

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

28910 Hwy 20 West • Hines, Oregon 97738 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>
Contact: Tara Martinak (541) 573-4400 • Release No. OR-020-08-03 • December 28, 2007

BLM

Burns District Office

WINTER RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE ON STEENS MOUNTAIN

HINES, Oregon – After a series of recent storms and an increase in high elevation snow pack, the North Loop Road Winter Recreation Program on Steens Mountain is finally underway. Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, limited snowmobiling and other activities in the area are available.

To access the snowline, visitors need to travel beyond a locked gate near Page Springs Campground. Those who wish to hike, bicycle or ski around the gate can do so any time. For motorized travel beyond the gate, users will need to submit a winter recreation permit application to the Bureau of Land Management, Burns District. Once the application is received and approved, a permit and gate key will be issued. The permit is free of charge, however, failure to return the gate key could result in a financial penalty.

For safety reasons, only groups of two or more people will be issued permits. It is important to call ahead and plan your trip in advance. The number of groups that can be on the mountain and the number of wheeled vehicles traveling past the Page Springs gate per month are limited.

Visitors are reminded that the southern portion of the Steens Mountain Loop Road is not part of the Winter Recreation Program. Motorized access or use beyond the closed gate at Black Canyon is prohibited. Winter use beyond the Kiger Gorge Overlook on the north side of Steens Mountain is also prohibited.

Weather on Steens Mountain can change dramatically within minutes. Be prepared for all weather and road conditions, drive with caution and let someone know of your travel plans.

For further information about the North Loop Road Winter Recreation Program, or to obtain a winter recreation permit application, please contact the BLM at (541) 573-4400.

