

**Bureau of Land Management**  
**Steens Mountain Advisory Council**

**Charter**

1. **OFFICIAL DESIGNATION:** Steens Mountain Advisory Council (Council)
  
2. **PURPOSE:** Title I of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000 (Act) establishes the Council for the purpose of advising the Secretary in managing and promoting cooperative management of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA).
  
3. **COUNCIL OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE:** Advise the Secretary of the Interior through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) concerning planning and management of the public lands within the CMPA as described in Title I of the Act. The Council shall be subject to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) and the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. Appendix.
  
4. **PERIOD OF TIME NECESSARY FOR THE COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES AND TERMINATION:** Since its functions are related to continuing BLM responsibility for the management of public lands in the CMPA, the need for the Council is expected to continue. However, Council continuation will be subject to periodic review and renewal every 2 years as required by Section 14(b) of FACA, 5 U.S.C. Appendix.
  
5. **OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COUNCIL REPORTS:** The Designated Federal Officer (DFO) is:
  - Field Manager
  - Andrews Resource Area
  - Burns District
  - Bureau of Land Management
  - HC 71-12533 Highway 20 West
  - Hines, OR 97738
  - Phone: (541) 573-4400
  - Fax: (541) 573-4411
  
6. **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:** Administrative support and funding for activities of the Council will be provided by the office of the DFO.

**7. DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL:**

a. Develop recommendations for BLM regarding the preparation and implementation of the management plan for the Steens Mountain CMPA. The Council shall utilize sound science, existing management plans and other tools to formulate recommendations to the DFO regarding:

- new and unique approaches to management of lands within the CMPA; and
- cooperative programs and incentives for seamless landscape management that meet human needs and maintain and improve the ecological and economic integrity of the CMPA.

b. The Secretary shall consult with the Council as part of the preparation and implementation of the management plan.

c. Except for purposes of long-range planning and the establishment of resource management priorities, the Council shall not provide advice on the allocation and expenditure of Federal funds or on personnel actions.

**8. COUNCIL COMPOSITION:** The Council shall consist of 12 voting members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, as follows:

- A private landowner in the CMPA who represents private landowners in the CMPA (appointed from nominees submitted by the county court of Harney County);
- Two persons who represent grazing permittees and hold grazing permits on Federal lands in the CMPA (appointed from nominees submitted by the county court of Harney County);
- A person who is interested in and represents fish and recreational fishing in the CMPA (appointed from nominees submitted by the Governor of Oregon);
- A member and representative of the Burns Paiute Tribe (appointed from nominees submitted by the Burns Paiute Tribe);
- Two persons who are recognized environmental representatives, one of whom shall represent the State as a whole, and one of whom will represent the local area (appointed from nominees submitted by the Governor of Oregon);
- A person who represents and 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 who represents and is a recreation permit holder or is a representative of a commercial recreation operation in the CMPA (appointed from nominees submitted jointly by the Oregon State Director of BLM and the county court for Harney County);
- A person who represents and 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 Oregon State Director for BLM);
- A person who represents and demonstrates an expertise and interest in wild horse management on Steens Mountain (appointed from nominees submitted by the Oregon State Director for BLM); and
- A person who has no financial interest in the CMPA to represent statewide interests (appointed from nominees submitted by the Governor of Oregon).

**9. MEMBER QUALIFICATION, SELECTION AND SERVICE:**

a. Persons who are appointed to the Council serve at the pleasure of the Secretary of the Interior. To be eligible for appointment nominees must meet those requirements for the position(s) they are nominated for as specified in the Act. Additional desirable qualifications include: education, training, knowledge, or experience to give informed and objective advice regarding an industry, discipline, or interest specified in this charter; experience or knowledge of the geographical area under the purview of the council; and a commitment to collaborate in seeking solutions to a wide spectrum of resource management issues. Council members must reside in the State of Oregon and be supported by letters of recommendation from the groups or interests they will represent.

b. Members will be appointed to serve 3-year terms on a staggered-term basis. At the end of a member's term, he or she may continue to serve at the discretion of the Secretary of the Interior for an interim period, which will not exceed 120 days, in order to ensure continuity on the Council until a new appointment has been made.

c. The Secretary or the DFO may, after written notice, terminate the service of a member if, in the judgment of the Secretary or the DFO, removal is in the public interest. Members may also be terminated if they no longer meet the requirements under which they were appointed; fail or are unable to participate regularly in Council work; or have violated Federal law or the regulations of the Department of the Interior. When a member fails to regularly attend meetings, the DFO will inform the member, in writing, that their service on the Council could be terminated. When any member fails to attend two consecutive meetings, without good cause, the DFO or his/her designee may deem that member's position on the Council to have been vacated. Upon such determination, the DFO will inform the member, in writing, that his or her service on the Council is terminated.

d. Vacancies occurring for the reasons of resignation, death, changing residency by relocating outside the State of Oregon, failure to regularly attend Council meetings, or Secretarial removal, will be filled by the Secretary for the position vacated in the same manner in which the original appointment was made, which may include the use of alternates.

e. The Secretary shall appoint one person, nominated by the Governor of Oregon, to serve as the State government liaison to the advisory council. The liaison will not be a voting member. The term of the liaison will end upon appointment of a new liaison, which may be made at an interval deemed appropriate by the Governor and the Secretary. However, the liaison's term will end upon the departure from elective office of the Governor who nominated the liaison. When this situation occurs, a new liaison nominated by the new Governor of Oregon will be appointed by the Secretary.

f. Members serve without salary, but will be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses when on Council business as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 5703.

#### 10. ***ETHICS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS:***

a. A member may not participate in matters that will directly affect, or appear to affect, the financial interests of the member or the member's spouse or minor children. Compensation from employment does not constitute a financial interest of the member so long as the matter before the Steen Mountain Advisory Council will not have a special or distinct effect on the member or the member's employer, other than as part of a class. The provisions of this paragraph do not affect any other statutory or regulatory ethical obligations to which a member may be subject, including those in b., below.

b. As provided in 43 C.F.R. 1784.2-2, members of the Council shall be required to disclose their direct or indirect interest in leases, licenses, permits, contracts, agreements, or claims which involve lands or resources administered by the Bureau of Land Management, or in any litigation related thereto. It is expected that some issues and recommendations addressed by the Council may have a direct or indirect impact upon some Council members. No Council or subcommittee member shall participate in any matter specifically concerning a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement or related litigation in which the member has a direct interest.

11. ***SUBCOMMITTEES:*** To facilitate the functioning of the Council, subcommittees may be formed to study and develop recommendations on selected issues for consideration by the full Council.

12. ***SCIENCE COMMITTEE:*** In accordance with Section 133 of the Act, the Secretary or the Secretary's designee shall appoint, as needed or at the request of the Council, a team (Science Committee) of respected, knowledgeable, and diverse scientists to provide advice on questions relating to management of the CMPA to the Council and to the Secretary through the Council. The Secretary will seek the advice of the Council in making these appointments.

13. **COMMITTEE OFFICERS:** Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, the Council will elect a chairperson and other officers as needed from among its members annually, usually at the first meeting of each calendar year.

14. **MEETINGS:**

a. The Council shall meet only at the call of the DFO, but not less than once per year. The DFO or his/her designee shall attend all meetings of the Council and subcommittee(s). All Council and subcommittee meetings, including field examinations, will be open to the general public and representatives of the news media. Any organization, association, or individual may file a statement with or appear before the Council regarding topics on the meeting agenda, except the DFO may require presentations be reduced to writing and copies filed with the Council.

b. A notice of each meeting of the Council and subcommittee(s) will normally be published in the *Federal Register* and distributed to the news media serving the jurisdictional area of the Council 30 days in advance of such meeting. If urgent circumstances prevent a 30-day notice, not less than 15 days notice will suffice. The notice sets forth the purpose, time, and place of the meeting. If it becomes necessary to postpone or cancel a meeting, a notice will be published in the *Federal Register* and distributed to the local news media as early as possible.

c. Council meeting agendas will be approved in advance by the DFO.

d. Regular Council business activities will be conducted using the standard rules of order (e.g., Roberts Rules of Order).

e. The Council members shall strive to address issues and derive recommendations through a collaborative and consensus approach. At least nine members must be present to constitute a quorum; to make a formal recommendation to the designated Federal official requires agreement of at least nine members, as outlined in Section 132(C) of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000.

15. **COMMITTEE RECORDS:** Detailed records shall be kept of each meeting, including subcommittee meetings. These records shall include as a minimum: time and place of the meeting; copies of the *Federal Register* and other public notices announcing the meeting; list of all attendees, including members of the general public present and who they represent; agenda; summary description of matters discussed and conclusions reached; list of recommendations made; copies of all reports received, issued or approved; and a description of the nature of public participation. The accuracy of all minutes will be certified by the Council chairperson. All records, reports, minutes, transcripts, recommendations, studies, working papers, and other documents prepared by or submitted to the Council shall be available for public inspection and copying in the office of the DFO during regular business hours, 43 C.F.R. 1784.5-3.

16. **ESTIMATED OPERATING COSTS:** Annual activities of the Council will require an estimated \$50,000 per year, including 6 work-months of Federal employee support.

17. **AUTHORITY:** Section 9(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, as amended, and the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000, Title 1.

/s/ Gale A. Norton  
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

August 13, 2003  
Date Signed

August 13, 2003  
Date Charter Filed