

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
STATE OF COLORADO  
RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**CHARTER**

- 1. OFFICIAL DESIGNATION:** Southwest Resource Advisory Council.
- 2. COUNCIL OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE:** Provide counsel and advice to the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) through the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) concerning planning and management of the public lands within the jurisdictional boundaries of the Field Offices listed below:

Gunnison Field Office  
San Juan Public Lands Center  
Uncompahgre Field Office

- 3. PERIOD OF TIME NECESSARY FOR THE COUNCIL'S ACTIVITIES:** The need for the Council is expected to continue indefinitely. Council continuation will be subject to periodic review and rechartering every 2 years as required by Section 14(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. Appendix.

- 4. OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COUNCIL REPORTS:** The Designated Federal Officer (DFO) to whom the Council reports is a Field Manager of southwest Colorado. While all southwest Colorado Field Managers are appointed DFOs, a lead for DFO duties will be assigned by the Colorado State Director and rotated as necessary:

Gunnison Field Manager  
Gunnison Field Office  
216 North Colorado  
Gunnison, Colorado 81230

San Juan Public Lands Center Manager  
San Juan Public Lands Center  
15 Burnett Court  
Durango, Colorado 81301

Uncompahgre Field Manager  
Uncompahgre Field Office  
2505 South Townsend Avenue  
Montrose, Colorado 81401

- 5. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:** Administrative support and funding for activities of the Council will be provided by the office of the DFO.

**6. DUTIES OF THE COUNCIL:** Council duties and responsibilities are advisory only and are generally as follows:

- a. Develop recommendations for the BLM regarding the preparation, amendment, and implementation of land use plans for the public lands and resources within the jurisdiction of the Council. Among these responsibilities are gathering and analyzing information, conducting studies and field examinations, and hearing public testimony.
- b. Except for the purpose of long-range planning and the establishment of resource management priorities, the Council shall not provide advice on the allocation and expenditure of Federal funds or on personnel actions.
- c. Advise the BLM in implementing standards for ecological health and sustainability and establishing guidelines for resource uses.
- d. Advise the BLM in identifying the geographic area to which standards and guidelines apply.
- e. Advise the BLM in establishing resource management priorities for range improvement or development programs.
- f. Develop recommendations for implementation of ecosystem approaches to management. Advise the BLM in establishing landscape goals and objectives.
- g. Advise the BLM regarding local efforts in developing and achieving ecosystem approaches to management.
- h. Recommend future Council model(s) and jurisdiction(s) that best serve the State(s) affected.

**7. COUNCIL COMPOSITION:**

- a. Council members shall be representative of the interests of the following three general groups:

**GROUP 1 - PERSONS WHO:**

- (i) hold Federal grazing permits or leases within the area for which the Council is organized;
- (ii) represent interests associated with transportation or rights-of-way;
- (iii) represent developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle users, or commercial recreation activities;
- (iv) represent the commercial timber industry; or
- (v) represent energy and mineral development.

**GROUP 2 - PERSONS REPRESENTING:**

- (i) nationally or regionally recognized environmental organizations;
- (ii) dispersed recreational activities;
- (iii) archaeological and historical interests; or
- (iv) nationally or regionally recognized wild horse and burro interest groups.

**GROUP 3 - PERSONS WHO:**

- (i) hold State, county, or local elected office;
- (ii) are employed by a State agency responsible for the management of natural resources, land, or water;
- (iii) represent Indian tribes within or adjacent to the Council's jurisdiction;
- (iv) are employed as academicians in natural resource management or the natural sciences; or
- (v) represent the public-at-large.

b. The Council will be comprised of 15 members distributed equally among the three interest groups as specified in paragraph 7a. of this charter.

c. In appointing Council members from the three groups, the Secretary shall provide for a balanced and broad representation within each category.

d. Pursuant to Section 309(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, at least one Council member shall be an elected official of general purpose government serving the people within the jurisdiction of the Council.

**8. MEMBER QUALIFICATION, SELECTION, AND SERVICE:**

a. Persons who are appointed serve at the pleasure of the Secretary. To be eligible for appointment to the Council, a person must be qualified through education, training, knowledge, or experience to give informed and objective advice regarding an industry, discipline, or interest specified in the Council's charter; have demonstrated experience or knowledge of the geographical area under the purview of the Council; and have demonstrated a commitment to collaborate in seeking solutions to a wide spectrum of resource management issues. Council members must be residents of Colorado. The BLM will consider nominations for Council membership from local governments, organizations, and individuals. Council nominees must be supported by letters of recommendation from the groups or interests the nominees will represent.

b. Council members will be appointed to serve 3-year terms, on a staggered term basis, with one-third of the Council representatives from each interest group subject to appointment or reappointment each year.

c. The term of a Council member who has been appointed on the basis of his or her status as an elected official will end upon the member's departure from elected office. The Secretary will

replace the member who leaves office by filling the vacancy using the same method by which the original appointment was made. However, at the Secretary's discretion, the member may be permitted to complete the same term in another vacant position on the Council, provided that the member is qualified to represent one of the other interests within the three groups listed in paragraph 7a. of this charter.

d. The Secretary or the DFO may, after written notice, terminate the service of a member if, in the judgment of the Secretary or DFO, removal is in the public interest. Members may also be terminated if they no longer meet the requirements under which they were appointed; fail or are unable to participate regularly in Council work; or have violated Federal law or the regulations of the Secretary. When a member fails to regularly attend meetings, the DFO will inform the member, in writing, that his or her service on the Council could be terminated. When any member fails to attend two consecutive meetings, without good cause, the DFO or his/her designee may deem that member's position on the Council to have been vacated. Upon such determination, the DFO will inform the member, in writing, that his or her service on the Council is terminated.

e. Vacancies occurring for any reason, including resignation, death, changing residency by relocating outside the State(s) in which the Council is located, failure to regularly attend Council meetings, or Secretarial removal will be filled by the Secretary for the position vacated and the balance of the vacating Council member's term in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

f. At the discretion of the Secretary, Council members may be reappointed indefinitely.

g. A Council member may not serve concurrently on more than one Council. Council members may serve concurrently on Council subgroups, e.g., Rangeland Resource Teams (RRTs).

h. Council members shall be required to complete a course of instruction in the management of rangeland ecosystems and other appropriate and applicable topics approved by the BLM Colorado State Director.

i. Council members serve without salary, but will be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses when on Council business as authorized by Section 309 of FLPMA and 5 U.S.C. Sec. 5703.

## **9. ETHICS RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS:**

a. A member may not participate in matters that will directly affect, or appear to affect, the financial interests of the member or the member's spouse or minor children. Compensation from employment does not constitute a financial interest of the member so long as the matter before the Southwest Resource Advisory Council will not have a special or distinct effect on the member or the member's employer, other than as part of a class. The provisions of this paragraph do not affect any other statutory or regulatory ethical obligations to which a member may be subject, including those in b., below.

b. As provided in 43 CFR Sec. 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. No Council or subcommittee member shall participate in any matter in which the member has a direct interest.

## 10. SUBGROUPS:

- a. The Council may form local subgroups to provide input necessary to the successful functioning of the Council. Such subgroups can be formed in response to a petition from local citizens or by a motion of the Council. Local subgroups will provide input directly to the Council.
- b. The Council may form a RRT within the jurisdictional boundary of the Council by a motion of the Council or in response to a petition by local citizens. The purpose of the RRT is to provide local level input into issues pertaining to public land grazing administration. The RRTs will provide input and recommendations directly to the Council.

The RRT will consist of five members selected by the Council. Membership will include two persons holding Federal grazing permits or leases, one member representing the public-at-large, one member representing a nationally or regionally recognized environmental organization, and one person representing national, regional, or local wildlife or recreation interests. The latter three members shall not be persons holding a Federal grazing permit or lease. At least one member of the RRT must be a member of the Council. The RRT members qualify by virtue of their knowledge or experience of the lands, resources, and communities that fall within the area for which the subgroup is formed.

All members of RRTs will attend a course of instruction in the management of rangeland ecosystems approved by the BLM State Director. The RRTs may raise any matter of concern with the Council and may request the Council to form a Technical Review Team (TRT) to provide information and options to the Council for their consideration.

- c. A TRT can be formed at the motion of the BLM, or in response to a request by the Council or a RRT. The purpose of a TRT is to provide technical assistance at the local level by gathering and analyzing data and developing recommendations to aid the decision making process. Functions of the TRTs will be assigned by the DFO. Members will be selected based upon their knowledge of resource management or familiarity with the specific issues for which the TRT is formed. The TRTs are limited to Federal employees and federally paid consultants. The TRTs report directly to the BLM and terminate upon completion of assigned tasks.

- d. Specific subgroup requirements for this Council:

- (i) Members of Council subgroups must reside in the State or one of the States in the area for which the subgroup was formed;
- (ii) All members of Council subgroups serve without salary. Only members of subgroups who are also members of the Council may be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses when on Council (subgroup) business; and
- (iii) Members of Council subgroups will 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. No subgroup member shall participate in any matter in which the member has a direct interest.

**11. COUNCIL OFFICERS:** Pursuant to FACA, the Council will elect its own officers from among its members annually. Chairpersons and members of any subgroup formed by the BLM, except for TRTs, will be appointed by the Council Chairperson with the concurrence of the DFO.

**12. MEETINGS:**

a. The Council shall meet at the call of the DFO. All meetings of the Council must be attended by the DFO. All Council and Council subgroup meetings, including field examinations, will be open to the general public and representatives of the news media. Any organization, association, or individual may file a statement or appear before the Council or the Council subgroup(s) regarding topics on the meeting agenda.

b. A notice of each meeting of the Council will normally be published in the Federal Register and distributed to the news media serving the jurisdictional area of the Council, 30 days in advance of such meeting. If urgent circumstances prevent a 30-day notice, not less than a 15-day notice will suffice. The notice sets forth the purpose, time, and place of the meeting. If it becomes necessary to postpone or cancel a meeting, a notice will be published in the Federal Register and distributed to the local news media as early as possible.

c. Council meeting agendas will be approved in advance by the DFO.

d. The Council will normally meet from two to four times annually, but in no case less than once. Additional meetings may be called by the DFO.

e. Regular Council business activities will be conducted using standard rules of order (e.g., Roberts Rules of Order).

f. Quorum and voting procedures: At least three Council members of each of the three broad categories of interest groups must be present to constitute a quorum. To make a formal recommendation to the DFO requires agreement of at least three Council members from each interest group.

g. Unanimous agreement of all the Council members will be needed to forward a request to the Secretary as provided for under 43 CFR Sec. 1784.6-1(i).

**13. COUNCIL RECORDS:** Detailed minutes of each Council meeting will be kept and will contain a record of attendance; a complete and accurate description of matters discussed and conclusions reached; and copies of all documents received, issued, or approved by the Council. The accuracy of all minutes will be certified by the Council Chairperson. Copies of the minutes will be maintained in the office of the DFO, and will be available for public inspection and copying during regular business hours.

**14. ESTIMATED OPERATING COSTS:** Annual activities of the Council will require an estimated \$54,900, including 6 Federal work months.

**15. EXPIRATION DATE:** The Council's charter will expire 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless, prior to that date, it is rechartered by the Secretary in accordance with the provisions of Section 14(b) of FACA, 5 U.S.C. Appendix. The Council shall not meet or perform any functions without a valid current charter.

**16. AUTHORITY:** Section 309 of FLPMA, as amended, 43 U.S.C. 1739.

/s/ Gale A. Norton  
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

August 19, 2003  
Date Signed

August 20, 2003  
Date Charter Filed