

For immediate release
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Contact: E.Lynn Burkett (541) 440-4930
NR01_07

Citizen Advisors sought for Resource Advisory Committees *Committees to advise funding for on-the-ground federal land projects*

Oregon/Washington Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is establishing Resource Advisory Committees (Committees) in accordance with Section 205 of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000--Public Law 106-393 (the Act). Committee members from a variety of interests are sought who are committed to working collaboratively for the long term benefit of public lands and local communities. The nomination period will close on June 1, 2001.

Five Committees are being formed for western Oregon BLM districts that contain Oregon & California (O&C) Grant Lands and Coos Bay Wagon Road lands. The Forest Service is establishing Committees for combinations of National Forests throughout the nation.

The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000 establishes a five-year payment schedule to local counties in lieu of funds derived from the harvest of timber on federal lands, which have dropped dramatically over the past 10 years. The Act creates a new mechanism for local community collaboration with federal land management activities in the selection of projects to be conducted on federal lands or that will benefit resources on federal lands using O&C/County funds under Title II of the Act.

The Committee's designated federal officer (DFO) shall submit federal projects to be considered for funding under Title II of the Act to the Resource Advisory Committee. The Committee members shall review the federal projects and transmit their recommendations on those projects to the DFO on or before September 1. No later than September 30, the DFO will submit to the Secretary of the Interior, or her designee, a description of projects that the Committee recommends undertaking using funds reserved by eligible counties for expenditure, pursuant to Title II of the Act, that fall within the Committee's geographic jurisdiction.

The qualifications for membership on each Committee will be determined by the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary will select 15 members who reside within the Committee's geographic jurisdiction to ensure local representation. As required by the Federal Advisory Committee Act and Section 205(d) of the Act, membership must be balanced and representative of the various interests concerned with the management of the public lands.

Committee members shall be representative of the interests of the following three categories:

Category One- representatives of organized labor; developed outdoor recreation; off-highway vehicle use; energy and/or mining development; timber industry; or holders of federal grazing permits.

Category Two- representatives of nationally, regionally or locally recognized environmental organizations; dispersed recreation, archaeological and historic interests; or wild horse and burro groups.

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Category Three- State, county or local elected officials; representatives of Native American Tribes; school officials or teachers, or the public-at-large.

Five Resource Advisory Committees cover western Oregon BLM district boundaries. Specifically, the BLM Committees are as follows:

Salem District Resource Advisory Committee advises federal officials on the management of federal lands within the Salem District boundary and includes: Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington, and Yamhill Counties.

Eugene District Resource Advisory Committee advises federal officials on the management of federal lands within the Eugene District boundary. The area covers Benton, Douglas, Lane, and Linn Counties.

Roseburg District Resource Advisory Committee advises federal officials on the management of federal lands within the Roseburg District boundary and includes Douglas, Lane, and Jackson Counties.

Medford District Resource Advisory Committee advises federal officials on the management of federal lands within the Medford District and Klamath Falls Resource Area in the Lakeview District. The area covers Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, and Josephine Counties, and small portions of west Klamath County.

Coos Bay District Resource Advisory Committee advises federal officials on the management of federal lands within the Coos Bay District and includes Coos, Curry, Douglas, and Lane Counties.

Members will serve without monetary compensation, but will be reimbursed for travel and per diem when on Committee business, as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5703. Prospective members are advised that membership on a Committee calls for a substantial commitment of time and energy.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others. The terms for the positions will be for three years. Nominees must reside within one of the counties that are (in whole or part) within the BLM District boundaries of the Committee(s) on which membership is sought. A person may apply for and serve on more than one Committee.

Nominees will be evaluated based on their education, training, and experience working with the interest area they choose to represent, and their knowledge of the geographic area covered by the Committee. Nominees must also have demonstrated a commitment to collaborative resource decision making. **All nominations should be accompanied by letters of reference from represented interests or organizations and a completed nomination application, as well as any other information that speaks to the nominee's qualifications.**

Completed nomination forms and letters of reference should be sent to the appropriate BLM District office. The Secretary of the Interior will make the appointments to the Resource Advisory Committees.

To obtain a Membership Application or additional information, please contact: Maya Fuller, Bureau of Land Management, PO Box 2965, Portland, OR, 97208, (503) 952-6437, (maya_fuller@or.blm.gov), your local BLM District Office, or on the web at www.or.blm.gov/planning/advisory.

BLM Resource Advisory Committee Contact Addresses:

Coos Bay District Resource Advisory Committee

Sue Richardson, District Manager

1300 Airport Lane
North Bend, OR 97459
(541) 756-0100

Eugene District Resource Advisory Committee

Wayne Elliot, Resource Management Advisor

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Medford District Resource Advisory Committee

Ron Wenker, District Manager

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Medford, OR 97504
(541) 618-2200

Roseburg District Resource Advisory Committee

Cary Osterhaus, District Manager

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Salem District Resource Advisory Committee

Jose Linares, Associate District Manager

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