



February 12, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NOMINATIONS FOR STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL SOUGHT

The Governor of Oregon, the County Court of Harney County, and the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Burns District are seeking nominations for positions on the Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) in the following categories of interest:

- One person who is a recognized environmental representative for the State as a whole (appointed from nominees submitted by the Governor of Oregon);
- A person interested in fish and recreational fishing (appointed from nominees submitted by the Governor of Oregon);
- A person who is a recreational permit holder or is a representative of a commercial recreation operation (appointed jointly by the Oregon State Director of the BLM and the County Court for Harney County, Oregon); and
- A private landowner in the CMPA (appointed by the County Court for Harney County, Oregon).

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 1-year and four members were appointed a term of 2 years. The State environmental representative, recreational permit holder, private landowner, and fish and recreational fishing positions were all 2-year terms and will expire August 2003. These four positions will all be replaced with 3-year terms, and will begin no earlier than August 2003.

Members will serve without monetary compensation, but will be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses at current rates for Government employees. The SMAC shall meet only at the call of the

Designated Federal Official, but not less than once per year.

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 Office, BLM, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon, by calling (541) 573-4400, or from the Steens Mountain Web site at: <http://www.or.blm.gov/steens>.

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). The BLM will then forward all recommended nominees for council membership to the Secretary of the Interior who has responsibility for making the appointments.

Send or deliver nomination forms and letters of reference to the Burns District BLM Office, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738 by March 12, 2003.

The SMAC, established by the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act (Steens Act) of 2000, P.L. 106-399, has been charged with formulating recommendations to the U.S. 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 Steens Act is the culmination of a cooperative effort between Oregon's Congressional delegation, past Governor Kitzhaber, and the Department of the 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 428,156 acres of public land in Harney County, Oregon.

Members currently serving on the SMAC are:

Richard Benner (No CMPA-financial interest)
Stacy Davies (Grazing Permittee)
Alice Elshoff (Environmental Representative- Local)
Michael Golden (Dispersed Recreation)
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)
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 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or check the Web site:
http://www.or.blm.gov/steens/smac/smac_page.htm