

BLM SEEKS TRIBAL AND RESOURCE ADVISORS FOR CITIZEN PANEL

PORTLAND, November 4, 2004 -- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has two vacancies on the John Day-Snake Resource Advisory Council (RAC). Citizens who can represent **Indian tribes** and/or **State natural resource employees** are encouraged to apply for one of these unexpired terms. The RAC advises and recommends management strategies for federal lands located in whole or in part within the Vale, Prineville and Spokane Districts of the BLM, and the Malheur, Ochoco, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. The **nomination period ends December 20, 2004**. The term for the tribal position will expire in 2007; the resource position will expire in 2006.

Oregon, Washington or Idaho residents may serve on the RAC, and may be nominated by themselves or others. Applications must include a completed background information nomination form, letter(s) of reference from interests or organizations the candidate will represent, and any other materials that describe their qualifications or experience in collaborative work. For a nomination form or additional information, please contact Pam Robbins, Bureau of Land Management, (pam_robbins@blm.gov), P. O. Box 2965, Portland, OR 97208-2965, (503) 808-6306, or your local BLM District Office. More RAC information is on the internet at <<http://www.or.blm.gov/johndaysnake-RAC/index.htm>>.

The Federal Advisory Committee Act requires RACs to be balanced and represent the various interests concerned with public land management. Council members are unpaid, but are reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses. The RAC meetings are held quarterly, at various sites within the RAC boundary.

The RACs are a key part of land management for federal agencies. Local RACs provide valuable advice on developing management plans and alternatives. Their expertise helps to refine project initiatives for issues as varied as grazing, forest health, weed abatement, land exchanges, and recreation management.

The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages more land-262 million surface acres-than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1.9 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on the public lands.