

members of the public to be involved in the NEPA process are also described on the project website. Throughout the scoping process, Federal agencies, Tribal, State, and local governments, and the general public have the opportunity to help the USGS identify significant resources and issues, impact-producing factors, reasonable alternatives, and potential mitigation measures to be analyzed in the EIS, as well as to provide additional related information.

Public Comments

Federal agencies, Tribal, State, and local governments, and other interested parties are requested to comment on the scope of the EIS, significant issues that should be addressed, and alternatives that should be considered. For information on how to submit comments, see the **ADDRESSES** section above. The USGS does not consider anonymous comments. Please include your name, address, and email as part of your comment. The USGS makes all comments, including the names, addresses, and other personally identifiable information (PII) included in the comment, available for public review online. Individuals can request that the USGS withhold their PII from the public record; however, the USGS cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.

Additionally, under section 304 of the NHPA, the USGS is required, after consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, to withhold the location, character, or ownership of historic resources if it determines that disclosure may, among other things, cause a significant invasion of privacy, risk harm to the historic resources, or impede the use of a traditional religious site by practitioners. Tribal entities and other parties providing information on historic resources should designate information that they wish to be held as confidential and provide the reasons why the USGS should do so. All submissions from organizations or agencies and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or agencies will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Request for Identification and Public Comment on Potential Alternatives, Information, and Analyses Relevant to the Proposed Action

The USGS requests data, comments, concerns, information, analysis, alternatives, or suggestions relevant to the Proposed Action from the public; affected Federal, Tribal, State, and local

governments, agencies, and offices; the scientific community; industry; or any other interested party. Specifically, the USGS requests information on the following topics:

Potential effects that the Proposed Action could have on physical resources and conditions including biological resources, air quality, hydrology, wetlands, and other waters of the United States.

1. Potential effects that the Proposed Action could have on socioeconomic and cultural resources, including demographics, employment, economics, environmental justice, land use, utility services, traffic, and aesthetic and visual resources.

2. Other possible reasonable alternatives to the Proposed Action that the USGS should consider, including additional alternatives.

3. As part of its compliance with NHPA section 106 and its implementing regulations (36 CFR part 800), the USGS seeks comment and input from the public regarding the identification of historic properties within the Proposed Action's area of potential effects defined in a cultural resources study available on the project website at <https://nwhceis.com/>, the potential effects on those historic properties from the Proposed Action, and any information that supports identification of historic properties under the NHPA. The USGS also solicits proposed measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects on historic properties. The USGS's effects analysis for historic properties will be available for public- and consulting-party comment in the Draft EIS.

4. Information on other current or planned activities in, or in the vicinity of, the Proposed Action, their possible impacts on the Proposed Action, and the Proposed Action's possible impacts on those activities.

5. Other information relevant to the Proposed Action and its potential impacts on the environment.

To promote informed decision-making, comments should be as specific as possible and should provide as much detail as necessary to meaningfully and fully inform the USGS of the commenter's position. Comments should explain why the issues raised are important to the consideration of potential environmental impacts and possible alternatives to the Proposed Action as well as to economic, employment, and other impacts affecting the quality of the human environment.

The Draft EIS will include a summary of information submitted during the scoping process for consideration by the

USGS with the alternatives and environmental analyses of the proposed action.

Charise White,

Acting Center Director, National Wildlife Health Center, U.S. Geological Survey.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[BLM_OR_FRN_MO4500172774]

Public Meeting for the Steens Mountain Advisory Council, Oregon

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Steens Mountain Advisory Council (SMAC) will meet as follows.

DATES: The SMAC will hold a meeting Thursday, October 19, from 10:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Pacific Time (PT), and Friday, October 20, from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. PT.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the BLM Burns District Office at 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon. Virtual attendance through the Zoom for Government platform will also be available. The final meeting agenda and Zoom link will be published on the SMAC web page at least 10 days in advance at <https://on.doi.gov/2PnZRcl>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Tara Thissell, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM Burns District Office, 28910 Highway 20 West, Hines, Oregon 97738; telephone: (541) 573-4519; email: tthissell@blm.gov. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The SMAC was established on August 14, 2001, pursuant to the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-399), to provide recommendations to the BLM regarding new and unique approaches to management of the public lands within the bounds of the Steens

Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Area and cooperative programs and incentives for landscape management that meet human needs, and to advise the BLM on potential maintenance and improvement of the ecological and economic integrity of the area.

Agenda items for October 19 include reports from the Designated Federal Officer and Andrews/Steens Mountain Resource Area Field Manager; an introduction to strategic planning for the SMAC; 2023 recreation program recap; information sharing about the Inflation Reduction Act; discussion about the Bridge Creek Area Allotment Management Plan Environmental Impact Statement; and an opportunity for SMAC members to share information from their constituents or present research.

Agenda items for October 20 include a discussion about the Page Springs Weir; information sharing about “reasonable use” as written in the Steens Act; and continued discussion about strategic planning for the SMAC. An optional field trip at noon to the BLM’s Wild Horse Corral Facility in Hines is available. The field trip will depart from the BLM Burns District Office. The public is welcome to attend and must provide their own transportation. Any other matters that may reasonably come before the SMAC may also be included at any time throughout the meetings.

Public comment periods are scheduled for 2:15 p.m. PT on Thursday, October 19, and 10:45 a.m. PT on Friday, October 20. Depending on the number of people wishing to comment and the time available, the amount of time for oral comments may be limited. Written public comments may be sent to the BLM Burns District Office listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice. All comments received at least 1 week prior to the meeting will be provided to the SMAC prior to the meeting. The meeting may end early if all business items are completed ahead of schedule or may be extended if discussions warrant more time. All meetings, including virtual sessions, are open to the public in their entirety.

Please make requests in advance for sign language interpreter services, assistive listening devices, or other reasonable accommodations. We ask that you contact the person listed in the **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** section of this notice at least 7 business days prior to the meeting to give the BLM sufficient time to process your request. All reasonable accommodation

requests are managed on a case-by-case basis.

Public Disclosure of Comments: Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comments, please be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

(Authority: 5 U.S.C. ch. 10)

Jeffrey Rose,
District Manager.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[BLM_OR_FRN_MO4500172864]

Notice of Public Meeting for the Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM’s) Southeast Oregon Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet as follows.

DATES: The Southeast Oregon RAC will meet Tuesday, Oct. 17, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time (PT) and Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. PT. Thirty-minute public comment periods will be offered at 3:45 p.m. PT on Tuesday, Oct. 17 and 10:45 a.m. PT on Wednesday, Oct. 18.

ADDRESSES: The meeting is open to the public and will be held at the BLM Lakeview Interagency Office, 1301 S. G St., Lakeview, OR 97639. A virtual option will also be offered. Instructions for participating virtually, the final agenda, and additional meeting details will be posted at least 10 days in advance of the meeting on the RAC web page: <https://www.blm.gov/get-involved/resource-advisory-council/near-you/oregon-washington/southeast-oregon-rac>. Previous meeting minutes, membership information, and upcoming agendas are also available at this website.

Public comments can be mailed to BLM Vale District, Attn: Shane DeForest, 100 Oregon St., Vale, OR 97918 or sent via email to sdefores@blm.gov. All comments received will be provided to the Southeast Oregon RAC members.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Larisa Bogardus, Public Affairs Officer, 3100 H St., Baker City, Ore. 97814; (541) 219–6863; lbogardus@blm.gov. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, blind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their countries to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Southeast Oregon RAC is chartered, and the 15 members are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. Their diverse perspectives represent commodity, non-commodity, and local interests. The RAC serves in an advisory capacity to BLM and U.S. Forest Service officials concerning planning and management of public land and national forest resources located, in whole or part, within the boundaries of the BLM’s Vale, Burns, and Lakeview Districts and the Fremont-Winema and Malheur National Forests. All meetings are open to the public in their entirety. Information to be distributed to the RAC is requested before the start of each meeting.

Agenda topics for Oct. 17 will include District updates, an update on the Lakeview Resource Management Plan Amendment, and presentations on a programmatic aquatic and riparian restoration environmental assessment, the Louse Canyon Geographic Management Area Environmental Impact Statement, and the Tri-State Fuels Environmental Impact Statement. Oct. 18 agenda topics will include a presentation on commercial and dispersed recreation, a wild horse and burro update, and a mining and minerals update.

Meeting Accessibility/Special Accommodations: For sign language interpreter services, assistive listening devices, or other reasonable accommodations, please contact Larisa Bogardus, Vale District BLM (see **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**) at least 7 business days before the meeting to ensure there is sufficient time to process the request. The Department of the Interior manages accommodation requests on a case-by-case basis.