

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL

CHARTER

1. **OFFICIAL DESIGNATION:** Steens Mountain Advisory Council (Council).
2. **AUTHORITY:** The Council is established pursuant to title I of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act (Steens Act) of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 460nnn-51-53); section 309 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. § 1739); and operated pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Ch. 10). In addition, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is subject to standards and procedures for the creation, operation, and termination of BLM advisory councils found at 43 C.F.R subpart 1784.
3. **OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES:** The Council will furnish advice and recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) in managing the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA) and in promoting cooperative management under the Steens Act.
4. **DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:** Council duties and responsibilities, where applicable, are as follows:
 1. The Council will utilize sound science, existing management plans, and other tools to formulate recommendations for the Secretary through the DFO regarding:
 - (a) new and unique approaches to management of lands within the boundaries of the CMPA; and
 - (b) cooperative programs and incentives for seamless landscape management that meet human needs and maintains and improves the ecological and economic integrity of the CMPA.
 2. The Secretary will consult with the Council as part of the preparation and implementation of the management plan.
5. **OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COUNCIL REPORTS:** The Council provides advice to the Secretary through the DFO.
6. **SUPPORT:** Administrative support and funding for activities of the Council will be provided by the office of the DFO.

7. **ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS AND STAFF YEARS:** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council's activities are estimated to be \$50,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 0.30 Federal staff years support.
8. **DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER:** The DFO is the Burns District Manager, who is a full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will approve or call all Council and subcommittee meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all Council and subcommittee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the Secretary.
9. **ESTIMATED NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:** The Council will meet two to four times annually, and at such other times as designated by the DFO.
10. **DURATION:** Continuing.
11. **TERMINATION:** The Council will become inactive 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless, prior to that date, it is renewed in accordance with the provisions of section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.
12. **MEMBERSHIP AND DESIGNATION:** The Council will consist of 12 voting members and one non-voting State Government liaison. No recommendations may be presented to the Secretary by the Council without the agreement of at least nine voting members of the Council. Members will be appointed by the Secretary as follows:
 - a) A private landowner in the CMPA, appointed from nominees submitted by the county court for Harney County, Oregon;
 - b) Two persons who are grazing permittees on Federal lands in the CMPA, appointed from nominees submitted by the county court for Harney County, Oregon;
 - c) A person interested in fish and recreational fishing in the CMPA, appointed from nominees submitted by the Governor of Oregon;
 - d) A member of the Burns Paiute Tribe, appointed from nominees submitted by the Burns Paiute Tribe;
 - e) Two persons who are recognized environmental representatives, one of whom shall represent the State as a whole, and one of whom is from the local area, appointed from nominees submitted by the Governor of Oregon;
 - f) A person who 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 BLM;

- g) A person who is a recreational 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 for Harney County, Oregon;
- h) A person who 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 BLM;
- i) A person with expertise and interest in wild horse management on Steens Mountain, appointed from nominees submitted by the Oregon State Director of BLM; and
- j) A person who has no financial interest in the CMPA to represent statewide interests, appointed from nominees submitted by the Governor of Oregon.

The Secretary will consult with the respective community of interest that the nominees are to represent to ensure that the nominees have the support of their community of interest. In addition, the Secretary will 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.

Members, including the State government liaison, will be appointed to the Council to serve 3-year terms.

13. **ETHICS RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS:**

Special Government Employee Members. Members of the Council appointed as special Government employees are subject to applicable Federal ethics statutes and regulations, to include applicable exceptions and exemptions. Additionally, SGE members are required, prior to appointment and annually thereafter, to file a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report. SGE members are also required to receive initial ethics training prior to performing any Council duties and to receive annual ethics training thereafter. The Department of the Interior will provide materials to those members serving as special Government employees, explaining their ethical obligations.

Non-Federal Members Who Are Not Special Government Employees. Such non-Federal members of the Council are not subject to Federal ethics statutes and regulations. However, those non-Federal members may not participate in any Council or subcommittee deliberations or votes relating to a specific party matter before the Department or its bureaus and offices including a lease, license, permit, contract, grant, claim, agreement, or litigation in which the member or the entity the member represents 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 BLM, or in any litigation related thereto. For

the purposes of this paragraph, indirect interest includes holdings of a spouse or dependent child.

14. **SUBCOMMITTEES:** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees may be formed for the purpose of compiling information and conducting research. However, subcommittees must act only under the direction of the DFO and must report their recommendations to the full Council for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.
15. **RECORDKEEPING:** Detailed records must be kept of each Council and formally or informally established Council subcommittee meeting. All records must be made available to the public, subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552), and must be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2 and other approved Agency records disposition schedules.



Secretary of the Interior

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Date

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Date Filed