

**April 26, 2004****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****NOMINATIONS FOR STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL SOUGHT**

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

- A member of the Burns Paiute Tribe (appointed from nominees submitted by the Burns Paiute Tribe);
- A person who participates in mechanized/consumptive recreation (appointed from nominees submitted by the BLM);
- A person who is a grazing permittee on Federal land in the Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA) (appointed by the County Court for Harney County, Oregon); and
- A person who has no financial interest in the CMPA (appointed by the Governor of 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 Burns Paiute Tribe member, mechanized/consumptive recreation, grazing permittee, and no financial interest positions were all 3-year terms and will expire August 2004. These four positions will all be replaced with 3-year terms, and will begin no earlier than August 2004.

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 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

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(541) 573-4400, or from the Steens Mountain Web site at: www.or.blm.gov/steens.

The specific category in which 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, the Burns Paiute Tribe, and the Governor of Oregon). The BLM will then forward all recommended nominees for SMAC 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 Office, BLM, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738 by May 25, 2004.

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 BLM regarding 1) new and unique approaches to the management of land within the boundaries of the Steens Mountain 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, former 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 public 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)
Vacant (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)

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For more information on the SMAC nominations, call Rhonda Karges at (541) 573-4400 weekdays between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. or check the Steens Mountain Web site at: www.or.blm.gov/steens/smac/smac_page.htm

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