

**§ 460rrr-2. Establishment of the Commission****(a) Establishment**

There is established the Rio Grande Natural Area Commission.

**(b) Purpose**

The Commission shall—

(1) advise the Secretary with respect to the Natural Area; and

(2) prepare a management plan relating to non-Federal land in the Natural Area under section 460rrr-4(b)(2)(A) of this title.

**(c) Membership**

The Commission shall be composed of 9 members appointed by the Secretary, of whom—

(1) 1 member shall represent the Colorado State Director of the Bureau of Land Management;

(2) 1 member shall be the manager of the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge, ex officio;

(3) 3 members shall be appointed based on the recommendation of the Governor of Colorado, of whom—

(A) 1 member shall represent the Colorado Division of Wildlife;

(B) 1 member shall represent the Colorado Division of Water Resources; and

(C) 1 member shall represent the Rio Grande Water Conservation District; and

(4) 4 members shall—

(A) represent the general public;

(B) be citizens of the local region in which the Natural Area is established; and

(C) have knowledge and experience in the fields of interest relating to the preservation, restoration, and use of the Natural Area.

**(d) Terms of office****(1) In general**

Except for the manager of the Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge, the term of office of a member of the Commission shall be 5 years.

**(2) Reappointment**

A member may be reappointed to the Commission on completion of the term of office of the member.

**(e) Compensation**

A member of the Commission shall serve without compensation for service on the Commission.

**(f) Chairperson**

The Commission shall elect a chairperson of the Commission.

**(g) Meetings****(1) In general**

The Commission shall meet at least quarterly at the call of the chairperson.

**(2) Public meetings**

A meeting of the Commission shall be open to the public.

**(3) Notice**

Notice of any meeting of the Commission shall be published in advance of the meeting.

**(h) Technical assistance**

The Secretary and the heads of other Federal agencies shall, to the maximum extent prac-

ticable, provide any information and technical services requested by the Commission to assist in carrying out the duties of the Commission.

(Pub. L. 109-337, § 4, Oct. 12, 2006, 120 Stat. 1777.)

**§ 460rrr-3. Powers of the Commission****(a) Hearings**

The Commission may hold such hearings, meet and act at such times and places, take such testimony, and receive such evidence as the Commission considers advisable to carry out this subchapter.

**(b) Cooperative agreements****(1) In general**

For purposes of carrying out the management plan on non-Federal land in the Natural Area, the Commission may enter into a cooperative agreement with the State of Colorado, a political subdivision of the State, or any person.

**(2) Requirements**

A cooperative agreement entered into under paragraph (1) shall establish procedures for providing notice to the Commission of any action proposed by the State of Colorado, a political subdivision of the State, or any person that may affect the implementation of the management plan on non-Federal land in the Natural Area.

**(3) Effect**

A cooperative agreement entered into under paragraph (1) shall not enlarge or diminish any right or duty of a Federal agency under Federal law.

**(c) Prohibition of acquisition of real property**

The Commission may not acquire any real property or interest in real property.

**(d) Implementation of management plan****(1) In general**

The Commission shall assist the Secretary in implementing the management plan by carrying out the activities described in paragraph (2) to preserve and interpret the natural, historic, cultural, scientific, scenic, wildlife, and recreational resources of the Natural Area.

**(2) Authorized activities**

In assisting with the implementation of the management plan under paragraph (1), the Commission may—

(A) assist the State of Colorado in preserving State land and wildlife within the Natural Area;

(B) assist the State of Colorado and political subdivisions of the State in increasing public awareness of, and appreciation for, the natural, historic, scientific, scenic, wildlife, and recreational resources in the Natural Area;

(C) encourage political subdivisions of the State of Colorado to adopt and implement land use policies that are consistent with—

(i) the management of the Natural Area;

and

(ii) the management plan; and

(D) encourage and assist private landowners in the Natural Area in the implementation of the management plan.