

**RURAL LAND PRESERVATION GROUP
BY-LAWS
Approved April 24, 2002**

1. Name

The name of the organization shall be “The Rural Land Preservation Group”, hereinafter known as “RLPG”.

2. Mission

The mission of the organization shall be “The Preservation of Rural Lands”.

3. Membership

The organization shall have no members, but meetings shall be open to the public.

4. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of a minimum of seven and a maximum of 15 persons. The volunteer Board shall be composed of area ranchers, other landowners, city and/or county officials, and interested citizens. Nominations for new board members will be accepted and voted on by the previous board.

The term of a Director shall be two years. Directors may be re-elected for additional terms.

Board members must attend a minimum of 50% of the regularly scheduled meetings annually.

5. Officers

Officers of the organization shall be:

- Chairman - presides over meetings; sets agenda
- Vice-Chairman - assists the Chair as requested
- Secretary - takes notes; maintains organizational records & archives; provides notification of meetings to members and through the regional press.
- Treasurer - maintains financial records and reports to the Board as specified below.

Officers shall be nominated and voted upon by the Board. The term of office shall be two years. Officers may be re-elected for additional terms.

6. Meetings

Meetings shall be held bi-monthly, and are open to the public. Place and time of meetings to be determined.

Notice of meetings shall be provided to board members (via e-mail, regular mail, or phone) at least one week prior to meeting time. The public shall be notified through announcements in the regional press.

The Annual Meeting shall be held in late January. Special meetings may be called by request of at least four Board members.

7. Quorum and Voting

A majority of the Board shall constitute Quorum. Each member present shall have one vote. Proxy votes will be permitted. A simple majority of those voting shall decide the question unless otherwise specified in these by-laws.

8. Finances

Finances shall be handled by the Treasurer, who will open a bank account in the name of "Rural Lands Preservation Group". Checks in the amount of \$100 or less will require only the Treasurer's signature. For checks exceeding \$100, two signatures will be required: those of the Treasurer and either the Chairman or the Vice Chairman.

The Treasurer shall present a summary financial report at each scheduled meeting, and a full financial report at the Annual Meeting.

7. Objectives

The objectives of the organization shall be:

- To assist ranchers and other rural landowners who wish to keep their lands in agricultural production or preserve it as open space.
- To research tools available to finance land preservation, which include but are not limited to:
 - Conservation easements
 - Land trusts
 - Tax credits
 - Etc.
- To build public awareness of and support for agricultural land preservation
- To advocate before the state and the county for land use regulations that support agricultural land preservation
- To secure funding for land preservation projects and to create sources of dedicated monies to serve as matching funds for grants

8. Coordination

The RLPG will coordinate its activities with other groups in the area concerned with environmental protection, preservation of agricultural land and open space, trails, etc. RLPG is a charter member of the Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition which facilitates coordination.

9. Committees

To carry out the above-stated purposes, the Board of Directors may name standing or ad-hoc Committees.

10. Recall

Any member of the organization may request recall of an officer or member of the Board by showing cause in writing. Members must be advised in writing of the recall request at least two weeks prior to the meeting at which the question is called. Removal of the Board member or officer shall require a two-thirds vote of the full Board.

10. Dissolution

In the event of dissolution of the organization, such assets as remain after outstanding debts are settled shall be transferred to the Teller Historic and Environmental Coalition or, if it does not then exist, another 501(c)(3) organization in Teller or Park County with similar purposes.

11. Liability of Directors

Liability shall be limited to the maximum extent permitted by statute.

12. Amendments

Any member of the organization may suggest amendment of these By-Laws by presenting to the Board, in writing, the proposed amendment. Members must be notified of the pending amendment at least two weeks before the meeting at which the issue is to be addressed. A vote of two-thirds of the full Board shall be required to approve an amendment.