

U.S. Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE

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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Members Welcomed to Steens Mountain Advisory Council; Next Meeting Schedule for Early December

BURNS, Oregon – U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Burns District Manager Dana Shuford reports the most recent group of Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) appointments and reappointments were approved by Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne on September 28, 2006. The new members, as well as those re-assigned and/or currently serving on the SMAC, will advise BLM on issues and decisions regarding the 496,136 acre Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA).

New members David Bilyeu, representing environmental organizations; Ron Van Domelen, representing wild horse management; Fred Otley, representing private landowners, and Michael Beagle representing fish and recreational fishing were welcomed to the Council at their October meeting in Burns. In addition, Cindy Witzel, who has represented recreation permit holders on the SMAC since its inception, was reappointed to a new three-year term.

The SMAC is scheduled to meet again on Thursday and Friday, December 7 and 8, at the BLM Burns District Office, 28910 Highway 20 West in Hines. The meeting will open at 8:00 a.m. each day. Topics of discussion for the session include fire season, rehabilitation efforts, and fire use planning within the Burns Interagency Fire Zone; Travel Management planning and the Monitoring Plan, both for the CMPA; the Page Springs Weir; public information needs for the CMPA; and purposes of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000. Before adjourning around 3:00 p.m. on Friday afternoon, the Council will set future meeting dates and agenda items for the next meeting. Any other matters that may reasonably come before the SMAC may also be addressed.

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

If you have information you would like distributed to SMAC members, please send it to Rhonda Karges at the Burns District Office, 28910 Hwy 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738, 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 copy given to the SMAC, please write "COPY TO SMAC" on the envelope and enclosed document(s).

For further information on the SMAC or the upcoming meeting, contact Rhonda Karges at the Burns District Office at (541) 573-4400, weekdays between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

