

## Urani-what?

In recent months, there have been some social media accounts suggesting uranium deposits exist in Harney County -- specifically on private land within and south of Diamond Craters near the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Those social media posts also claim that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is planning to take over this property and mine the uranium for future sale. Here's why both of those statements are completely inaccurate...

First, historic federal and state mining reports from 1919 to the present show **no known measurable deposits for uranium** within the area in question. None. Trace, widespread amounts may exist, but are not of sufficient volume and concentration for mining value or financial profit.

Second, as was reported in the March 16 edition of the Burns Times Herald, the BLM does not enter into land exchanges or sales unless they have a willing seller. The BLM is not interested in the subject property and there is no willing seller.

Now, for argument's sake, let's say there *is* uranium near Diamond Craters and the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, *and* that the BLM was able to purchase that property from a willing seller. Could mining actually happen under this fictional scenario? No.

The area in question is located within the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA). Any minerals owned by the Federal government within the CMPA were withdrawn from claim or mining by Congress with the passage of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Mountain and Protection Act (Steens Act) of 2000. This means even if there was uranium, and even if the BLM managed the land, it couldn't be mined anyway.

Finally, you may have seen several social media posts referring to a "Malheur" uranium mining operation. There is such a thing – it is a joint venture between Quincy Energy Corp and Quincy Metals Corp, located three miles north of the Nevada border in Malheur County. Yes, *Malheur* County...not Harney County, and not the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

