

NEWS Release

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

28910 Hwy 20 West • Hines, Oregon 97738 • <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns>

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BLM
Burns District Office

EAST STEENS MOUNTAIN FIRE CLOSURE IN EFFECT

HINES, Ore. – 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, is in effect as of July 3, 2012. The regulated fire closure prohibits the following acts on federal land:

1. Building, maintaining, attending, or using a fire, campfire or stove fire, including charcoal briquette fire. Liquefied and bottled gas stoves and heaters are permitted. When used outside of developed recreation sites, stoves and heaters must be used within an area at least 10 feet in diameter that is barren or clear of all flammable material.
2. Smoking outside of a vehicle, trailer or building, except within areas barren of all flammable materials for at least a 3-foot diameter, or on boats on rivers and lakes.
3. Operating any type of motorized vehicle without a shovel with a blade at least 8 inches wide and a container with at least 1-gallon of water, or a fully charged 2.5-pound fire extinguisher.
4. Parking vehicles on roadways not clear of all flammable materials. Vehicles must be parked on developed roadways, which are those areas clear of flammable debris, berm to berm.

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. A map of the closure area is available at the Burns District BLM Office, 28910 Hwy 20 West in Hines.

The fire closure is necessary due to the onset of hot, dry summer weather, and depleting fuel moisture. Visitors should use extreme caution when recreating outdoors this time of year and are reminded that ignition of fireworks on all public land any time of year is prohibited.

Fire danger is currently rated MODERATE and the Industrial Fire Precaution Level is a Level 1. The East Steens Mountain regulated fire closure will remain in effect until further notice.

For more information, contact the Burns Interagency Communication Center at (541) 573-4545.

To report a wildfire, call (541) 573-1000.

About the BLM: The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land – the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion budget. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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