

Arkansas Grazing Lands Coalition

Ethics Considerations

Accepting Gifts

According to accepted ethics rules, Arkansas Grazing Lands Coalition (AGLC) board members generally may not accept gifts, with some exceptions.

- AGLC board member may receive food, lodging, or travel where he/she is appearing in an official capacity and the appearance bears a relationship to the AGLC board member's office or position.
- AGLC board member may accept a gift valued at less than \$100 only if the item is given to show public appreciation for the AGLC board member's job performance.
- A gift shall be prohibited if it is intended to reward a AGLC board member for doing his or her job or it is intended as a reward for past or future action (e.g., bribery).
- AGLC board member may accept a gift given on account of an actual personal, professional, or business relationship independent of his or her official status.
- AGLC board member is prohibited from receiving outside compensation for doing his or her job.

Confidential Information

No AGLC board member shall purposely use or disclose to any other person or entity confidential government information acquired by him or her in the course of and by reason of the AGLC board member's official duties, to secure anything of material value or benefit for himself or herself or his or her family.

Fair Treatment

According to Arkansas ethics rules, no AGLC board member shall use or attempt to use his or her official position to secure special privileges or exemption for himself or herself or his or her spouse, child, parents, or other persons standing in the first degree of relationship, or for those with whom he or she has a substantial financial relationship that is not available to others except as may be otherwise provided by law.

A board member of an entity receiving state/federal funds may participate in, vote on, influence, or attempt to influence an official decision in two situations:

- if the only personal financial interest is "incidental" to his or her position
- if the financial benefit accrues to him or her as a member of a profession, occupation, or large class will be no different than the benefit to any other member of the larger group.

Conflict of Interest

According to state and federal ethics rules, no member of a state board or commission or board member of an entity receiving state and/or federal funds shall participate in any discussion or vote on a rule or regulation that exclusively benefits the member.

Non-Discrimination in Program Delivery

Discrimination is prohibited in program delivery. The U.S. Department of Agriculture requires the following nondiscrimination statement shall be posted in all offices of programs that receive federal assistance and included in full on all materials regarding such recipients' programs that are produced for public information, public education, or public distribution.

"In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)"

To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."