

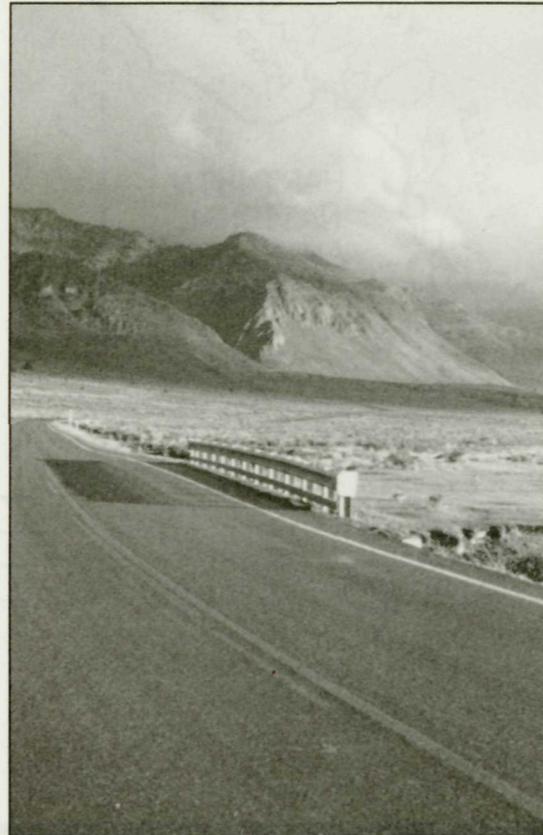
Bureau of Land Management
Lakeview District
1000 Ninth Street South
P.O. Box 151
Lakeview, Oregon 97630



Bureau of Land Management
Oregon/Washington

Lakeview to Steens

National Back Country Byway



Lakeview/Burns District

Oregon BLM's Back Country Byways

Interested in exploring Oregon's back country, those places often overlooked by highway motorists on their way to well-known attractions?

For those with the time and desire to turn off the beaten track onto a country road, Oregon BLM's Back Country Byways provide access to a diversity of landscapes and attractions just waiting to be rediscovered. From forests to deserts, from mountains to canyons, the willing explorer can find some of Oregon's spectacular but lesser-known attractions.

Byways provide visitors the opportunity to view a variety of wildlife in its native habitat, explore remote and often historic areas, watch Native Americans dip net salmon, or photograph high desert plateaus and snow-capped mountains.

The opportunities for outdoor adventure and enjoyment are unlimited.

The idea for byways came from a presidential study on recreation which said that 43 percent of all Americans consider driving for pleasure the most popular form of recreation in the country.

BLM byways program meets this demand for pleasure driving, enhances recreation experiences, and better informs visitors about the values of public lands.

But most of all, BLM byways are a means to let travelers get away from it all and see some of the little-known areas that make Oregon unique and special.

The *Lakeview to Steens National Back Country Byway* traverses the Warner Mountains, Warner Valley, Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge and a broad expanse of high desert country typical of southeastern Oregon.

The **Warner Valley**, including the BLM administered Warner Wetlands, provide the opportunity to view a variety of waterfowl and wildlife. This area has been designated as an Area of Environmental Concern. The primary emphasis is on the protection of waterfowl habitat but the area supports multiple-use management - grazing in upland areas, archeological values and recreational opportunities for hunting, fishing, birdwatching and sightseeing. Planned developments will provide access without impacting valuable resources and facilitate use by disabled visitors.

The lakes in the wetlands are truly unique. The lunate sand dunes which have formed along the northern boundaries of these lakes result from dramatic fluctuations of wet and dry cycles. The only other example of a lake complex with this combination of geologic and climatic features is in South Africa.

Hart Mountain, a spectacular geologic escarpment and National Antelope Refuge, provides opportunities to view pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, mule deer, golden eagles, prairie falcons and a variety of other wildlife. East of Hart Mountain, the traveler is afforded spectacular views of the high desert and the distant Steens Mountain.

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A wide variety of primitive recreational opportunities are found on the refuge. Camping and hiking are permitted as well as hunting and fishing with permits. A winding dirt road leads from the refuge headquarters area to the "Blue Sky Hotel" area about 18 miles to the south. Most roads on the refuge are primitive and caution is advised.

ACCESS

The Byway can be reached from the west via State Highway 140 six miles north of Lakeview, Oregon and from the east via State Highway 205 south of Frenchglen, Oregon. The total length between access points is about 90 miles. This includes 40 miles of paved and 50 miles of graveled road suitable for passenger car travel.

Although the byway consists of all-weather roads, severe storms in the winter months often result in brief periods of closure or adverse driving conditions.

For further information about this byway contact the:

**Bureau of Land Management
Lakeview District Office
100 Ninth Street S., P.O. Box 151
Lakeview, Oregon 97630**

or the:

**Bureau of Land Management
Burns District Office
HC 74-12533 Hwy 20 West
Hines, Oregon 97738
(503) 573-5241**

