

BYLAWS OF THE  
MONTANA  
PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL  
(A non-Profit Corporation)

REVISED:  
December 1995; December 1997; December 2004;  
December 2014; December 2020

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Montana Public Lands Council is to represent the interests of Montana's state of federal land livestock operators in legislative, regulatory, educational, and cultural activities; and to provide Montana's livestock producers access to important information on land stewardship practices, livestock or forage improvement techniques, and other practices that ensure the continuation of a viable Montana ranching industry.

PREAMBLE:

WHEREAS, the production of an adequate supply of high quality food and fiber is basic to the physical sustenance and good health of the American people; and such production of food and fiber also results in the furtherance of our nation's wealth, and is essential to the economic well-being of ranching families and rural communities throughout the western states including the State of Montana; and,

WHEREAS, a substantial proportion of our national food and fiber production originates in western states that contain high percentages of public and state lands, through the grazing of the renewable natural resource of native forage by sheep, cattle or other livestock; and,

WHEREAS, a large percentage of the native forage needed to sustain the western ranching industry is only available on state or federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management, the US Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, and state land management agencies; and,

WHEREAS, opportunities to graze livestock on such federal or state forage resources is largely contingent on the development of practical, economically viable, and ecological sound grazing practices, and information on these production practices must be shared by the producers who comprise the western ranching industry; and,

WHEREAS, the western livestock ranching industry will continue to be concerned with the wise use of natural resources associated with these lands for livestock grazing, and many other multiple-uses,

NOW, THEREFORE, We the Members of the Montana Public Lands Council, as representatives of the organized sheep and cattle raisers in our state, and on behalf of Montana's federal grazing permittees, and state land lessees and the local communities they support, do hereby establish the Montana Public Lands Council and adopt these Bylaws.

ARTICLE I  
QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP, FEES, VOTING

SECTION 1: MEMBERSHIP

a) Qualification for membership:

Any person holding a grazing permit or lease for any state or federal lands in Montana is qualified for membership. Grazing Districts and other grazing associations organized for such purposes shall be qualified for membership. Affiliate or associate memberships can be approved by the Board of Directors for organizations or individuals who support or actively participate in the affairs of the Montana Public Lands Council.

b) Membership Fees:

Any individual grazing district, association, or other organization qualified for membership under paragraph (a) of this section may become a member by paying an assessment to the Montana Public Lands Council in accordance with Article V Section 2 of these bylaws.

c) Voting:

Each livestock permittee or lessee member will be entitled to one vote. There may not be voting by proxy, and associate or affiliate members are not eligible to vote.

ARTICLE II  
MEETINGS

SECTION 1: ANNUAL & SPECIAL MEETINGS

There shall be two yearly meetings of the Montana Public Lands Council. One to be held in conjunction with an MSGA meeting, and the other to be held at the discretion of the PLC Board of Directors. Special meetings shall be held at such times and places as may be designated by the Chairman or Vice Chairman or a majority of the directors.

SECTION 2: QUORUM

~~A quorum shall consist of a majority of the directors present. No vote of the members shall be taken at any meeting unless a quorum of said members entitled to vote upon the issues are present. Quorum shall consist of the members present at the time of the meeting.~~

No vote of any Board of Directors shall be taken at any meeting unless 51% of the total number of directors are present at that board meeting.

ARTICLE III  
ELECTION OF OFFICER

SECTION 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

For the purpose of representation on the Board of Directors, the state has been divided into three geographic areas: The western district, the northern district, and the eastern district. The Board of Directors shall consist of up to 11 members and directors shall be seated as follows:

Three directors shall be appointed by the Montana Association of State Grazing Districts.

Three directors shall be appointed by the Montana Stockgrowers Association.

One director shall be appointed by the Montana Wool Growers Association.

One director shall be appointed by the Montana Grass Conservation Commission.

All directors must be paid members of the Montana Public Lands Council, whether through an individual membership or a grazing district or association.

The remaining three seats, one from each PLC district, shall be filled through election by the general membership. The PLC Chairman shall appoint a nomination committee prior to September 1 each year. The Nomination Committee shall solicit two nominations for each PLC District in which an elected director's term is expiring, and present this list of candidates to the Chairman prior to November 1. An election shall be held each year at the annual PLC meeting.

All directors shall serve a term of three years, and any director can succeed themselves for consecutive terms. Should any director fail to carry out the duties and responsibilities of their position, the Chair~~man~~ shall call for a vote by the remaining directors for his/her removal from the Board. Any vacancies that may occur on the Board of Directors by reason of death, resignation, or otherwise, may be filled by a vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors and ratified at the next annual convention.

SECTION 2: ELECTION OF CHAIR~~MAN~~

A Chair~~man~~ shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors in December from within the Board.

SECTION 3: ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR~~MAN~~

A Vice Chair~~man~~ shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors in December from within the Board.

SECTION 4: DELEGATE TO THE NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The delegate from the Montana Public Lands Council to the National Public Lands Council Board of Directors shall be elected annually from within the Board.

## SECTION 5: SECRETARY-TREASURER

~~The Secretary-Treasurer of the Montana Public Lands Council shall be the Executive Vice President of the Montana Stockgrowers Association.~~ The Secretary-Treasurer of the PLC shall be chosen by the Board of Directors. The Secretary-Treasurer may be bonded in an amount determined by the Board of Directors. The compensation will be set through the board of directors or through an MOU.

## SECTION 6: COMPENSATION OF OFFICERS

Members of the Board of Directors shall not receive salaries for their services, but, by resolution or motion of the Board of Directors, travel expenses for attendance at special meetings may be allowed, excluding annual and regular membership meetings, but nothing herein contained shall be construed to preclude any member of the Board of Directors from serving the ~~Corporation~~ Council in any other capacity and receiving compensation therefore. The Chair~~man~~ of the Public Lands Council will decide the financial compensation to those directors participating in unscheduled meetings.

## ARTICLE IV DUTIES OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

### SECTION 1: DUTIES OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors shall:

- a) Manage and conduct the affairs of the council;
- b) Levy assessments upon the members within the limitations prescribed in these bylaws;
- c) Formulate various policies not inconsistent with the recommendations of the majority of the membership in order to properly carry out the purposes of the council.

### SECTION 2: DUTIES OF CHAIR~~MAN~~

The Chair~~man~~ shall:

- a) Preside over all meetings of the council ~~and~~, as ~~ex officio~~ a fully qualified member of the Board of Directors, ~~preside over all meetings of said Board~~;
- b) Call special meetings of the members of the council and of the Board of Directors;
- c) In cooperation with the Secretary-Treasurer, direct the affairs of the council, subject to the control of the Board of Directors;
- d) Perform all other acts and duties usually required of an executive and presiding officer.

### SECTION 3: DUTIES OF VICE CHAIR~~MAN~~

The Vice Chair~~man~~ shall perform all acts and duties of the Chair~~man~~ in his/her absence or inability to act.

#### SECTION 4: DUTIES OF SECRETARY-TREASURER

The Secretary-Treasurer shall:

- a) Keep a complete record of all meetings and conduct all correspondence of the council and the Board of Directors;
- b) Receive and disburse all funds and be the custodian of all property of the council;
- c) Keep a complete record of all business of the council and make a full report of all matters and business pertaining to his office to the Board of Directors at any time requested and to the members of the council at their annual meeting;
- d) Perform such other duties as may be required of him/her to properly fulfill the usual duties of his/her office.

#### ARTICLE V FINANCES

##### SECTION 1: FISCAL

The Fiscal Year shall start on the first day of October and end the last day of September of each year.

##### SECTION 2: ASSESSMENT

General membership assessment shall be set each year at the annual meeting by the Board of Directors, provided such assessment not exceed ten cents for each animal unit month (\$0.10 per AUM) of livestock permitted, or a \$50.00 minimum will be levied annually to any state of federal land permittee or lessee outside Grazing Districts. An assessment not to exceed seven cents for each animal unit month (\$0.07 per AUM) of livestock permitted will be levied annually to any individual Grazing District. Special assessments for the purpose of funding specific projects for the benefit of the council, and membership assessments for affiliate of associate members shall be set by the Board of Directors.

##### SECTION 3: DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS

All monies collected by the council from assessments shall be placed in a general fund of the council and shall be disbursed by the Secretary-Treasurer, or as identified through an MOU, in a manner authorized by the Board of Directors.

##### SECTION 4: ANNUAL STATEMENTS

An annual financial statement of the council shall be rendered by the Secretary-Treasurer and such statement shall indicate the approval of the Board of Directors. Such statement shall set forth an itemized account of all receipts and disbursements.

##### SECTION 5: AUDIT

The books and records of the council shall be audited annually by a certified public accountant or other qualified auditor who shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 6:

When not in conflict with these bylaws, "Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised," shall be the parliamentary authority for all meetings.

ARTICLE VI

AMENDMENTS

Upon proposal by the Board of Directors, these bylaws may be amended, in whole or in part, by a majority vote at the annual meeting of the Association; provided, that a copy of any amendment proposed for consideration shall be sent to the membership at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting.

Dated this 8 day of December, 2020

Raylee A. Honeycutt  
Secretary/Treasurer