

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 of the Interior (Secretary) in managing and promoting cooperative management of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA).

3. **COUNCIL OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE:** The Council will provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary 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 indefinitely. 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:
 - District Manager
 - Burns District
 - Bureau of Land Management
 - 28910 Highway 20 West
 - Hines, Oregon 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, 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 of 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 of the 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 of the 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. Members will be appointed to serve 3-year terms on a staggered-term basis.

b. The Secretary shall appoint one person, nominated by the Governor of Oregon, to serve as the State government liaison to the 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 will be appointed by the Secretary.

c. 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:** No Council or subcommittee member shall participate in any specific party matter including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct financial interest. As provided in 43 CFR 1784.2-2, members of the Council shall be required to disclose their direct or indirect interest in leases, licenses, permits, contracts, or claims that involve lands or resources administered by the BLM, or in any litigation related thereto.

11. **SUBCOMMITTEES:** Subcommittees may be formed with the concurrence of the DFO to facilitate the functioning of the Council, and to study and develop recommendations on selected issues for consideration by the full Council. However, subcommittees may not advise the Secretary or DFO and must report to 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. In the event that such a committee is created, a separate FACA charter may be necessary.

13. **COMMITTEE OFFICERS:** 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.

