

UPPER COLORADO RIVER WILD AND SCENIC STAKEHOLDER GROUP
Conservation/Environment/Fishing Interest Group
Charter/Protocol
January 19th, 2023

1. PURPOSE

- A. This protocol sets forth the structure and operation of the Conservation/Environment/Fishing Interest Group (“CEF”) and the responsibilities of its members and representatives, consistent with the Governance provisions of the Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group Management Plan (“SG Plan”).
- B. CEF is one of six Interests Groups designated under the SG Plan for representation in the plan’s Governance Committee (GC). CEF represents conservation, environmental, and angler interests.

2. MEMBERSHIP

- A. *Members.* The current members of the CEF include American Rivers, Trout Unlimited, Eagle River Coalition, Conservation Colorado, Eagle Valley Land Trust and Blue Valley Ranch. CEF may allow additional members as provided in this Charter.
- B. *Membership Requirements.* Members of the CEF must indicate support for the SG Plan, attend annual CEF membership meetings, pay annual membership fees, and comply with the requirements of this Charter. Members will be notified of and are encouraged to attend SG meetings, including general, Governance Committee, and workgroup meetings. However, only members selected as Representatives in the Governance Committee as provided in section 3 (voting representation) will have the authority to vote on behalf of the CEF.
- C. *Membership Fees.* CEF membership fees will be assessed to cover the costs of assessments under the SG Plan and, if necessary, to hire consultants to assist CEF. CEF membership fees will be evaluated annually and will be approved by unanimous consent of the CEF membership.
- D. *New Members.* Additional members may be accepted by unanimous consent of the existing members. New members must comply with the membership requirements and with the provisions of this Charter. The amount of annual membership to be paid by a new member will be determined at the time of consideration of membership application.
- E. *Meetings.* The CEF will meet a minimum of once a year. Meetings may be held in person or through phone conferencing. Phone-in capabilities will be available at scheduled in person meetings. A simple majority of

the membership constitutes a quorum.

3. VOTING REPRESENTATION

- A. Governance Committee (GC) Representatives. CEF members will select three (3) members and three (3) alternates for representation in the SG Plan's Governance Committee.
- B. *Terms.* For initial appointments, CEF members will select GC representatives as follows:
 - i. One representative and one alternate will be selected for a term of one (1) year.
 - ii. One representative and one alternate will be selected for a term of two (2) years.
 - iii. One representative and one alternate will be selected for a term of three (3) years.
 - iv. Subsequent terms for each appointment will be for three (3) years. Representatives and alternates may be replaced upon approval of the CEF in accordance with the Decision-Making provisions of this Charter.
- C. *Duties of GC Representatives.* Representatives are expected to use best efforts to attend all regular, annual, and special meetings of the Governance Committee and to coordinate among each other and with the CEF membership. Representatives will vote in accordance with the procedures of the SG Plan and the Decision-Making procedures of this Charter. Representatives will be responsible for setting membership meetings as needed and to receive input from members. Alternates are expected to fulfill the responsibility of their respective Representatives as needed.

4. REVIEW COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION

The SG Plan (Section VI.I.4.b) established a dispute-resolution process which includes referral of specific, unresolved issues, to a Review Committee for non-binding guidance. The Review Committee is comprised of four members, including a member of the Board of Directors of a CEF member or of a Recreation Interest Group member. CEF will select a designee for the Review Committee as needed before the first meeting of said Committee and after coordination with the Recreation Interest Group. Once selected, the designee must operate with the approval of the membership pursuant to the Decision-Making procedures of this Charter.

5. DECISION-MAKING

- A. Unless otherwise specified in this Charter, CEF will operate by consensus of its members. Consensus does not mean that everyone agrees with the decision but that they can support it. Voting will use a

“1, 2, 3” approach where “1” means support, “2” means support with reservations, and “3” cannot support. A member voting “3” is obligated to offer an acceptable alternative.

- B. A decision to increase Membership Fees or to levy any other type of fee or assessment on the CEF membership will be made by unanimous consent of the members in a meeting to be called for that purpose. A simple majority of the membership constitutes a quorum for said meeting.

- C. This Charter may be amended by the vote of 2/3 of members present at a meeting called for that purpose. A simple majority of the membership constitutes a quorum for said meeting.

6. FUNDING

- A. *SG Plan Assessments.* Sufficient membership fees under Section 2.C. of this Charter will be assessed to cover the cost of annual assessments under the SG Plan.

- B. *Other Costs.* CEF may use approved membership fees under Section 2.C. of this Charter, additional assessments, grants and/or other donations to cover the costs associated with CEF’s participation in the plan, including the hiring of consultants.

Adopted this 19th day of January, 2023