

2017 Current Fiscal Year Report: Rio Grande Natural Area Commission

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1. Department or Agency

Department of the Interior

2. Fiscal Year

2017

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Rio Grande Natural Area
Commission

3b. GSA Committee

No.

73630

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

06/03/2014

6. Expected Renewal Date

7. Expected Term Date

10/16/2016

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

Yes

8b. Specific Termination Authority

P.L. 109-337, 10 Years
after date of Enactment

8c. Actual Term Date

06/03/2016

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Terminate

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

No

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

Rio Grande Natural Area
Act (P.L. 109-337)

13. Effective Date

10/12/2006

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Scientific Technical Program
Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for
this Fiscal Year

17a.

Open

0

17b. Closed

0

17c. Partially Closed

0

Other Activities

0

17d. Total

0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

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 Commission provided advice to the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the Rio Grande Natural Area on matters concerning the preparation and implementation of a management plan for non-Federal land in the Natural Area, as required by the Rio Grande Natural Area Act. This Plan is completely voluntary for private landowners, and was completed in September 2015.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Commission is made up of nine members. Five positions on the Commission are split between Federal, state, and local office holders

and appointees with previous experience in water and/or public and private land and water management issues (two are ex officio members). In addition, there are four positions that are filled by members of the public, endorsed by the Governor of Colorado, and who were chosen for their personal backgrounds in land, water and regional management issues.

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

No meetings were held during fiscal year 2017. The Commission had been meeting approximately four times per year.

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

Due to competing interests and sometimes conflicting views of how land and water resources of the Rio Grande Natural Area should be managed and allocated, it is important to have an advisory group available to lend advice and opinions to Federal, state, local, and private interests. The Act that created the Natural Area also created the nine-member Commission to help develop a management plan for the non-Federal lands within the area.

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 Commission completed their management plan for private lands in September 2015. The charter expired in June 2016 and the Commission

sunset on October 16, 2016.

Designated Federal Officer

Andrew Archuleta BLM San Luis Valley Field
Manager

Narrative Description

The Rio Grande Natural Area Commission is administratively inactive. The BLM retains the option to reconvene should it be necessary in the future. The Commission provides advice to the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the Rio Grande Natural Area on matters concerning the preparation and implementation of a management plan for non-Federal land in the Natural Area, as required by the Act.

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

Checked if
Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input 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 type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

The Rio Grande Natural Area Commission is tasked with helping the Department of the Interior implement the Rio Grande Natural Area Act, including developing a management plan for the non-Federal lands within the Natural Area.

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	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

An in-depth analysis has not been done to determine cost savings associated with the Rio Grande Natural Area Commission. However, the contributions of the RAC are of great benefit to the BLM and the Natural Area.

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

1

Number of Recommendations Comments

The Rio Grande Natural Area Commission has developed a formal recommendation in the form of a management plan for natural resources on non-Federal lands under its authority. In addition, the informal discussions between managers and members have been invaluable.

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

0%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The BLM is working on developing a companion plan for federal lands within the Rio Grande Natural Area to compliment the plan developed by the Commission for non-federal lands.

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

1%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

The BLM is working on developing a companion plan for federal lands within the Rio Grande Natural Area to compliment the plan developed by the Commission for non-federal lands.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

The BLM Colorado State Director accepted and concurred with the plan prepared by the Commission. The BLM is working towards developing a companion plan for public lands within the RGNA. In addition, informal discussions between managers and members have been invaluable.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

The BLM is working towards developing a companion plan for public lands within the RGNA.

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



Online GSA FACA Web Site



Publications



Other



Access Comments

N/A