



**October 31, 2003**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL TO MEET IN BURNS**

The Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) will be meeting on Monday and Tuesday, November 17-18, 2003, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day, in the conference room at the Burns District Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon.

On Monday, the meeting will open with introductions and updates from the Chairman and Designated Federal Official. The remainder of the morning will allow for updates on the Andrews/Steens Resource Management Plan, wilderness inholder access, wilderness grazing access and volunteer work in the Steens Mountain Area over the summer. The afternoon session will start with a recreation report regarding Special Recreation Permits, Environmental Assessments, and monitoring and law enforcement matters. Monday's meeting will close with a discussion of workloads for fiscal year 2004.

Tuesday's session will contain a variety of discussion topics, including: the Blackfoot Challenge in Montana, Cooperative Management Agreements, transportation issues, and an update from the wild horse program. The meeting is scheduled to adjourn after discussion of the January agenda. Any other matters that may reasonably come before the SMAC may also be discussed throughout the course of the 2-day meeting.

The public is welcome to attend all portions of the meeting and may contribute during public comment sessions scheduled at 11:00 a.m. each day. Those who verbally address the SMAC during the public comment period are asked to also provide a written statement of their presentation. Unless otherwise approved by the SMAC Chair, public comment periods will last no longer than 30 minutes, and each speaker may address the SMAC for a maximum of 5 minutes.

##### MORE #####

If you have information you would like distributed to SMAC members, please send it to Rhonda Karges at the Burns District Office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738, no later than 10 days prior to the start of the meeting. If you send information or general correspondence to anyone at the Burns District Office and would like a courtesy copy given to the SMAC, please write "COPY TO SMAC" on the envelope and enclosed document(s).

Current SMAC members and their representation include:

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

The Designated Federal Official is Karla Bird, Andrews Resource Area Field Manager.

For further information on the SMAC or the upcoming meeting, contact Rhonda Karges at the Burns District Office at 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon, or call (541) 573-4400, weekdays, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. You may also visit the Steens Web site at <http://www.or.blm.gov/Steens> .