

2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: Rocky Mountain Resource Advisory Council

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1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

2. Fiscal Year

2025

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Rocky Mountain Resource Advisory Council

3b. GSA Committee No.

2040

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year? 5. Current Charter 6. Expected Renewal Date 7. Expected Term Date

No 09/28/2023 09/28/2025

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

Federal Land Policy and Management Act, Section 309

13. Effective Date

10/21/1976

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open 5 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 5

Meetings and Dates

Purpose

Start

End

Recreation and travel management updates in the Royal Gorge Field Office, a guest presentation by Costilla County Manager Ben Doone, as well as updates on grazing trespass, national conservation areas, and updating the resource management plan in the San Luis Valley Field Office.	11/07/2024 - 11/07/2024
Field office updates.	02/13/2025 - 02/13/2025
The Northwest, Southwest and Rocky Mountain Resource Advisory Councils will meet and have presentations on range management and recreation management.	04/02/2025 - 04/02/2025
District update and discussions on recreation, land use planning, and energy and minerals management.	04/03/2025 - 04/03/2025
Field office updates.	06/26/2025 - 06/27/2025

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 5

	Current Next	
	FY	FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Rocky Mountain RAC develops recommendations for BLM through the Designated Federal Official with respect to the land use planning, classification, retention, management, and disposal of the public lands within Royal Gorge, Gunnison, and San Luis Valley Field Offices. The RAC also develops amenity recreation fee recommendations for the BLM and U.S. Forest Service. All recommendations are made through RAC meetings and workshops where the members convey public opinion and guidance on public land issues. The BLM strongly considers RAC members' recommendations and advice on public land management issues.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Rocky Mountain RAC is composed of 15 members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior as representatives balanced among the following three interest areas: Category 1 includes individuals holding federal grazing permits or leases, interests associated with transportation or rights-of-way, developed outdoor recreation, OHV users, or commercial recreation activities, commercial timber industry, or energy and mineral development; Category 2 includes nationally or regionally recognized environmental organizations, dispersed recreation activities, archaeological and historical interests, or nationally or regionally recognized wild horse and burro interest groups; and Category 3 includes state, county, or locally elected office holders, employees of State agencies responsible for the management of natural resources, members of Indian Tribes, persons employed as academicians in natural resource management or the natural sciences, or those who represent the public-at-large.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Rocky Mountain RAC typically meets 2-4 times per year. Meetings are typically held once a quarter, and when appropriate, held on-site to discuss a specific local issue such as water rights or land management prescriptions. Meeting topics are generally based on current issues and therefore recommendations are timely and relevant. These topics may include the Eastern Colorado RMP, Browns Canyon NM RMP, bighorn sheep habitat and domestic sheep grazing, homeless populations on public lands, proposals for new recreation site fees, and/or trespass and range management.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

RAC members are important in involving public opinion in the BLM decision-making process. The RAC represents a diverse and well-informed cross-section of the public and provides advice and recommendations on public land management issues. RAC members are often more familiar with public land management issues than the general public, but are able to represent public concerns and bring a different yet informed perspective to the BLM. RAC members interact with the public and their stakeholder groups to encourage input and participation at meetings. This often helps with the resolution of local issues.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

All meetings are open to the public. Notices of the meetings are published in the Federal Register, posted on the BLM Colorado website, and distributed to local newspapers.

21. Remarks

The Rocky Mountain RAC met on November 9, 2023; April 25, 2024; June 20-21, 2024; and September 19-20, 2024.

Designated Federal Officer

Catherine Cook BLM Rocky Mountain District
Manager

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Collins, Kelly	06/01/2023	06/01/2026	Retired	Representative Member
Cooper, Daryl	06/01/2023	06/01/2026	Environmental and Regulatory Consultant	Representative Member
Daniel, Michael	04/06/2022	04/06/2025	Executive Director of San Luis Valley Great Outdoors	Representative Member
Estep, April	02/05/2024	02/05/2027	Biologist, Colorado Parks and Wildlife	Representative Member
Gillespie, Joshua	02/05/2024	02/05/2027	Owner of Gillespie Cattle Co.	Representative Member
Howell, Curtis	04/06/2022	04/06/2025	President, San Luis Valley Great Outdoors	Representative Member
Koepsell, Arthur	02/10/2020	06/01/2026	State Agency Rep	Representative Member
Larimer, Jon	06/01/2023	06/01/2026	Fishing guide	Representative Member
Lucrezi, Gina	08/14/2024	08/14/2027	Town of Buena Vista's Board of Trustees	Representative Member
Mitson, Loretta	04/06/2022	04/06/2025	Retired	Representative Member
Pacheco, Lawrence	04/06/2022	04/06/2025	Retired	Representative Member
Shonle, Irene	04/06/2022	04/06/2025	Colorado State University Extension El Paso County Horticulture Agent	Representative Member
Stagner, Kevin	06/01/2023	06/01/2026	Rancher	Representative Member
Sztukowski, John	04/06/2022	04/06/2025	Conservation Director of Wild Connections	Representative Member
Wood, Kent	02/10/2020	04/06/2025	Public at large	Representative Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 15

Narrative Description

The RAC brings additional public opinion and involvement to the BLM. Rocky Mountain RAC members are often more familiar with public land management issues than the general public. They are better able to represent public concerns and often bring a different perspective to the Designated Federal Officer and other BLM employees.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

The RAC meetings give the public an additional opportunity to provide comments and discuss issues with RAC members and BLM employees. This can result in issues being resolved before they become significant problems. Additionally, this interaction can create solutions to problems.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>

\$500,001 - \$1,000,000
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000
Over \$10,000,000
Cost Savings Other

☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

Cost Savings Comments

An in-depth analysis has not been done to determine cost savings associated with the Rocky Mountain RAC. However, the contributions of the RAC are of great benefit to the BLM.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

33

Number of Recommendations Comments

The RAC approved 3 proposed recreation fee increases at 3 campgrounds.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

75%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

Most RAC recommendations are implemented, and when they are not, the BLM talks through the reasons why the recommendation cannot be implemented.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

25%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

In past years, the RAC has made recommendations that the BLM has considered but not implemented. An example is the recommendation the RAC made for the Royal Gorge Field Office to conduct another environmental impact statement for the Over the River Project when the proponent asked for a schedule change. Most RAC recommendations are implemented, and when they are not, the BLM discusses why the recommendations cannot be implemented.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to

implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

BLM Colorado provides feedback through manager updates given at every RAC meeting. This gives the BLM opportunities to notify RAC members of pressing and topical issues. Another avenue for agency feedback is in the old business part of the agenda for each meeting. The BLM offers updates to what was discussed at previous meetings.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

As a result of the RAC's input, the BLM has found new ways to address certain ongoing issues such as user conflicts at the Cache Creek Area, thanks in large part to advice and ideas shared by RAC members.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

N/A

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

N/A