



**CHARTER
OF THE
FLAT-TAILED HORNED LIZARD
MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT
GROUP**



BACKGROUND

During the summer of 1997, a Conservation Agreement was developed among several federal and state agencies in Arizona and California to conserve the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard (*Phrynosoma mcallii*) through conservation measures under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, by reducing threats to the species and maintaining its ecosystem. The Conservation Agreement established a general framework for cooperation and participation among the signatories, and instituted an open process by which to identify and carry out actions to conserve the species through voluntary participation of public and private partnerships. Signatories to the Conservation Agreement agree as full and equal partners to further develop and implement the objectives, strategies, and tasks set forth in the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Rangelwide Management Strategy, an Arizona - California Conservation Strategy completed in May 1997.

The Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Rangelwide Management Strategy recommends the establishment of a Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Management Oversight Group (FTHL MOG) consisting of management representatives from agencies participating in the Conservation Agreement. The Management Strategy further recommends that the FTHL MOG provide management-level leadership, coordination, and oversight in the implementation of the Management Strategy, review progress in implementing the Conservation Agreement, set priorities, and recommend measures to resolve management issues relevant to implementation of the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Rangelwide Management Strategy. Finally, the Management Strategy recommends that the FTHL MOG provide overall policy guidance and coordination among the cooperators for the use of compensation funds.

MISSION

The overall mission of the FTHL MOG is to perform management-level duties, as described in the Management Strategy and as identified by the FTHL Interagency Coordinating Committee, in order to maintain viable populations of Flat-tailed Horned Lizards for at least 100 years.

AUTHORITY

The authorities for individual signatories to participate in the Conservation Agreement and the FTHL MOG are derived from the following legislation:

- Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended
- Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, as amended
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934, as amended
- Sikes Act of 1960, as amended
- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976
- Arizona Revised Statute 17-231.B-7

Existing interagency agreements provide a further framework for cooperation and participation among the signatories to the Conservation Agreement.

DECISION MAKING

As full and equal partners, the management-level representatives appointed by their respective signatory agencies to the FTHL MOG agree to conduct collaborative decision making through consensus, that is, by agreement of all members. The FTHL MOG will not assume the decision making responsibilities of respective signatory agencies, but instead will make decisions regarding (1) the conformance of specific signatory agency actions to the Management Strategy; and (2) annual evaluations and proposed modifications of the Management Strategy. Discussion of issues requiring a decision by the FTHL MOG will continue until such time as all members either agree with the decision or at least can “live with,” and not oppose the decision. Each signatory agency’s appointed representative or his(her) designated alternate representative will be polled to determine if consensus has been achieved. Consensus will be indicated by “thumbs-up” (concur), down (do not concur), or sideways (no objection). Alternates will be empowered to act on behalf of the members they represent.

ADMINISTRATION

Meetings of the FTHL MOG will be held two times per year or as determined by mutual consent of the members. A chairperson will be appointed on a bi-annual basis by mutual consent of the members to ensure development of meeting agendas, facilitation of meetings, and preparation of minutes. The role of the chairperson includes, but is not limited to:

1. providing leadership and in coordination among other FTHL MOG member agencies and affected interests; and
2. anticipating relevant challenges and opportunities for the FTHL MOG, and encouraging affected agencies and interests to participate in decision making and problem resolution.

The chairperson will have the authority to appoint an executive secretary for the duration of his/her tenure as chairperson. The executive secretary will assist the chairperson with the preparation of meeting agendas and minutes, and will prepare correspondence for signature by either the FTHL MOG membership as a whole or by the chairperson on behalf of the FTHL MOG.

MEETING MANAGEMENT

A call for agenda items will be made no less than one (1) month prior to the scheduled date of each FTHL MOG meeting. A draft agenda will be distributed to members not less than two (2) weeks prior to each meeting. Each meeting will begin with a review of the agenda for that meeting, and will close with the development of a draft agenda for the next meeting.

Draft meeting minutes will be distributed to members for review within two (2) weeks of each meeting, and will be finalized at the following meeting.

Meetings of the FTHL MOG will be open to the public, but will generally not be conducted as

public meetings unless otherwise agreed to by consensus of the members. Presentations to the FTHL MOG may be made by nonmembers provided that said presentations are included on the meeting agenda.

INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

In accordance with the Conservation Agreement, signatory agencies will each designate a representative to serve on the FTHL Interagency Coordinating Committee (FTHL ICC). The FTHL ICC will monitor implementation of the Management Strategy and provide a forum for exchange of information on the species. The FTHL ICC will also be responsible for specific tasks as set forth in the Management Strategy implementation schedule, and as assigned by the FTHL MOG to include:

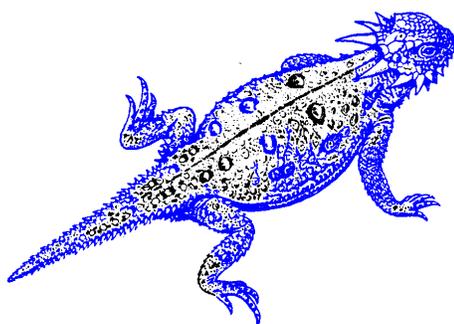
1. tracking research and recommending priorities;
2. evaluating and recommending research proposals for funding; and
3. tracking collection and uses of compensation, acquisition of land, and habitat disturbance.

Through mutual agreement among FTHL ICC representatives, the FTHL ICC may recommend changes in the tasks and scheduling of tasks to the FTHL MOG. The FTHL ICC will prepare an annual report documenting monitoring results and progress in implementing the Management Strategy.

The FTHL ICC will be responsible for organizing and conducting its meetings on a semi-annual basis.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

News releases and other information relative to FTHL MOG efforts will be disseminated on a case-by-case basis. Information involving the entire FTHL MOG (e.g., signing the Conservation Agreement) will be issued via joint press releases on behalf of the signatory agencies. Where possible, an individual signatory agency will provide FTHL MOG members with advance copies of releases involving information which pertains only to that agency.



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