

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE**

**THEODORE ROOSEVELT GENIUS PRIZE
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

CHARTER

- 1. Committee's Official Designation.** Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize Advisory Council (Council).
- 2. Authority.** The Council is established under the John D. Dingell, Jr., Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, March 12, 2019 (Public Law 116-9); the America's Conservation Enhancement Act, October 30, 2020 (Public Law 116-188); and the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. § 3719). This Council is regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), as amended (5 U.S.C. Appendix 2).
- 3. Objectives and Scope of Activities.** The Council advises the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary), through the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), regarding the six Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize competitions.

The Prize competitions encourage technological innovation with the potential to advance the mission of the Service in the following areas of concern: 1) preventing wildlife poaching and trafficking, 2) promoting wildlife conservation, 3) managing invasive species, 4) protecting endangered species, 5) managing nonlethal human-wildlife conflict, and 6) reducing human-predator conflict.

The Statutes establish six Advisory Boards (Boards) to help implement the Prizes. These Boards are responsible for selecting topics; issuing problem statements; consulting with Federal stakeholders; and advising prize winners regarding opportunities to pilot and implement winning technologies. Each Board must be made up of no fewer than nine members, appointed by the Secretary, including at least one member who is expert in the area of concern for that Board and other members expert in wildlife conservation and management, biology, technology development, engineering, economics, and business development and management.

Additionally, under the Statutes, the Boards have an advisory duty to: develop recommendations for the Secretary regarding opportunities for technological innovation to assist in addressing the Statutes' six areas of concern. Establishment of the Council facilitates FACA compliance for the performance of the Boards' role advising the Secretary.

- 4. Description of Duties.** The Council will provide recommendations regarding opportunities for technological innovation to assist in addressing the six areas of concern covered by the Statutes. The Boards will be designated subcommittees of the full Council and will provide draft advice and recommendations to the Council for its consideration. The full Council will deliberate on the draft recommendations, and forward to the Secretary those recommendations that it approves.

The six Boards will prepare a statement that describes the activities carried out by the Boards relating to the duties in the Statutes.

At the conclusion of each Council meeting or shortly thereafter, the Council will provide a detailed recommendation report, including meeting minutes, to the Designated Federal Officer (DFO).

5. **Agency or Official to Whom the Committee Reports.** The Council reports to the Secretary through the DFO.
6. **Support.** Administrative support and funding for activities of the Council will be provided by the Service.
7. **Estimated Annual Operating Costs and Staff Years.** The annual operating costs associated with supporting the Council's activities are estimated to be \$475,000, including all direct and indirect expenses and 0.75 Federal staff years support.
8. **Designated Federal Officer.** The DFO is a full-time Federal employee appointed in accordance with Agency procedures. The DFO approves or calls all Council and board meetings, prepares and approves all meeting agendas, attends all Council and board meetings, adjourns any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chairs meetings when directed to do so by the Secretary or Service Director.
9. **Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings.** The Council will meet approximately twice annually, and at such other times as designated by the DFO.
10. **Duration.** Continuing.
11. **Termination.** The Council will not meet or take any action without a valid current charter. The Council will carry out its duties until December 31, 2023, at which time the Council will terminate pursuant to the John D. Dingell, Jr., Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (March 12, 2019). All members will terminate with the Council and Boards.
12. **Membership and Designation.** The Council must be composed of not fewer than 12 members, and not more than 18 members, appointed by the Secretary, who have expertise in:
 - (a) Wildlife trafficking and trade;
 - (b) Wildlife conservation and management;
 - (c) Endangered species;
 - (d) Invasive species;
 - (e) Nonlethal wildlife management;
 - (f) Social aspects of human-wildlife conflict management;
 - (g) Predator-human interactions;
 - (h) Habitats of large predators;
 - (i) Biology;
 - (j) Technology development;
 - (k) Engineering;
 - (l) Economics;

- (m) Business development and management; and
- (n) Any other discipline that the Secretary determines to be necessary to achieve the purposes of the Council.

Members will serve for a term that lasts until the termination of the Council in 2023. Vacancies on the Council will not affect the powers of the Council and will be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made. The Council will select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among the members.

Non-Federal members of the Council and subcommittee members serve without compensation. However, while away from their homes or regular places of business, Council or subcommittee members engaged in Council or subcommittee business that is approved by the DFO may be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in the same manner as persons employed intermittently in Government service under 5 U.S.C. § 5703.

The Council will minimize the administrative costs by encouraging remote participation, when possible.

13. Ethics Responsibilities of Members.

- a. **Federal Employees.** Members who are appointed to the Council in their official capacity as Federal employees are subject to applicable Federal ethics statutes and regulations, to include applicable exceptions and exemptions.
- b. **Special Government Employee Members.** Members of the Council and subcommittees appointed as special Government employees (SGE) are subject to applicable Federal ethics statutes and regulations, to include applicable exceptions and exemptions. Additionally, SGE members are required, prior to appointment and annually thereafter, to file a Confidential Financial Disclosure Report. SGE members are also required to receive initial ethics training prior to performing any Council duties and to receive annual ethics training thereafter. The Department of the Interior will provide materials to those members serving as SGEs, explaining their ethical obligations.
- c. **Non-Federal Members Who Are Not Special Government Employees.** Non-Federal members of the Council and subcommittees appointed as representatives are not subject to Federal ethics statutes and regulations. However, no non-Federal Council and subcommittee members will participate in any Council or subcommittee deliberations or votes relating to a specific party matter before the Department or its bureaus and offices including a lease, license, permit, contract, grant, claim, agreement, or litigation, in which the member or the entity the member represents has a direct financial interest.

14. Subcommittees. The Council will designate the six Boards as subcommittees in order to facilitate the Boards' advisory role under the Statutes. In their roles as subcommittees of the full Council, the Boards must act only under the direction of the DFO and must submit any recommendations for the Secretary to the full Council for deliberation. In their role as subcommittees, they must not provide advice or work product directly to the Service. The Boards will meet as necessary to accomplish their role, subject to the approval of the DFO and the availability of resources.

15. **Recordkeeping.** The records of the Council, and formally and informally established boards of the Council, must be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 6.2 and other approved Agency records disposition schedules. These records must be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. § 552).



Secretary of the Interior

MAY 26 2022

Date Signed

June 1, 2022

Date Filed