

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

RIO PUERCO MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

CHARTER

1. **OFFICIAL DESIGNATION:** Rio Puerco Management Committee (Committee).
2. **AUTHORITY:** The Committee was established pursuant to title IV, section 401(b) of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996, as amended, and is operated pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended (5 U.S.C. Ch. 10). In addition, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is subject to standards and procedures for the creation, operation, and termination of BLM advisory councils found at 43 CFR §1784.
3. **OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES:** The Rio Puerco Management Committee advises the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary), through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management (Director), on the development and implementation of the Rio Puerco Management Program, serve as a forum for information about activities that may affect or further the development and implementation of the best management practices and identify objectives, monitor results of ongoing projects, and develop alternative watershed management plans for the Rio Puerco Drainage Basin, based on best management practices.
4. **DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:** Upon the request of the Designated Federal Officer (DFO), the Committee will provide information and advice regarding the development and implementation of the Rio Puerco Management Plan.
5. **OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COUNCIL REPORTS:** The Committee provides advice to the Secretary through the Director.
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 \$50,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 0.30 Federal staff years support.
8. **DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER:** The DFO is the BLM's Rio Puerco Field Manager 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 Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Committee will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.

The Committee will carry out its duties until March 12, 2029, at which time the Committee will terminate pursuant to title IV, section 401(b) of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (November 12, 1996), as amended. All appointments will terminate with the Committee.

- 12. MEMBERSHIP AND DESIGNATION:** The Committee will include 15 representatives to be appointed by the Secretary as follows:

- a) A representative of the Rio Puerco Watershed Committee;
- b) A representative of affected tribes and pueblos;
- c) A representative of the U.S. Forest Service;
- d) A representative of the Bureau of Reclamation;
- e) A representative of the U.S. Geological Survey;
- f) A representative of the Bureau of Indian Affairs;
- g) A representative of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
- h) A representative of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers;
- i) A representative of the Environmental Protection Agency;
- j) A representative of the of the Natural Resources Conservation Service;
- k) A representative of the State of New Mexico, including the New Mexico Environment Department of the State engineer;
- l) A representative of affected local soil and water conservation districts;
- m) A representative of the Elephant Butte Irrigation District;
- n) A private landowner; and
- o) A representative of the public at large.

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

A quorum is established when nine members are present.

13. ETHICS RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS:

Federal Members. Members who are appointed to the Committee in their official capacity as Federal employees are subject to applicable Federal ethics statutes and regulations, to include applicable exceptions and exemptions.

Non-Federal Members. Non-Federal members of the Committee and subcommittees are not subject to Federal ethics statutes and regulations. However, non-Federal Committee and subcommittee members may not 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, all 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 purposes of this paragraph, indirect interest includes holdings of a spouse or dependent child.

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:** Detailed records must be kept of each Council and formally or informally established Council subcommittee meeting. All records must be made available to the public, subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552), and must be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2 and other approved Agency records disposition schedules.



Secretary of the Interior

NOV 09 2023

Date

NOV 9, 2023

Date Filed