

U.S. Department of the Interior



## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

### BURNS DISTRICT OFFICE

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## NEWS

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 25, 2007

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Release No. OR-020-07-22

### **STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETS MAY 17, 18**

**BURNS, Oregon** – The next Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) meeting is set for Thursday and Friday, May 17 and 18, at 8:00 a.m. each day, at the Comfort Inn and Suites in Bend, Oregon, 62065 Southeast 27th Street.

On Thursday morning, the Council will hear Chairman, Designated Federal Official, and Field Manager updates and a report on recreation and wilderness public use for 2006. The remainder of Thursday's session and most of Friday will focus on public information needs for the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area. The Council will discuss current public outreach methods, brainstorm immediate needs and concerns, develop a vision for information sharing and tools to accomplish it, and review a new recreation map for the southern portion of Harney County. The Steens Mountain Travel Management Plan and grazing permittee access will also be discussed before the meeting adjourns around 1:00 p.m. Friday. Any other matters that may reasonably come before the SMAC throughout the 2-day meeting may also be addressed.

The public is welcome to attend all portions of the meeting and may contribute during the 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 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

