

Throwback! Steens Mountain Loop Road edition...



The Steens Mountain Loop Road had its beginnings in 1930 when the Civilian Conservation Corps built a road from Frenchglen up to Fish Lake. The onset of World War II delayed plans for the construction of the remaining portion of the road until the early 1960s. The road was completed in 1962 and has received regular maintenance and the occasional upgrade ever since. The improved access increased public demand for recreation use on Steens Mountain, leading to the formal development of Page Springs, Fish Lake, Jackman Park and South Steens Campgrounds, as well as overlooks at Kiger Gorge, East Rim, Big Indian and Little Blitzen gorges and the Steens Summit/Wildhorse Lake parking area. The Steens Mountain Loop Road was dedicated as a National Back Country Byway in June, 1989, and is often called one of the most spectacular travel routes in Oregon!

The Loop Road is generally open all the way around from early July to November. Portions of the road are closed gradually in the winter, and then re-opened in the spring depending on snow levels and moisture conditions in the area. The Steens Mountain Loop Road can easily accommodate passenger cars, though high quality tires are a must for all vehicles.