

July 23, 2004

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING CANCELED

The Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) meeting scheduled for Monday and Tuesday, August 9-10, 2004, has been canceled, reports U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Burns District Andrews Resource Area Field Manager Karla Bird. The SMAC will reconvene on September 13-14, 2004, in Frenchglen, Oregon.

A tentative schedule for the September meeting includes a 1-day field tour and updates on Cooperative Management Agreements, fence removal projects in wilderness, easements, and Home Creek access. Other items proposed for discussion are the Wildhorse Gather Environmental Assessment, protests on the Andrews Management Unit/Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area Proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (PRMP/FEIS), and the North Steens Project. Further information on the September agenda will be released as the meeting date approaches.

The Andrews/Steens Mountain PRMP/FEIS is expected to be mailed to the public during the month of August. A 30-day protest period on the PRMP/FEIS will begin as soon as the document becomes available.

For further information on the SMAC, contact Rhonda Karges at the Burns District Office, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon, or call (541) 573-4400, weekdays, between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.