2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area Advisory Committee

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1. Department or Agency	2. Fiscal Year
Department of the Interior	2024

3. Committee or Subcommittee	3b. GSA Committee No.
Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area Advisory Committee	515

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	04/03/2006		

8a. Was Terminated During FiscalYear?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date
No	Executive Order 13875 "Evaluating and Improving the Utility of Federal Advisory Committees"	

9. Agency Recommendation for Next FiscalYear	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?
Terminate	Yes	Pending

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Commitee Type	14c. Presidential?
16 U.S.C. 460	11/28/2004	Continuing	No

15. Description of Committee Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports	No Reports for this FiscalYear

17a. Open 0 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	$0.00	$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	$0.00	$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	$0.00	$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	$0.00	$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	$0.00	$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	$0.00	$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	$0.00	$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	$0.00	$0.00
18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	$0.00	$0.00
18d. Total	$0.00	$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Committee did not meet in Fiscal Year 2023, and hasn't met since 2006. The Gila Box Advisory Committee met, as scheduled by the BLM Safford Field Office, to discuss ongoing projects within the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area (RNCA). They were briefed by managers and staff at these meetings and sometimes taken on a field

tour to view specific projects. The BLM welcomed comments and suggestions from the Committee.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

As directed by Congress, the committee include four members with natural and/or cultural resource expertise and three members with political affiliations. Resources represented include watershed, hydrology, fish and wildlife, environmental education, cultural resources and recreation. Politically affiliated positions include the Governor's representative, Greenlee County representative, and Graham County representative. See the attched membership list for committee members (all are technically expired due to the expiration of the Charter).

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The BLM goal was to host 1-2 meetings per year. This is determined by (a) the need for updates from BLM to the Committee, (b) the need for input from the Committee to the BLM, and (c) requests from the committee to discuss a specific topic or view an ongoing project. The Committee was very active during its early years when they provided great support to the preparation of the Gila Box Management Plan. During the implementation phase, there has been much less input. The issues of the past two years have been the inability to get vacant positions filled. The Charter is currently expired and will need to be renewed and new members appointed before meetings can be held. There isn't much community interest in the committee and it is hard to solicit applications.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Committee was mandated by Congress when it created the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area as part of the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990. Congress specified the cross-section of member backgrounds and regional views to increase public input and advise to the BLM on the Gila Box Management Plan. Advisory Committee members are active in various fields and represent a good mix of the resource expertise needed to provide input on the Gila Box. This regional input is helpful to balance local issues and concerns and ensure the area is managed an developed for its resource values. The fact that the Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public enables the BLM to reach a larger segment of interested publics than can be done with limited staff and budget locally; community turnout at the meetings in generally very low though. Unfortunately, interest in Committee participation has also been low. Sometimes, a Call for Nominations must be issued twice before enough qualified candidates submit applications to fill vacant positions. Each time, the BLM must publish a Federal Register notice which costs additional money. In the past several years, the value of this investment in relation to the input we receive has been discussed.Also, the same type of committee was required by Congress for the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, which is also within our District. That committee has not been active for at least nine years and there has been no pressure to re-energize it. There needs to be a consistent approach so that both committees are handled the same.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

Meetings are not closed; all are open to the public.

They are well advertised via the Federal Register and, locally, through newspaper and radio stations. All meetings include a public comment period on the agenda.

21. Remarks

No meeting were held in FY 2023. Committee is currently inactive.

Designated Federal Officer

Tom Schnell Assistant Field Manager for Non-Renewable Resources

Narrative Description

No meetings were held this Fiscal Year, and the Committee hasn't met since 2006.The Advisory Committee was established by Congress to provide public input to the BLM's management of the Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	☐
Trust in government	☑
Major policy changes	☐
Advance in scientific research	☐
Effective grant making	☐
Improved service delivery	☐
Increased customer satisfaction	☐
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	☑
Other	☐

Outcome Comments

The Committee did not meet this Fiscal Year.

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
None	☐
Unable to Determine	☑
Under $100,000	☐
$100,000 - $500,000	☐
$500,001 - $1,000,000	☐
$1,000,001 - $5,000,000	☐
$5,000,001 - $10,000,000	☐
Over $10,000,000	☐
Cost Savings Other	☐

Cost Savings Comments

The Committee did not meet this Fiscal Year.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

100

Number of Recommendations Comments

The Committee did not meet this Fiscal Year.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

100%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

100% of the Committees consensus-driven recommendations became part of the Plan. 98% of the decisions made in the Plan were a result of recommendations made by the Committee; two items did not reach full agreement and the Committee failed to make a recommendation on these two. In this case, implementation meant that the recommendations were incorporated in the Final Management Plan. The Safford Field Office is still implementating this Plan so not all actions resulting from those recommendation have been implemented but will be completed during the life of the Plan given adequate levels of future funding and staffing.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or

will be Partially implemented by the agency?
0%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments
The two issues that did not reach consensus in the Committee had opposing viewpoints within the Committee, forcing the BLM to make those decisions. Therefore, these two were not formal recommendations of the Committee. The BLM decision, on these two topics, represented the viewpoints expressed through the Committee, but there was no agreement within the Committee. The BLM incorporated all the formal recommendations of the Committee into the Management Plan.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?
Yes ☑ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments
The Committee did not meet this Fiscal Year. During Gila Box Advisory Committee meetings, BLM managers and staff provide updates on the status of projects and decisions made in the Plan.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

	Checked if Applies
Reorganized Priorities	☐
Reallocated resources	☐
Issued new regulation	☐
Proposed legislation	☐
Approved grants or other payments	☐
Other	☐

Action Comments
The majority of recommendations were part of the Management Plan and involved overall management of the area and need for future projects.

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?
No

Grant Review Comments
N/A

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

	Checked if Applies
Contact DFO	☑
Online Agency Web Site	☐
Online Committee Web Site	☐
Online GSA FACA Web Site	☑
Publications	☑
Other	☐

Access Comments

No meetings were held this Fiscal Year.Meeting minutes are available to the public within 30 days following meetings. The public is invited to attend all committee meetings via publicity in local newspapers and a period of time is available for public comments at each meeting.