

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

**GRAND STAIRCASE-ESCALANTE NATIONAL MONUMENT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

CHARTER

1. **OFFICIAL DESIGNATION:** Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Advisory Committee (Committee).
2. **AUTHORITY:** This Committee is established pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 6920, “Establishment of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument” (Monument) (September 18, 1996) and Presidential Proclamation 10286, “Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument” (October 8, 2021) and is consistent with 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 resource advisory committees (43 CFR Subpart 1784). The Committee is regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2).
3. **OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES:** The Committee will provide information and advice to the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) on science issues and the achievement of Management Plan objectives.
4. **DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:** Committee duties and responsibilities are as follows:
 1. Gather and analyze information, conduct studies and field examinations, seek public input or ascertain facts to develop recommendations concerning the use and management of the Monument;
 2. Review programmatic documents including the annual Monument Manager’s Reports, Quarterly Division Reports, and Monument Science Plans to provide recommendations on the achievement of the Management Plan objectives;
 3. Compile monitoring data and assess and advise the DFO on the extent to which the Plan objectives are being met;
 4. Make recommendations on Monument protocols and applicable planning projects to ensure the overall objectives are being met;
 5. Review appropriate research proposals and make recommendations on project necessity and validity;
 6. Make recommendations regarding allocation of research funds through review of research and project proposals as well as needs identified through the evaluation process;
 7. Consult and make recommendations on issues such as protocols for specific projects, e.g., vegetation restoration methods or standards for excavation and curation of artifacts and objects; and

8. Prepare an annual report summarizing the Committee's activities and accomplishments of the past year and make recommendations for future needs and activities.
5. **OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COMMITTEE REPORTS:** The Committee provides information and advice to the Secretary through the DFO.
6. **SUPPORT:** Administrative support and funding for activities of the Committee 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 Committee's activities are estimated to be \$40,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and .15 Federal staff years support.
8. **DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER:** The DFO is BLM's District Manager for the Paria River District, who is a full time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO will approve or call all Committee and subcommittee meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all Committee 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 Committee will meet two to four times annually, and at such other times as designated by the DFO.
10. **DURATION:** Continuing.
11. **TERMINATION:** The Committee will become 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 Committee was renewed until September 30, 2023, by Executive Order 14048, "Continuance or Reestablishment of Certain Federal Advisory Committees and Amendments to Executive Orders" (September 30, 2021).
12. **MEMBERSHIP AND DESIGNATION:** The Committee shall include 15 members to be appointed by the Secretary. Nine members will serve as representatives of commodity, non-commodity, and local area interests and six members will serve as Special Government Employees (SGEs) representing scientific disciplines. Members will serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes engaged in Committee business, members and subcommittee members may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service under 5 U.S.C. § 5703.

Nine members will serve as representatives of the following interest areas:

1. An elected official from Garfield County to represent the interests of county residents;
2. An elected official from Kane County to represent the interests of county residents;
3. A representative of State government;

4. A representative of Tribal government with ancestral interest in the Monument;
5. An educator, to represent the educational community;
6. A conservationist, to represent the conservation community;
7. An outfitter and guide operating within the Monument, to represent commercial recreation activities in the Monument;
8. A livestock grazing permittee operating within the Monument, to represent grazing interests; and
9. A representative of dispersed recreation.

Six members will be appointed as SGEs, one for each of the following areas of expertise:

1. A member with expertise in paleontology, to represent the paleontological community;
2. A member with expertise in archaeology, to represent the archaeological community;
3. A member with expertise in geology, to represent the geological community;
4. A member with expertise in botany or wildlife biology, to represent the botanical or wildlife biological community;
5. A member with expertise in history or social science, to represent the historical or social science community; and
6. A member with expertise in systems ecology, to represent the systems ecology community.

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

13. ETHICS RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

Non-Federal Members. Non-Federal members of the Committee and subcommittees appointed as representatives are not subject to Federal ethics statutes and regulations. However, no non-Federal Committee or subcommittee members will participate in any Committee or subcommittee deliberations or votes relating to a specific party matter before the Department or its bureaus and offices including a lease, license, permit, contract, grant, claim, agreement, or litigation, in which the member or the entity the member represents has a direct financial interest.

As provided in 43 CFR 1784.2-2, members of the Committee shall be required to disclose their direct or indirect interest in leases, licenses, permits, contracts, or claims that involve lands or resources administered by BLM, or in any litigation related thereto. For the purpose of this paragraph, indirect interest includes holdings of a spouse or dependent child.

Special Government Employee Members. Members of the Committee appointed as special Government employees (SGEs) are subject to applicable Federal ethics statutes and regulations, to include applicable exceptions and exemptions. Additionally, SGE members are required, prior to appointment and annually thereafter, to file a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report. SGE members are also required to receive initial ethics training prior to performing any Committee duties and to receive annual ethics training thereafter. The Department of the Interior will provide materials to those members serving as special Government employees, explaining their ethical obligations.

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 Committee for consideration. Subcommittees must not provide advice or work products directly to the Agency. 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 Committee, and formally and informally established subcommittees of the Committee, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2 and other approved Agency records disposition schedules. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552).



Secretary of the Interior

Date: **JUNE 1 2022**

Date Filed: