

BLM News

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F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD IN BURNS

The next Steens Mountain Advisory Council Meeting (SMAC) is scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, June 14-15, 2004, at the Burns District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon.

On Monday, the SMAC will take part in a field tour to the Steens Mountain area to discuss various projects, accomplishments, and specific issues. The public is welcome to attend, and will need to provide their own meals, any personal items, and high clearance vehicles. The tour will begin at the BLM office with departure at 8:00 a.m. and end at South Steens Campground around 5:00 p.m.

The SMAC will reconvene at the Burns District BLM office for Tuesday's session. Agenda items for the morning include updates from the Chair and Designated Federal Official, information sharing on Socio/Economics training and the Andrews/Steens Resource Management Plan, and a follow-up discussion of the previous day's field tour. On Tuesday afternoon, there will be discussion of the SMAC science committee, an update on signing and interpretation plans for Steens Mountain, updates on the Stonehouse and Wildhorse Gather Environmental Assessments, and discussion of the August meeting agenda. Any other matters that may reasonably come before the SMAC may also be addressed.

The public is welcome to attend all portions of the meeting, including the field day on Steens Mountain, and may contribute on Tuesday during the public comment period at 11:00 a.m. Those who verbally address the SMAC during the open session are asked to also provide a written statement of their comments or presentation. Unless otherwise approved by the SMAC Chair, the public comment period will last no longer than 30 minutes, and each speaker may address the SMAC for a maximum of 5 minutes.

If you have information you would like distributed to SMAC members, please send it to Rhonda Karges at the Burns District Office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738, prior to the start of the meeting. If you send information or general correspondence to anyone at the Burns District Office and would like a copy given to the SMAC, please write "COPY TO SMAC" on the envelope and enclosed document(s).

For further information on the SMAC or the upcoming field tour and meeting, contact Rhonda Karges at the Burns District Office at (541) 573-4400, weekdays, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.