

**Tuesday, April 23, 2002**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Nominations for Steens Mountain Advisory Council Sought**

The Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC), established by the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000 (Act), P.L. 106-399, has been charged with formulating recommendations to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding: 1) new and unique approaches to the management of land within the boundaries of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA); and 2) cooperative programs and incentives for landscape management that meet human needs and maintain and improve the ecological and economic integrity of the CMPA.

The Governor of Oregon, the County Court of Harney County, and BLM are seeking nominations for the following categories of interest:

- One person who is a grazing permittee on Federal Land in the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA) (appointed from nominees submitted by the County Court of Harney County)
- One person who is a recognized environmental representative from the local area (appointed from nominees submitted by the Governor of Oregon)
- A person who participates in what is commonly called dispersed recreation, such as hiking, camping, nature viewing, nature photography, bird watching, horseback riding, or trail walking (appointed from nominees submitted by the Oregon State Director of the BLM)
- A person with expertise and interest in wild horse management on Steens Mountain (appointed from nominees submitted by the Oregon State Director for BLM)
- A person who has no financial interest in the CMPA to represent Statewide interests (appointed from nominees submitted by the Governor of Oregon)

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Members of the SMAC are appointed for terms of 3 years, except that, of the members first

appointed, four members were appointed for a term of one year and four members were appointed a term of two years. The wild horse, dispersed recreation, local environmentalist, and one grazing permittee positions were all one-year terms and will expire August 2002. These four positions will all be replaced with three-year terms, and will begin no earlier than August 2002. The no financial interest position was a 3-year term. The member of this position has resigned; therefore, the newly-appointed member will complete the existing 3-year term. This appointment will begin upon appointment and will expire August 2004.

To nominate someone (or yourself) the BLM is requiring the submission of a nomination form and letters of reference from the represented interests or organizations. Nomination forms can be obtained from the Burns District, BLM, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, OR 97738, by calling (541) 573-4400, or from their web site at: [http://www.or.blm.gov/steens/smac/smac\\_page.htm](http://www.or.blm.gov/steens/smac/smac_page.htm)

The specific category the nominee would like to represent should be identified in the nomination form and letters of reference. The Burns District will collect the nomination forms and letters of reference and distribute them to the officials responsible for submitting nominations (the County Court of Harney County and the Governor of Oregon). BLM will then forward all recommended nominees for council membership to the Secretary of Interior who has responsibility for making the appointments.

**Send or deliver nomination forms and letters of reference to BLM Burns District, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, OR 97738 by the deadline of May 22, 2002.**

The Act is the culmination of a cooperative effort between Oregon's Congressional delegation,

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Governor Kitzhaber, and the Department of Interior to forge legislation providing long-term

protection for the cultural, economic, ecological, and social health of the Steens Mountain Area.

This unique Act created several new management designations on Federal land on and around the Steens Mountain. The CMPA encompasses 428,153 acres of Federal land in Harney County, Oregon.

Members currently serving on the SMAC are:

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

**For more information on the SMAC nominations, call Rhonda Karges at (541) 573-4433 weekdays between 7:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or check the website:**

**[http://www.or.blm.gov/steens/smac/smac\\_page.htm](http://www.or.blm.gov/steens/smac/smac_page.htm)**

**\*\*\*\*\*BLM\*\*\*\*\***