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PLC Elects New Leadership, Adopts New Policy

WASHINGTON (September 20, 2010) – Public Lands Council (PLC) held its 2010 Annual Meeting in Pendleton, Oregon on September 13-14. At the meeting, new leadership was elected to the executive committee and PLC members adopted new and interim policies. The executive committee will serve in their newly elected roles for two years, with John Falen (Nevada) as president, Brice Lee (Colorado) as vice president and Brenda Richards (Idaho) as secretary/treasurer.

Having served on the PLC executive committee for 8 years, retiring president Skye Krebs of Ione, Oregon passed the torch to former vice president, Falen. Falen, along with his family and wife, Sharon, ranches cattle near Orovada, Nevada. Now serving as vice president is former secretary/treasurer, Lee, who ranches cattle near Hesperus, Colorado with wife, Phyllis. The new face on the executive committee belongs to Richards. She and her husband, Tony, own and run a cow/calf operation in Reynolds Creek, Idaho. Krebs is confident in his successors.

“I think we have a strong team of individuals well-prepared to promote and protect the principles that support the public lands grazing industry,” Krebs said.

Members of PLC also adopted new and interim policies. An interim policy regarding National Monument designations was adopted first. Presidentially designated monuments have locked up millions of acres of land across the west. PLC supports congressional oversight, western states’ exemption from designations, and reversal of unnecessary designations. Other policies adopted: the “Restore Our Border” (ROB) plan, developed by the Arizona Cattle Growers’ Association to improve security along the U.S.-Mexican border; promotion of grazing as a mitigation tool for other public land uses such as energy development; and opposition to National Heritage Areas, which jeopardize acceptable federal, state, and local land planning.

“We’ve made a good start,” said Falen. “I’m looking forward to serving PLC and the people who make our industry great.”

The Public Lands Council (PLC) has represented livestock ranchers who use public lands since 1968, preserving the natural resources and unique heritage of the West. Public land ranchers own nearly 120 million acres of the most productive private land and manage vast areas of public land, accounting for critical wildlife habitat and the nation’s natural resources. PLC works to maintain a stable business environment in which livestock producers can conserve the West and feed the nation and world.