Public Lands Round Table Bylaws

Mission Statement

The mission of the Public Lands Round Table (PLRT) is to represent the public interest and to provide an advocacy forum for local users and stakeholders of our public lands.

Methods

We will work in cooperation with federal, state and county agencies in fashioning management decisions and policies affecting public lands. We will take part in the development, coordination and implementation of the planning objectives of Federal, State, County, Tribal and local agencies to ensure harmony between the objectives of these various entities and plans that affect our communities.

It is the intent and purpose of the PLRT to preserve the community heritage of the California Deserts, by vigorously participating in all public land planning and decision making processes regarding the multiple uses and resources such as, but not limited to: air quality, water and water quality, astronomy, commercial filming, cultural, feral horses and burros, geo-caching, grazing, mining, OHV, photography, plants, recreation, resources, rock hounding, soil erosion, springs and water ways, tribal, wildlife and wilderness, energy/power and power distribution, hydrology and conservation.

ARTICLE I - NAME

Section 1 - The name of this organization shall be the "Public Lands Round Table" (PLRT).

ARTICLE II - OBJECTIVES

Section 1 - The objectives of the organization shall be:

- **a.** Work within the framework provided by NEPA, CEQA, DRECP, FLPMA and the California Desert Conservation Area Plan, as amended, in coordination with other applicable federal and state environmental laws, and or Executive Orders;
- **b.** Consider, develop, and recommend innovative and creative techniques, policies, and management practices leading to improved resolutions and resource management decisions;
- **c.** Provide a forum for different user groups to seek common understanding and consensus on resource management through direct communication and interaction;
- **d.** Support multiple-use sustainable yield of the public lands within the framework and constraints provided by environmental law and policy;

e. Promote public awareness and involvement in the management process through dissemination of information;
f. Provide a network whereby projects proposed by other groups or agencies can be reviewed for any possible effects on Federal, State, County and Privately managed land.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Appointments:

a. A user/stakeholder group may request membership by sending a letter of interest using electronic or hardcopy means and containing letterhead and the supporting organization's affiliation and references/signatures of the organizations lead or secretary, (if any). Representatives of an organization must ensure the organization knows that they represent the organization's views at the PLRT. Additionally, there are a maximum of three at large voting public members. Finally, at the consent of the PLRT Executive Committee and PLRT membership, Subject Matter Experts (SME) in areas relevant to the PLRT may be added if approved by the PLRT process.
b. The Executive Committee shall review the letter, and upon reviewing conformity to our mission statement with an internal quorum (3 of 5 members of the Executive Committee), schedule it to be placed on the next agenda for ratification by the PLRT.
c. Each member is encouraged to appoint at least one alternate (maximum of two) to be approved by the PLRT.
d. Alternates will have full authority to act in place of the primary member.
e. Individuals representing local, state, and federal public service entities (such as Ridgecrest Police Dept., Kern County Sheriff, Kern County Fire, Bureau of Land Management, etc.) can be members but are non-voting.
f. Executive committee members are also voting PLRT members, and can be advocates for local uses.

Section 2 - Vacancies:

a. Vacancies shall be filled on the recommendation of the PLRT.
b. The Vice-Chair will see that inactive members are contacted to determine if they choose to continue as a member.
c. A six month period of inactivity will require a confirmation of continuation from the user/stakeholder. In lieu of this confirmation the user/stakeholder will lose membership privilege.

Section 3 – Removal or Censure

a. Members may be removed or censured by a 2/3 vote.
b. Removal or censure must first be placed on the Agenda and approved by the Executive Committee

ARTICLE IV - DUTIES OF THE PLRT COMMITTEE AT LARGE

Section 1 - Process:

a. The PLRT may, as approved by the PLRT in Article VII, make recommendations to the Federal, State and County management Agencies responsible for regulatory review and approvals of projects, initiatives, regulatory changes and/or any other action that would impact the local areas and lands. Recommendations may be in support, opposition, amendments or alternatives as deemed necessary by the PLRT.
b. The PLRT may establish standing committees and project teams to assure an opportunity for involvement by all affected interests.
c. The PLRT shall make reasonable efforts to review each management plan or project in the area for its effectiveness, coordination and adherence to Federal policy, the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) and other applicable laws and regulations.

Section 2 - Public Outreach: The PLRT may publicize alternate ways in which users, the general public and appropriate governmental officials may be kept informed of the activities of the PLRT.

ARTICLE V - MEETINGS

Section 1 - Meetings:

a. The PLRT shall meet monthly on the fourth Thursday at 6:00 p.m. of each month whenever practical at the BLM Office in Ridgecrest. Additional meetings of the PLRT and/or the Executive Committee may be held as deemed necessary by the Chairperson. The November meeting will typically be pushed to accommodate Thanksgiving

Section 2 - Emergency Meetings: Only the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson or a quorum of the membership may call Emergency Meetings of the PLRT.

Section 3 - Notices:

a. All meetings shall be open to the public.

b. Any individual may attend, appear before the PLRT, or file written statements with the PLRT regarding topics on the meeting agenda.

c. The Executive Committee shall approve the agenda.

d. Notice of the meeting will be publicized in the local media and by any such other means as may be deemed appropriate.

Section 4 - Quorum and Voting:

a. A quorum shall consist of seven (7) voting members present at any properly called meeting.

b. Only one vote is possible per each voting member.

c. Members may vote in favor, in opposition or abstain. An abstain vote does not count toward favor or opposition.

Section 5 - Order of Business: The order of business of any PLRT Committee meeting may include the following:

a. Call to order
b. Pledge of Allegiance
c. Introductions
d. Determination of a quorum
e. Approval of the Agenda
f. Approval of last meeting minutes
g. Member Comments or questions
h. Public Comments
i. Reading of Communications
j. Reports from BLM or any other Federal, State or County agency attending
k. Reports from members
l. Reports from committees
m. New business
n. Admission of new members
o. Appointments to committees
p. Members final comments and requests for items on next agenda
q. Adjournment

Section 6 - Rules of Order: All meetings shall be governed by the latest available edition of "Roberts Rules of Order" as modified to reflect consensus of members. Any member may request that an item be added to the Agenda.

ARTICLE VI - OFFICERS

Section 1 – Executive Committee: Officers of the organization shall be:

a. Chairperson; (elected by majority vote)

b. Vice-Chairperson; (elected by majority vote)

c. Previous Chairperson
d. Executive Secretary (elected by majority vote)
e. and one member appointed by the current Chairperson from voting membership.

<u>Section 2</u> - Election of Officers:

a. Officers shall be elected from among the PLRT Committee annually at the last fall meeting by nomination and a simple majority of those voting members present.
b. This will be the first order of business at that meeting following determination of a quorum.
c. Term of Office: Officers shall serve for a single two (2) year term and may be elected for no more than two (2) consecutive terms.
d. Executive Secretary: The Executive Secretary shall be elected by the PLRT.

<u>Section 3</u> - Duties of Officers: The duties of officers shall be, but not limited to:

a. Chairperson: The chairperson shall preside at meetings, appoint standing committees and subcommittee chairpersons and members, direct public relations, public outreach efforts, and direct completion of required reports.
b. Vice-Chairperson: In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson shall assume his/her duties, serve as scheduling officer for presentations to the PLRT and direct the receipt of and response to correspondence of the PLRT.
c. Executive Secretary: The Executive Secretary and media committee will ensure the agenda and minutes for each meeting are posted online or distributed in a timely manner to PLRT members. He/she shall ensure corrections are incorporated as approved by consensus at a regular meeting of the PLRT. At the direction of the Chairperson, the Executive Secretary shall perform other duties, as necessary, to maintain the orderly management of the PLRT Committees.
d. Elected Executive Committee Member: Serves on the Executive Committee and the PLRT Committee.

<u>ARTICLE VIl - STANDING COMMITTEES</u>

<u>Section 1</u> - Executive Committee:

a. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Current Officers. Three of the five members of the Executive Committee must be present to have a meeting and vote on items relevant to the committee.
b. Duties of the Executive Committee:

i. shall be to carry on functions as designated to it by the PLRT.
ii. shall handle all routine administrative matters of the PLRT between meetings of the Committee as whole.

<u>Section 2</u> - Standing Committees and Subcommittees: The chairperson shall appoint such standing committees and subcommittees, as the PLRT deems necessary.

<u>ARTICLE VIIl - RECOMMENDATIONS</u>

<u>Section 1</u>

a. Recommendations shall be forwarded from the PLRT to appropriate Federal, State and County agencies if consensus has been ascertained.
b. One or more members of the PLRT may propose that the PLRT take a formal stand on an issue, voting members must determine if this issue will be adopted by the PLRT.

<u>Section 2</u>

a. Notwithstanding anything in Section 1, the PLRT shall not make any recommendations to the Federal, State and County Agencies that would violate the Federal Advisory Committee Act [FACA].

Section 3

a. Pursuant to voting membership as defined in Article III, the PLRT may formally take and use the PLRT name and represent a position on a project or activity within or outside the jurisdiction of the BLM. A formal endorsement requires a 66% approval by voting members present at a formal meeting, so long as the item is on the Agenda prior to the meeting.

Section 4

a. Any member representing a specific organization may request that public endorsements by the PLRT are qualified with a statement that the individual organization does not support the overall PLRT endorsement.

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS

Section 1

a. Proposed amendments to the bylaws shall be submitted in writing to the Chairperson to be presented as an agenda item at the next scheduled PLRT meeting for discussion and if appropriate, a resolution.

Section 2

a. Amendments must be approved by an affirmation of at least two thirds (2/3rds) of the members present.

ARTICLE X – WEBSITE

Section 1 - Reference Name and Content Review:

a. The referenced online name shall be PLRT https://plrt.info.
b. All online representation will be reviewed by the Executive Committee.
c. Only positions officially approved by the PLRT can be published

Section 2 - Member Listing:

a. Members and their affiliation / topic representation will be public

Section 3 - Privacy:

a. Website presence shall conform to rules regarding any collection of personal information, through a privacy policy page to comply with legal requirements and build trust with users.
b. A timely email list for updates should be distributed to the public and not include recipient's email addresses (do a blind copy). This email can announce the posting of the upcoming meeting agenda and past meeting minutes, pending approval at the next meeting.
c. Additional email lists are possible, such as for members only.

Section 4 – Bylaws:

a. The approved PLRT Bylaws will be publicly available.

END

Public Lands Round Table Bylaws
Final August/2025

Approved as of 8/6/2025

George D. Croll P.E.
Board Chair

Mary Grimsley
Board Secretary