

1                   **SUBLETTE COUNTY PUBLIC LAND**  
2                                   **POLICY**  
3                                   **[FINAL DRAFT]**

4  
5  
6                   **INTRODUCTION**  
7  
8

9                   Wyoming law confers broad local government authority on the counties to provide  
10                   governmental services and to regulate construction of buildings and facilities on  
11                   unincorporated land within the county. As just a few examples, the following points  
12                   establish the considerable regulatory authority of Wyoming counties over land uses and  
13                   the correlative obligation of the counties to provide significant local government services.

14  
15                   The county may issue building permits, set standards, for the “condition of use or  
16                   occupancy of lands for residence, recreation, agriculture, industry, commerce, public use  
17                   and other purposes.” Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 18-5-201.

18  
19                   The county is authorized to establish police, fire protection, transportation, court, school  
20                   and public health facilities and to provide access to same. Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 18-2-108.

21  
22                   The county regulates land use through its land use planning commission and adopts  
23                   zoning that applies to all unincorporated land within the county. Wyo. Stat. Ann. §18-5-

24                   101

25

1 The county may also establish districts to regulate sanitary facilities, including water,  
2 sewage, rodent and insect control, the storage, collection and disposal of refuse. Wyo.  
3 Stat. Ann. § 18-5-105.

4

5 The county is also responsible for the identification and maintenance of roads within the  
6 county, excluding state and federal highways. The county also decides whether to vacate  
7 or abandon such roads. Wyo. Stat.  
8 Ann. § 24-3-101.

9 **PURPOSE**

10 The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the Forest Management  
11 Act and the Council on Environmental Quality, as well as other federal and state  
12 management and planning regulations provide local governments various opportunities to  
13 participate and influence planning and decision making processes associated with  
14 managing public lands.

15 In the case of federally managed lands, managers are required, to varying degrees,  
16 to ensure that management, planning, and decision making are consistent with local  
17 government plans, policies, and ordinances.

18 *This section of the County's Comprehensive Plan* reflects the County's position  
19 on the management and use of public lands, within the County or, that impact the  
20 County's interests. The plan clearly and concisely states the County policies, goals and  
21 objectives that relate to federal and state public land management, planning efforts, and  
22 decision-making processes.

1           The intent of the plan is to protect the interest of the County, its customs and  
2 culture, the health and safety of its residents, and to communicate County interest and  
3 concerns regarding management of public lands. It is designed to ensure that the spirit  
4 and intent of the laws, regulations and policies that govern management and use of public  
5 lands are followed and provides the basis for productive communication, consistency  
6 review, and analysis.

7           The Sublette County Comprehensive Plan, this policy and subsequent  
8 implementation plans are to be followed unless it is impermissibly inconsistent with any  
9 statute or duly promulgated regulation. Should any part of the comprehensive plan, this  
10 policy or implementation plan be inconsistent with statute or regulation, or declared void,  
11 unenforceable, or invalid by a court with competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions  
12 or parts shall remain in full force and effect.

13           For purposes of this policy and subsequent implementation plans, all reference to  
14 analysis means NEPA analysis, unless otherwise specified.

## 15 **AREA HISTORY**

16 [ To be developed.]

17

## 18 **Objectives**

19           The following objectives and subsequent policies shall be the basis for public land  
20 management and implementation plan that will further define this policy.

21 The County's objectives are:

- 22       • To Support the wise use, conservation and protection of public lands and its  
23 resources including well-planned, outcome based, management prescriptions. It  
24 acknowledges the need, on occasion, to place strict requirements on the

1 management of some resources to provide needed protection, when it has been  
2 determined through scientific and supportable analysis that such needs exist, to  
3 protect such resources from irreparable harm.

4 • To ensure management decisions are accomplished with full participation of the  
5 County and supported by tested and true scientific data. Decisions shall fully  
6 analyze and disclose impacts on the areas economy tax base, culture, heritage, and  
7 life styles and rights of area residents as well as the physical environment.

8 • To mitigate and compensate for impacts to the County and its residents. If action  
9 results in a taking, all applicable law must be applied.

10 • To ensure public and private access and rights-of-way for utilities and  
11 transportation of people and products on and across public lands. Access must be  
12 provided to merit such needs.

13 • To ensure public lands are managed for multiple use, sustained yield, and  
14 prevention of natural resource waste. Further, these lands should be managed to  
15 prevent loss of resources and private property from catastrophic events and to  
16 protect the safety and health of the public.

17 • To support national energy needs relative to the nation's increasing dependency  
18 on foreign oil, all public lands must remain open to the greatest extent possible for  
19 the exploration and production of energy and other energy related products.

20 • To ensure that special designations do not influence the use of resources on lands  
21 outside those listed in the designation. The County opposes the use of a buffer  
22 zone management philosophy that dictates land use practices and influences  
23 decisions beyond the scope and boundaries of the designations.

- 1 • To support agriculture on private and public lands as part of the local economy,  
2 custom, culture, heritage as well as the provision of a secure national food supply.
- 3 • To provide policies, plans, and other documents for governmental agency use to  
4 ensure management and planning consistency with the County. To ensure  
5 resource management and planning that is consistent with that of the County.
- 6 • To ensure that restrictions placed on any resource are based on analysis of trends,  
7 need, and imposed only after a complete analysis.
- 8 • To ensure that lands designated open for various specified uses are available on a  
9 timely basis and permits for such use are processed promptly. Extended delays or  
10 no action shall not be used as a method to accomplish restrictions or protections.  
11 Waivers modification or exception to restrictions must be provided for when  
12 conditions exist or impacts can be mitigated to prevent irreparable damage to the  
13 subject resource.
- 14 • Agriculture and grazing lands should continue to produce the food and fiber  
15 needed by the citizens of the state and the nation, and the rural character and open  
16 landscape of rural Wyoming should be preserved through a healthy and active  
17 agricultural and grazing industry, consistent with private property rights and state  
18 fiduciary duties.

19 **MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

- 20 • Federal Agencies shall recognize and comply with the following principles when  
21 preparing any policies; plans, programs, process, or desired outcomes relating to  
22 federal lands and natural resources on federal lands pursuant to this section.

- 1           ○ The citizens of the state are best served by applying multiple-use and
- 2           sustained-yield principles.
- 3       • Multiple-use and sustained-yield management means that federal agencies should
- 4       develop and implement management plans and make other resource-use decisions
- 5       that:
- 6           ○ achieve and maintain in perpetuity a high level annual or regular periodic
- 7           output of mineral and various renewable resources from public lands;
- 8           ○ support valid existing transportation, mineral, and grazing privileges at the
- 9           highest reasonably sustainable levels;
- 10          ○ support the specific plans, programs, processes, and policies of state
- 11          agencies and local governments;
- 12          ○ are designed to produce and provide the desired vegetation for the
- 13          watersheds, timber, food, fiber, livestock forage, and wildlife forage, and
- 14          minerals that are necessary to meet present needs and future economic
- 15          growth, community expansion, without permanent impairment of the land;
- 16          ○ meet the personal and business-related transportation needs of the citizens
- 17          of the state;
- 18          ○ meet the recreational needs of the citizens of the state;
- 19          ○ meet the needs of wildlife;
- 20          ○ provide for the preservation of cultural resources, both historical and
- 21          archaeological;
- 22          ○ meet the needs of economic development;
- 23          ○ is conducive to well planned and measured community development; and

- 1           ○ provide for the protection of water rights;
- 2           ○ proper stewardship of the land and natural resources is necessary to ensure
- 3           the health of the watersheds, timber, forage, and wildlife resources to
- 4           provide for a continuous supply of resources for the people of the County
- 5           and local communities who depend on these resources for a sustainable
- 6           economy;
- 7           ● Forests, rangelands, timber, and other vegetative resources;
- 8           ○ provide forage for livestock;
- 9           ○ provide forage and habitat for wildlife;
- 10                 ▪ provide resources for the state's timber and logging industries;
- 11                 ▪ contribute to the state's timber and logging industries;
- 12                 ▪ contribute to the state's economic stability and growth;
- 13                 ▪ are important for a wide variety of recreational pursuits;
- 14           ○ Management programs and initiatives that improve watersheds, forests,
- 15           and increase forage for the mutual benefit of wildlife species and vital to
- 16           the state's economy and the quality of life in Wyoming.

17   **To accomplish these objectives:**

- 18           ● To fully address the counties concerns and articulate them to the appropriate
- 19           agencies, the County will work with other public land management agencies in
- 20           a collaborative or cooperative manner.

21           Where feasible, or as provided by law, the County will enter into formal

22           agreements such as memorandums or understanding, memorandums of

1 agreement, or partnerships to codify expectations and processes agreed to by the  
2 parties.

3 Such agreements must provide that in the processes of coordination or  
4 cooperation, the County is consulted as appropriate or required:

- 5 ○ Provided a written report detailing how consistency with this policy  
6 analyzed with respect to their purpose action or plan. The report must  
7 identify where inconsistencies exist, any plausible way to correct the  
8 inconsistencies, and why consistency is not possible.
- 9 ○ Provided a detailed economic analysis of the impact of agency action or  
10 proposed action on the County tax base and area economy. When more  
11 than one action is proposed the report must analyze cumulative impacts.
- 12 ○ Provided a certification that applicable data used in development of a  
13 proposal or plan meets the requirements of the Environmental Quality  
14 Data Act.
- 15 ○ Notified of any proposed action that may affect local culture, social  
16 structure, and heritage values.
- 17 ○ Provided an opportunity for meaningful participation in the development,  
18 monitoring, and analyses of any studies conducted on resources associated  
19 with are public lands.
- 20
- 21 ○ Engaged the County to determine the County's ability to provide  
22 emergency services, law enforcement, water and waste management,



- 1 search and rescue and other essential services needed to support the  
2 proposed action.
- 3 ○ Queried to determine the impacts of proposed actions on traditional uses  
4 of resources such as recreation, grazing, energy development, wildlife, etc.
  - 5 ○ To the extent provided by law, provide the County cooperator status in the  
6 development of any NEPA analysis associated with proposed actions,  
7 public land management, or planning.
  - 8 ○ Keep the County fully informed of all management action proposed and  
9 allow adequate time to develop its position should it not be clearly defined  
10 in the County's plans or policies or subsequent Implementation Plans.
  - 11 ○ Provided in writing intentions for formal communications or consultation  
12 at the onset of any such discussions. Unless so stated, all communication  
13 will be considered to be informal.

#### 14 **PUBLIC LAND COMMITTEE**

15 The public land committee is an advisory committee to the County  
16 Commissioners on public land issues. The committee participates in developing,  
17 coordinating, and implementing planning and management activities ensure that  
18 provisions of the County Public Lands Policy are followed.

19 The duties of the public lands committee include the following:

- 20 • Ensure all relevant provisions of this policy are followed by federal and state  
21 agencies in the management of public lands.
- 22 • Improve dialogue and interaction between County residents and agency officials.

23 The Public Lands Committee will utilize the expertise of citizens by encouraging

1 and allowing input at public lands meetings and act as a public lands issues  
2 clearing house.

- 3 • Keep the County Commissioners fully informed of proposed public land  
4 management actions and concerns.

## 5 **POSITIONS STATEMENTS**

6 The following position statements were developed to communicate the County's  
7 position on various public land management issues and provide suggestions on how  
8 concerns may be addressed.

## 9 **WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS/ROADLESS**

10 It is the County's position that:

- 11 • The County's support for any recommendations made under a statutory  
12 requirement to examine the wilderness option during the revision of land and  
13 resource management plans, or other methods will be withheld until it is clearly  
14 demonstrated that:
  - 15 ○ the duly adopted transportation plans of the state and county or counties  
16 within the planning area are fully and completely incorporated into the  
17 baseline inventory or information from which plan provisions are derived;
  - 18 ○ valid state or local roads and rights-of-way are recognized and not  
19 impaired in any way by the recommendations;
  - 20 ○ the development of mineral resources by underground mining is not  
21 affected by the recommendations;
  - 22 ○ the need for additional administrative or public roads necessary for the  
23 full use of the various multiple-uses, including recreation, mineral

- 1 exploration and development, forest health activities, and grazing  
2 operations is not unduly affected by the recommendations;
- 3 ○ analysis and full disclosure is made concerning the balance of multiple-  
4 use management in the proposed areas, and that the analysis compares the  
5 full benefit of multiple-use management to the recreational, forest health,  
6 and economic needs of the state and the counties to the benefits of the of  
7 wilderness management; and
  - 8 ○ the conclusion of all studies related to the requirement to examine the  
9 wilderness option are submitted to the County for review and action, and  
10 the results in support of or in opposition to, are included in any planning  
11 documents or other proposals that are forwarded to the United States  
12 Congress
  - 13 ○ Areas must meet the suitability requirements contained in the Wilderness  
14 Act of 1964 unless requirements are changed by congress.
- 15 ● Managing public lands for “wilderness characteristics” circumvents the statutory  
16 wilderness process and is inconsistent with the multiple-use and sustained-yield  
17 management standard that applies to all Bureau of Land Management and U.S.  
18 Forest Service lands that are not wilderness study areas.
  - 19 ● The only legal designations of Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) are those  
20 designated under the Wilderness Act of 1964 and under section 603 of the  
21 Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). On Bureau of Land  
22 Management Administered Lands the opportunity to create additional wilderness  
23 ended in 1991 except as authorized by Congress.

- 1       • Some or all of the WSA designations pending before congress are legally and/or  
2       technically flawed and will pursue that position when the WSAs go before  
3       Congress for approval.
- 4       • The 1999 Wilderness Study Area Planning Project and the Wilderness Inventory  
5       and Study Procedures H6310-1 were legally and technically flawed.
- 6       • The public lands that were determined to lack wilderness character during  
7       previous wilderness review processes cannot be managed as if they were  
8       wilderness based on new or revised views of wilderness character. These areas  
9       were studied and released and they must remain subject to the full range of  
10      multiple uses.
- 11      • That any proposed wilderness designations in the County forwarded to congress  
12      for consideration must be based on a collaborative process in which support for  
13      the wilderness designation is unanimous among federal, state, County and county  
14      officials.
- 15      • All Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) pending congress, which were not  
16      recommended for wilderness designation by the Secretary of Interior, shall be  
17      released and managed under for multiple use and sustained yield.
- 18      • Wilderness designation is not an appropriate, effective, efficient, economic or  
19      wise use of land. These lands can be adequately protected with existing  
20      management options.
- 21      • The creation of wilderness limits access for the elderly and the physically  
22      impaired. All wilderness management plans must provide for access for these  
23      individuals to the fullest extent possible, and provided for by law.

- 1 • Wilderness management must provide for continued and reasonable access to and  
2 development of property rights within the area and provide for full use and  
3 enjoyment of these rights.
- 4 • Wilderness Study Areas released by Congress must be managed based on the  
5 principles of multiple use and sustained yield. The management plans must be  
6 amended in a timely manner to reflect change in status.

## 7 **OTHER SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS**

8 It is the County's position that:

- 9 • *History has proven that Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River Designations*  
10 *prevent the consideration of a full range of multiple use and result in years of*  
11 *defacto management for such designation until congress acts on the proposal.*
- 12 • *Such designation often are made on areas that contain ecosystems that are not*  
13 *properly functioning, thus preventing vegetative treatments to correct the*  
14 *deficiencies.*
- 15 • *Such designations often impact wildlife management, watershed management*  
16 *and increase the potential for catastrophic fire and disease infestations. These*  
17 *limitations on management opportunities impact property rights and use on*  
18 *adjoining lands.*
- 19 • *Sensitive areas can be protected under multiple use when a full range of uses are*  
20 *considered and properly analyzed in resource management planning.*
- 21 • *Multiple use when properly applied spans a full range of uses from protection of*  
22 *primitive and wildlife values to extensive development.*

- 1 • *Much of the land proposed for such designations are not threatened by current or*  
2 *proposed activity. Current protections have kept them from degrading as*  
3 *substantiated by the fact they qualify for consideration.*
- 4 • *Support for special designations will be withheld until such a time proper analysis*  
5 *demonstrates that: there is an existing threat to the area, the value of the special*  
6 *designation out weighs other possible users, and current management or*  
7 *adjustments there of, cannot be used to protect the values attributed to the area.*
- 8 • It is must be clearly demonstrated that the proposed designation:
- 9 ○ is not a substitute for a wilderness suitability recommendation *or*  
10 *management;*
- 11 ○ is not a substitute for managing areas inventoried for wilderness  
12 characteristics after 1993 under the BLM interim management plan for  
13 valid wilderness study areas and;
- 14 ○ it is not an excuse or justification to apply de facto wilderness  
15 management.
- 16 ○ That access and development of mineral resources have been fully  
17 analyzed and such designations needs to out weigh the loss of value of the  
18 mineral resource.
- 19 • Special designations, such as wilderness, Areas of Critical Environmental  
20 Concern (ACEC), Wild and Scenic Rivers, critical habitat, result in single purpose  
21 or non-use and are detrimental to the area economy, life styles, ecosystem  
22 management, culture, and heritage.
- 23 • Needed protections can be provided by well planned and managed use.

- 1 • No special designations should be proposed until it is determined and  
2 substantiated by verifiable scientific data that; a need exists for the designation,  
3 protections cannot be provided by other methods, and the area in question is truly  
4 unique when compared to other area lands.
- 5 • Designations must be made in accordance with the spirit and direction of the acts  
6 and regulations that created them.
- 7 • Designations not properly planned or managed are inconsistent with the mandates  
8 that public lands be managed for multiple use and sustained yield.

9

## 10 **ACEC'S**

11 It is the County's position that:

- 12 • The County's support for designation of an Area of Critical Environmental  
13 Concern (ACEC), as defined in 43 U.S.C. Sec. 1702, within federal land  
14 management plans will be withheld until:
  - 15 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the proposed area satisfies all the  
16 definitional requirements of the Federal Land Policy and  
17 Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. Sec. 1702(a);
  - 18 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the area proposed for designation as an  
19 ACEC is limited in geographic size and that the proposed  
20 management prescriptions are limited in scope to the minimum  
21 necessary to specifically protect and prevent irreparable damage to  
22 the relevant and important values identified, or limited in geographic

- 1 size and management prescriptions to the minimum required to  
2 specifically protect human life or safety from natural hazards;
- 3 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the proposed area is limited only to  
4 areas that are already developed or used or to areas where no  
5 development is required;
  - 6 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the proposed area contains relevant  
7 and important historic, cultural or scenic values, fish or wildlife  
8 resources, or natural processes which are unique or substantially  
9 significant on a regional basis, or contain natural hazards which  
10 significantly threaten human life or safety;
  - 11 ○ the federal agency has fully analyzed regional values, resources,  
12 processes, or hazards for irreparable damage and its potential causes  
13 resulting from potential actions which are consistent with the  
14 multiple-use, sustained-yield principles, and the analysis describes  
15 the rationale for any special management attention required to  
16 protect, or prevent irreparable damage to the values, resources,  
17 processes;
  - 18 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the proposed designation is consistent  
19 with the plans and policies of the County where the proposed  
20 designation is located.
  - 21 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the proposed ACEC designation will  
22 not be applied redundantly over existing protections provided by  
23 other state and federal laws for federal lands or resources on federal



1 lands, and that the federal statutory requirement for special  
2 management addition to those specified by the other state and federal  
3 laws;  
4 ○ the difference between special management attention required for an  
5 ACEC and normal multiple-use management has been identified and  
6 justified, and that any determination of irreparable damage has been  
7 analyzed and justified for short and long term horizons.

8

9 **WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS**

- 10 • County support for the addition of a river segment to the National Wild and  
11 Scenic Rivers System, 16 U.S.C. Sec.1271 et seq., will be withheld until:
  - 12 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that water is present and flowing at all times;
  - 13
  - 14 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the required water-related value is  
15 considered outstandingly remarkable within a region of comparison, and  
16 that the rationale and justification for the conclusions are disclosed.
  - 17
  - 18
  - 19 ○ the effects of the addition upon the local and state economies, agricultural  
20 and industrial operations and interests, outdoor recreation, water rights,  
21 water quality, water resource planning, and access to and across river  
22 corridors in both upstream and downstream directions from the proposed

1 river segment have been evaluated in detail by the relevant federal  
2 agency;

- 3
- 4 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the provisions and terms of the process for  
5 review of potential additions have been applied in a consistent manner by  
6 all federal agencies;

- 7
- 8
  - 9 ○ the rationale and justification for the proposed addition, including a  
10 comparison with protections offered by other management tools, is  
11 clearly analyzed within the multiple-use mandate, and the results  
12 disclosed;

- 13
- 14 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the federal agency with management  
15 authority over the river segment, and which is proposing the segment for  
16 inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System will not use the  
17 actual or proposed designation as a basis to impose management  
18 standards outside of the federal land management plan;

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- 20
  - 21 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the terms and conditions of the federal land  
22 and resource management plan containing a recommendation for  
23 inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System;

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Such proposals must:

- Evaluate all eligible river segments in the resource planning area completely and fully for suitability for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.
- Must not suspend or terminate any studies for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System at the eligibility phase.
- Fully disclaims any interest in water rights for the recommended segment as a result of the adoption of the plan.
- Fully disclaims the use of recommendation for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System as a reason or rationale for an evaluation of impacts by proposals for projects upstream, downstream, or within the recommended segment: clearly demonstrated that the agency with management authority over the river segment commits not to use an actual or proposed designation as a basis to impose Visual Resource Management Class I or II management prescriptions that do not comply with the provisions of Subsection (8)(t); and
  - it is clearly demonstrated that including the river segment and the terms and conditions for managing the river segment as part of the National Wild and Scenic River System will not prevent, reduce, impair, or otherwise interfere with:
    - the state and its citizens’ enjoyment of complete and exclusive water rights in and to the rivers of the state as determined by the laws of the state; or

- 1                   ▪ local, state, regional, or interstate water compacts to which the  
2                   state or any county is a party.

3   **INTRODUCED, THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE**  
4   **SPECIES, RECOVERY PLANS, EXPERIMENTAL POPULATIONS,**

5   It is the County’s position that:

- 6       • After desired population numbers of game species are established, hunting must  
7       be the preferred method of population control and to prevent the movement  
8       outside of their designated range.
- 9       • It is opposed to the creation or expansion of grizzly bear, wolf, wolverine, lynx  
10      populations, habitats, protection, ranges or migration corridors.
- 11      • Any plan for the management of a predator that has naturally or through  
12      introduction or re-introduction repopulated the County must provide for its  
13      control by any means when it travels from its designated range or becomes a  
14      threat to people, property, property rights, livestock, or other wildlife species.
- 15      • Any plan that provides for the introduction, reintroduction, natural repopulation,  
16      or the management of any predator must provide for timely compensation to  
17      owners for direct or indirect cost associated with the loss of life, loss or damage  
18      to livestock and property rights. Compensation must be equal to the actual value  
19      of the loss (not limited to market value) and included associated with  
20      development of such claims.
- 21      • Designations or reintroductions must not be allowed to grow beyond physical  
22      boundaries and scope to prevent detrimental effects to the economy, life styles,  
23      culture and heritage.

- 1 • No designations or reintroductions shall be made until it is determined and  
2 substantiated by verifiable scientific data that; there is a need for such action,  
3 protections cannot be provided other methods, and the area in question is truly  
4 unique when compared to other area lands.
- 5 • Designation or reintroduction plans, guidelines, and protocols must not be  
6 developed or implemented without full public disclosure and involvement of the  
7 County.
- 8 • Recovery plans must provide indicators to track the effectiveness of the plan,  
9 identify at what point recovery is accomplished and be self-terminating when the  
10 point of recovery is reached.
- 11 • Recovery plans must contain provisions for management after the plan is  
12 terminated.

13 **PUBLIC ACCESS**

14 It is the County’s position that:

- 15 • Access to and across public lands is critical to the use, management, and  
16 development of those lands and adjoining state and private lands.
- 17 • No roads, trails, rights-of-way, easements or other traditional access for the  
18 transportation of people, products, recreation, energy or livestock may be closed,  
19 abandoned, withdrawn, or have a change of use without full public disclosure and  
20 analysis.
- 21 • Future access must be planned and analyzed to determine its disposition at the  
22 completion of its intended life to ensure access is maintained. In the event that

- 1 removal of access is deemed appropriate, resulting disturbances shall be  
2 reclaimed.
- 3 • County roads shall remain open. The County will take all necessary action to  
4 protect these rights, including identification, inventory, and participation in any  
5 legal processes.
  - 6 • Proposed development plans must contain a transportation plan that *identifies*  
7 *ownership of roads and rights of way, identifies the standard to which roads will*  
8 *be constructed or maintained and requires coordination with the county where*  
9 *their roads are involved.*
  - 10 • Access to all water related facilities such as dams, reservoirs, delivery systems,  
11 monitoring facilities, livestock water and handling facilities, etc., must be  
12 maintained. This access must be economically feasible with respect to the  
13 method and timing of such access.

## 14 **LAND EXCHANGES, ACQUISITIONS, AND SALES**

15 It is the County's position that:

- 16 • To the extent possible and provided for by law, provide access to public lands for  
17 all users including the elderly and the physically impaired. Prevent existing  
18 access from diminishing and create new access where a need exists.
- 19 • A private property owner has a right to dispose of or exchange his property as  
20 he/she sees fit within applicable law.
- 21 • Federal and state governments hold sufficient land to protect the public interest.
- 22 • There shall be no net loss of the private land base.
- 23 • No "net loss" shall be measured in acreage or fair market value.

- 1 • A private property owner should be protected from federal, state and county  
2 encroachment and/or coerced acquisition.
- 3 • The County shall be compensated for net loss of private lands with public lands  
4 of equal value. Tax base resulting from exchanges shall be compensated for by  
5 the appropriate acquiring agency.
- 6 • The County is to be consulted on any such actions.
- 7 • Lands must be made available for disposal under the recreation and public  
8 purposes act and special user act in resource management plans.

## 9 **RECREATION AND TOURISM**

10 It is the County's position that:

- 11 • The area has outstanding potential for recreation and tourism.
- 12 • Resource development, recreation, and tourism are compatible when properly  
13 managed.
- 14 • Motorized, human, and animal-powered outdoor recreation should be integrated  
15 into a fair and balanced allocation of resources within the historical and cultural  
16 framework of multiple-uses in rural Wyoming, and outdoor recreation should be  
17 supported as part of a balanced plan;
- 18 • Potential developments should include family oriented activities and  
19 developments that are accessible to the general public and not limited to special  
20 interest groups.
- 21 • It supports cultivating recreational facility development and maintenance  
22 partnerships with other entities, agencies and special interest groups.

## 23 **WATER RESOURCES**

1 It is the County's position that:

2 • All waters of the state are:

3 ○ Subject to appropriation for beneficial use;

4 ○ Essential to the future prosperity of the state and the quality of life  
5 within the state;

6 • All water rights desired by the federal government must be obtained through the  
7 state water appropriations system.

8 • Management and resource-use decisions by federal land management and  
9 regulatory agencies concerning the vegetative resources within the state should  
10 reflect serious consideration of the proper optimization of the yield of water  
11 within the watersheds of the County.

12 • Proper management of public land watersheds which supply the majority of the  
13 agricultural, domestic, and industrial water use in this water-short area is  
14 critical.

15 • An adequate supply of clean water is essential to the health of County residents  
16 and the continued growth of its economy.

17 • Agencies must analyze the affect of decisions on water quality, yields, and  
18 timing of those yields. Any action, lock of action, or permitted use that results  
19 in a significant or long term decrease in water quality or quantity will be  
20 opposed.

21 • Agency actions must analyze impacts on facilities such as dams, reservoirs,  
22 delivery systems, monitoring facilities, etc., located on or down stream from  
23 land covered by any water related proposal.



- 1       • Movement toward nationalization or federal control of Wyoming’s water  
2       resources or rights will be opposed.
- 3       • Privately held water rights should be protected from federal and/or state  
4       encroachment and/or coerced acquisition.
- 5       • The quality and quantity of water shall not be reduced below current levels.
- 6       • It will support projects that improve water quality and increase the amount and  
7       dependability of the water supply.
- 8       • All potential reservoir sites and delivery system corridors shall be protected  
9       from any federal or state action that would inhibit future use.
- 10      • Any proposed sale, lease or other exchange of water must adequately consider  
11      and satisfy the County’s interest and concerns.
- 12      • It will oppose any proposal that fails to benefit the County or compensate for  
13      losses to the County and/or its residents.
- 14      • It recognizes and will protect the existence of all legal canals, laterals, or ditch  
15      rights-of-way.
- 16      • All federal and state mandates governing water or water systems shall be  
17      developed in cooperation with the County and be funded by those agencies.
- 18      • It supports livestock grazing and other managed uses of watershed and holds  
19      that, if properly planned and managed; multiple use is compatible with  
20      watershed management.
- 21      • It endorses Wyoming State water laws as the legal basis for all water use within  
22      the County.

- 1 • Beneficial use is the basis for the appropriation of water in the State of  
2 Wyoming.
- 3 • It will support all reasonable water conservation efforts. Water conserved  
4 should be allocated to those persons or entities whose efforts created the  
5 savings.
- 6 • Many wetlands are created by fugitive water from irrigation systems. When law  
7 requires mitigation of impacts from conservation and other projects, the creation  
8 of artificial wetlands should be considered only after all other mitigation  
9 possibilities have been analyzed. Creation of artificial wetlands is contrary to  
10 the intent of conservation.
- 11 • *Managers of public lands must protect watersheds with respect to water quality*  
12 *with the assurance that water yield will not be decreased but improved.*

### 13 **TIMBER**

14 It is the County's position that:

- 15 • All forested lands be managed for sustained yield and multiple use.
- 16 • Fire, timber harvesting, and treatment programs must be managed as to prevent  
17 waste of forest products.
- 18 • Management programs must provide for fuel load management to prevent  
19 catastrophic events and reduce fire potential at the urban interface.
- 20 • Management and harvest programs must be designed to provide opportunities  
21 for local citizens and small business to access commercial forest products..

### 22 **ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE**

23 It is the County's position that:

- 1       • *Supports the use of economic and technically feasible Best Management*  
2       *Practices that reduce impacts, disturbances, and foot print of development.*
- 3       • *Supports the use of lease suspension to protect lease hold rights when such*  
4       *suspensions provide for protection or conservation of natural resources. Such*  
5       *suspensions shall be removed when it has been determined through proper*  
6       *analysis that the needed protection no longer exist or that lease development*  
7       *can be accomplished while providing adequate protection of subject resources.*
- 8       • To support of the National Energy Policy and to reduce the nation’s dependency  
9       on imported oil, all public lands must remain open to the greatest extent  
10      possible for the exploration and development of energy and energy related  
11      products. This is to be accomplished with full consideration of the impacts to  
12      other public land resources, uses *and impacts to local economies ad lifestyles.*
- 13      • Continued access to energy and mineral resources associated with public lands  
14      is paramount to the well being of County residents and its economy, the state of  
15      Wyoming, National Economy and Security.
- 16      • It is technically feasible to permit appropriate access to mineral and energy  
17      resources while protecting other resources from irreparable harm.
- 18      • The waste of fluid and gaseous minerals should be prohibited.
- 19      • Support for mineral development provisions within federal land management  
20      plans will be withheld until the appropriate land management plan  
21      environmental impact statement clearly demonstrates:  
22
  - that the authorized planning agency has;

- 1                   ▪ considered and evaluated the mineral and energy potential in all  
2                   of the planning area as if the areas were open to mineral  
3                   development under standard lease agreements; and  
4                   ▪ evaluated any management plan prescription for its impact on the  
5                   area’s baseline mineral and energy potential;
- 6           ○ that the development provisions do not unduly restrict access to public  
7           or private lands for energy exploration and development;
- 8           ○ that the authorized planning agency has supported any closure of  
9           additional areas to mineral leasing and development or any increase of  
10          acres subject to no surface occupancy restrictions by adhering to:
- 11                   ▪ the relevant provisions of the Federal Land Policy and  
12                   Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. Sec. 1701 et seq.;
- 13                   ▪ other controlling mineral development laws; and  
14                   ▪ the controlling withdrawal and reporting procedures set forth in  
15                   the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C.  
16                   sec. 1701 et seq.;
- 17           ○ that the authorized planning agency evaluated whether to repeal any  
18           moratorium that may exist on the issuance of additional mining patents  
19           and oil and gas leases;
- 20           ○ that the authorized planning agency analyzed all proposed mineral lease  
21           stipulations and adopted the least restrictive necessary to protect against  
22           damage to other significant resource values;

- 1           ○ that the authorized planning agency evaluated mineral lease restrictions  
2           to determine whether to waive, modify, or make exceptions to the  
3           restrictions on the basis that they are no longer necessary or effective;
- 4           ○ that the authorized federal agency analyzed all areas proposed for No  
5           Surface Occupancy [NSO] restrictions, and that the analysis evaluated:
- 6                 ▪ whether the directional drilling feasibility analysis, or analysis of  
7                 other management prescriptions, demonstrates that the proposed  
8                 no surface occupancy prescription, in effect, sterilizes the  
9                 mineral and energy resources beneath the area; and
- 10                ▪ whether, if the minerals are effectively sterilized, the area must  
11                be reported as withdrawn under the provisions of the Federal  
12                Land Policy and Management Act
- 13           ○ that the authorized planning agency has evaluated all directional drilling  
14           requirements in NSO areas to determine whether directional drilling is  
15           feasible from an economic, ecological, and engineering standpoint
- 16           • Any proposal or action taken by state or federal agencies that may result in  
17           restrictions on reasonable and economical access to resources shall be opposed.
- 18           • Identification of energy and mineral potential and location is important for  
19           planning future needs and resource management. Such potential must be fully  
20           analyzed and impacts disclosed in any management or planning action.
- 21           • After environmental analysis, and as provided for in the governing resource  
22           management plan, all tracts will be available and offered for lease or open to  
23           claim as provided by law.

- 1       • All permits and applications must be processed on a timely basis. Procedures  
2       and required contents of application must be provided to the applicant at the  
3       time of application.
- 4       • *To the extent technically and economically feasible, all produced water should*  
5       *be recycled for use in drilling operations or other development or reclamation*  
6       *purposes.*
- 7       • *All field development plans must provide for air and water quality monitoring.*  
8       *Data developed must be provided to the county.*

## 9       **WILD HORSES**

10      It is the County's position that:

- 11       • The presence of uncontrolled and improperly managed wild horses on public  
12       lands spread of equine disease, are a threat to the domestic horse industry. A  
13       herd plan must be developed for each herd.
- 14       • Herd management plans must include provisions for periodic gathers of all  
15       horses in the unit to limit populations to planned levels, to remove trespass  
16       horses, and to test for equine diseases as prescribed by the Wyoming state  
17       veterinarian and prevent habitat degradation.
- 18       • An increase in wild horse populations adversely affects the County's economy  
19       by reducing forage available for wildlife and livestock.
- 20       • Wild horses assigned to herd units must be identified to ensure that feral or  
21       fugitive horses are not assimilated into wild horse herds on public lands.
- 22       • All unauthorized feral horses are in trespass and must be removed from public  
23       lands.

- 1       • Any future legally established herds must consist only of wild horses that  
2           possess Spanish Barb characteristics.
- 3       • Horse management plans must contain provisions for the maintenance of the  
4           health of wild horses and the prevention of equine diseases.
- 5       • No herds will be located in areas that do not provide barriers, natural or  
6           otherwise, to prevent herd movement, trespass to private lands, or mingling with  
7           domestic herds.
- 8       • As with livestock and wildlife, horses are subject to Wyoming Rangeland  
9           Standards that govern range land health.

10       **CULTURAL AND HERITAGE RESOURCES**

11       It is the County’s position that:

- 12       • All management decisions regarding cultural resources shall include appropriate  
13           opportunities for participation by the County.
- 14       • All management decision providing for the protection of cultural resources must  
15           be based on the quality and significance of that particular resource.
- 16       • Sites and trails will be allocated to other resource users based on their natural  
17           and relative preservation value. Such use allocation must be based on cultural  
18           resources not areas of land.
- 19       • Potential adverse effects to significant and high quality cultural resources will  
20           be managed to the extent possible through avoidance and confidentiality of  
21           location be for other protections are considered.
- 22       • Many sites represent a unique culture and are closely related to early  
23           agricultural settlement of the area. They continue to have historical significance

- 1 and are held by many residents as reverent or consecrated sites. These sites  
2 must be preserved and remain accessible.
- 3 • The preservation and perpetuation of heritage and culture is important to the  
4 area economy as well as to the life styles and quality of life of the area residents.
  - 5 • The maintenance of the resources and their physical attributes such as trails,  
6 cabins, livestock facilities, etc., is critical to present and future tourism  
7 development.
  - 8 • The land, its people, and their heritage form an inseparable trinity for the  
9 majority of the area residents and this relationship must be considered in all  
10 proposed actions.
  - 11 • Livestock grazing, the resulting lifestyles and imprint on the landscapes of the  
12 west are some of the oldest enduring and economically important cultural and  
13 heritage resources in the west, and must be preserved and perpetuated.
  - 14 • It is the County's position that the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)  
15 is the basis for cultural and historical preservation and defines federal agency's  
16 responsibility for protection and preservation of the County's Cultural and  
17 heritage resources.

## 18 **SOILS**

19 It is the County's position that:

- 20 • Soil is the basic building block for virtually all land uses. The protection of  
21 soils from wind and water erosion and the maintenance of fertility are critical to  
22 sustaining a viable agricultural economy, sustaining wildlife populations, and  
23 high levels of air and water quality.



- 1 • The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soil survey is the basis for  
2 all public land soil related activities.
- 3 • It supports the need for completion of a NRCS soil survey that included both  
4 public and private land in the County.
- 5 • Soil related activities will be based on all available survey data until a final  
6 survey is published. Any deviation from this material or soil data developed  
7 outside of the survey must be coordinated with NRCS and the County.

## 8 **AIR QUALITY**

9 It is the County's position that:

- 10 • Maintaining the County's air quality at its current level is critical to the health  
11 and well being of its residents.
- 12 • A high level of air quality is important to future economic development as it  
13 reduces the possibility of restrictions being placed on that development due to  
14 air quality standards being exceeded.
- 15 • Air quality baselines for the area must be established with the full participation  
16 of the County.
- 17 • All air quality related plans and decisions must be based on deviation from a  
18 baseline standard established for the County.
- 19 • To maintain high air quality the County must protect the area's air from  
20 degradation from non-area sources.

## 21 **WILDLIFE**

22 It is the County's position that:

- 1       • It favors quickly and effectively adjusting wildlife population goals and  
2       population census numbers in response to variations in the amount of available  
3       forage caused by catastrophic events, drought, or other climatic adjustments.
- 4       • Properly managed wildlife populations are important to the area's recreation  
5       and tourism economy and the preservation of the culture and lifestyles of its  
6       residents.
- 7       • With proper management and planning, healthy wildlife populations are not  
8       incompatible with other resource development.
- 9       • Wildlife numbers must remain at the allocated level until studies and analyses  
10      are completed to determine the ability of forage resources to support population  
11      and species trends, and impacts on other wildlife species has been assessed.
- 12     • Reduction in forage allocation resulting from forage studies, drought, or other  
13      natural disasters shall be shared proportionately by wildlife.
- 14     • Wildlife target levels and/or populations must not exceed the forage assigned to  
15      wildlife in forage allocations.
- 16     • In evaluating a proposed introduction, or reintroduction, of wildlife species,  
17      priority will be given to species that will provide increased recreational  
18      activities.
- 19     • Predator and wildlife numbers must be controlled at levels that protects  
20      livestock and other private property from loss or damage and prevents the  
21      decline of other wildlife species populations.
- 22     • Impacts of development can be mitigated more efficiently in a planned manner  
23      through wildlife habitat mitigation banking. When implemented, this system

1           could provide much needed habitat for wildlife while providing for multiple  
2           use.

- 3           • Wildlife habitat must comply with Wyoming Healthy Rangeland Standards and  
4           other standards that govern rangeland health. Wildlife populations must be  
5           reduced when it has been determined that wildlife is responsible for habitat  
6           degradation.

### 7           **FORAGE ALLOCATION/LIVESTOCK GRAZING**

8           It is the County's position that:

- 9           • To maintain and enhance agriculture on public and private lands to retain its  
10          contribution to the local economy, customs, cultural and heritage as well as a  
11          secure national food supply.
- 12          • Forests, rangelands, and watersheds, in a healthy condition, are necessary and  
13          beneficial for wildlife, watersheds livestock grazing, and other multiple-uses.
- 14          • Management programs and initiatives that are implemented to increase forage  
15          for the mutual benefit of the watersheds, livestock operations, and wildlife  
16          species should utilize all proven techniques and tools.
- 17          • Most of the public lands in the County were classified as or are chiefly valuable  
18          for livestock grazing and were withdrawn from operation of most of the public  
19          land laws. The available forage was then allocated between wildlife and  
20          grazing preference holders, such that the established grazing preference  
21          represented the best professional judgment of the Bureau of Land Management  
22          at that time. The government cannot properly change these decisions without

- 1 amending the original withdrawal and revising the land use plan based upon  
2 sound and valid monitoring data.
- 3 • Forage allocated to livestock may not be reduced for allocation to other uses.  
4 Current livestock allocation will be maintained.
  - 5 • The government agencies should support financially the needed structural and  
6 vegetation improvements to ensure there is sufficient forage, especially when  
7 there is pressure from other land uses.
  - 8 • The continued viability of livestock operations and the livestock industry should  
9 be supported on the federal lands within the County by management of the lands  
10 and forage resources, by the proper optimization of animal unit months for  
11 livestock, in accordance with supportable science and the multiple use  
12 provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C  
13 1701 et seq., the provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, 43 U.S.C. 1901  
14 et seq.
  - 15 • Land management plans, programs, and initiatives should provide that the  
16 amount of domestic livestock forage, expressed in animal unit months, for  
17 permitted, active use as well as wildlife forage, be no less than the maximum  
18 number of animal unit months sustainable by range conditions in grazing  
19 allotments and districts, based on an on-the-ground scientific analysis.
  - 20 • It opposes the relinquishment or retirement of grazing animal unit months in  
21 favor of conservation, wildlife, horses and other uses.
  - 22 • IT opposes the transfer of grazing animal unit months to wildlife or horses.

- 1       • Any reductions in domestic livestock animal unit months must be temporary  
2       and scientifically based upon rangeland conditions.
- 3       • Policies, plans, programs, initiatives, resource management plans, and forest  
4       plans may not allow the placement of grazing animal unit months in a  
5       suspended use category unless there is a rational and scientific determination  
6       that the condition of the rangeland allotment or County in question will not  
7       sustain the animal unit months proposed to be placed in suspended use.
- 8       • Any grazing animal unit months that are placed in a suspended use category  
9       should be returned to active use when range conditions improve.
- 10      • Policies, plans, programs, and initiatives related to vegetation management  
11      should recognize and uphold the preference for domestic grazing over alternate  
12      forage uses in established grazing County's while upholding management  
13      practices that optimize and expand forage for grazing and wildlife in  
14      conjunction with state wildlife management plans and programs in order to  
15      provide maximum available forage for all uses
- 16      • In established grazing districts, animal unit months that have been reduced due  
17      to rangeland health concerns should be restored to livestock when rangeland  
18      conditions improve, and should not be converted to wildlife use.
- 19      • The proper management and allocation of forage on public lands is critical to  
20      the viability of the County's agriculture, recreation and tourism industry.
- 21      • Management of forage resources directly affects water quality and water yields.

- 1       • Increases in available forage resulting from conservation practice, improved  
2       range condition, or development of improvements by the livestock operators or  
3       other allocated forage user will be credited to that use.
- 4       • Increases in available forage resulting from practices or improvements  
5       implemented by managing agencies will be allocated proportionately to all  
6       forage allocations, unless the funding source specifies the benefactor.
- 7       • Upon termination of a permit, livestock permittee will be compensated for the  
8       remaining value of improvements or be allowed to remove such improvements  
9       that permittee made on his/her allotment.
- 10      • Forage reductions resulting from forage studies, fire, drought or other natural  
11      disasters will be implemented on an allotment basis and applied proportionately  
12      based on the respective allocation to livestock, wildlife and wild horses.  
13      Reductions resulting from forage studies will be applied to the allocated use  
14      responsible for the forage impact.
- 15      • Permittee may sell or exchange permits. Such transaction shall be promptly  
16      processed.
- 17      • Changes in season of use or forage allocation must not be made without full and  
18      meaningful consultation with permittee.  
19      The permitted seasons of use set forth in a management plan adjusted and still  
20      be in conformance with the plan if;  
21              1. meeting, maintaining, or making progress towards meeting for range  
22              management officially adopted by the managing agency

- 1                   2. managing agency and the permittee sign an agreement documenting
- 2                   monitoring plan
- 3                   3. with coordination, consultation and cooperation, the managing agency
- 4                   develop grazing management practices determined necessary including
- 5                   those that provide for physiological requirements of desired plants.
- 6                   • Livestock allocations must be protected from encroachment by wild horses and
- 7                   wildlife.
- 8                   • Permanent increase or decreases in grazing allocations reflecting changes in
- 9                   available forage will be based on the vegetative type of that forage and applied
- 10                  proportionately to livestock or wildlife based on their respective dietary need.

11                  **PALEONTOLOGY/ARCHEOLOGY/GEOLOGY**

12                  Remnants of early life forms, geological history and cultures have evolved as an

13                  important segment of a local economy and have become the signature of the local

14                  tourism trade. Considerable investment has been made in museums and visitors

15                  centers to promote these important resources.

16                  It is the County’s position that:

- 17                  • All significant discoveries found in the area should remain here.
- 18                  • Management Plans must provide opportunity for amateur collectors and
- 19                  students of these sciences to study, explore for, and collect related items as
- 20                  provided for by law.
- 21                  • Public land management agencies should promote these resources with
- 22                  educational material, signage, and information centers where appropriate.

23                  **OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES (OHV)**

1 It is the County's position that:

- 2 • Off-highway vehicles should be used responsibly, the management of off-  
3 highway vehicles should be uniform across all jurisdictions, and laws related to  
4 the use of off-highway vehicles should be uniformly applied across all  
5 jurisdictions.
- 6 • OHV's have become an important segment of the County's recreation industry  
7 and is an important tool and mode of transportation for farmers, ranchers, and  
8 resource development.
- 9 • It supports the current policies of open OHV areas.
- 10 • It will support limiting OHV use and travel to existing roads, trails, and  
11 designated trail systems.
- 12 • When the necessity for a closure has been established, additional trails and areas  
13 must be opened to offset the loss of that recreational opportunity.
- 14 • Public land management agencies must implement and maintain an aggressive  
15 OHV education and enforcement program on reduction of resource impacts.
- 16 • The non-recreational use of OHVs, such as development and livestock  
17 operations, must be provided for in all areas unless restricted by law.

## 18 **MITIGATION/HABITAT IMPROVEMENT**

19 It is the County's position that:

20 *Properly functioning habitats benefit wildlife, watersheds, grazing, recreation, and*  
21 *development. Currently opportunities exist to improve habitats across the county.*

22 *Healthy habitats reduce the impacts of energy development and other uses, reduce*  
23 *disturbances to wildlife and shorten the recovery time from such disturbances.*



1 The best method for accomplishing well planned, successful, habitat  
2 improvements is through a local habitat collaborative planning group. Facilitated by the  
3 county, this group should consist of local governments, federal and state resource  
4 managers, industry, livestock operators, private land owners, sportsman, and special  
5 interest groups interested in the creation of productive and properly functioning habitats.

6 • All disturbances of habitats must be reclaimed as soon as feasible after impacts  
7 have been created.

8 • All mitigation of surface disturbances be accomplished on or adjoining the site  
9 of disturbance. No off-site mitigation may be considered until onsite  
10 opportunities have been exhausted or that proper analysis shows that habitat  
11 losses can not be mitigated on site

12 • Off-site mitigation is voluntary on the part of project proponents.

13 • Off-site mitigation must provide for the full involvement of the County.

14 • Off-site mitigation should not be permanent, but be of duration appropriate to  
15 the anticipated impacts being mitigated.

16 • The most cost effective method is to pool committed mitigation funds to fund  
17 larger efforts to mitigate the impacts of multiple impacts.

18 • It favors habitat projects that are jointly sponsored by cattlemen's, sportsmen's,  
19 and wildlife groups such as chaining, logging, seeding, burning, and other direct  
20 soil and vegetation prescriptions that are demonstrated to restore forest and  
21 rangeland health, increase forage, and improve watersheds in grazing Countys  
22 and allotments for the mutual benefit of domestic livestock, wildlife, and  
23 watersheds.

1           **TRANSPORTATION**

2           It is the County’s position that:

- 3           • Resource plans must provide for, at a minimum, a network of roads on public  
4           lands that provides for:

- 5                     ○ movement of people, goods, and services across public lands;  
6                     ○ access to federal lands for people with disabilities and the elderly;  
7                     ○ access to state lands and school and institutional trust lands to  
8                     accomplish the purposes of those lands;  
9                     ○ access to inholdings and for the development and use of property  
10                    rights;  
11                    ○ reasonable access to a broad range of resources and opportunities  
12                    throughout the resource planning area including:  
13                            ▪ search and rescue needs;  
14                            ▪ public safety needs;  
15                            ▪ access for transportation of wood products to market.  
16                            ▪ predator control  
17                    ○ public safety  
18                    ○ access for people with disabilities and the elderly;  
19                    ○ access to state lands and other inholdings and development of  
20                    property rights;  
21                    ○ recreational opportunities.

- 22           • Transportation and access provisions for all other existing routes, roads, and  
23           trails across federal, state, and school trust lands within the state should be

1 determined and identified, and agreements should be executed and  
2 implemented, as necessary to fully authorize and determine responsibility for  
3 maintenance of all routes, roads, and trails.

4 • The reasonable development of new routes and trails for motorized, human, and  
5 animal-powered recreation should be implemented.

6 • The County opposes any additional evaluation of national forest service lands as  
7 “roadless” or “unroaded” beyond the forest service’s second roadless area  
8 review evaluation and opposes efforts by agencies to specially manage those  
9 areas in a way that:

10 ○ closes or declassifies existing roads unless multiple side by side  
11 roads exist running to the same destination and state and local  
12 governments consent to close or declassify the extra roads;

13 ○ permanently bars travel on existing roads;

14 ○ excludes or diminishes traditional multiple-use activities, including  
15 grazing and proper forest harvesting;

16 ○ interferes with the enjoyment and use of valid, existing rights,  
17 including water rights, local transportation plan rights, grazing  
18 allotment rights, and mineral leasing rights; or

19 ○ prohibits development of additional roads reasonably necessary to  
20 pursue traditional multiple-use activities;

21 • County support for any forest plan revision or amendment will be withheld  
22 until the appropriate plan revision or plan amendment clearly demonstrates that:

- 1                   ○ established roads are not referred to as unclassified roads or a similar
- 2                   classification;
- 3                   ○ lands in the vicinity of established roads are managed under the
- 4                   multiple-use, sustained yield management standard; and
- 5                   ○ no roadless or unroaded evaluations or inventories are recognized or
- 6                   upheld beyond those that were recognized or upheld in the forest
- 7                   service's second roadless area review evaluation.

- 8                   • It supports the development of additional roads reasonably necessary to pursue
- 9                   traditional multiple-use activities:

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