

**STEENS MOUNTAIN ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING****DRAFT AGENDA****JANUARY 25-26, 2024***Hilton Garden Inn, 425 SW Bluff Dr., Bend, Oregon 97702***THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>LEAD BY</b>
10:00 (10 minutes)	<b>Welcome</b> Introductions/roll call, update on SMAC nominations/vacancies, review agenda, facility logistics, etc.	Tara Thissell
10:30 (45 minutes)	<b>Designated Federal Official / Manager's Report</b> The council's Designated Federal Official and Andrews/Steens Field Office Manager share information about topics that do not require much discussion. Examples could include updates on ongoing litigation, staffing changes, project implementation status, or things on the horizon. For January 2024, items include but are not limited to Steens Travel Management planning, Nature's Advocate Inholder Access, Smyth/Kiger EA, and Inflation Reduction Act funding and projects.	Jeff Rose (BLM Burns District Manager)  Don Rotell (BLM Andrews/ Steens Field Office Manager)
11:15 (45 minutes)	<b>Page Springs Weir</b> 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.	Alec Barber (BLM Riparian Specialist)
12:00 p.m. (90 minutes)	<b>LUNCH</b>	
1:30 (60 minutes)	<b>Grazing Management</b> The Council would like to hear information about overall grazing management, BLM policies, grazing/rangeland science, etc.	Jamie McCormack (BLM, Rangeland Management Specialist)  Kirk Davies (EOARC, Rangeland Scientist)
2:30 (15 minutes)	<b>NEPA Knowledge</b> Short presentation and discussion on how to make substantive comments on agency NEPA documents; requested by Council.	Autumn Toelle-Jackson (BLM, Planning & Environmental Coordinator)
2:45 (60 minutes)	<b>Bridge Creek Area Allotment Management Plan / EIS Update</b> 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  Autumn Toelle-Jackson
3:45 (30 minutes)	<b>PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD + Break</b>	

4:15 (40 minutes)	<b>Ecology of Steens Mountain</b> Local and statewide environmental representatives will share information about the unique ecology of Steens Mountain, special/rare things about the area, often overlooked aspects of the Steens environment, etc.	Teresa Wicks (Local Environmental Representative)  Karen Withrow (State Environmental Representative)
4:55 (5 minutes)	<b>Administrative Business/Close-out</b> Review follow-up items, plan for next day	Tara Thissell
5:00	<b>ADJOURN</b>	
6:00	<b>GROUP DINNER @ TBD</b>	

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 26, 2024**

TIME	TOPIC	LEAD BY
8:30 a.m. (15 minutes)	<b>Welcome</b> Introductions/roll call, review agenda, recap previous day, facility logistics, travel receipts, etc.	Tara Thissell
8:45 (90 minutes)	<b>Panel Discussion – History of Steens Act Development</b> The SMAC requested a discussion with anyone who was part of the original development of the Steens Mountain Cooperative Management and Protection Act – what was the intent of this kind of designation, how have things evolved in the past 24 years, etc. Panel members TBD.	Mike Fox (SMAC Chairperson/ Private Landowner Representative)
10:15 (30 minutes)	<b>Steens Act Review – SMAC creation, charge, charter</b> 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. “SMAC purpose” is the topic for this session.	Terry Turner (Fish/Recreational Fishing Representative)
10:45 (45 minutes)	<b>SMAC Strategic Planning (Discussion) / Member Round Robin</b> 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. This will also be the time for SMAC members to share information from their constituents.	Mike Fox / All
11:30 (30 minutes)	<b>PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD</b>	
12:00 p.m. (15 minutes)	<b>Administrative Business/Close-out</b> Review follow-up items, plan the next meeting’s agenda/date	Tara Thissell
12:15 p.m.	<b>ADJOURN</b>	