

## Chapter 1

### FEDERAL LANDS ADVISORY GROUP

#### SECTION:

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**2-1-1: NAME AND MISSION:** The name of the organization formed by the adoption of this resolution is the Cassia County Federal Lands Advisory Group, hereinafter referred to as FLAG. The mission of FLAG is to stay abreast of issues involving lands in the public domain within and adjacent to Cassia County, to advise the Cassia County Commissioners, hereinafter referred to as the Commissioners, concerning those issues and to recommend to the Commissioners strategies to coordinate the management and development of the natural resources of Cassia County, as are connected to those lands in the public domain.

**2-1-2: AREA OF CONCERN:** The area of concern lies within Cassia County, Idaho. It incorporates all of the Sawtooth National Forest in Cassia County and all Federal, B.L.M. lands, and State lands in the County. The area is not precisely defined because it includes all land in the public domain across jurisdictional boundaries where there are common concerns, shared migratory resources or ecological systems and processes.

**2-1-3: GOALS:** The goals of FLAG shall be to:

- A. Develop and present a unified voice on the conservation of natural resources in Cassia County.
- B. Encourage natural resource management actions necessary to preserve and promote the health, safety, economic and social welfare of the people in the County.

- C. Provide recommendations to land users and County, State and Federal Government agencies to assist in coordinating resource planning.
- D. Improve management of natural resources and enhance the implementation of the multiple use concept by promoting cooperation and understanding among agencies, landowners, groups, and individuals responsible for or interested in natural resources of Cassia County.
- E. Recommend resource management programs and activities to achieve compatible resource uses based upon multiple use, and sound ecological and economic relationships.
- F. Increase and promote the information exchange and understanding between public agencies, private landowners, local communities, and the general public in managing natural resources of the area.
- G. Recognize and protect all existing water, road access and rights-of-way and property rights of landowners within the boundaries of Cassia County.
- H. Improve cooperation, communication and understanding among all interested parties regarding access to and across public lands in the County.

**2-1-4: AUTHORITY AND ROLE:** The **FLAG** will have the role of developing consensus among a broadly representative group of individuals interested in the public resources of the County. The **FLAG** will recommend natural resource management actions to the Commissioners, Federal and State Land Managers. County, State and Federal Land Managers are required by federal law and regulation to involve the public in making decisions, to consider plans of State and County Governments, and to coordinate their plans with local government. In so doing the agencies should consider the historical, economic, customs and cultural uses of the lands. The **FLAG** is a vehicle for performing these functions in Cassia County. Federal and State Land Managers retain authority to make decisions relative to public lands under their jurisdiction.

**2-1-5: MEMBERS:**

- A. Representation and Balance

1. Members of the FLAG shall be appointed by the Commissioners for a term of three (3) years. Initially 1/3 of the members shall be appointed for a term of one (1) year, 1/3 for 2 years and 1/3 for three (3) years. The first shall serve from January 2009 to December 31, 2009; the second shall serve from January 2009 to December 31, 2010; and the third shall serve from January 2009 to December 31, 2011. Those reappointed or their replacements, at the conclusion of the afore-stated initial terms shall be appointed to serve for a three year term. All subsequent terms shall continue to rotate on a 3 year basis thereafter.
  2. Membership on the FLAG shall be on a volunteer, non-paid basis and shall be limited to nine (9) members. The FLAG shall be a "representative", "balanced" group derived from agencies, communities and the general citizenry of the area, in order to represent the multiple-use concept of lands in the public domain. A membership list shall be maintained in the Office of the County Commissioners and shall be updated on a regular basis to reflect the existing membership of the FLAG. The members in "good standing" shall constitute the voting membership of the **FLAG**.
  3. "Representative" shall be defined as: Including people who can represent different aspects of the constituency located within the area. Diversity within the area that needs to be reflected in the **FLAG** includes various economic sectors, ranching, grazing, mining, forest products, recreational, hunting, fishing and cultural sectors, communities, public land managers, and differing philosophical or value systems relating to management of lands in the public domain.
  4. "Balance" shall be defined as: Considering the elements of diversity, especially in terms of expressed philosophies or values, no single element shall be overwhelmingly represented.
  5. The "good standing" of a member shall be determined by regular attendance at meetings, and participation in good faith and in accordance with this Resolution. Members determined not to be in good standing by the Commissioners will be replaced pursuant to the following paragraph.
- B. New Appointments and Selection Criteria: New appointments or reappointments of existing members will be made by the Commissioners on the basis of retaining

the desired representation and balance, as defined above, and the number of members in good standing at nine (9) members. In addition to representation, the following factors are to be considered in making new appointments.

1. The members of the **FLAG** should have the support of the agencies or constituencies with which they are associated, and be individuals that can work effectively with others to help develop and plan strategies according to the stated mission and goals.
  2. The members should be team-oriented individuals, with demonstrated and effective leadership skills, who will work well in a cooperative and consensus building environment.
  3. Currently serving members whose term of appointment is expiring may indicate their willingness to continue serving to the Commissioners or may be contacted by the Commissioners regarding their willingness to continue to serve in the group. The final decision regarding reappointment shall lie with the Commissioners.
- C. Resignation of Members: Any member desiring to resign from the FLAG shall submit his or her resignation in writing to the Office of the Cassia County Commissioners for action. He or she may nominate a replacement member for consideration by the Commissioners. Approval of the replacement member or new appointment will be decided solely by the Commissioners.

## **2-1-6: ORGANIZATION**

### **A. Officers**

1. The officers shall be a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and a Secretary. For the initial year of this group's formation, the Commissioners will appoint all officers of this group, but thereafter officers will be selected by the process as set out in Part B, hereafter.
2. Election of officers shall take place in January of each year after the new members have been appointed to fill the slots vacated by those whose terms of service expired on December 31st that year. Candidates for Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Secretary/Recorder shall be

nominated from the floor at the FLAG organizational meeting. Officer's whose terms are currently expiring are eligible for re-nomination. A majority vote of a quorum of the **FLAG** will then elect a Chairperson, vice Chairperson and Secretary. The officers will serve for one full year, and continuing on in office only until the annual organizational meeting can be held and completed, with new officers being elected.

3. The Chairperson shall conduct the group meetings. The Chairperson shall ensure availability of an adequate meeting place; that meeting notices and agendas are prepared and published; that accurate minutes of meetings are kept; and that meetings are conducted and facilitated fairly and effectively; and that meetings serve the purposes as stated hereunder.
4. A Vice Chairperson shall take the place of the Chairperson in case the Chairperson cannot attend a meeting or resigns. In the event that the Chairperson resigns and the Vice Chairperson becomes Chairperson for the remainder of the term, then the Commissioners shall appoint a new Vice Chairperson, upon recommendation from the Group.
5. The Secretary shall keep an accurate record of all meetings and actions taken thereat, attendance of group members, shall prepare meeting notices and agendas in conformity with Idaho's Open Meetings Law and shall inform members of all meeting times and places, under direction from the Chairperson.

#### B. Technical Support Teams

1. The **FLAG** may appoint either standing or special teams as it deems necessary to perform specific tasks in furthering progress towards the stated goals. Non-members of the **FLAG** may be appointed to those teams to provide technical expertise, additional breadth and representation, and opportunities for interested parties to participate. The **FLAG** Chairperson shall be an ex-officio member of all appointed teams.
2. Technical Support Teams shall consist of any member(s) of the **FLAG** having clear interest in the assigned task along with technical experts solicited from outside the **FLAG**. At least one member of the Technical Support Team shall be a member of the **FLAG**. Normally, Technical Support Teams will consist of three or five members.

3. The duties of Technical Support Teams shall be to:
  - (i) Field proof the assigned problems and objectives and report apparent inconsistencies to the **FLAG**.
  - (ii) Evaluate the available information for its completeness and accuracy in making informed decisions. If the information is found to be inconsistent or incomplete, the Team shall request additional information through the FLAG.
  - (iii) Identify alternatives to meet stated objectives and recommend a preferred alternative to the FLAG. Implement and monitor the alternative approved by the **Commissioners** under the direction of the FLAG, and recommend alternative revisions, should the need arise.
4. Members of technical support teams shall not be entitled to vote on issues before the FLAG as a whole unless they are also members of the FLAG per se.

**2-1-7: MEETINGS:**

A. Locations and Dates:

1. The regular meeting of the **FLAG** shall be held at a place and time determined by the Group. Meetings shall be held at least on a quarterly basis.
2. Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson or through a written request by the majority of the **FLAG**. The purpose of any special meeting must be stated in the call. Notices of meetings and publication of agendas must comply with Idaho Code, Title 67, Chapter 23, Sections 2340 through 2347, the Open Meetings Law or any successor law.

B. Decisions and Quorums: All actions, recommendations and decisions (other than those specified otherwise in the By-Laws) made by the **FLAG** must be made by simple majority vote of participating members taken when a quorum of the group is constituted in a lawful meeting.

1. A quorum shall consist of at least five of the nine members being present at the meeting.
2. All members present at a lawfully called meeting shall be counted to determine the existence of a quorum, even though some of those members may not be participating in the action.
3. Presence of a quorum member may be obtained telephonically if done in accordance with state law.
4. Once a quorum is determined to exist, it shall remain so, until the number of group members present at the meeting shall fall below five. When a quorum ceases to be present at the meeting, then the Chairperson shall close the meeting, and no further action shall be taken until a quorum is re-constituted.

C. Procedures:

1. Meetings shall be conducted by the Chairperson. Specifically, the Chairperson is responsible for ensuring: the recording and distribution of meeting notes; that meetings are conducted and facilitated effectively; that meetings are productive and within the scope of the mission and goals of the **FLAG**.
2. Consideration may be given to the use of a professional facilitator not directly affiliated with the membership, for agendas that may be especially controversial.
3. Rules of conduct shall be strictly adhered to through meeting facilitation; members should listen actively; members shall be entitled to speak and be heard; problems and issues will be attacked – not people. Matters coming before FLAG shall be heard in accordance with the provisions of Cassia County Resolution No. 2002-12-02, or its successor. If the matter is not covered by the provisions of that resolution, then specific rules of conduct or working guidelines may be formally recommended by the FLAG to Commissioners for adoption by the Commissioners. (Res. 2009-001, 1-12-2009)