

June 18, 2012

Coalition for Western Agriculture and Conservation: Steering Committee Operating Principles

1. The name of the coalition is the “Western Agriculture and Conservation Coalition.”
2. The vision for the coalition is to:

To support the common interests of agriculture and conservation through targeted advocacy, outreach and engaging decision-makers and resource managers in the spirit of collaboration, to further a shared vision for a rural West to remain viable and sustainable.

3. As of March 1, 2012, the members of the steering committee are Trout Unlimited, Family Farm Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, California Farm Bureau, Environmental Defense Fund, Public Lands Council, Arizona Cattle Growers Association, Wyoming Stock Growers Association, and the Irrigation Association.
4. No decision, action, or representation may be made in the name of the coalition without the agreement of all members of the steering committee, except as provided below with respect to expulsion of coalition members.
5. As of March 1, 2012, general policy areas the coalition has agreed to work on are the Farm Bill, Endangered Species Act, support for voluntary water programs, and tax policies that promote open space and the continued viability of family farms and ranches. Changes to this menu of issues may only be made with the approval of the steering committee. Activity on specific positions within each of these areas is contingent on the approval of the steering committee.
6. Individual members of the steering committee are not limited by their membership in the steering committee from taking any action they deem appropriate to meet the missions of their respective organizations.
7. Members of the steering committee may work with other members on any policy or other initiative as they deem fit, provided they do not invoke the name of the coalition without the consensus of the steering committee.
8. Members of the steering committee are expected to work together in a spirit of trust and collaboration to most effectively foster the work of the coalition. Communications between members are to be treated confidentially and not shared outside the steering committee without the express permission of the initiator of the communication. Members considering working with other members

on a policy initiative should consider the likelihood that other members will support a particular initiative before initiating communication about the matter.

9. Members of the steering committee are expected to contribute financially to the cost of the maintaining the coalition to the extent of their ability, or to use their contacts to help raise funds to pay for the coalition.

10. Organizations wishing to join the coalition should indicate their interest by having an individual with authority to bind the organization sign the letter of intent appended hereto and submitting the letter to the staff director for the coalition. Upon receipt of the letter, the steering committee members shall decide by consensus whether to approve the request for membership. Prospective members shall be asked to make a financial contribution to the extent of their ability to the maintenance of the coalition as a condition of their admission.

11. The current composition of the steering committee shall remain in effect until June 30, 2014. Beginning on July 30, 2014, up to two or four steering committee members, equally divided between conservation and agriculture, may be rotated off the committee and replaced with regular members as determined by the steering committee. Consideration of rotation will be repeated annually. The steering committee may also decide by consensus to expand the steering committee in lieu of rotation.

12. The steering committee may expel members of the Coalition by a majority vote.