

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

WESTERN MONTANA RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

CHARTER

1. **OFFICIAL DESIGNATION:** Western Montana Resource Advisory Council (Council).
2. **AUTHORITY:** The Council is a statutory advisory committee established under section 309 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. § 1739), and 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 certain standards and procedures for the creation, operation, and termination of BLM resource advisory councils found at 43 C.F.R subpart 1784. The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) (16 U.S.C. § 6803(d)(1)(D)) authorizes the Council to make recommendations on BLM and U.S. Forest Service (FS) recreation fee proposals.
3. **OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES:** The Council will furnish advice and recommendations to the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) through the Designated Federal Officer (DFO) on the planning and management of the public land resources located within the BLM's Western Montana District, which includes all of BLM Montana/Dakotas' portion of Interior Region 9.
4. **DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:** Council duties and responsibilities, where applicable, are as follows:
 1. Upon the request of the DFO, develop recommendations for BLM with respect to the land use planning, classification, retention, management, and disposal of the public lands within the area for which the advisory council is established and such other matters as may be referred to it by the DFO.
 2. Upon the request of the DFO, the Council may make recommendations on a standard amenity recreation fee or an expanded amenity recreation fee when the recommendations relate to public concerns in the State or region covered by the Council and are regarding:
 - (a) the implementation of a standard amenity recreation fee or an expanded amenity recreation fee or the establishment of a specific recreation fee site;
 - (b) the elimination of a standard amenity recreation fee or an expanded amenity recreation fee; or
 - (c) the expansion or limitation of the recreation fee program.

The Council may make these recommendations to BLM when BLM's amenity recreation fees are at issue and it would facilitate the effective implementation of the FLREA. When FS amenity recreation fees are at issue, the Council may make recommendations to BLM and/or FS with FS concurrence if doing so would facilitate the effective implementation of the FLREA.

5. **OFFICIAL TO WHOM THE COUNCIL REPORTS:** The Council provides advice to the Secretary through the DFO.
6. **SUPPORT:** Administrative support and funding for activities of the Council will be provided by the BLM's Montana/Dakotas State Office.
7. **ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS AND STAFF YEARS:** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council's activities are estimated to be \$50,000 including all direct and indirect expenses and .30 Federal staff years support.
8. **DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER:** The Montana/Dakotas State Director will designate the DFO, 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 two to four times annually, and at such other times as designated by the DFO.
10. **DURATION:** Continuing.
11. **TERMINATION:** The Council 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 Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter.
12. **MEMBERSHIP AND DESIGNATION:**

1. Council members appointed by the Secretary will represent the following three interest groups.

GROUP 1 - PERSONS WHO:

- (a) hold Federal grazing permits or leases within the area for which the Council is organized;
- (b) represent interests associated with transportation or rights-of-way;

- (c) represent developed outdoor recreation, off-highway vehicle users, or commercial recreation activities;
- (d) represent the commercial timber industry; or
- (e) represent energy and mineral development.

GROUP 2 - PERSONS REPRESENTING:

- (a) nationally or regionally recognized environmental organizations;
- (b) dispersed recreational activities;
- (c) archaeological and historical interests; or
- (d) nationally or regionally recognized wild horse and burro interest groups.

GROUP 3 - PERSONS WHO:

- (a) hold State, county, or local elected office;
 - (b) are employed by a State agency responsible for the management of natural resources, land, or water;
 - (c) represent Indian Tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the Council is organized;
 - (d) are employed as academicians in natural resource management or the natural sciences; or
 - (e) represent the affected public at large.
2. The Council will be comprised of 15 members distributed in a balanced fashion among the three interest groups.
 3. Members will be appointed to the Council to serve 3-year terms.
 4. A quorum is achieved when at least three of the five members of each of the three interest groups are present.

13. **ETHICS RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS:** No Council or subcommittee member will participate in any Council 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 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 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 Council 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 06 2023

Date

NOV 9, 2023

Date Filed