

# NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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## **RECORD OF DECISION FOR NORTH STEENS ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT TO BE RELEASED**

**HINES, Oregon** – The U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced today the public availability of the Record of Decision for the Final North Steens Ecosystem Restoration Project (North Steens project) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Final EIS, which was released to the public mid-August, proposes utilization of prescribed fire and western juniper treatments to manage fuels, reintroduce fire and the natural function of the historic fire regime to the project area, restore habitat, and increase forage for grazing. The Record of Decision selects the preferred alternative in the Final EIS, which is to 1) implement the Full Treatment Alternative in the project area including Wilderness Study Areas, but excluding Steens Mountain Wilderness, 2) continue current management within Steens Mountain Wilderness, and 3) assure future proposals for fuels treatments in Steens Mountain Wilderness are in conformance with both the Steens Act and Wilderness Act.

The North Steens project area is located within the Burns District of Southeastern Oregon and comprises over 336,000 acres of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area and the Andrews Management Unit.

The Record of Decision has been mailed to those individuals on BLM's North Steens mailing list. If you did not receive a copy and would like to request one, please call (541) 573-4400. You may also obtain the Record of Decision in hard copy at the Burns District office or on the internet at [www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns](http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/burns).

A 30-day appeal opportunity for this decision is now being provided. Appeals must be postmarked by October 29, 2007. Please review the Record of Decision carefully for a detailed explanation of the appeal process.

For more information the North Steens Project EIS and Record of Decision, call Rhonda Karges at (541) 573-4400.

