

CHARTER

INTERAGENCY VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

I. BACKGROUND

Many issues, needs, and legal requirements related to visitor use management are shared by the federal agencies tasked with managing public lands and waters. Maintaining and achieving desired conditions for visitor use, resource protection, and facilities and services is inherently complex and constantly evolving. To address the complexity around visitor use management, the Interagency Visitor Use Management Council was formed in 2011 to share, enhance, and leverage best practices, and to improve consistency in how these public lands and waters are sustainably managed. It is effective and efficient to address these issues collaboratively, particularly those pertaining to guidance, communication, training, management, and planning tools. Federal land and water management agencies have determined this need can best be supported through a formally recognized council that leads and coordinates initiatives related to visitor use management.

CONTINUATION OF THE INTERAGENCY VISITOR USE MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

Formed in 2011, the Interagency Visitor Use Management Council (IVUMC) consists of representatives from six agencies:

- Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce
- National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of the Interior

By this charter, these agencies renew their collective commitment to collaborate as active partners in the Interagency Visitor Use Management Council (the council).

III. AUTHORITY

- A. U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Related Agencies Appropriation Acts.
- B. Forest Service Organic Administration Act of 1897 (16 U.S.C. § 551)
- C. Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. § 1701 *et seq.*)
- D. National Park Service Organic Act (54 U.S.C. § 100101 *et seq.*)
- E. National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. § 668dd), as amended December 27, 2022.
- F. Flood Control Act of 1944, as amended, (16 U.S.C., 460d), Federal Water Project Recreation Act, (16 U.S.C. § 4601-12 *et seq.*), and Water Resources Development Act of 1990, (33 U.S.C § 2320).
- G. National Marine Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. § 1431 *et seq.*)

H. Executive Order 13158, Marine Protected Areas

IV. MISSION AND PURPOSE

The council's mission is to provide guidance on visitor use management policies and to develop legally defensible and effective interagency implementation tools for visitor use management.

The council's overriding goal is to improve visitor use management on federal lands and waters, including but not limited to national conservation areas, national monuments, national parks, national recreation areas, national wildlife refuges, wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, national scenic and historic trails, national marine sanctuaries, and other administrative units of the NPS, USFS, BLM, USFWS, NOAA, and USACE. The council's purpose is:

1. Develop field-tested, science-informed, interagency guidance for implementing effective visitor use management programs that is consistent, efficient, and inclusive.
2. Identify sustainable strategies for improving institutional capabilities and professional competencies, including partnerships.
3. Launch and update shared tools and trainings to create a unified approach to visitor use management across member agencies.
4. Support internal and external communication and education efforts to disseminate council guidance and products.
5. Foster collaboration and diversity of thought while responding effectively to the dynamic world of visitor use management.

V. ORGANIZATION

The council consists of representatives from each of the six member agencies. Other federal agencies with an interest in visitor use management may participate in discussions of the council as appropriate.

VI. COUNCIL RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. The council addresses issues related to visitor use management on federally managed lands and waters.
- b. The council may form subordinate groups and assign work to those groups relating to visitor use management.
- c. The council may provide information, training, analysis, and/or interpretation of council guidance to support policy, procedures, and decision-making regarding visitor use management.
- d. The council maintains a website that provides publicly accessible information about the council and issues, tools and strategies related to effective visitor use management.
- e. The council makes contacts and coordinates with other federal agency working groups as needed to fulfill its responsibilities and avoid duplicative efforts.
- f. The council members elect a council chair, vice chair, and executive advisor (council leadership team) from their membership.

VII. COMMITTEE MEMBER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The council consists of the following roles: chair, vice chair, executive advisor, executive committee, council members, and technical advisors. Responsibilities associated with each role type and qualification specifications for roles of the chair, vice chair, executive advisor, and member of the executive committee are outlined in a roles and responsibilities document. This document is reviewed annually and updated as needed. Updates will be led by the council chair and will be made by the council leadership team and the executive committee.

VIII. MEETINGS & PROTOCOLS

- a. Recurring meetings are held to report on council subgroup progress, new items, upcoming events, and executive committee considerations and decisions. The full council and technical advisors, as needed, participate on these calls. The executive committee holds additional meetings, as needed.
- b. At least one annual council meeting, known as the “Event of the Year,” is typically held each year with the date and location (either in person or virtual) established well in advance. All council members are encouraged to attend/participate. Preparations for the annual council meeting are primarily coordinated by the council chair, vice chair, and executive advisor.
- c. The council will operate by consensus. Consensus decisions and recommendations will be developed with council members, approved by the six agency representatives that form the executive committee, as well as the council leadership team. If consensus is unreachable, the council chair with input from the other leadership team members will provide a paper presenting the issue and alternative approaches that represent varying viewpoints of the council members. Input from council members will be taken back to the executive committee and the leadership team for final decision making.

IX. MODIFICATION AND TERMINATION

This charter may be modified and amended upon written request of any party and the subsequent written concurrence of the other parties or upon the executive committee and council leadership team consensus.

The charter commences upon the date of the last of the six signatures appearing below and shall be reviewed and updated by the council leadership team as needed. Updates to the charter will only be made as necessary, following reviews by each member agency. Any of the six parties may terminate its participation in the council at any time by written notice to the other parties at least thirty (30) days before the desired date of their termination.

IX. APPROVAL

This charter is approved by:

MICHAEL CALDWELL Digitally signed by MICHAEL CALDWELL
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Michael A. Caldwell,
Associate Director, Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands
National Park Service



Gordie Blum
Director, Recreation, Heritage, and Volunteer Resources
U.S.D.A. Forest Service

THOMAS HEINLEIN Digitally signed by THOMAS HEINLEIN
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Tom Heinlein
Assistant Director, National Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships
Bureau of Land Management



Cynthia Martinez
Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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Jeffrey F. Krause
Chief, Natural Resources Management
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

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Nicole R. LeBoeuf
Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration