

STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

DRAFT AGENDA

OCTOBER 19 - 20, 2023

BLM Burns District Office, 28910 Hwy 20 W, Hines, Oregon, 97738

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2023

TIME	TOPIC	LEAD BY
8:00 a.m. (90 minutes)	New Member Orientation Welcome new members, review SMAC history, administrative processes, meeting protocols, expectations, etc.	Tara Thissell (BLM Public Affairs Specialist / SMAC Coordinator)
9:30 (30 minutes)	Ethics Training Required once for all advisory council members	Tara Thissell
10:15 (30 minutes)	Welcome Introductions/roll call, update on SMAC nominations/vacancies, review agenda, facility logistics, etc.	Tara Thissell
10:30 (30 minutes)	Designated Federal Official / Manager's Report The council's Designated Federal Official and Andrews/Steens Field Office Manager share information about topics that generally do not require much discussion. Examples could include updates on ongoing litigation, staffing changes, project implementation status, or things on the horizon. For October 2023, items include but are not limited to Steens Travel Management planning, Nature's Advocate Inholder Access, Public Lands Rule, and Sage Grouse RMP amendments.	Jeff Rose (BLM Burns District Manager) Don Rotell (BLM Andrews/ Steens Field Office Manager)
11:00 (30 minutes)	SMAC Strategic Planning (Introduce topic) The Council would like to discuss their interests and priorities for the future; what is on the horizon, where/how can SMAC be involved and make an impact, etc.	Mike Fox (SMAC Chairperson; Private Landowner Representative)
11:30 (30 minutes)	BREAK + WORKING LUNCH SET UP (Pizza + Salad)	
12:00 p.m. (30 minutes)	Recreation Program 2023 Review Provide visitor use stats from the FY23 season; plans/project updates; plans for FY24, etc.	Kyle Wanner (BLM Outdoor Recreation Planner)
12:30 (20 minutes)	Inflation Reduction Act	Don Rotell
12:50 (85 minutes)	Bridge Creek Area Allotment Management Plan / EIS Update Grazing in the Bridge Creek area on Steens Mountain has been a complex and controversial topic for many years. The Allotment Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement is underway, and the range of alternatives will be discussed.	Don Rotell
2:15 (30 minutes)	PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD + Break	

3:00 (20 minutes)	SMAC Member Round-robin Each meeting, council members are provided time on the agenda to share information from their constituents. This could be questions or concerns, upcoming events, changes in prominent roles, projects, or other proposals, etc.	All
3:20 (10 minutes)	Administrative Business/Close-out Review follow-up items, discuss happy hour/dinner/AiR showcase	Tara Thissell
3:30	ADJOURN	
5:00	HAPPY HOUR + RIDDLE RANCH ARTIST IN RESIDENCE SHOWCASE (followed by group dinner)	

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2023

TIME	TOPIC	LEAD BY
8:30 a.m. (15 minutes)	Welcome Introductions/roll call, review agenda, review previous day, facility logistics, etc.	Tara Thissell
8:45 (60 minutes)	Page Springs Weir The Steens Act requires the Secretary to remove the dam located below the mouth of Fish Creek and above Page Springs if removal of the dam is scientifically justified and funds are available for such purpose. BLM, ODFW and U.S. FWS are considering options for such removal with help from contractor River Design Group.	Don Rotell
9:45 (30 minutes)	Steens Act – Reasonable Use The SMAC chose to review and discuss purposes and objectives of the Steens Act each meeting to keep the Act fresh and known as they work on creative management solutions. “Reasonable use” is the topic for this session.	John Helmer (SMAC Dispersed Recreation Representative)
10:15 (45 minutes)	SMAC Strategic Planning (Discussion) The Council would like to discuss their interests and priorities for the future; what is on the horizon, where/how can SMAC be involved and make an impact, etc.	Mike Fox
11:00 (30 minutes)	PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD	
11:30 (15 minutes)	Administrative Business/Close-out Review follow-up items, plan the next meeting’s agenda/date	Tara Thissell
11:45	ADJOURN	
12:00 p.m.	OPTIONAL TOUR – Wild Horse Corral Facility	Tara Thissell