

January 4, 2002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL TO MEET IN BURNS, OREGON

The Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) established by the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act (Act) of 2000 will hold its third public meeting in Burns, Oregon, on January 24 and 25, 2002. The SMAC will meet at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Burns District Office, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., local time, on January 24 and 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on January 25.

The agenda for this meeting will include discussions on the following items:

- followup items from the December meeting;
- update on land exchanges;
- Subcommittee Reports regarding the Draft Special Recreation Permit Handbook, winter recreation, and signs;
- special recreation permits update;
- Interim Management Policy;
- Wildlands Juniper Management Area and juniper management planning;
- Stonehouse Allotment Management Plan Environmental Assessment;
- Draft Analysis of the Management Situation and Subbasin Review;
- redband trout;
- wilderness issues;
- range improvements funding update;
- agenda items for upcoming meetings;
- and other matters that may reasonably come before the SMAC.

The entire meeting is open to the public. Information to be distributed to the SMAC is requested 10 days prior to the start of the SMAC meeting and should be sent to Rhonda Karges at the BLM Burns District Office at 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738. Public comment

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opportunities have been scheduled from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., local time, on January 24, 2002,

and again on January 25, 2002, from 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., local time. These two, half-hour public comment periods, which can be extended by the Chair, will be the only opportunities for the public to participate in the meeting.

The 12-member SMAC was appointed by the Secretary of the Interior on August 14, 2001, pursuant to the Act. The SMAC's purpose is to provide representative counsel and advice to the BLM regarding (1) new and unique approaches to management of the land within the bounds of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA), (2) cooperative programs and incentives for landscape management that meet human needs, maintain and improve the ecological and economic integrity of the area, and (3) preparation and implementation of a management plan for the CMPA.

Members currently serving on the SMAC are:

Roger Alfred (No CMPA-financial interest)
Stacy Davies (Grazing Permittee)
Alice Elshoff (Environmental Representative- Local)
E. Ron Harding (Wild Horse Management)
Thomas Harris (Mechanized or Consumptive Recreation)
Wanda Johnson (Burns Paiute Tribe)
Jason Miner (Fish and Recreational Fishing)
Steve Purchase (State Government Liaison (nonvoting member)
Jerry Sutherland (Environmental Representative- State)
Thomas Wendel (Dispersed Recreation)
Hoyt Wilson (Grazing Permittee)
Cindy Witzel (Recreational Permit Holder)
Harland Yriarte (Private Landowner)

The Designated Federal Official is Miles Brown, BLM's Andrews Resource Area Field Manager. **For more information on the SMAC or the upcoming meeting, contact Rhonda Karges, BLM, at the above address or call (541) 573-4400, weekdays between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., local time.**

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