

## What are WSAs ?

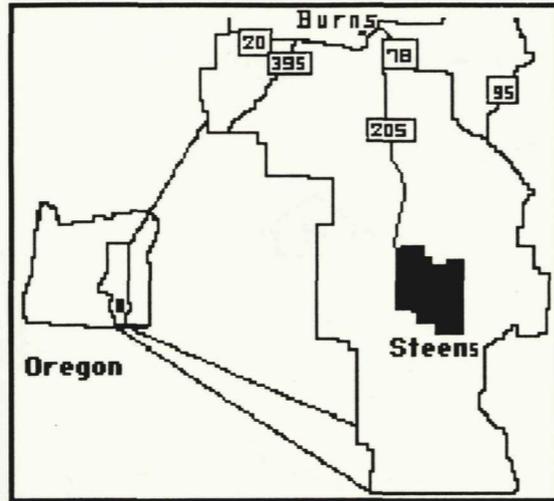
Wilderness Study Areas are public lands under wilderness review for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. During the review, each WSA is protected to preserve its wilderness character. See the area map (reverse side) for the location of each of the following WSAs along the Steens Mountain Loop Road.

Wilderness Study Area	Acreeage
High Steens	69,740
S. Fk. Donner und Blitzen	37,555
Blitzen River	55,880
Little Blitzen Gorge	9,400
Bridge Creek	14,545
<b>Total</b>	<b>187,120</b>

Only Congress can designate a WSA as wilderness or release it from further wilderness review. There are 23 WSAs totaling 1,075,337 acres administered by the Burns District of the BLM in Oregon.

For more information contact:

**Bureau of Land Management**  
**Attn: Wilderness**  
**HC 74- 12533, Hwy 20 West**  
**Hines, Oregon 97738**  
**(503) 573-5241**



### Guidelines for Visiting WSAs

We ask your cooperation in protecting these areas by observing the following:

- \* Keep all vehicles to existing roads and ways (All off road use of vehicles is prohibited, includes Mountain Bikes).
- \* Please pack out all litter.
- \* Avoid cutting of live vegetation or standing dead trees and shrubs.
- \* Do not deface, disturb or remove cultural resources such as arrowheads, petroglyphs or rock shelters. These resources are protected under the Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979. Please leave these resources for others to study and enjoy.
- \* While hiking, backpacking, camping, and horseback riding please practice "Leave No Trace" principles.



Bureau of Land Management

Burns District

1993

# STEENS MOUNTAIN

## Wilderness Program



## Wilderness Program on Steens Mountain

### Introduction

Steens Mountain, a 30-mile long fault block mountain, is located in the high desert country of southeast Oregon, about 60 miles south of Burns. Pressure under the earth's surface thrust the block upward some 20 million years ago. The tilting of the block resulted in a steep eastern face, and a more gentle slope on the western side of the mountain. During the Ice Age, glaciers carved several deep gorges into the peak. They also created depressions where Lily, Fish, and Wildhorse lakes now stand. Today Steens Mountain rises to an elevation of 9,773 feet.

### Wilderness on the Steens

Although currently there are no designated Wilderness Areas on Steens Mountain, you will encounter five Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) while driving along the Steens Mountain Loop Road, a designated Back Country Byway. These WSAs and other public lands on Steens Mountain are administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Burns District. **Some of the land you cross may be private property. Please be considerate of the private land-owners' rights. Check with the BLM office in Burns for land ownership before entering these areas as permission may be required.**

To Burns  
60 miles



### LEGEND

- Steens Mountain Loop Road (Rough gravel road) 66 Mile Loop
- Highway 205 (Paved road)
- Donner und Blitzen River (Wild and Scenic River System)
- Wilderness Study Area (WSA)
- Rims (Gorges)
- Desert Trail Route

Frenchglen

Bridge Creek WSA 2-87



Page Spring  
Campground

To Hart Mtn.  
37 miles

Blitzen River WSA 2-86E

Fish Lake  
Campground

High Steens  
WSA 2-85F

To Fields, Denio  
and Hwy. 140

Jackman Park  
Campground

Kiger Gorge  
Overlook

Little Blitzen  
Gorge WSA  
2-86F

Blitzen Crossing

East Rim  
Overlook

Peak Elevation  
9,773 Feet

S. Fk. Donner und Blitzen  
River WSA 2 - 85G

High Steens WSA 2-85F

Wildhorse  
Lake



The Desert Trail is not a clearly defined path or constructed trail. Instead, it is perceived as a corridor without specific borders, through which the hiker may pass, choosing his/her own route. The purpose is to avoid leaving a beaten path to minimize the impact of traffic on the fragile soils and vegetation. Trail guides are available through the Desert Trail Association.



The Steens Mountain Loop Road is a National Back Country Byway. It is a rough road that may not be suitable for all types of vehicles. The road is closed during the winter. For road conditions, call BLM at (503) 573-5241 before visiting the Steens.