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 under Title I of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act (Steens Act) of 2000, 16 U.S.C. § 460nnn-51 -53 and Section 309 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), as amended (43 U.S.C. § 1739). The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is subject to standards and procedures for the creation, operation, and termination of BLM advisory committees. Refer to the 1995 amended BLM regulations (43 CFR 1784) for specific regulations regarding avoidance of conflicts of interest (1784.2-2); calls for nominations (1784.6-1(e)); notice of meetings (1784.4-2); open meetings (1784.4-3); records (1784.5-3); course of instruction for members (1784.6-1(f)); and quorum requirements (1784.6-1(h)). The Council is established in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended, 5 U.S.C., App. 2.

3. **OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES:** The Council shall advise the Secretary of the Interior in managing the Cooperative Management and Protection Area (CMPA) and in promoting the cooperative management under the Steens Act.

4. **DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:** Council duties and responsibilities are generally as follows:

   a. The Council shall utilize sound science, existing management plans and other tools to formulate recommendations for the Secretary through the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) regarding:

      (i) new and unique approaches to management of lands within the boundaries of the CMPA; and

      (ii) cooperative programs and incentives for seamless landscape management that meet human needs and maintains and improves 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. No recommendations may be presented to the Secretary by the Advisory Council without the agreement of at least nine members of the Advisory Council.

5. **OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COUNCIL REPORTS:** The Council provides advice to the Secretary of the Interior (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 $80,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 0.30 Federal staff years support.

8. **DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER:** The DFO is the BLM's 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 approximately one to four times annually, and at such other times as designated by the DFO.

10. **DURATION:** Continuing.

11. **TERMINATION:** The Council will be 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 FACA. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.

12. **MEMBERSHIP AND DESIGNATION:** The Advisory Council shall consist of 12 voting members to be appointed by the Secretary, as follows:

    - A private landowner in the CMPA, appointed from nominees submitted by the county court for Harney County, Oregon;

    - Two persons who are grazing permittees on Federal lands in the CMPA, appointed from nominees submitted by the county court for Harney County, Oregon;

    - A person interested in fish and recreational fishing in the CMPA, appointed from nominees submitted by the Governor of Oregon;

    - A member 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 is from the local area, appointed from nominees submitted by the Governor of Oregon;

- 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 the BLM;

- 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;

- 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 the BLM;

- A person with 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.

The Secretary shall 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.

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.

Members will be appointed to the Council to serve staggered 3-year terms.

The Council shall elect a chairperson and establish such rules and procedures as it deems necessary or desirable.

Members of the Council serve without compensation, but the Secretary shall reimburse members for reasonable expenses incurred in carrying out official duties as a member of the Council.

A member may be reappointed to serve on the Advisory Council.

A vacancy on the Advisory Council shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

13. **ETHICS 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.

14. **SUBCOMMITTEES:** Subject to the DFO's approval, subcommittees may be formed for the purposes of compiling information or conducting research. However, such 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. The Council Chair, with the approval of the DFO, will appoint subcommittee members. Subcommittees will meet as necessary to accomplish their assignments, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.

15. **RECORDKEEPING**: The records of the Council, and formally and informally established subcommittees of the Council, shall be handled in accordance with General Record Schedule 26, Item 2, or other approved Agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

Ken Salazar

Secretary of the Interior

DEC 16 2011

Date

DEC 23 2011

Date Filed