

NEWS Release BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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BLM
Burns District Office

Steens Mountain Advisory Council meets Nov. 29, 30

HINES, Ore. – The next Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) meeting is set for Thursday and Friday, Nov. 29 and 30, at the Phoenix Inn, 300 NW Franklin in Bend, Oregon.

On Thursday, the meeting opens at 9 a.m. and adjourns around 5 p.m. Agenda items for the full-day session include Designated Federal Official and Chairperson updates; a presentation on Medusahead rye; and a lengthy discussion on the Steens Mountain Comprehensive Recreation Plan.

On Friday, the meeting opens at 8:30 a.m. with approval of the previous meetings' minutes and a review of action items. Next, the Council will re-cap the Comprehensive Recreation Plan discussion from the previous day. Other agenda items include: a discussion on potential private land acquisitions near the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area, review of the Council charter, and a presentation regarding the Bureau of Land Management's updated Wilderness Study Area Manual. Friday's session adjourns around 1:00 p.m. Any other matters that may reasonably come before the SMAC may also be addressed anytime during the two-day meeting.

The public is welcome to attend all portions of the meeting, and may contribute during the public comment periods at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday and 11:45 a.m. on Friday. Those who verbally address the SMAC during the open session are asked to also provide a written statement of their comments or presentation. If you have information you would like distributed to SMAC members, please send it to Tara Martinak at the Burns District Office prior to the start of the meeting.

For further information on the SMAC or the upcoming meeting, contact Tara Martinak at the Burns District Office at (541) 573-4519. Additional information about the SMAC can be found online at:

<http://www.blm.gov/or/rac/steensac.php>

The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land – the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2011, recreational and other activities on BLM-managed land contributed more than \$130 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 600,000 American jobs. The Bureau is also one of a handful of agencies that collects more revenue than it spends. In FY 2012, nearly \$5.7 billion will be generated on lands managed by the BLM, which operates on a \$1.1 billion budget. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, cultural, and other resources on public lands.

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