

Nominations for Steens Mountain Advisory Council Sought

On October 30, 2000, the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000 (Act), P.L. 106-399, was signed into law. As a part of this legislation, the Secretary of the Interior is establishing the Steens Mountain Advisory Council (Council) to provide management advice to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on the Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA). Nominations to serve on the Council will be accepted beginning **April 4, 2001 and closing May 4, 2001.**

The Act is the culmination of a cooperative effort between Oregon's Congressional delegation, 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 creates several new management designations on Federal land on and around the Steens Mountain. The CMPA encompasses 425,550 acres of Federal land in Harney County, Oregon, including a no-livestock area of 97,071 acres of public land within the 169,465-acre Steens Mountain Wilderness Area.

The Council will formulate recommendations to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding: 1) new and unique approaches to the management of land within the boundaries of the 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 Council will consist of twelve voting members selected by the Secretary of the Interior. Selections will be made from nominees submitted by the county court of Harney County, the Governor of Oregon, the Burns Paiute Tribe and the BLM. The council will include:

- 1) a private landowner in the CMPA (appointed from nominees submitted by the county court of Harney County);
- 2) two persons who are grazing permittees on Federal land in the CMPA (appointed from nominees submitted by the county court of Harney County);
- 3) a person interested in fish and recreational fishing in the CMPA (appointed from nominees submitted by the Governor of Oregon);
- 4) a member of the Burns Paiute Tribe (appointed from nominees submitted by the Burns Paiute Tribe);
- 5) two persons who are recognized environmental representatives, one of whom

shall represent the State as a whole, and one of whom is from the local area (appointed from nominees submitted by the Governor of Oregon);

- 6) 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 Bureau of Land Management);
- 7) a person who is a recreation permit holder or is a representative of a commercial recreation operation in the CMPA (appointed from nominees submitted by the county court of Harney County and the Bureau of Land Management);
- 8) a person who participates in what is commonly called mechanized or consumptive recreation, such as hunting, fishing, off-road driving, hang gliding or parasailing (appointed from nominees submitted by the Bureau of Land Management);
- 9) a person with expertise and interest in wild horse management on Steens Mountain (appointed from nominees submitted by the Bureau of Land Management);
- 10) a person who has no financial interest in the CMPA to represent Statewide interests (appointed from nominees submitted by the Governor of Oregon).

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, HC 74-12533 Hwy 20 West, Hines, OR 97738, by calling (541) 573-4400, or from their web site at www.or.blm.gov/steens.

The specific category the nominee would like to represent should be identified in the nomination form and in the 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, the Governor of Oregon and the Burns Paiute Tribe). The BLM will then forward all recommended nominees for council membership to the Secretary of Interior who has responsibility for making the appointments.

Nomination forms and letters of reference should be mailed or delivered to the Burns District, BLM, HC 74-12533 Hwy 20 West, Hines, OR 97738. The nomination period is from April 4, 2001 to May 4, 2001.

