Viewing Information

REGISTRATION DETAILS
Register in advance at publiclandscouncil.org

In advance of the meeting, registrants will receive a Zoom link. There will be one Zoom link for the full day.

IMPORTANT DETAILS
Event Inquiries: Allie Nelson, 406-231-3328

Media Requests: Sigrid Johannes, 202-641-7347

Friends,

Welcome to the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Public Lands Council (PLC). For the second year in a row, we are coming together virtually to celebrate the progress and accomplishments from the last two years. While we certainly would have preferred to be meeting in Oregon this month, this virtual setting allows us to ensure we stay on track with policy goals and initiatives. The theme of these last two years has been flexibility, and taking care of business.

Since we last met in 2019, PLC has worked hard for the interests of all western producers. In the midst of COVID-19, our team made sure you had access to all the tools you needed to weather the storms. Through the presidential transition, our team has focused on making sure that now, more than ever, Washington, D.C. knows the important job you do. From webinars on issues like the Biden Administration’s 30X30 America the Beautiful proposal and rangeland monitoring to thousands of hours in virtual Hill and agency meetings, PLC has risen to the challenge. PLC’s hard work ensures a bright future for our industry.

While it looks like there are more virtual meetings in the days ahead, I encourage you to push through the “Zoom fatigue” and be present for PLC, our industry, and our neighbors. While I know we’re hopeful 2022 looks a bit different, don’t wait until then to ensure your voice is heard in our industry conversations. I am thankful for this community we are all a part of, and I hope you enjoy the 53rd PLC Annual Meeting.

Niels Hansen, PLC President
generations-long legacy of hard-won victories for land and livestock.

Ranchers are the original conservationists. For generations, ranchers have taken cattle and sheep to federal public lands to graze. Their presence - simply being on the landscape - has protected these lands from natural threats, like fire, and human threats, like development. This work is often thankless. You face challenges every day. These last two years have been more challenging than most, and it has been a privilege to safeguard your operations in Washington while you've been fighting the battles at home.

As we begin our Annual Meeting, I encourage each of you make the most of these hours together. While many of us spend a great deal of time in virtual meetings these days, meetings like this are crucial for the future of our industry. Thank you for prioritizing public lands ranching and our work.

Kaitlynn Glover, PLC Executive Director
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Every year cheatgrass and other invasive annual grasses grow rapidly in late winter, stealing precious water and nutrients while the perennial grasses are still dormant. Rejuvra removes the cheatgrass, freeing up resources for the more desirable perennial grasses.

Benefits of Rangeland Restoration with Rejuvra

- **Increased Ranch Efficiency**
  Improved forage production and quality promotes better livestock distribution, extends the grazing season and reduces supplemental feed costs.

- **Improved Utilization of Natural Resources**
  Every year cheatgrass and other invasive annual grasses grow rapidly in late winter, stealing precious water and nutrients while the perennial grasses are still dormant. Rejuvra removes the cheatgrass, freeing up resources for the more desirable perennial grasses.

- **Decreased Wildfire Risk**
  Rejuvra allows ranchers to target invasive annual grasses, resulting in the removal of fine-fuels and creating a healthier plant community, significantly reducing wildfire risk.

- **Increased Forage Quality**
  Areas treated with Rejuvra have demonstrated a two-to-five times increase in perennial plant production, compared to non-treated areas.

- **Increased Ranch Efficiency**
  Improved forage production and quality promotes better livestock distribution, extends the grazing season and reduces supplemental feed costs.
TUESDAY, SEPT. 28

OPENING GENERAL SESSION
7:00 - 7:45a
PLC President Welcome
Congressman Cliff Bentz (R-OR-2)
Governor Brad Little (ID)/WGA Chairman

7:50 - 9:00a | Grazing Committee
9:05 - 10:15a | Industry Issues Committee
10:20 - 11:20a | BLM Stewardship Awards (Open to Media)
11:20 - 11:50a | PLC Engagement Session

Grazing Policy Committee
7:50 – 9:00a MT
Chair: Matt McElligott (OR)
Vice-Chair: Dan Anderson (SD)
Staff Liaison: Kaitlynn Glover, Executive Director

Agenda
I. Call to Order – Matt McElligott, Chair
II. Policy Update – Kaitlynn Glover
  a. Legislative
  b. Administrative
  c. Judicial
III. Agency Feedback Session – USFS and BLM
IV. 2022 Planning
V. Consideration of Policy
  a. Expiring Policy – Dan Anderson
  b. New Policies – Matt McElligott
VI. New Business
VII. Adjourn

CLOSING GENERAL SESSION & BUSINESS MEETING
4:30 - 5:45p

COMMITTEE AGENDAS
(Progressive order of appearance)
**Industry Issues Policy Committee**

9:05 - 10:15a MT  
Chair: Shaun Sims (WY)  
Vice-Chair: VACANT  
Staff Liaison: Kaitlynn Glover, Executive Director

**Agenda**

I. Call to Order – Shaun Sims, Chair  
II. Policy Update – Kaitlynn Glover  
   a. Legislative  
   b. Administrative  
   c. Judicial  
III. 2022 Planning  
IV. Consideration of Policy - Shaun Sims  
   a. Expiring Policy  
   b. New Policies  
V. New Business  
VI. Adjourn

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**Ecosystem and Environment Policy Committee**

12:45 - 1:55p MT  
Chair: Dave Daley (CA)  
Vice-Chair: Darcy Helmick (ID)  
Staff Liaison: Kaitlynn Glover, Executive Director

**Agenda**

I. Call to Order – Dave Daley, Chair  
II. Policy Update – Kaitlynn Glover  
   a. Legislative  
   b. Administrative  
   c. Judicial  
III. Agency Feedback Session - Jaelith Hall-Rivera, Deputy Chief, USFS Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry  
IV. Consideration of Policy  
   a. Expiring Policy - Darcy Helmick  
   b. New Policies - Dave Daley  
V. New Business  
VI. Adjourn
Multiple Use Policy Committee
2:00 - 3:10p MT
Chair: Dr. JJ Goicochea (NV)
Vice-Chair: Tim Canterbury (CO)
Staff Liaison: Kaitlynn Glover, Executive Director

Agenda

I. Call to Order – Dr. JJ Goicoechea, Chair

II. Policy Update – Kaitlynn Glover
   a. Legislative
   b. Administrative
   c. Judicial

III. Agency Feedback Session - USFS and BLM

IV. 2022 Planning

V. Consideration of Policy
   a. Expiring Policy - Tim Canterbury
   b. New Policies - Dr. JJ Goicoechea

VI. New Business

VII. Adjourn

Wildlife Policy Committee
3:15 - 4:25p MT
Chair: Robbie LeValley (CO)
Vice-Chair: Jordan Willis (UT)
Staff Liaison: Kaitlynn Glover, Executive Director

Agenda

I. Call to Order – Robbie LeValley, Chair

II. Agency Discussion - USFWS Principal Deputy Director Martha Williams

III. Policy Update – Kaitlynn Glover
   a. Legislative
   b. Administrative
   c. Judicial

IV. Policy Discussion

V. 2022 Planning

VI. Consideration of Policy
   a. Expiring Policy - Jordan Willis
   b. New Policies - Robbie LeValley

VII. New Business

VIII. Adjourn
Representative Cliff Bentz (R-OR)

Cliff Bentz is a third generation Oregonian, raised on his family’s cattle ranches in Harney County. He attended Whitehorse Ranch and Pine Creek Grade Schools. He attended and graduated cum laude from Eastern Oregon State College. While in college, he served as student body president, as a student member of various student activity committees, and as a member of the honors program. Following college, he attended and graduated with a juris doctorate from Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, OR. He joined the Yturri, O’Kief, Rose and Burnham law firm in Ontario, OR in 1977, and he became a partner four years later. As an attorney, he specialized in ranch reorganizations and water law. He is a member of the Oregon and Idaho Bar Associations.

In 1987, Cliff Bentz married Dr. Lindsay Norman, a veterinarian. Dr. Norman practices small animal medicine in Ontario. They have two children, Allison and Scott.

In January of 2008, Cliff Bentz was appointed to the Oregon House of Representatives District 60 seat, and later that year, he was elected to his first of five two-year terms as Oregon State Representative. He resigned from the Oregon House of Representatives in 2018, when appointed to fill the Oregon State Senate District 30 seat. While in the Senate, he served on Finance and Revenue, Judiciary, Energy, and the Joint Tax Credits committees, among others. He resigned from the Oregon State Senate on January 2, 2020, to campaign full-time for Oregon’s Second Congressional District.

On November 3, 2020, Bentz was elected to represent Oregon’s Second Congressional District. Oregon’s Second Congressional District includes all or part of 20 counties across Oregon.

Governor Brad Little (R-ID)

The people of Idaho elected Brad Little as the state’s 33rd Governor in November 2018. He became Governor on January 7, 2019.

Brad is an Emmett native who was raised on his family’s sheep and cattle ranching operation. He graduated from the University of Idaho in 1977 with a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness, and has worked in the ranching industry for his entire professional life. In 1978, Brad had good fortune and married Teresa Soulen of Weiser.

Teresa and Brad are the proud parents of two sons who have wonderful wives – Adam and Angela, and David and Kelsey. They have six beautiful grandchildren.

Brad has a heart for public service. He first served in public office in 2001 when he was selected to fill a Senate vacancy. He was then elected to four consecutive terms to the Idaho Senate. During his service as a Senator, Brad was elected by his Republican peers during his first full term to serve in Party leadership as Majority Caucus Chair. He then served as Idaho’s 37th Lt. Governor starting on January 6, 2009.

Brad is committed to making decisions through one lens: the lens of ensuring Idaho’s children and grandchildren have the best opportunities to stay in Idaho and for the ones who have left to return. Brad has advocated his whole life for limited government. He works to ensure the lightest possible hand of government in the lives of Idaho’s citizens, and he seeks to build the public’s confidence in State government.
Nada Culver  
*Deputy Director of Policy & Programs, BLM*

Nada most recently served as the Vice President, Public Lands and Senior Policy Counsel at the National Audubon Society. Prior to joining Audubon, Nada was the Senior Counsel and Senior Director for Policy and Planning at The Wilderness Society. Nada began her career in the private sector, working on a variety of environmental issues including energy development and environmental remediation, and was a partner with the law firm of Patton Boggs. She is a graduate of Northwestern University and the University of Pennsylvania School of Law.

Jennifer Norris  
*Deputy Secretary of Policy and Programs, California Natural Resources Agency*

Jennifer Norris, serves as deputy secretary for biodiversity and habitat at the California Natural Resources Agency. Norris served as fish and wildlife administrator for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service since 2013, where she was deputy field supervisor from 2011 to 2013, assistant field supervisor from 2010 to 2011, critical habitat coordinator from 2009 to 2010, Rio Grande ESA coordinator from 2006 to 2009 and fish and wildlife biologist from 2004 to 2006. She was a biologist at the New Mexico State Land Office from 2001 to 2004. Norris earned a Doctor of Biological Sciences degree in ecology from the University of New Mexico and a Master of Science degree in conservation biology from the University of Michigan.

Chris French  
*Deputy Chief, U.S. Forest Service*

Chris French currently serves as Deputy Chief of the National Forest System for the USDA Forest Service, based in Washington D.C. In this role, Chris is responsible for policy, oversight and direction for natural resource and public service delivery programs across the 193 million acres of National Forests and Grasslands in 44 states and territories that make up the National Forest System. Prior to his current position, Chris served in a variety of leadership positions on ranger districts, national forests, and at the national headquarters.

Chris began his career in Arizona on the Coronado National Forest and has worked in recreation, fire, fuels, wildlife, NEPA, forest planning, and wilderness.
Martha Williams  
*Principal Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Growing up on a farm in Montana, Martha Williams gained an appreciation for open lands, waters, wildlife, and people. On January 20, 2021, Williams was sworn in as Principal Deputy Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is designated to exercise the delegable authority of the director.

Preceding her appointment, Williams served as the Director of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks from 2017 to 2020. Previously, Williams was an Assistant Professor of Law at the Blewett School of Law at the University of Montana in Missoula, Montana and co-directed the university’s Land Use and Natural Resources Clinic. She also co-supervised the Public Land and Resources Law Review and the Environmental Law Group.

William’s appointment to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is a return to the Department of the Interior for the new Principal Deputy Director. Williams served as Deputy Solicitor Parks and Wildlife at the Department of the Interior for two years, providing counsel to the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service. From 1988-2011, Williams was agency legal counsel for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks, where she advised and represented the department on real estate transactions, Endangered Species Act policy and litigation, and on state and national environmental policy acts.

Williams earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Virginia and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Montana School of Law.
and techniques in the management of BLM allotments and associated private rangelands to respond to many challenges such as wildfire, drought, woodland expansion, and invasive annual grass invasion.

The Sagebrush-Steppe Stewardship Awards follow the same nomination criteria of the Rangeland Stewardship Awards, but also have two additional considerations. One permittee and one collaborative team must demonstrate meeting Greater Sage-grouse or other sagebrush-steppe dependent species habitat objectives or provide an outstanding example of enhancement, restoration, or reclamation of sagebrush habitats. An emphasis on Greater Sage-grouse or sagebrush-steppe habitat coordination efforts, such as sage grouse working groups, Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Working Lands for Wildlife projects, or demonstrate collaboration with sagebrush-steppe conservation, restoration, or protection groups must also be demonstrated.

A special thanks to all Field Offices who completed the nomination process to recognize these outstanding permittees and collaborative teams. It is with great honor that the BLM recognizes these four outstanding stewards of rangelands and sagebrush-steppe communities.

The 2021 recipients of the Rangeland & Sagebrush-Steppe Stewardship Awards are:

Rangeland Stewardship Award,
Permittee Category:
Matthew & Kristen Redd, The Nature Conservancy’s Dugout Ranch & Indian Creek Allotment
Monticello Field Office, Utah

Rangeland Stewardship Award,
Collaborative Team Category:
Bruneau-Owyhee Sage-Grouse Habitat Project (BOSH)
Bruneau and Owyhee Field Offices, Idaho

Sagebrush-Steppe Stewardship Award,
Permittee Category:
Pat Luark, Reverse JL Bar Cattle Company, LLC
Colorado River Valley Field Office, Colorado

Sagebrush-Steppe Stewardship Award,
Collaborative Team Category:
The Nature Conservancy, Great Basin Ecoregion
Cedar City Field Office, Utah

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Converting to a virtual format required streamlining our agenda. As part of your annual meeting registration, you will receive complementary access to all of PLC’s upcoming webinars to deliver content from each of the four workshop sessions that would have occurred in Seaside.

**Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. MT** - Next Generation Rangeland Monitoring and Knowledge Access Apps: Roundtable with USDA-ARS

**Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. MT** - Emerging Natural Resource Legal Trends with Western Resources Legal Center

**Tuesday, October 26, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. MT** - Online Sustainable Ranch Management: Self-Assessment Tool with Scoring with the Sustainable Rangelands Roundtable

**Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. MT** - Targeted Grazing Handbook Listening Session with the American Sheep Industry Association

Visit publiclandscouncil.org/plc-events to register!
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