vehicles along the Rooster Comb section of the South Loop Road would cause motorists to slow down. Past observations have not shown this to be a problem.

b. Existing Roads Alternative

There would be no additional participants/hikers in the canyons. Recreationists in the canyons would not be affected. Existing trails would not become more evident and new routes would not become more visible. People along or near the Riddle Ranch and Cold Springs Roads would notice the participants and may have to slow down to accommodate them.

Motor vehicle use on the Loop Road would be affected when and where the running camp activities occur. Drivers would have to slow down to accommodate the participants/hikers. Parking of one to two running camp vehicles along the Rooster Comb section of the South Loop Road would cause motorists to slow down. Past observations have not shown this to be a problem. Participants would encounter dust and increased risk to injury from passing vehicles.

2. Socioeconomics

a. Proposed Action and All Alternatives

Under the proposed action, the Camp would contribute between \$24,000 and \$36,000 (\$12,000/week) directly to the Harney County economy through purchase of supplies and employment of several individuals. If Camp enrollment lessens, economic benefits to Harney County would decrease proportionately. Past Camp participants frequently return to the area, further contributing to the Harney County economy.

3. Soils

- a. Proposed Action and Cold Springs Road 1, Cold Springs Road 2, Limited Number, and No Action Alternatives

Soils could be loosened or compacted, relative to the number of participants/hikers traversing them and their location. Loosened soils could be easily eroded, while compacted soils could increase the rate of runoff, thereby increasing erosion. Minor erosion along portions of routes has been noted but route designation across slopes would reduce future impacts.

- b. Existing Roads Alternative

Soils would not be affected.

4. Visual Resources

- a. Proposed Action and Cold Springs Road 1, Cold Springs Road 2, Limited Number, and No Action Alternatives

The linear features associated with the routes into the canyons would seasonally become more apparent. Class I VRM objectives could be met. Class II VRM objectives would be met.

- b. Existing Roads Alternative

Visual resources would not be affected. Class I and II VRM objectives would be met.

5. Wildlife

- a. Proposed Action, Cold Springs Road 1, Cold Springs Road 2, Limited Number, and No Action Alternatives

Wildlife species could be temporarily displaced and habitat disturbed by Camp activities, but the overall disturbance in any one spot would be small because it would be of short duration on any given day and spread out over a 3-week period.

b. Existing Roads Alternative

Wildlife could be temporarily displaced by the passage of up to 480 participants along the Riddle Ranch and Cold Springs Roads over a 3-week period.

C. Cumulative Impacts Analysis

The proposed action and all alternatives have been evaluated for potential cumulative impacts to resources. There would be no known cumulative impacts to Soils. It has been concluded that cumulative impacts to ACECs; Migratory Birds; Noxious Weeds; Threatened, Endangered and Special Status Species; Wetlands/Riparian Areas; Wild and Scenic Rivers; Wilderness/WSA; Recreation; Wildlife; and Visual Resources would be negligible as a result of implementing the proposed action or alternatives and mitigation. Implementation of the proposed action or alternatives would not jeopardize or negatively affect Congress' ability to find that the High Steens WAS has the necessary wilderness characteristics. There are socioeconomic benefits from annual Camp activities, and future benefits would be anticipated from Camp participants returning to the area as tourists, thus contributing to the local economy. This has frequently occurred as a result of past Camp sessions. The degree of future socioeconomic benefits is dependent upon the number of returning participants.

This conclusion is based on a number of factors. The length and disturbance of existing trails and routes within the Wilderness would be small, when compared to the existing disturbance associated with other recreational activities, other SRP activities, trails (including the High Desert Trail), closed roads, and tracks used only for grazing permittee and private land inholder access. The overall length of time the Camp uses the area is small (less than 0.1 percent) when compared to the amount of time the area is generally available for recreation (May through October). Any impacts to the WSA could be reclaimed to a condition of being substantially unnoticeable in the WSA as a whole. Past Camp participants frequently return to the area, further contributing to the Harney County economy.

D. Mitigation Measures

1. Critical Elements

a. Noxious Weeds

Weed identification booklets and information would be given to the permittee. The permittee would be requested to notify the BLM of the location(s) of any noxious weeds found.

Permittee would follow good weed practices by cleaning off shoes and/or clothing after going through weedy areas. All vehicles would stay on roads to minimize the spread of noxious weeds. The permittee would be informed of existing weed problems within the area and would inform the BLM if weeds spread into new areas along trails and routes used.

b. Wilderness/Wilderness Study Area

Participants would be required to travel single file on defined trails or routes within the SMW.

2. Noncritical Elements

a. Recreation

BLM would advise recreationists of upcoming running camp activities through notices at campgrounds and trail head registers and on the Burns District Web site.

Permittee would instruct participants to step off the trail and wait quietly while horseback riders are passing.

b. Visual Resources

Visual contrasts would be minimized by staying on existing trails and identified routes.

E. Monitoring

1. Critical Elements

a. Weeds

Check the routes and parking areas used for new noxious weed introductions or spread of existing weeds.

b. Wetlands/Riparian Zones

Establish photo monitoring points at meadows for pre- and post-activity monitoring.

c. Wilderness/Wilderness Study Area

Naturalness - Establish photo monitoring points at locations of cross-country travel for pre-and post-use monitoring.

Solitude - Collect verbal comments from the public in the field and written comments at trail registers for the 3-week period that the running camp is using public land.

2. Noncritical Elements

a. Recreation

BLM would monitor the SRP for compliance with permit stipulations.

Collect verbal comments from the public in the field and written comments at trail registers for the 3-week period that the running camp is using public land.

b. Visual Resources

Establish photo monitoring points at locations of cross-country travel for pre-and post-use monitoring.

CHAPTER V. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

A. List of Preparers

Manny Berain, Range Technician
Dean Bolstad, Wild Horse Management Specialist
Miles R. Brown, Andrews Resource Area Field Manager
Darren Brumback, Fisheries Biologist
Jim Buchanan, Rangeland Management Specialist
Mary Emerick, Wilderness Specialist
Gary Foulkes, Planning and Environmental Coordinator
Terri Geisler, Geologist (HazMat)
Rick Hall, Natural Resource Specialist (Botanist)
Matt Obradovich, Wildlife Biologist
Lesley Richman, Natural Resource Specialist (Noxious Weeds)
Mark Sherbourne, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist
Scott Thomas, Archaeologist
Evelyn Treiman, Outdoor Recreation Planner/Lead Preparer

B. Persons, Groups, and Agencies Consulted

Peter Green, Oregon Governor's Office
Steens Mountain Advisory Council
Steens Mountain Running Camp, Harland Yriarte and Cliff Volpe
Wilderness Watch

C. Public Notice and Availability

A notice will be placed in the Burns Times-Herald announcing the document's availability and a 30-day comment period. A letter will be sent to all known interested public notifying them of the document's availability. The document will also be available on the Burns District environmental documents Web page.

Appendix A - Special Status Plant Species

Scientific Name	Common Name	BLM Status	ONHP Status	CMPA	AMU	TR
<i>Camissonia pygmaea</i>	Dwarf evening primrose	S	L1	x		
<i>Castilleja pilosa</i> var. <i>steenensis</i>	Steens Mountain paintbrush	S	L3	x		
<i>Lupinus biddlei</i>	Biddle's lupine	S	L3	x	x	x
<i>Mimulus evanescens</i>	Ephemeral monkeyflower	S	L1	x		
<i>Achnatherum speciosum</i>	Desert needlegrass	A	L2	x	x	
<i>Agastache cusickii</i>	Cusick's hyssop	A	L2	x	x	
<i>Argemone munita</i> ssp. <i>rotundata</i>	Prickly poppy	A	L2	x	x	
<i>Botrychium lanceolatum</i>	Lance-leaved grapefern	A	L2	x		
<i>Botrychium lunaria</i>	Moonwort	A	L2	x		
<i>Botrychium minganense</i>	Gray moonwort	A	L2	x		
<i>Botrychium pinnatum</i>	Pinnate moonwort	A	L2	x		
<i>Carex backii</i>	Back's sedge	A	L2	x		
<i>Cymopterus nivalis</i>	Hayden's cymopterus	A	L2	x		
<i>Gentiana prostrata</i>	Moss gentian	A	L2	x		
<i>Gentianella tenella</i>	Slender gentian	A	L2	x		
<i>Lomatium ravenii</i>	Raven's lomatium	A	L2	x	x	x
<i>Potamogeton diversifolius</i>	Rafinesque's pondweed	A	L2	x	x	x
<i>Saxifraga adscendens</i> var. <i>oregonensis</i>	Wedge-leaf saxifrage	A	L2	x		
<i>Symphoricarpos longiflorus</i>	Long-flowered snowberry	A	L2	x	x	x
<i>Carex capitata</i>	Capitate sedge	T	L2	x		
<i>Carex foetida</i> var. <i>vernacula</i>	Foetid sedge	T	L2	x		
<i>Carex haydeniana</i>	Hayden's sedge	T	L3	x		
<i>Carex nova</i>	New sedge	T	L3	x		
<i>Carex praeceptorum</i>	Teacher's sedge	T	L3	x	x	
<i>Carex subnigricans</i>	Dark alpine sedge	T	L2	x		
<i>Claytonia nevadensis</i>	Sierran spring beauty	T	L3	x		

Scientific Name	Common Name	BLM Status	ONHP Status	CMPA	AMU	TR
<i>Claytonia umbellata</i>	Umbellate spring beauty	T	L3	x		
<i>Draba cusickii</i>	Cusick's draba	T	L3	x		
<i>Ericameria discoidea</i> var. <i>discoidea</i>	Discoid goldenweed	T	L3	x		
<i>Festuca brachyphylla</i>	Alpine fescue	T	L3	x		
<i>Helianthella uniflora</i> var. <i>uniflora</i>	Rocky Mountain helianthella	T	L3	x		x
<i>Juncus bryoides</i>	Mosslike dwarf rush	T	L3	x		
<i>Juncus capillaris</i>	Hairstemmed rush	T	L3	x		
<i>Juncus hemiendytus</i> var. <i>abjectus</i>	Least rush	T	L3	x		
<i>Juncus tiehmii</i>	Tiehm's rush	T	L3	x		
<i>Kobresia bellardii</i>	Bellard's kobresia	T	L3	x		
<i>Lilaea scilloides</i>	Flowering quillwort	T	L3	x		
<i>Melica stricta</i>	Nodding melic	T	L3	x	x	
<i>Myriophyllum sibiricum</i>	Siberian water-milfoil	T	L3	x	x	
<i>Pediocactus simpsonii</i> var. <i>robustior</i>	Hedgehog cactus	T	L3	x	x	
<i>Penstemon davidsonii</i> var. <i>praeteritus</i>	Davidson's penstemon	T	L3	x	x	
<i>Penstemon janishiae</i>	Janish's penstemon	T	L3	x		
<i>Penstemon pratensis</i>	White-flowered penstemon	T	L3	x	x	
<i>Penstemon seorsus</i>	Short-lobed penstemon	T	L3	x	x	x
<i>Polemonium viscosum</i>	Sky pilot	T	L3	x		
<i>Polystichum kruckebergii</i>	Kruckeberg's holly fern	T	L3	x		
<i>Populus angustifolia</i>	Narrowleaf cottonwood	T	L3	x	x	
<i>Salix brachycarpa</i> var. <i>brachycarpa</i>	Short-fruited willow	T	L3	x		
<i>Salix drummondiana</i>	Drummond willow	T	L3	x		
<i>Salix orestera</i>	Sierra willow	T	L3	x		
<i>Sedum debile</i>	Weak-stemmed stonecrop	T	L3	x		

CMPA - Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area
AMU - Andrews Management Unit
TR - Three Rivers Resource Area

Bureau Status

- S - Sensitive - species that could easily become endangered or extinct in a State, are restricted in range, and have natural or human-caused threats to survival.
- A - Assessment - species not presently eligible for official Federal or State status but are still of concern and need protection or mitigation in BLM activities.
- T - Tracking - species that may become of concern in the future, but more information is needed to determine status for management purposes.

Oregon Natural Heritage Program (ONHP) Status

- L1 - taxa threatened with extinction or presumed to be extinct throughout their range.
- L2 - taxa threatened with extirpation or presumed to be extirpated from the State of Oregon.
- L3 - taxa of conservation concern which need more information to determine status.