

# LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT LONG-RANGE PLAN



2021 – 2026

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Table of Contents	i
Lincoln Conservation District Mission Statement and Priorities	1
Preface	2
Introduction	3
Acknowledgements	4
History	5
General Information	9
Resource Data	11
Soils	11
Climate	12
Land	13
Natural Resource Concerns	15
Water	15
Soils	18
Air	20
Animals	22
Plants	25
Land Use Concerns	28
Rangeland	28
Pasture and Hayland	31
Cropland	33
Recreation and Wildlife	35
Industry, Transportation	39
Urban, Suburban and Build-Up Areas	42
Farmsteads	44
Information and Education Activities	46
District Operating Policy	49
Resolution of Adoption	50

## **LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S MISSION STATEMENT AND PRIORITIES**

The overall goal of the Lincoln Conservation District (LCD) covers three major areas of concern.

### **1. Quality of Life**

The LCD is committed to the conservation and wise use of the soil, water, and related natural resources of southern Lincoln County in order to provide all of its residents an opportunity to live a healthy, happy, stable, and productive lifestyle. The LCD board members will do their best to provide the necessary leadership, promote good, sound, on the ground conservation practices, and will continue to provide a variety of educational training to accomplish this goal.

### **2. Community Natural Resource Management**

The LCD will continue to work closely with local communities to assist, promote, and protect public lands and natural resources, soil, water and wildlife resources, to develop water, and to prevent floods, to stabilize ranching and local industry, to protect the tax base, and to provide for public safety, health, and welfare of district citizens.

### **3. Landscape**

The LCD desires to develop an aesthetically pleasing place for local residents and visitors. Efforts will be initiated to develop a diversity of trees, shrubs, forbs, and land grasses throughout all areas of the District, emphasizing the need to have open spaces along with residential and industrial development.

## **PREFACE**

The purpose of this long-range plan is to update the Lincoln Conservation District's natural resources conservation objectives and to serve as a guide for future work. The District is responsible for the development and implementation of a number of on-going and new state and national conservation programs and to address natural resource concerns in southern Lincoln County.

Presently, the District helps area landowners:

- a) Know the potential of soil, water, air and related plant and animal resources on their land.
- b) Understand the effects of landowners' decisions and actions on the District's resource base and environment.
- c) Use local natural resources to meet landowners' goals which are compatible with the broad interests of Districts' residents.
- d) Install natural resource management systems that will maintain and improve the District's natural resource base and achieve a better standard of living for local residents.

## INTRODUCTION

The activities of the Lincoln Conservation District (LCD) are directed by a volunteer, five-member Board of Supervisors, who are elected in the general election. Each board member is committed to providing sound natural resources conservation in their community by volunteering countless hours of their time and their expertise to help address the demands placed on our natural resources by ever increasing population and continual changes in technology and conservation programs. With this in mind, the Lincoln Conservation District (LCD) board of supervisors has undertaken the job to update the District's Long-Range Plan.

This "Long-Range Plan" will be the guide for the proper use and treatment of our District's natural resources. In order to keep the District current with every changing condition and new technology, this plan will be revised periodically as needed.

### FISCAL YEAR 2021 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chairman	Erick Esterholdt
Vice Chairman	Kenny Petersen
Secretary/Treasurer	Robert Peternal
Member	Paula Bowling
Member	Paul Clark
Natural Resource Specialist	DeMont B. Grandy
District Clerk	Brenda Lazcanotegui

### NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Adam Clark	District Conservationist
Wade R. Payne	Civil Engineering Technician
Janessa Juslon	Range Management Specialist

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Lincoln Conservation District board of supervisors acknowledges and appreciates the assistance given by the following cooperating agencies:

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts  
Wyoming Department of Agriculture  
Lincoln County Commissioners  
Coalition of Local Governments  
Congressional Representatives  
Lincoln County Weed and Pest District  
Lincoln County Planning Office  
Lincoln County School District No. 1  
Lincoln County School District No. 2  
City of Kemmerer  
City of Diamondville  
Town of Cokeville  
Town of Opal  
Town of LaBarge  
Western Wyoming RC&D  
Wyoming Water Development Commission  
Wyoming Game and Fish Department  
Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality  
Wyoming State Forester  
Wyoming State Engineers Office and Board of Control  
Wyoming Livestock Board  
Wyoming Stock and Wool Growers Association  
USDA Forest Service  
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
Farm Service Agency (FSA)  
Office of State Lands and Investments  
Fossil Butte National Monument  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
Local Sage Grouse Working Group  
Trout Unlimited  
Bear River Regional Commission  
Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative  
Bridger Plant Materials



## HISTORY



In the late 1920's, the nation was suffering heavy losses from wind and water erosion which amounted to \$200,000,000.00 annually. Thousands of acres of once productive lands were being ruined for further tillage. Streams, lakes and reservoirs were being filled with silt which was once rich topsoil. Declining soil productivity was reducing yields and income despite improved plant varieties, cultural methods and pest control. That was the setting in 1929 when soil erosion, as a menace to the economy, health, and general welfare of the United States, received national recognition. In 1930 the Buchanan Amendment to the Agriculture Appropriation Act was passed, which provided funds to conduct soil erosion investigations. Out of this data, H. H. Bennett estimated that each year enough soil was being washed out of our fields and pasture lands to load a train of freight cars that would encircle the earth 18 times at the equator. Farmers began looking at their fields in a new light, hoping for methods of operation that would heal their scarred land and prevent further damages.

From 1930 until 1937, various programs were undertaken to solve the menace threatening our basic natural resources. An intensive conservation practice demonstration program was launched throughout the nation. By June 30, 1936, the Soil Conservation Service had in operation 147 demonstration projects averaging 30,000 acres, 48 conservation nurseries, 23 research stations and 454 CCC Camps. Approximately 50,500 farmers in the demonstration areas had applied conservation plans on nearly 5 million acres. Thousands more were asking for the opportunity to participate in the programs.

Experience in demonstration projects and Civil Conservation Corps (CCC) Camps clearly showed that local people, the landowners, could handle organization, promotion, and administrative details. Such local organizations would assure continued interest and more effective use of public funds. On June 6, 1935, the secretary of Agriculture recommended that after July 1, 1937, all erosion control work on private lands be undertaken by a Soil Conservation Association.

Out of this thinking was born the Soil Conservation Service at the national level. In February 1937 the President of the United States recommended to all states that the authority be given to farmers and ranchers to organize specifically for Conservation of Soil and Water Resources. Legislatures of 22 states passed such laws that year. Since then, all 50 states of the Union have passed legislation which permits the establishment of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

In 1941, the Wyoming legislature enacted the State Soil and Water Conservation District law to authorize ranchers and farmers to organize for the analysis and solution of an area's own soil and water conservation, erosion problems, and to secure needed assistance.

The law provided for the creation of the Conservation Commission. The Commission was to assist the landowners in the organization of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, to help districts get needed assistance, to carry on an exchange of information between districts and generally to help district supervisors function as intended by law. As of July 1, 1987, all powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Conservation Commission were transferred to the Wyoming Board of Agriculture.

The Lincoln Conservation District was organized on May 25, 1942, as the Cokeville-Hamsfork Soil Conservation District in Kemmerer, Wyoming, in accordance with Chapter 134 of the Wyoming State Statutes. The District consisted of that part of Lincoln County south of the Salt River Divide and contained approximately 1,936,000 acres.

In 1957, the name of the District was changed to the Lincoln Soil Conservation District. Shortly thereafter in 1958, due to the workload demands, the District's headquarters was moved to Cokeville, Wyoming, where it has remained ever since. In 1964 approximately 415,000 acres of land in western Sweetwater County were added to the District and the name of the District was changed to the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District.

In 1974, the District's name was again changed to the present day title of the Lincoln Conservation District and the 415,000 acres that were part of the District in western Sweetwater County were given back to the Big Sandy Conservation District in order to establish districts on county lines.



Today, the Lincoln Conservation District (LCD) consists of approximately 1,939,789 acres of land.

The LCD is a legal subdivision of the State of Wyoming. It receives no federal funds to carry out its workload, other than the technical assistance that is mainly provided through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, and other interested federal, state, and county land management agencies. Administrative financial funding for the LCD is mainly provided by the Lincoln County Commissioners, in addition to funding from the State of Wyoming, seedling tree sales, and private donations. The District program is administered by a board of five supervisors elected on a staggered basis in a general election. Supervisors are elected for a four-year term.

The LCD was originally organized to provide for soil and water conservation, flood control, and land use planning on privately owned farm and ranch lands. Since that time, many additional jobs and responsibilities have been given to the District Board of Supervisors to administer, such as:

- Be fiscally responsible for the administration of the District.
- Employ personnel and determine their duties and conditions of employment.
- Call upon the Attorney General of the State of Wyoming for legal services if needed for employee legal counsel and staff.
- Be responsible for all legal and administrative records and see that all records and reports are submitted to the proper entities.
- Conduct surveys, investigations and research.
- Disseminate information on natural resources.
- Conduct demonstration projects. (The means, methods, and measures by which resources may be conserved.)
- Carry out preventative and control measures and works of improvement.
- Cooperate, enter into agreements, and furnish financial aid as the supervisors deem necessary with other districts in and out of the state, municipalities, private landowners, state and federal land management agencies.
- Make available agricultural and engineering machinery and equipment, fertilizer, seeds, seedlings, materials or

equipment that will assist landowners in natural resource management.

- Develop comprehensive plans for natural resource management (They shall specify: acts, procedures, performances, and avoidances necessary to carry out the plan).
- Make public the plans and information.
- Manage, as an agent of the United States or any of its agencies, and enter into agreements with the United States or any of its agencies of the State of Wyoming to affect cooperation on small watershed management.
- Act as a representative for local groups in dealing with the United States or its representatives.
- Make and execute contracts and other instruments necessary to the exercise of its powers.
- Make, amend, and repeal rules and regulations not consistent with Wyoming statutes (Chapter 16) to implement natural resource management.
- Assist in preparation, provide data, and perform research, review and comment on coal mining and oil/gas field reclamation.
- Assist in preparation, provide data, review and comment on subdivision plans.

The LCD Board of Supervisors meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Lincoln Conservation District Office in the Cokeville Town Hall. Meetings start at 6:00 P.M. October through April, and 7:00 P.M. May through September. Meetings are open to the public. Always check with the LCD office before coming to a meeting to make sure meetings are still scheduled.

Each year the LCD prepares an Annual Plan of Work based on the objectives of the Long-Range Plan, assistance available to the District from other cooperating agencies, and financial availability.

At the end of each year, the District prepares an Annual Report of the past year's activities, accomplishments, and an account of how they have utilized their funds during the year.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The Lincoln Conservation District is located in the southwestern corner of Wyoming, in the southern part of Lincoln County. This area totals approximately 1,936,789 acres with a population of approximately 5,200; of these 5,200 people, 4,228 are located in the following incorporated communities:

Cokeville	535
Diamondville	770
LaBarge	440
Kemmerer	2651
Opal	105

The remainder of the population resides in unincorporated communities and farms and ranches.

The LCD includes land from the high sagebrush plains to the forested mountain ranges with elevations from 6,000 to 10,000+ feet. Between these extremes are several gradations of altitude and climate.

The northern part of the District has typical intermountain topography. The Sublette and Tump Mountain Ranges occupy this part of the district. These mountain ranges have rough, forest covered mountain peaks over 10,000 feet in elevation bisected by numerous narrow valleys with perennial rivers and streams.

The southern part of the District has a more rolling sagebrush covered foothills topography with bench land which blends into undulating basins and valleys. Many of the small valleys have intermittent streams.

The District has two major drainage basins separated by the Bear River Divide. The Hams Fork River, LaBarge Creek, and Fontenelle Creek are located in the Green River Drainage. Most of the land in this drainage basin is used for livestock grazing, gas and oil development, mining and recreation, and hunting. Hay ground has been developed along the major creeks and rivers in this part of the District for winter livestock feeding needs. Most of the hayland is flood irrigated in this drainage basin.

The Smiths Fork River, Thomas Fork River, and Upper Bear River are located in the Bear River Drainage. Most of the land in this drainage basin is used for livestock grazing, recreational hunting, and farming. The majority of the water used in the Bear River Drainage is for the sprinkler and flood irrigation of hayland which in turn supplements the livestock economy.

Reservoir storage in the District is provided by Woodruff Narrows Reservoir, Fontenelle Reservoir, Viva Naughton Reservoir, and the Kemmerer City Reservoir. A Level II Water Study, in cooperation with the Wyoming Water Development Commission, is being done on the Sublette Meadows and Covey Canal reservoir proposal project approximately three miles southeast of Cokeville, Wyoming.

The District, located in the Over Thrust Industrial Belt, has extensive oil and gas exploration in the area along with industrial and mining developments.

The majority of the agricultural units in the District are beef cattle and some sheep enterprises. Most livestock operations use Bureau of Land Management or USDA Forest Service lands for summer and fall grazing.

The District includes not only the Fossil Butte National Monument covering 8,198 acres northwest of Kemmerer, WY, but also the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's Cokeville Meadows National Wildlife Refuge consisting of 8,106 acres located south of Cokeville, Wyoming.

## DISTRICT RESOURCE DATA

### 1. Soils

The kinds of soils vary considerably in the District due to the different environmental conditions such as climate, elevation, landscape, and types of parent materials. There are four major groups of soils in the area. The soils in each group share some common environmental factors which would reflect similarities in their inherent fertility, use and production.

- a) The most extensive soils of the steep, mountainous areas are shallow and usually stony soils formed on the mountains in the northern part of the District. These soils are usually developed under forest cover and are underlain by sedimentary beds of limestone, siltstone, and shale. Some deep, dark, loamy soils are found in pockets, along drainage ways, and at the base of steep slopes. Rock outcropping exposed as steep escarpments is common. Of lesser extent are the deep, dark, loamy, very stony, cobbly, and gravelly forest soils formed from glacial till and moraines in the mountains of the far southern part of the area.
- b) The soils of the foothills, high uplands, and high bench lands are extensive throughout the District. The foothills and uplands usually contain dark, deep, to very shallow loamy or clayey soils. The shallow and very shallow soils are mainly found on the steeply uplifted sedimentary beds of limestone, siltstone, sandstone, and saline marine shale. Rock outcropping in the form of hogback-ridges is prevalent. The foothills and high bench lands in the southern part are composed predominantly of dark, well drained, very stony, cobbly, gravelly and loamy soils formed from outwash or glacial material. Somewhat poorly or poorly drained soils occur in wet, irrigated meadows on some of the bench lands.
- c) The soils of the lower basins are confined to the eastern part of the District. They are predominately light colored, loamy or clayey, shallow soils underlain by alkaline and saline shale in complex with exposures of bedrocks and alkali soils. Slopes vary from gently rolling to moderately steep.
- d) The soils of the valleys along the major live streams are the least extensive in the District, yet they are the most important to irrigated farming. The soils on the low bottomlands are usually poorly to very poorly drained. Predominantly, the nearly level to gently sloping terrace soils are loamy and underlain by cobble or gravel. The fans of valley slopes are usually composed of deep, loamy soils with varying amounts of gravel and cobble scattered in the profile. Somewhat poorly drained



soils are found in wet, irrigated meadows. Saline and alkali conditions prevail in many of the poorly drained soils.

## 2. CLIMATE

The climate is characterized by short, cool summers, cold winters, and generally long, cool periods in the spring and fall. The growing season is less than 90 days. High wind velocities are common during the fall, winter, and spring in the southern part of the District; however, quite uncommon in the Cokeville area. Frost may occur any month of the year in the elevated areas.

Precipitation varies with differences in elevation. The basin in the eastern part of the area receives approximately 8 inches of annual precipitation, whereas, the mountains in the northern part receive as much as 22 inches.

The climate is typical of high mountainous elevations in the northern portion of the District. Moisture-laden air enters the area from the Pacific Northwest; the mountains surrounding the Bear River and Green River Valleys catch valuable moisture and give rise to local rain and snow showers. Winter snowfall is heavy, and the ground is generally covered throughout the winter months. The lack of wind and moderate temperatures with intermittent periods of warm sunny days adds greatly to the beauty and recreational potential of the area. The moderately warm days and cool nights during the summer creates healthful and pleasant climatic conditions that add greatly to the enjoyment of the area. The southern portion of the District is characterized by wide open plains subject to high wind velocities, low precipitation during the winter months, and moderately warm summer days with cool nights. The temperature changes are not so severe they detract or offset the healthful and pleasing conditions within the District.

### 3. LAND

#### a) Land ownership

Federal ownership of land in the District has a vital effect upon the economy. As indicated in the following table, the Federal Government owns and administers an estimated 69% of all land within the District. Private landowners and government are influenced by the action of each other and are often interdependent in the use they can make of their land resources.

	ACRES	PERCENT OWNERSHIP
Private Land	496,779	26%
USDA-National Forest	342,348	18%
USDI- Bureau of Land Management	977,680	50%
USDI – Park Service	8,198	½%
US Fish and Wildlife Service	8,533	½%
State of Wyoming Land	103,251	5%
 TOTAL (LAND OWNERSHIP)	 1,936,789	 (69% Federal)

#### b) Land Use (See Generalized Land Use Map)

Cropland		
Irrigated	44,900}	2.5%
Dry	2,500}	
Rangeland	1,575,000	82.0%
Forest, Woodland, and Wildlife	278,900	14.5%
Other (Roads, Railroad, Mines, Industrial, Towns, etc.)	20,000	1.0%
 TOTAL (LAND USE)	 1,936,789	

#### c) Agriculture Operations

Beef Ranches	60%
Sheep Ranches	10%
Combination of Beef and Sheep	10%
Irrigated Farms	10%
Other	10%

d) General

Most of the irrigated cropland is located within the broad valley along the Bear River and its tributaries, or the narrower valley associated with other mountain streams in the Green River Drainage. Most of the irrigated land occurs at elevations of between 6,000 and 7,000 feet.

Dry croplands are generally located along the foothills above the irrigated valley in the western part of the District.

There are an estimated 125 farms and ranches within the District area. The average size of farms in the district is approximately 10,000 acres, including state and federally leased ground. However, small acreage ranchettes are becoming more prevalent throughout the district.

Small grain, pasture, alfalfa, and native hay crops are the principal crops grown. Most crops are fed to livestock within the District. Some hay is being shipped overseas as compressed bales.

## NATURAL RESOURCE CONCERNS

### WATER



Over 11,000 acres of the District are covered by water. Included in this figure are lakes, streams, rivers, ponds, and springs. Water in the LCD is used for many domestic purposes, livestock, fish and wildlife, recreation, irrigation, industrial, mining purposes, etc.

Water is the basis of all plant and animal life and is critically important to all people. The wise use of the District's water and its protection from impairments are critically important.

#### OBJECTIVE:

TO USE WATER EFFICIENTLY AND DEVELOP WATER PROJECTS IN THE DISTRICT IN THE MOST BENEFICIAL WAY WITHOUT EXCESSIVE DEMANDS ON ITS QUALITY AND QUANTITY.

## **PROBLEMS:**

- 1) Inefficient use of water in the District.
- 2) Water quality is a major concern in certain areas in the District.
- 3) Water shortages still exist in the District
- 4) Possible overland flooding of water in the District that could cause destruction of land resources and human property.

## **GOALS:**

1. The District will work with all water users to conserve and wisely use water within the District.

### **ACTION:**

- a) Each land use concern in this Long-Range Plan has specific recommendations to conserve water.
  - b) Informational programs will be continually sponsored through news articles and workshops to educate water users about proper irrigation water management techniques, along with proper operation and maintenance of irrigation systems.
  - c) Landowners with open ditches or canals and wild flood irrigation systems will be encouraged by the District, NRCS, and FSA to convert them to buried pipelines and/or sprinkler systems where economically and engineeringly feasible.
2. The District will cooperate in directing non-point source water quality concerns in the District.

### **ACTION:**

- a) Public meetings will be held with LCD landowners as needed or requested throughout various watersheds in the LCD to ascertain the need for watershed improvement projects to address water shortages and water quality issues in the Smiths Fork River, Hams Fork River, Twin Creeks, and Bridger Creek Drainages.
  - b) If the Smiths Fork River, Hams Fork River, Twin Creeks, and Bridger Creek Drainages have accelerated natural resource problems, LCD board members will cooperate with other federal and state land management agencies to develop TMDLs or Resource Watershed Plans to address non-point source water quality concerns.
3. Water development and storage will be emphasized by the LCD board members.

### **ACTION:**

- a) Efforts will continue with the Wyoming Water Development Commission



and other federal and state agencies to accelerate planning efforts for water storage facilities within the Smiths Fork and Hams Fork and Twin Creek drainages as opportunities arise. Dam sites on these rivers could provide a dependable water source for District water users along with alleviating spring flooding and sediment problems to down river communities.

4. The LCD will continue to oppose any legislation to broaden the current in stream flow statutes for the State of Wyoming.

**ACTION:**

- a) LCD board members will contact the Lincoln County State Senators and Representatives to make sure that current instream flow policy follows established protocol when the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission proposes to expand instream flow water in District waterways.

5. LCD is opposed to any federal government control over individual water rights in the State of Wyoming.

**ACTION:**

- a) Board members will attend water right meetings periodically as scheduled to support state's rights for water generated within the State. The District will not support the federal takeover of Wyoming State Water rights.

6. The LCD will oppose any proposed regional watershed supply projects that they feel have a potential to negatively impact water flow, water quality, agriculture, industry, economic and social welfare, fisheries habitat and vegetation, recreation values, and wetland habitat within the LCD boundaries.

**ACTION:**

- a) The LCD will cooperate with the Lincoln County Commissioners, requesting Memorandum of Understandings with Federal Land Management entities and request Cooperating Agency Status in the development of water within the LCD.

## SOILS



Soil is a necessary component of the environment to support human and terrestrial life. Without soil to grow crops and plants, human life could not exist. For this reason, one of the LCD's main areas of concern is the conservation and wise use of soil.

### OBJECTIVE:

THE LCD WILL STRIVE TO ASSIST LANDOWNERS PROTECT AND ENHANCE THEIR SOIL RESOURCES FOR THE SUSTAINED AGRICULTURE, HUMAN, AND WILDLIFE USE.

### PROBLEMS:

1. Soil erosion in some areas of the District due to wind and water exceeds tolerable limits.
2. Soil and topography vary tremendously in the District, requiring unique and special conservation management techniques.

3. An adequate combined soils report does not exist for District lands.

**GOALS:**

1. Each land user in the District will be encouraged through LCD news articles and letters to develop a conservation plan with the local NRCS Field Office to bring soil erosion losses on their places within tolerable limits.
2. LCD board members will request the Wyoming NRCS State Conservationist and other federal land management soil program leads to combine existing soil surveys and to complete a published soil survey for the District.



## AIR



Good air quality is essential for animal and human life. For the most part, the District has little air pollution problems.

### OBJECTIVES:

MAINTAIN EXISTING AIR QUALITY STANDARDS IN THE DISTRICT.

### PROBLEMS:

1. Emissions from large trucks and tractors that are poorly maintained and allowed to run excessively at truck stops.
2. Excessive air pollution occurs from poorly operated and un-maintained wood, coal, and oil burning stoves and furnaces.
3. Additional industrial and commercial developments have the potential to affect our air quality if not planned correctly.
4. Large scale range and forest fires due to excessive wood biomass and fuel loads from limited harvesting of timber on private, state, and federal lands.

## GOALS:

1. Homeowners will be encouraged through District news articles to properly maintain and operate their heating stoves and furnaces, so air emissions are adequately controlled.
2. The LCD board members will encourage county and municipality leaders to provide trash and leaf pick up services to eliminate the need to burn.
3. The LCD will cooperate with the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality to help with air pollution control measures for industrial developments that are equitable.
4. Work closely with U.S. Forest Service and other federal land management agencies to encourage the elimination of biofuel problems using silviculture methods.
5. Encourage county and state agencies' involvement to establish additional air monitoring sites, especially on the western edge of the state as needed.
6. Pursue funding from federal and state resources for dust abatement on federal roads.



## ANIMALS



Animals, wild and domestic are valued by the public. LCD board members recognize animal habitat requirements, their influence on the ecosystem, and animal vitality are affected by resource management decisions.

### OBJECTIVE:

ALL ANIMAL SPECIES OF CONCERN WITHIN THE LCD INCLUDING WILD AND DOMESTIC, BOTH TERRESTRIAL AND AQUATIC SPECIES NEED TO BE MANAGED ACCORDING TO THE NEEDS OF LOCALLY DESIRED LAND MANAGERS.

### PROBLEMS:

1. Adequate quantity and quality of both feed and water are not available at all times to meet animal needs throughout the district.
2. Both wild and domestic animals throughout the district have disease, parasite and insect concerns. Domestic animal concerns range from mad cow disease to brucellosis and scrapies etc. Wildlife issues range from wasting disease, to brucellosis, to whirling disease in fish etc.
3. Riparian and stream bank vegetation along some trout streams in the district are not adequate for quality trout and aquatic habitat.

4. Threatened and endangered animal species reside throughout the LCD along with sensitive and rare species that could be listed unless special resource management practices are adapted by landowners.

**GOALS:**

1. Habitat improvement measures will be targeted on rangeland and pastureland fields throughout the LCD.

**ACTION:**

- a) The EQIP program will be encouraged to target one-fourth of the Lincoln County's allocation to range grassland improvement projects such as livestock water developments, fencing, and brush management etc.
2. Both private domestic livestock owners and state wildlife managers will be encouraged to vaccinate animals against disease.

**ACTION:**

- a) LCD will work with the Lincoln County Extension Service through local workshops to help livestock owners and wildlife managers become more aware of disease, parasite, and insect problems. Proper preventative measures will be emphasized.
3. Proper amounts of riparian and stream bank vegetation will be encouraged through habitat leasing programs and proper livestock grazing techniques.

**ACTION:**

- a) LCD will assist the local NRCS office staff in helping interested agriculture producers place their riparian and stream bank zones into habitat leasing programs rather than perpetual easement programs for wildlife and livestock protection.
- b) Hold proper grazing and animal behavior workshops periodically throughout the next several years.
4. The LCD will work closely with state, federal, and local land managers to make sure introductions of threatened and endangered species into the county does not harm existing livestock operations.

**ACTION:**

- a) The LCD will work closely with the Wyoming Association of Conservation

Districts (WACD) and the Coalition of Local Governments to limit the re-introduction of the Grizzly bear and wolf into Southern Lincoln County. The LCD will support measures that when livestock is killed by a Grizzly bear or wolf, replacement compensation is received, and control measures are initiated to keep threatened and endangered species within proper habitat boundaries allocated for them.

- b) LCD will work closely with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to meet desired wildlife number objectives so critical winter vegetation ranges are not damaged.
- c) The LCD will work with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to encourage policy that calls for the management of predators that have been naturally introduced or re-introduced into the County. WGFD and USFWS must provide predator control by any means necessary when these animals travel from their designated range or become a threat to people, pets, property, property rights, livestock, or other wildlife species.
- d) The LCD will work with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to promote policy wherein no designations or reintroductions of wildlife shall be made until it is determined and substantiated by verifiable scientific data indicating there is a need for such action, protections cannot be provided by other methods, and the area in question is truly unique when compared to other district lands.
- e) LCD will work closely with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to promote recovery plans that provide indicators to track the effectiveness of the plan, identify at what point recovery is accomplished and be self-terminating when the point of recovery is reached.



## PLANTS



Plants provide the necessary energy transfer from sunlight throughout the ecosystem. Without plant growth, human and animal life cannot exist. It is critical to human and animal life that high quality forage communities are sustained throughout the LCD.

### OBJECTIVES:

THE LCD WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH PRIVATE, STATE, AND FEDERAL LANDOWNERS THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN LINCOLN COUNTY TO MAINTAIN SUITABLE PLANT COMMUNITIES IN A STABLE OR UPWARD TREND.

### PROBLEM:

1. Some plant species are not well adapted or suited for intended use on agriculture lands throughout the district.
2. Some upland and riparian ecological communities throughout the district are in poor condition due to excessive brush, invasive weed and non-desirable grass growth and plant species.

3. Large evergreen tree production on LCD private, state, and federal forest lands are not vigorous due to disease and insect restraints and overly mature tree stands.
4. Critical wildlife plant communities are being encroached upon by commercial and residential developments.
5. Threatened and endangered plant species exist in the LCD that need special management consideration.
6. Invasive weeds are found throughout the district on both public and private lands.

**GOALS:**

1. LCD board members will work closely with the Lincoln County Weed and Pest District employees to control and contain noxious weed and poisonous plant growth throughout the district.

**ACTION:**

- a) Hold combined workshops on weed control with Lincoln County Weed and Pest District employees.
  - b) LCD board members will work closely with the Lincoln County Weed and Pest District to develop a policy to stop the shipping of weedy hay and plants into the county for livestock consumption.
2. The LCD will cooperate with the Bridger Plant Materials Center to introduce better agriculture and rangeland plant species in the district that are more suitable for high mountain agriculture production.

**ACTION:**

- a) Complete field trials with the local NRCS Field Office.
  - b) Continue the LCD's seedling tree and shrub sales program.
3. LCD board members will help coordinate efforts to control brush invasion on rangelands throughout the district.

**ACTION:**

- a) Private, state, and federal land management officials will be encouraged at board meetings on an annual basis to burn, spray, or mechanically treat brush invasion on district rangelands. Landowners will be advised to work up conservation management plans to treat brush at least every 15 to 20 years on a rotational basis so mixed age plant communities exist over the landscape, making better habitat for mule deer and Greater Sage-grouse.
- b) Cost share programs will be encouraged to local district work groups to help finance brush control costs.



4. The LCD will contact the local Kemmerer U.S. Forest Service Office and Wyoming State Forestry about the need to implement up to date silviculture practices on federal and private forest lands.

**ACTION:**

- a) The district state forester will be invited to LCD board meetings to help develop plans to cut timber on private and state forest lands.
  - b) The local U.S. Forest Service will be encouraged to reinstate timber harvesting on federal lands following appropriate silviculture practices.
  - c) The LCD will encourage the U.S. Forest Service to promote practices so that all forested lands be managed for sustained yield and multiple use.
  - d) The LCD will encourage the U.S. Forest Service to promote fire, timber harvesting, and treatment programs that are managed to prevent the waste of forest products.
  - e) The LCD will work with the U.S. Forest Service to promote management programs that must provide for fuel load management to prevent catastrophic events and reduce fire potential at the urban interface.
  - f) The LCD will work closely with the U.S. Forest Service to promote harvest programs designed to provide opportunities for local citizens and small business.
5. The LCD board members will work closely with private farm and ranch owners, hunters, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department employees to develop a mutual understanding of how local wildlife depends on private agriculture and rangelands.

**ACTION:**

- a) Open spaces workshops will be held periodically throughout the LCD to help local ranch and farm owners, hunters, and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department employees become more aware of the dependency wildlife numbers have on private lands.
- b) Long term habitat leasing will be encouraged and worked up between state and federal agencies to recoup losses of forage on private lands from wildlife.

## LAND USE CONCERNS

### RANGELAND



Rangeland is the land within the District not being cultivated and is producing native vegetation.

There are approximately 1,590,489 acres of rangeland in the District or 82 percent of the total acreage. Over one-half of the rangeland is controlled by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The major part of the private rangelands is managed by the BLM through exchange of use agreements. Rangelands provide a lot of the spring, summer, and fall forage for domestic livestock and are the major habitat for a variety of upland wildlife in the district. Rangelands are also used for many outdoor recreation purposes such as hunting, camping, and hiking.

#### OBJECTIVES:

DISTRICT RANGELAND NEEDS TO BE MANAGED TO PROVIDE FOR DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK GRAZING, WILDLIFE HABITAT, RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES, AND TO PROTECT THE RANGELAND SOILS FROM WIND AND WATER EROSION, WHILE MAINTAINING OR IMPROVING THE VEGETATIVE ECOLOGICAL CONDITION OF THE DISTRICT'S RANGELANDS.

## PROBLEMS:

1. Encroachment of woody plants has reduced the ability of District rangelands to produce desirable forage for livestock and certain classes of wildlife. Rangeland grass productivity in the District is down.
2. Overgrazing of some District rangelands by wildlife and livestock is causing sheet, rill, and gully soil erosion which causes downstream non-point source water quality problems.
3. District rangelands are being grazed in the same sequence and time each year, due to insufficient water developments and inadequate fencing to control livestock movement. Grazing systems need to be developed that will protect rangeland riparian zones and adequately utilize upland range sites.
4. Lack of sufficient early spring forage pastures of tame grass species. This leads to stock being left on hayland meadows too late in the spring or being turned out on rangeland fields before grazing readiness occurs.
5. Approximately 75% of the District's rangeland is federally controlled. The objectives of the private rangeland users do not always coincide with the objectives and goals of federal land management managers. Many private rangeland owners feel that government intervention threatens their livelihoods.

## GOALS:

1. District board members will encourage private, state, and federal rangeland owners to work together with other interested and affected groups in solving rangeland resource problems.

### ACTION:

- a) The District will head up the Coordinated Resource Management Team efforts for the local area. One District board member will be appointed to the team to help develop Coordinated Resource Management plans. Special efforts will be taken by the District Board of supervisors to develop Coordinated Resource Management Plans for interested grazing associations.
2. District board members will encourage rangeland owners to control woody plant invasion on their lands.

### ACTION:

- a) The District will publish newspaper articles informing District Cooperators of government cost share programs to help control brush invasion. Cooperators will be made aware of the favorable cost/benefit ratio of controlling brush invasion.

- b) Cooperators will be encouraged to develop brush control plans that are compatible with the local wildlife concerns.
3. The District will encourage rangeland owners to properly graze their lands.

**ACTION:**

- a) Rangeland management workshops will be sponsored by the LCD to help cooperators become aware of the techniques to evaluate proper grazing use and how to build livestock/wildlife water facilities and cross fences that will stimulate proper grazing use.
4. The District will coordinate state and federal programs to improve the vegetative cover and condition of the District's rangelands to curtail soil erosion and non-point source water quality issues.

**ACTION:**

- a) The LCD will hold field tours to help educate cooperators on the need to plant special early spring grass use pastures of such species as crested wheatgrass and Russian Wildrye. Success examples will be shown to cooperators.
- b) Seminars/workshops will be held periodically in the District to help cooperators become more familiar with rest/deferred grazing systems and riparian zone management.
- c) The LCD will continue to provide leadership for water quality plans on District rangelands. Landowners will be made aware of state and federal assistance programs through news articles and letters.
- d) The LCD will evaluate the potential of the use of allotment reserves on federal land so existing private livestock operations are not jeopardized.



## PASTURE AND HAYLAND



There are approximately 47,400 acres of hay land and pastureland in the District. The majority of this land is irrigated, and lies along the Bear River, Smiths Fork River, Thomas Fork River, Hams Fork River, Fontenelle Creek, and LaBarge Creek. The hayland and pastureland in the District are primarily used for the production of native grass and tame grass/legume species which in turn supplement the livestock economy. As the tame grass/legume or alfalfa stands become depleted, they are reworked, and small grain is grown on the land for two or three years after which the producers re-establish the land to grass/legume or alfalfa stands for 6 to 10 years. The grain produced during the rotation cycle is used mainly for livestock feed during the winter months.

There are a few irrigated lands used for pasture throughout the growing season. Most all hayland is aftermath grazed in the spring and fall months. The native meadow hay lands that lie along the Bear River bottoms have limited hay yield (one and one-half tons per acre); however, they are very valuable for spring and fall pastures.

There are some dry hayland and pastureland fields in the northwest part of the District. Production levels are low.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

**KEEP HIGH PRODUCING STANDS OF DESIRABLE LIVESTOCK VEGETATION ON HAYLAND AND PASTURELAND FIELDS.**

## **PROBLEMS:**

1. Irrigation water shortages limit grass/legume and alfalfa production.
2. Newly established hay and pasture stands have relatively short life spans before being invaded by undesirable grasses and weeds.
3. Stream and riverbank erosion cuts into valuable hayland and pastureland fields.

## **GOALS:**

1. The District will help irrigators stretch their irrigation water as far as possible.

### **ACTION:**

- a) Cooperators will be encouraged by District board members to develop NRCS irrigation water management plans for their farms.
  - b) The District will request NRCS personnel to check into alternative irrigation systems to increase irrigation efficiencies such as sprinkler systems or gated pipe.
2. LCD board members will revitalize efforts to inform cooperators of new, high producing grass and legume varieties that are long lived and adapted to our area.

### **ACTION:**

- a) Local agriculture producers will be requested by District Board Members to participate in the Bridger Plant Materials Center field trial releases.
3. The District will help agriculture producers become more aware of the importance of a proper fertilization plan to maintain pasture and hayland stands.

### **ACTION:**

- a) The LCD will request the Lincoln County Extension Agent to give periodical presentations on the cost effectiveness of fertilizing hayland and pastureland fields and using new disease resistant varieties of alfalfa plants to establish hayland stands.



## CROPLAND



Only a small part of the District's arable land is used to produce cash crops such as wheat, oats, and barley. Most of the permanent cropland is dry cropland, approximately 2,500 acres. This land lies along the west slope of the Raymond Mountains near the Wyoming-Idaho state border and on bench lands along the Smiths Fork River. These lands are marginal for small grain crops and need to be summer fallowed every other year due to the limited amount of moisture that falls each year.

Other cash, small grain crops are periodically grown on irrigated and dry pasture and/or hayland for a short-term rotation period in order to improve existing grass and/or alfalfa stands. Some LCD cooperators are experimenting with malting barley and canola for cash crops.

### OBJECTIVE:

KEEP SOIL LOSS TOLERANCES ON THE DISTRICT'S SMALL GRAIN CROPLANDS WITHIN TOLERABLE LIMITS WHILE PRODUCING ECONOMICAL GRAIN CROPS.

### PROBLEMS:

1. Most of the dry land croplands' moisture during the year is received in the form of snow. Spring runoff poses a major erosion problem. A lot of the dry land

cropland in the District is classified as highly erodible land.

2. Management control measures are not being implemented on the District's croplands to control noxious and annual weeds.
3. The growing season for small grain crops in the District is variable from year to year.

**GOALS:**

1. Encourage District landowners to enter their highly erodible dryland cropland into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) if possible.
2. District board members will work with the local Afton NRCS Field Office to develop conservation plans and systems on croplands to keep soil erosion rates off fields within tolerable limits.
3. Encourage landowners not to farm natural water ways and leave adequate residues on cropland fields to curtail soil erosion.

**ACTION:**

- a) The LCD will hold field tours when necessary, to help landowners become familiar with the ways to determine residue amounts left and percent cover when farming.
4. The District will work closely with the Lincoln County Weed and Pest District to control noxious weeds and pests on District cropland.

**ACTION:**

- a) The Lincoln County Weed and Pest Supervisor will be invited to a District board meeting each spring to review current weed and pest control practices for District croplands.
5. The LCD will make available to landowners, as requested, varieties of barley, wheat, and oats that are suitable for our District's short growing season.

**ACTION:**

- a) The Lincoln County Extension Service will be requested to prepare the list and make it available to the District on a yearly basis.



## RECREATION AND WILDLIFE



The District has abundant wildlife numbers and is rich in outdoor recreation opportunities. Recreation opportunities such as hunting, fishing, and camping are plentiful, as are hiking, boating, sightseeing, skiing, and snowmobiling.

The wildlife in the District is varied. Big game species found are Mule deer, elk, moose, and antelope. Trophy game animals are black bear and mountain lion. Small game birds in the District include blue, ruffed, and Greater Sage-grouse along with Hungarian partridges and chucker. Small game animals such as cottontail rabbits, snowshoe hare and squirrels are numerous.

The marshes along the District's rivers, especially the Bear River, have a great variety of wetland birds which provide sightseeing and hunting opportunities for ducks, geese and even Sand Hill Cranes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has created the Cokeville Meadows Wildlife Refuge amounting to 8,106 acres south of Cokeville, Wyoming.

The U.S. Park Service operates the Fossil Butte National Monument within the District's boundaries and the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have large acreages of land holdings in the District. These lands provide excellent recreational opportunities in addition to an extensive habitat for wildlife.

The main bodies of water, Lake Alice, Viva Naughton Reservoir, and the Fontenelle Reservoir, along with many streams and rivers in the District provide excellent boating, fishing, and camping opportunities. Cutthroat, rainbow, and brook trout are the main trout species found in the District waters, along with the brown trout in a few of the waters. Winter fishing is also becoming popular in the District, especially for Ling.

There are excellent opportunities for recreational experience and visitors spend many hours enjoying the LCD's outdoor opportunities.

#### OBJECTIVE:

THE LCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WILL WORK HARD TO MAINTAIN A SOLID RESOURCE BALANCE BETWEEN WILDLIFE, RECREATION AND OTHER LAND USES IN THE DISTRICT.

#### PROBLEMS:

1. The limiting factor for big game management in the District is limited winter range that needs to be managed properly.
2. Some conflicts exist between wildlife and domestic livestock, mainly due to the large numbers of wildlife encroaching on private livestock winter feed lots. This causes concerns for Brucellosis spread to domestic livestock.
3. Adequate access to recreational areas is not always available.
4. Knowledge of recreational sites and places are not readily known to all local residents and out of area visitors. however, with the advancement of websites the local Pine Creek Ski area and the Town of Cokeville Website are providing more information on recreation areas and activities.
5. Migration corridors for big game wildlife such as antelope, mule deer, and elk exist throughout the LCD. Migration routes can be problematic where bottlenecks, stopover areas, and high use areas exist. Closures or any disturbance within any proposed migration corridor can cause impacts to local economics and agriculture producers' operations.

#### GOALS:

1. The District Board of Supervisors will encourage landowners to use

coordinated Resource Management Plans to help resolve conflicts between livestock and wildlife land uses.

2. Efforts will be undertaken with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) and the LCD to maintain existing wildlife winter ranges.
3. Identify and preserve private access into public land and water ways.

**ACTION:**

- a) Landowners participating in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) will be encouraged to plant grasses and legumes that upland big game animals may utilize in the winter months.
  - b) Trial field planting will be initiated between the District, Bridger Plant Materials Center, and the WGFD to see what legume and grass species can be adapted for wildlife winter use.
  - c) Work with the county, state, and federal land management agencies to acquire access into public lands and water ways.
3. Local landowners will be encouraged to attend WGFD's public hearings to help set reasonable local wildlife unit numbers and objectives through the District website and personal contacts.
  4. The District will create and maintain a LCD website that will include associated links for the area recreation and activities.
  5. The District will work closely with other federal, state and county governmental agencies to develop and maintain existing recreational facilities in the District.

**ACTION:**

- a) The LCD will approach cities and towns within the District encouraging the implementation of their current Economic Development Plans for small business development and socioeconomic growth.
6. The LCD will need to work closely with the WGFD, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Wyoming Governor's Office to address local industrial and transportation concerns, plus protect private property rights for proposed migration corridors.

**ACTION:**

- a) The LCD will not support year-round closures of lands within migration corridors without serious public review by district cooperators and local governments.
- b) The LCD supports the WGFD Commission's "Risk Management" assessment procedure for proposed migration corridors only if the assessment is done in close coordination with the District.
- c) If the Governor decides that a corridor designation should be considered then the Governor must designate a working group to consider all local interests and concerns.

- d) All proposed migration corridors must adhere to the newly prepared Lincoln County Natural Resource Management Plan stipulations.



## INDUSTRY, TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATION AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT



The Industrial Over-Thrust Belt, for oil and gas exploration, development, and processing are found extensively throughout the District. Large strip coal mining operations exist in the center of the District providing coal for area wide electric power and industrial plants. Within the District, windmills and solar farms are starting to be used to generate electricity.

Associated with the industrial development in the District are the roads, highways, railroads, pipelines, telephone and electrical lines, both above and below ground, and water storage facilities which service industrial areas.

### OBJECTIVES:

THE DISTRICT WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH LOCAL INDUSTRIES AND UTILITIES TO DEVELOP AND USE NATURAL RESOURCES WITH THE LEAST AMOUNT OF DISTURBANCE TO THE DISTRICT'S ENVIRONMENT.

1. Abandoned coal, phosphate, and rock quarries, and mining activities have left several areas in the District denuded of vegetation with mine debris that is very erosive, thus affecting water quality and is also aesthetically unpleasing.

2. Newly established and abandoned access roads for oil and gas exploration and development, buried pipeline rights-of-way, and utility lines above and below ground are not being adequately re-vegetated to adapted grasses and legumes.
3. Adequate soils information is not always available to develop reliable reclamation plans for energy development.
4. Currently, the oil, gas, and coal industries are on the decline throughout the District. The coal fired Naughton Power Plant is scheduled to be closed in the next several years. This causes concerns to agriculture producers throughout the District that electricity prices will escalate to run irrigation sprinkler systems, seriously hampering hay production on farms and ranches.
5. Big concerns exist that windmills and solar farms will not be reliable and cost effective to provide reasonable electric costs for District farmers' hay production.
6. Electrical transmission and communication corridors crisscross District lands, causing environmental and aesthetic concerns for District landowners when constructed above ground.

#### GOALS:

1. The LCD Board of Supervisors will work closely with the State Abandoned Mines Programs to ensure the reclamation of abandoned mines in the District.
2. Reclamation plans for industrial sites, roadways, pipelines, and utilities will be reviewed and comments provided by the District Board as requested by the Lincoln County Planner and interested companies. Adaptable local seeding recommendations will be made when requested for disturbed areas.
3. The LCD will continue to work closely with on-going District mining activities to supply suitable seedling stock for reclamation purposes.

#### ACTION:

- a) Field trials will be conducted with the Bridger Plant Materials Center, Bridger, Montana, to evaluate new and better conservation seedling stock.
- b) The District will continue to sponsor a conservation seedling tree and shrub sales program to provide low-cost trees and shrubs for mines, other industrial reclamation activities, solar farm and windmill purposes.
- c) The District will participate in PacifiCorp/Rocky Mountain Power Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) developments. Input will be given at meetings that favor reliable and cost-effective power costs.

- d) The District will be working with Wyoming State Legislators and the Wyoming Public Service Commission to develop bills and regulations to protect agriculture producers within Southern Lincoln County so the local electric grid remains reliable without adding costs to Wyoming rate customers from wind and solar plant developments.
- e) The District will interact with PacifiCorp/Rocky Mountain Power in their construction of electric transmission lines, such as Gateway West, to facilitate the placement of transmission lines in the most environmentally safe and aesthetic pleasing areas.



## URBAN, SUBURBAN AND BUILD-UP AREAS



Cities, towns, and subdivisions presently make up approximately 7,180 acres of the District. Some of these areas have community sewage systems and water developments. Other development areas have separate wells and septic systems.

### OBJECTIVE:

PROVIDE AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SAFE AND HEALTHY LIVING PLACE FOR RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT.

### PROBLEMS:

1. Subdivision entities are not implementing adequate measures during and after construction to control soil erosion rates on building lots. Many building lots are being left bare of vegetation until sold, creating soil erosion and weed problems.
2. Inadequately designed septic systems create water quality problems for down slope building lot owners.

3. The natural beauty and aesthetic qualities of buildup areas are not being adequately considered during initial planning efforts.

**GOALS:**

1. The LCD Board of Supervisors will continue to make soils suitability reports and vegetative recommendations for new subdivision developments. These recommendations and reports will be sent to the Lincoln County Commissioners, Lincoln County Planning Office, the engineering firm, and the sub-divider.
2. The LCD Board of Supervisors will encourage landowners to obtain National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPEDS) permits when subdividing.
3. The District will encourage central community sewage systems for new subdivisions when feasible.
4. The District will continue to work with the Lincoln County Weed and Pest District to provide a weed control plan specific to each subdivision and its needs.
5. Individual landowners will be provided with soils information, planting recommendations for trees, shrubs, and grasses. Irrigation water system information will also be provided when requested.



## FARMSTEADS



Associated with the farms, ranchers, and rural residents in the District, are the farmsteads and ranch headquarters. These areas are used primarily for dwellings, barns, animal pens, corrals, small feed lot areas, and gardens. These areas need special environmental planning considerations.

### OBJECTIVE:

TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE THE LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR RURAL LAND USES IN THE DISTRICT.

### PROBLEMS:

1. Animal wastes on farmsteads are not always adequately eliminated or stored.
2. Soil erosion due to wind and water affects some farmstead units.
3. Water quality from some wells is impaired due to inadequate septic systems and animal waste control facilities.



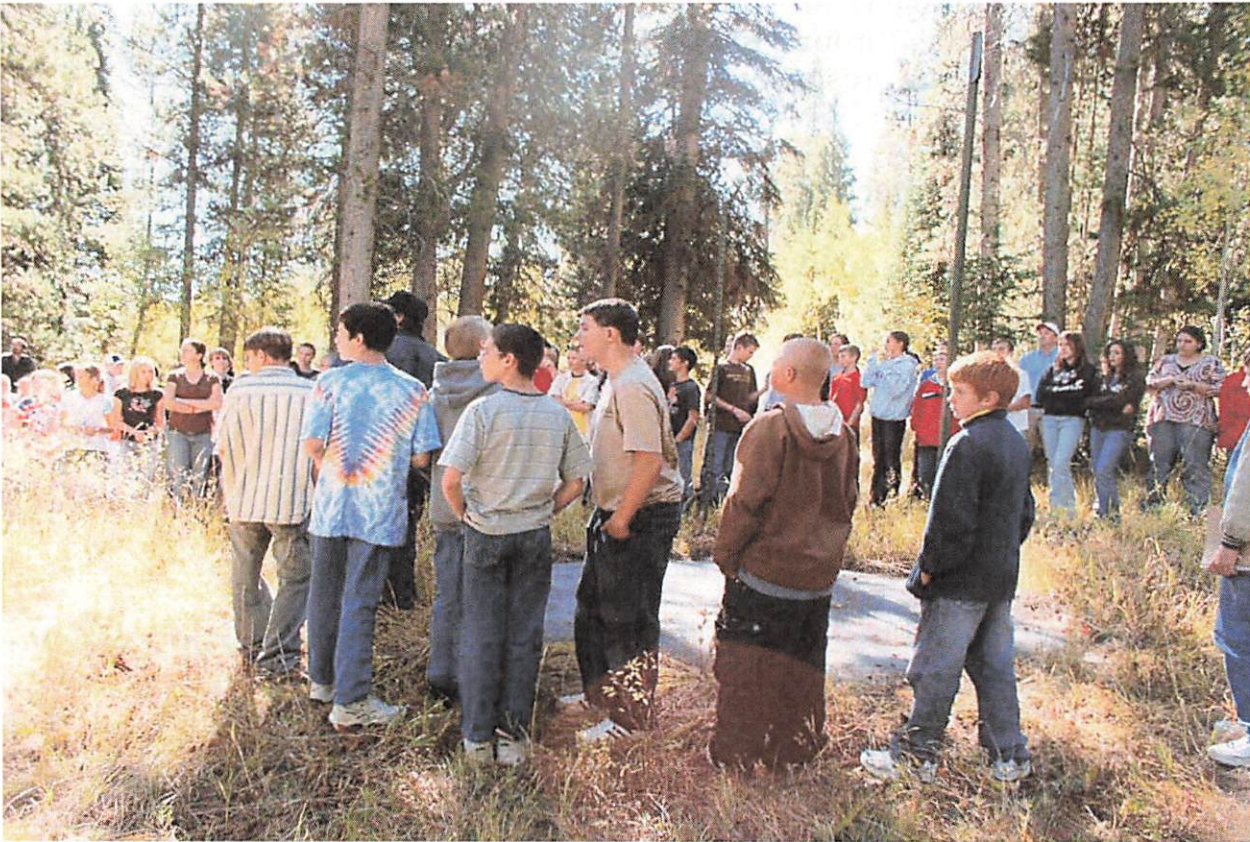
## **GOALS:**

- 1. The LCD will encourage District farmers and ranchers to establish farmstead windbreaks through the District's seedling tree and shrub sale program to control soil erosion and to provide aesthetic beauty for the farmstead.**
- 2. Local ranchers and farmers will be encouraged through the District's Website and cost share programs to develop agriculture waste treatment plans through the local NRCS Field Office.**
- 3. Rural landowners will be encouraged to periodically test their farmstead wells for water quality impairment and their septic systems for proper operation through District news articles and letters.**

## **ACTION:**

- a) Continue education workshops and website news articles on best management practices for small acreage farmsteads.**
- b) Continue the yearly District well and spring water quality sampling event on rural farmsteads to make sure culinary water is safe and healthy.**

## INFORMATION AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES



The LCD realizes that good information and educational activities on conserving soil, water, and related resources are essential for successful District programs. The District will strive to distribute soil and water conservation materials to local schools, natural resource groups, governmental agencies, and community informational and educational programs.

### OBJECTIVE:

THE DISTRICT DESIRES THAT ALL LOCAL RESIDENTS BECOME AWARE OF ITS PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, STRESSING THAT ALL ASSISTANCE IS GIVEN ON A NON DISCRIMINATORY BASIS WITHOUT REGARD TO AGE, COLOR, CREED, MARITAL STATUS, NATIONAL ORIGIN, PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HANDICAP, POLITICS, RACE, RELIGION, OR SEX.

### PROBLEMS:

1. Unawareness exists between NRCS and District program identities and activities.

2. Local interest to serve on District committees and the board is limited.

#### GOALS:

1. The LCD will continue to participate in soil stewardship week to keep residents aware of the natural resources found in their communities and how dependent we are upon them.
2. Soil and water conservation presentations will be given to schools and community organizations.
3. Field tours will be conducted by the District to help local land users become more familiar with various conservation practices and new innovations etc.
4. The LCD will participate in county fairs and public education days. Educational displays and pamphlets will be available to the public at these events.
5. The District will contact local schools to see if there is any interest in creating youth range and soil judging teams for competitive purposes throughout the state.
6. The LCD will continue to place soil and water conservation news articles in the local newspapers and on the LCD's website.
7. The District will continue to publish an Annual Report of its yearly accomplishments.
8. The LCD will provide information and funding for youth education on soil, water, and related natural resource conservation.
9. The LCD will continue partnering with the Coalition of Local Governments (CLG) to:
  - Develop accurate socioeconomic cultural and demographic data.
  - Ensure effective rangeland environmental monitoring is part of grazing decisions on federal lands.
  - Facilitate balanced and sound decisions based on quality data.
  - Promote clear and mutual communications with all federal and state agencies.
  - Share costs and expertise to accomplish common natural resource goals on state and federal lands.
  - Play an active role in future land and resource planning to facilitate community building.
  - Foster economic diversity to provide opportunities for families to thrive.

#### ACTION:

- a) Provide conservation booklets and information to local schools and scout troops, etc.

- b) Provide financial assistance for youth to attend 4-H and Range Conservation Camps.
- c) Have District representation at periodical Lincoln County Commissioners meetings.

## DISTRICT OPERATING POLICY

1. The Lincoln Conservation District Board of Supervisors will strive to the best of its ability to carry out the administrative, financial, and other affairs on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to age, color, creed, marital status, national origin, physical or mental handicap, politics, race, religion, or sex. Minority and female residents will be encouraged by District board members to run for board member position or serve as an associate member to the Lincoln Conservation District Board.
2. The District Board of Supervisors will work closely with individuals, organizations, and agencies, in developing natural resources conservation plans and watershed improvement plans to solve local natural resource problems.
3. The District Board of Supervisors will enter into formal agreements and memorandums of understandings with federal, state, and local governmental organizations in order to accomplish its natural resource conservation goals and objectives. The supervisors recognize other agency personnel and facilities will be under the administrative jurisdiction of the agency involved.
4. The District Board of Supervisors will strive to protect the District's current land base by discouraging any additional net loss of private land to public land. The District recognizes that a private property owner has a right to dispose of or exchange his property as he/she see fit within applicable law.
5. The District Board of Supervisors will prepare an annual plan of work to serve as a guide in carrying out District programs for each coming year. The plan will be reviewed periodically throughout the year.
6. The District Board of Supervisors will be responsible to determine the District's workload priorities. Current priorities are listed below:
  - a) The improvement and maintenance of rangeland condition along with the proper grazing use of private and public district rangelands.
  - b) The management, control, and wise use of irrigation water
  - c) Activities relating specifically to soil erosion, sediment control, and water quality.
  - d) The development and furtherance of conservation plans as tools for wise land use.
  - e) Assistance to non-agricultural type land users such as land developers, land subdividers, mining companies etc.



7. The District Board of Supervisors will provide technical assistance, available conservation equipment, and funds to establish conservation practices as their budget will allow.

8. The District Board of Supervisors will continue to hire district employees and purchase new and innovative conservation equipment to help accomplish the District's goals and objectives.

9. The District Board of Supervisors will take the lead in obtaining adequate funding for District operations. A District mill levy will only be considered if county and state funding become inadequate to run the District's conservation programs, so as not to place any additional financial burden on local taxpayers.

10. The District Board of Supervisors will assume the leadership responsibility for new and current state and federal legislative conservation programs. Emphasis will be placed on fulfilling the District's non-point source water quality leadership responsibilities and the implementation of applicable Farm Bill regulations.

11. This Long-Range Plan will be revised periodically due to new technology, changes in State or Federal programs, or other factors influencing the efficient operation of the Lincoln Conservation District.

12. The LCD believes that United States Constitution and Wyoming State Constitution to be the supreme law of Lincoln County.

13. The LCD adopts the newly prepared Lincoln County Natural Resource Management Plan (NRMP), December 2020, as the document that federal agencies are required to review and consider when making decisions that may affect District cooperators and landowners. The LCD board members and employees spent many hours participating in the development of the Lincoln County NRMP document and editing its contents.

14. Finally, the Wyoming Conservation District Law W.S. 11-16-101 – 11-16-134, provides the LCD authority for developing natural resource programs and services that could include: providing technical assistance for conservation planning on federal, state, and private lands; conservation forestry; assisting landowners in complying with federal and state laws; developing watershed plans, water quality monitoring; adult and youth education programs; wildlife habitat programs and projects; waste management programs; represent local constituents on state and national conservation issues and federal land management planning; protect the tax base and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of the State of Wyoming.

## RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION


This Lincoln Conservation District Long-Range Plan for FY 2021-2026, as previously outlined and stated, is hereby adopted as the official Long-Range Plan of the Lincoln Conservation District.

We believe that the implementation of this comprehensive plan, along with the cooperative efforts of the many and diversified stewards of the land, will lead to the proper use of our District's natural resources, thus helping to ensure their use and enjoyment for future generations.

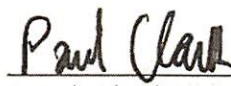
The Lincoln Conservation District's Long-Range Plan FY 2021-2026, is hereby approved and adopted on this 28TH day of September, 2021.

  
Erick Esterholdt, Chairperson

  
Kenny Petersen, Vice Chairperson

  
Robert Peternal, Secretary/Treasurer

  
Paula Bowling, Member

  
Paul Clark, Member