

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT
SUBLETTE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PUBLIC LAND USE POLICY**

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Public Notice is hereby given of the Sublette County Conservation District Board of Supervisors intent to adopt a New Policy by authority [§11-16-122(xvi); §16-3-103(a)(i)(B)].

This Public Land Use Policies Statement reflects the Sublette County Conservation Districts desire to advise Public Land Agencies of the Conservation District's official policies on Public Lands Management within the boundaries of Sublette County and will be adopted to facilitate the District's activities in federal land management and land use planning, 43 U.S.C. 1712(c)(9); 43 C.F.R. Part 1600.

There are several Federal Laws and Regulations that provide local governments involvement in the planning, decision making and implementing processes. Federal Land Use Plans are to be consistent with local land use policies. These policies are new and there are no state statutory requirements for the Policies to meet. A copy will be filed in the Sublette County Courthouse.

A public comment period will begin on February 21, 2008 and continue for 45 days scheduled to end on April 05, 2008. The purpose for this comment period is to give the public and public land use agencies adequate time to comment on these policies. Comments may be submitted to the above address either postal, email or hand delivered to the Sublette County Conservation District office located at the above address. Be sure to include the page and line number with your comment.

Copies of the proposed Sublette County Conservation District Public Land Use Policies are available at the Pinedale and Big Piney Libraries or at the above address.

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2 **SUBLETTE COUNTY CONSERVATION**
3 **DISTRICT PUBLIC LAND USE POLICIES**
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11 **Prelude**

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13 *This Public Land Use Policies document is entirely intended for use in requiring Public*
14 *Land Agencies to recognize the “Sublette County Conservation Districts” responsibilities*
15 *and rights when these agencies are developing and implementing Annual and Long*
16 *Range Management Plans, Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), Environmental*
17 *Assessment Study (EAS) etc.*

18
19 *These statements of policy also outline the “Sublette County Conservation Districts”*
20 *Natural Resource priorities and are utilized in developing the Districts Annual and Long*
21 *Range Plans.*
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1 **INTRODUCTION**

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3 The District is a local governmental subdivision of the state as defined and established by
4 the Wyoming Conservation Districts Law. Wyo. Stat. Title 11, Art. 16. The voters of
5 Sublette County elect the five-member Board of Supervisors to the District during the
6 general election by popular vote. The elected members represent both the rural and urban
7 populations within Sublette County. The District supervisors are the only locally elected
8 board specifically charged with the responsibility of representing the citizens of Sublette
9 County on natural resource issues. A conservation district supervisor serves the
10 community voluntarily. The District Board of Supervisors administers and implements
11 projects and programs funded through local, state, federal, and private partnerships.
12

13 The District, pursuant to the Wyoming Conservation Districts Law, is authorized to
14 develop plans and policy for the District and file said plans in the office of the Sublette
15 County Clerk. Wyo. Stat. §11-16-122 (iv) and (xvi)

16 The District has a broad mandate to assist, promote, and protect public lands and natural
17 resources, soil, water, and wildlife resources, to develop water and to prevent floods, to
18 stabilize the ranching and agriculture industry, to protect the tax base, and to provide for
19 the public safety, health, and welfare of the citizens. The District is charged with
20 conserving, protecting, and developing these resources on all lands within the District
21 and, thus, it is one of the few governmental entities with express authority to address
22 resource issues, in cooperation with private landowners or state or federal land
23 management agencies on private, state, and federal lands. State law also gives the
24 District broad powers to accomplish these policies and mandates, through research and
25 education, implementation of erosion control, water, and range projects with landowners,
26 development of comprehensive plans, demonstration projects, providing financial and
27 other assistance to landowners, management of flood control projects or lands under
28 cooperative agreements with the United States, and adoption of rules and ordinances.

29 Both federal and state laws authorize intergovernmental coordination and cooperation,
30 which provide a mechanism for the District to meet its mandate and polices for all lands
31 within the District.

1 **PURPOSE**

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

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

10 The public lands portion of the District’s Long Range Plan reflects the District’s
11 position on the management and use of public lands, within the District or, that impact
12 the District’s interests. The plan clearly and concisely states the District policies, goals
13 and objectives that relate to federal and state public land management, planning efforts,
14 and decision-making processes.

15 The intent of the plan is to protect the interest of the District, its customs and
16 culture, the health and safety of its residents, and to communicate District interest and
17 concerns regarding management of public lands. It is designed to ensure that the spirit
18 and intent of the laws, regulations and policies that govern management and use of public
19 lands are followed and provides the basis for productive communication, consistency
20 review, and analysis.

21 This policy and subsequent implementation plans are to be followed unless it is
22 impermissibly inconsistent with any statute or duly promulgated regulation. Should any
23 part of this policy or implementation plan be inconsistent with statute or regulation, or
24 declared void, unenforceable, or invalid by a court with competent jurisdiction, the
25 remaining provisions or parts shall remain in full force and effect.

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

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1 **Objectives**

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

4 The District’s objectives are:

- 5 • To Support the wise use, conservation and protection of public lands and its
6 resources including well-planned, outcome based, management prescriptions. It
7 acknowledges the need, on occasion, to place strict requirements on the
8 management of some resources to provide needed protection, when it has been
9 determined through scientific and supportable analysis that such needs exist, to
10 protect such resources from irreparable harm.
- 11 • To ensure management decisions are accomplished with full participation of the
12 District and supported by tested and true scientific data. Decisions shall fully
13 analyze and disclose impacts on the areas economy tax base, culture, heritage, and
14 life styles and rights of area residents.
- 15 • To mitigate and compensate for impacts to the District and its residents. If action
16 results in a taking, all applicable law must be applied.
- 17 • To ensure public and private access and rights-of-way for utilities and
18 transportation of people and products on and across public lands. Access must be
19 provided to meet such needs.
- 20 • To ensure public lands are managed for multiple use, sustained yield, and
21 prevention of natural resource waste. Further, these lands should be managed to
22 prevent loss of resources and private property from catastrophic events and to
23 protect the safety and health of the public.

- 1 • To support national energy needs relative to the nation’s increasing dependency
2 on foreign oil, all public lands must remain open to the greatest extent possible for
3 the exploration and production of energy and other energy related products.
- 4 • To ensure that special designations do not influence the use of resources on lands
5 outside those listed in the designation. The District opposes the use of a buffer
6 zone management philosophy that dictates land use practices and influences
7 decisions beyond the scope and boundaries of the designations.
- 8 • To support agriculture on private and public lands as part of the local economy,
9 custom, culture, heritage as well as the provision of a secure national food supply.
- 10 • To provide policies, plans, and other documents for governmental agency use to
11 ensure management and planning consistency with the District. To ensure
12 resource management and planning that is consistent with that of the District.
- 13 • To ensure that restrictions placed on any resource are based on analysis of trends,
14 need, and imposed only after a complete analysis.
- 15 • To ensure that lands designated open for various specified uses are available on a
16 timely basis and permits for such use are processed promptly. Extended delays or
17 no action shall not be used as a method to accomplish restrictions or protections.
18 Waivers modification or exception to restrictions must be provided for when
19 conditions exist or impacts can be mitigated to prevent irreparable damage to the
20 subject resource.
- 21 • Agriculture and grazing lands should continue to produce the food and fiber
22 needed by the citizens of the state and the nation, and the rural character and open
23 landscape of rural Wyoming should be preserved through a healthy and active
24 agricultural and grazing industry, consistent with private property rights and state
25 fiduciary duties.

1 **MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

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

- 1 ○ is conducive to well planned and measured community and economic
2 development; and
- 3 ○ provide for the protection of water rights;
- 4 ○ insures proper stewardship of the land and natural resources necessary to
5 ensure the health of the watersheds, timber, forage, and wildlife resources.
6 This should provide for a continuous supply of resources for the people of
7 the District who depend on these resources for a sustainable economy;
- 8 • Forests, rangelands, timber, and other vegetative resources;
- 9 ○ provide forage for livestock;
- 10 ○ provide forage and habitat for wildlife;
- 11 ▪ provide resources for the state’s timber and logging industries;
- 12 ▪ contribute to the state’s timber and logging industries;
- 13 ▪ contribute to the state’s economic stability and growth;
- 14 ▪ are important for a wide variety of recreational pursuits;

1 **To accomplish these objectives:**

- 2 • To fully address the counties concerns and articulate them to the appropriate
3 agencies, the District will work with public land management agencies in a
4 collaborative or cooperative manner.

5 Where feasible, or as provided by law, the District will enter into formal
6 agreements such as memorandums of understanding, memorandums of
7 agreement, or partnerships to codify expectations and processes agreed to by the
8 parties.

9 Such agreements must provide that in the processes of coordination or
10 cooperation, the District is consulted as appropriate or required:

- 11 ○ Provided a written report detailing how consistency with this policy
12 analyzed with respect to their purpose action or plan. The report must
13 identify where inconsistencies exist, any plausible way to correct the
14 inconsistencies, and why consistency is not possible.
- 15 ○ Provided a detailed economic analysis of the impact of agency action or
16 proposed action on the County tax base and area economy. When more
17 than one action is proposed the report must analyze cumulative impacts.
- 18 ○ Provided a certification that applicable data used in development of a
19 proposal or plan meets the requirements of the Environmental Quality
20 Data Act and the Wyoming Credible Data Statute.
- 21 ○ Notified of any proposed action that may affect local culture, social
22 structure, and heritage values.

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

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1 **POSITIONS STATEMENTS**

2 The following position statements were developed to communicate the District’s
3 position on various public land management issues and provide suggestions on how
4 concerns may be addressed.

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7 **SOILS**

8 It is the District’s position that:

- 9 • Soil is the basic building block for virtually all land uses. The protection of
10 soils from wind and water erosion and the maintenance of fertility are critical to
11 sustaining a viable agricultural economy, sustaining wildlife populations, and
12 high levels of air and water quality.
- 13 • The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soil survey is the basis for
14 all public land soil related activities.
- 15 • It supports the need for completion of a NRCS soil survey that includes both
16 public and private lands in the District.
- 17 • Soil related activities will be based on all available survey data until a final
18 survey is published. Any deviation from this material and soil_data
19 development must be coordinated with the District and NRCS.
- 20 • Management programs and initiatives that improve watersheds, forests, and
21 increase forage for the mutual benefit of wildlife and livestock will be
22 emphasized.

1 **AIR QUALITY**

2 It is the District’s position that:

- 3 • Maintaining the District’s air quality at its current level is critical to the health
4 and well being of its residents.
- 5 • A high level of air quality is important to future economic development as it
6 reduces the possibility of restrictions being placed on that development due to
7 air quality standards being exceeded.
- 8 • Air quality baselines for the area must be established with the full participation
9 of the District.
- 10 • All air quality related plans and decisions must be based on deviation from a
11 baseline standard established for the District.
- 12 • To maintain high air quality the District must work to protect the area’s air from
13 degradation from non-area sources.
- 14 • All field development plans must provide for air quality monitoring. Data
15 development must be coordinated with, and the findings provided to the
16 District.
- 17 • All air quality studies undertaken by or on behalf of a public land management
18 agency or the Wyoming DEQ-AQD must be coordinated with the District.
- 19 • Non-area sources need to be identified and quantified prior to being used in
20 determining air quality in Sublette County and especially over Class I Air
21 Sheds.

1 **WATER RESOURCES**

2 It is the District’s position that:

- 3 • All waters of the state are:
 - 4 ○ Subject to appropriation for beneficial use;
 - 5 ○ The district recognizes that the protection and development of its water
 - 6 resources are essential to its short and long term economic and cultural
 - 7 viability.
 - 8 ○ Essential to the future prosperity of the state and the quality of life
 - 9 within the state;
- 10 • All water rights desired by the federal government must be obtained through the
- 11 state water appropriations system.
- 12 • Management and resource-use decisions by federal land management and
- 13 regulatory agencies concerning the vegetative resources within the county
- 14 should reflect serious consideration of the proper optimization of the yield of
- 15 water within the watersheds of the District.
- 16 • Proper management of public land watersheds which supply the majority of the
- 17 agricultural, domestic, and industrial water use in this water-short area is
- 18 critical.
- 19 • An adequate supply of clean water is essential to the health of District residents
- 20 and the continued growth of its economy.
- 21 • Agencies must analyze the affect of decisions on water quality, yields, and
- 22 timing of those yields. Any action, or lack of action, or permitted use that

1 results in a significant or long term decrease in water quality or quantity will be
2 opposed.

- 3 • Agency actions must analyze impacts on facilities such as dams, reservoirs,
4 delivery systems, monitoring facilities, etc., located on or down stream from
5 land covered by any water related proposal.
- 6 • Movement toward nationalization or federal control of Wyoming's water
7 resources or rights will be opposed.
- 8 • Privately held water rights should be protected from federal and/or state
9 encroachment and/or coerced acquisition.
- 10 • The quality and quantity of water shall not be reduced below current levels.
- 11 • It will support projects that improve water quality and increases quantity and
12 dependability of the water supply.
- 13 • All potential reservoir sites and delivery system corridors shall be protected
14 from any federal or state action that would inhibit future use.
- 15 • To seek to amend that the Wilderness Act allow for the temporary storage of
16 water using natural methods on existing lakes or ponds.
- 17 • Any proposed sale, lease, exchange or transfer of water must adequately
18 consider and satisfy the District's interest and concerns and fully analyze the
19 effect on existing ground water, return flows, riparian and wetlands.
- 20 • It will oppose any proposal that fails to benefit the District or compensate for
21 losses to the District and/or its residents.
- 22 • It recognizes and will protect the existence of all legal canals, laterals, or ditch
23 rights-of-way.

- 1 • All federal and state mandates governing water or water systems shall be
2 developed in cooperation with the District and be funded by those agencies.
- 3 • It supports livestock grazing and other managed uses of watershed and holds
4 that, if properly planned and managed, multiple use is compatible with
5 watershed management.
- 6 • It endorses Wyoming State water laws as the legal basis for all water use within
7 the District.
- 8 • Beneficial use is the basis for the appropriation of water in the State of
9 Wyoming.
- 10 • It will support all reasonable water conservation efforts. Water conserved
11 should be allocated to those persons or entities whose efforts created the
12 savings.
- 13 • When wetlands are created by fugitive water from irrigation systems and law
14 requires mitigation of impacts from conservation and other projects, the creation
15 of artificial wetlands should be considered only after all other mitigation
16 possibilities have been analyzed. Creation of artificial wetlands is contrary to
17 the intent of conservation of water.
- 18 • Managers of public lands must protect watersheds with respect to water quality,
19 with the assurance that water yield will not be decreased but improved.
- 20 • All field development plans must provide for water quality monitoring. Data
21 development must be coordinated with, and the findings provided to the
22 District.
- 23 ○ All water quality studies undertaken by or on behalf of a public land
24 management agency must be coordinated with the District.

FORAGE ALLOCATION/LIVESTOCK GRAZING

It is the District's position that:

- Management of public lands must maintain and enhance agriculture to retain its contribution to the local economy, customs, cultural and heritage as well as a secure national food supply.
- Forests, rangelands, and watersheds, in a healthy condition, are necessary and beneficial for wildlife, livestock grazing, and other multiple-uses.
- Management programs and initiatives that increase forage for the mutual benefit of the watersheds, livestock operations, and wildlife species should utilize all proven techniques and tools.
- Most of the public lands in the District were classified as chiefly valuable for livestock grazing and were withdrawn from operation of most of the public land laws. The available forage was then allocated between wildlife and grazing preference holders, such that the established grazing preference represented the best professional judgment of the Bureau of Land Management at that time.
The government cannot properly change these decisions without amending the original withdrawal and revising the land use plan based upon sound and valid monitoring data.
- Forage allocated to livestock may not be reduced for allocation to other uses.
Current livestock allocation will be maintained.
- The government agencies should support financially the needed structural and vegetation improvements to ensure there is sufficient forage, especially when there is pressure from other land uses.

- 1 • The continued viability of livestock operations and the livestock industry should
2 be supported on the federal lands within the District by management of the
3 lands and forage resources, by the proper optimization of animal unit months for
4 livestock, in accordance with supportable science and the multiple use
5 provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C
6 1701 et seq., the provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, 43 U.S.C. 1901
7 et seq.
- 8 • Land management plans, programs, and initiatives should provide that the
9 amount of domestic livestock forage, expressed in animal unit months, for
10 permitted, active use as well as wildlife forage, be no less than the maximum
11 number of animal unit months sustainable by range conditions in grazing
12 allotments and districts, based on an on-the-ground and scientific analysis.
- 13 • It opposes the relinquishment or retirement of grazing animal unit months in
14 favor of conservation easements, wildlife, horses and other uses.
- 15 • It opposes the transfer of grazing animal unit months to wildlife or horses.
- 16 • Any reductions in domestic livestock animal unit months must be temporary
17 and scientifically based upon rangeland conditions.
- 18 • Policies, plans, programs, initiatives, resource management plans, and forest
19 plans may not allow the placement of grazing animal unit months in a
20 suspended use category unless there is a rational and scientific determination
21 that the condition of the rangeland allotment or district in question will not
22 sustain the animal unit months proposed to be placed in suspended use.

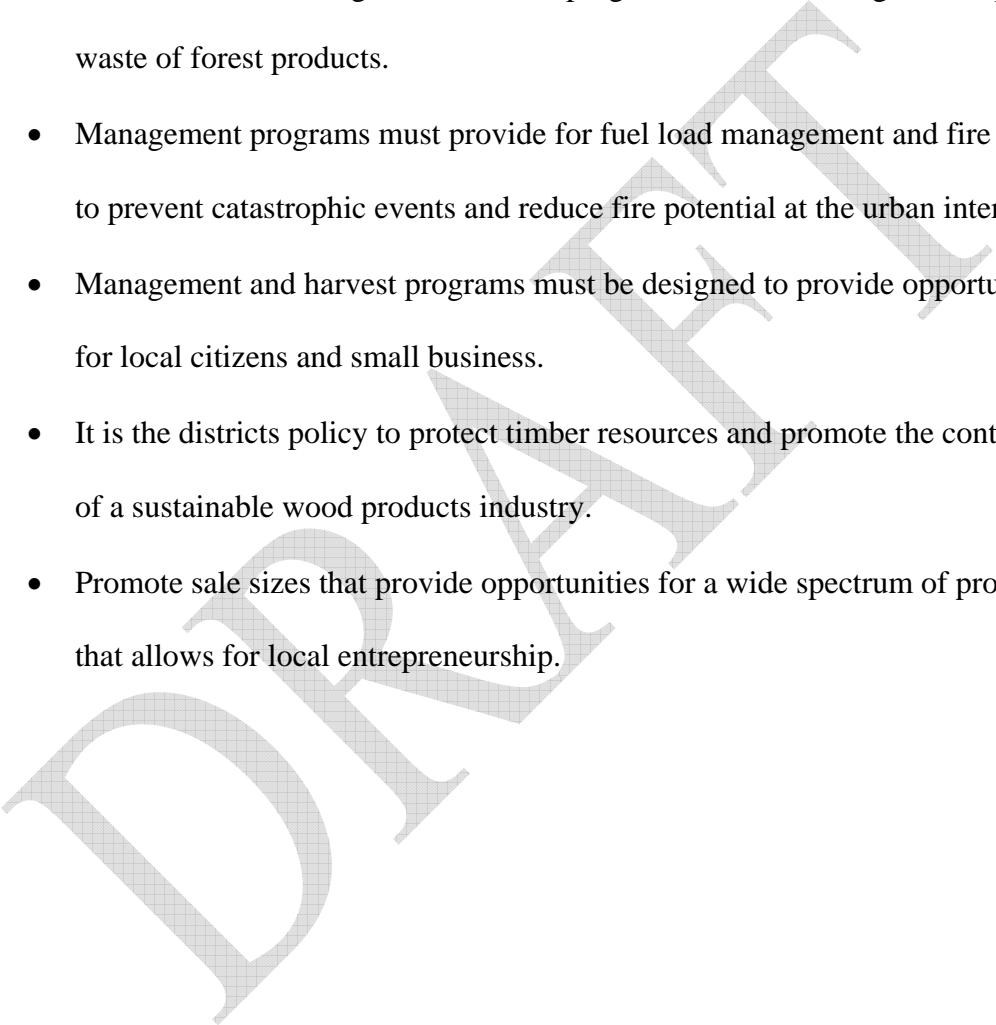
- 1 • Any grazing animal unit months that are placed in a suspended use category
2 should be returned to active use when range conditions improve.
- 3 • Policies, plans, programs, and initiatives related to vegetation management
4 should recognize and uphold the preference for domestic grazing over alternate
5 forage uses in established grazing districts while upholding management
6 practices that optimize and expand forage for grazing and wildlife in
7 conjunction with state wildlife management plans and programs in order to
8 provide maximum available forage for all uses
- 9 • In established grazing districts, animal unit months that have been reduced due
10 to rangeland health concerns should be restored to livestock when rangeland
11 conditions improve, and should not be converted to wildlife use.
- 12 • The proper management and allocation of forage on public lands is critical to
13 the viability of the District's agriculture, recreation and tourism industry.
- 14 • Management of forage resources directly affects water quality and water yields.
- 15 • Increases in available forage resulting from conservation practice, improved
16 range condition, or development of improvements by the livestock operators or
17 other allocated forage user will be credited to that use.
- 18 • Increases in available forage resulting from practices or improvements
19 implemented by managing agencies will be allocated proportionately to all
20 forage allocations, unless the funding source specifies the benefactor.
- 21 • Upon termination of a permit, livestock permittee will be compensated for the
22 remaining value of improvements or be allowed to remove such improvements
23 that permittee made on his/her allotment.

- 1 • Forage reductions resulting from forage studies, fire, drought or other natural
2 disasters will be implemented on an allotment basis and applied proportionately
3 based on the respective allocation to livestock, wildlife and wild horses.
4 Reductions resulting from forage studies will be applied to the use responsible
5 for the forage impact.
- 6 • Permittee may sell or exchange permits. Such transaction shall be promptly
7 processed.
- 8 • Changes in season of use or forage allocation must not be made without full and
9 meaningful consultation with permittee.
- 10 The permitted seasons of use set forth in a management plan may be adjusted
11 and still be in conformance with the plan if;
- 12 1. meeting, maintaining, or making progress towards meeting for range
13 management standards officially adopted by the managing agency
14 2. managing agency and the permittee sign an agreement documenting
15 monitoring plan
16 3. with coordination, consultation and cooperation, the managing agency
17 develop grazing management practices determined necessary including
18 those that provide for physiological requirements of desired plants.
- 19 • Livestock allocations must be protected from encroachment by wild horses and
20 wildlife.
- 21 • Permanent increase or decreases in grazing allocations reflecting changes in
22 available forage will be based on the vegetative type of available forage and
23 applied proportionately to livestock or wildlife based on their respective dietary
24 need.

1 **TIMBER**

2 It is the District’s position that:

- 3 • All forested lands must be managed for sustained yield, multiple use and forest
4 health.
- 5 • Fire, timber harvesting, and treatment programs must be managed as to prevent
6 waste of forest products.
- 7 • Management programs must provide for fuel load management and fire control
8 to prevent catastrophic events and reduce fire potential at the urban interface.
- 9 • Management and harvest programs must be designed to provide opportunities
10 for local citizens and small business.
- 11 • It is the districts policy to protect timber resources and promote the continuation
12 of a sustainable wood products industry.
- 13 • Promote sale sizes that provide opportunities for a wide spectrum of producers
14 that allows for local entrepreneurship.



1 **LAND EXCHANGES, ACQUISITIONS, AND SALES**

2 It is the District’s position that:

- 3 • A private property owner has a right to dispose of or exchange his property as
- 4 he/she sees fit within applicable law.
- 5 • Federal and state governments now hold sufficient land to protect the public
- 6 interest.
- 7 • There shall be no net loss of the private land base.
- 8 • No “net loss” shall be measured in acreage or fair market value.
- 9 • A private property owner should be protected from federal, state and county
- 10 encroachment and/or coerced acquisition.
- 11 • The County should be compensated for net loss of private lands with public lands
- 12 of equal value. Tax base resulting from exchanges shall be compensated for by
- 13 the appropriate acquiring agency.
- 14 • The District is to be consulted on any such actions.
- 15 • Lands must be made available for disposal under the Recreation and Public
- 16 Purposes Act and Special User Act in resource management plans and upon
- 17 request by an appropriate entity in accordance with the acts.

1 **RECREATION AND TOURISM**

2 It is the District’s position that:

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

1 **WILDLIFE**

2 It is the District’s position that:

- 3 • With proper management and planning, healthy wildlife populations are not
4 incompatible with other resource development.
- 5 • Properly managed wildlife populations are important to the area’s recreation
6 and tourism economy and the preservation of the culture and lifestyles of its
7 residents.
- 8 • Predator and wildlife numbers must be controlled at levels that protects
9 livestock and other private property from loss or damage and prevents the
10 decline of other wildlife species populations.
- 11 • Guidelines To Manage Sage Grouse And Their Habitat, John W. Connely,
12 Michael A. Schrorder, Alan R. Sands, and Clait E. Braun represent definitive
13 research on sage grouse and their habitat. This publication should be the basis
14 for the creation of any state or local sage grouse management plan.
- 15 • Any state or federal sage grouse study group must include a district
16 representative.
- 17 • Wildlife habitat must comply with Wyoming Healthy Rangeland Standards and
18 other standards that govern rangeland health. Wildlife populations must be
19 reduced when it has been determined that wildlife is responsible for habitat
20 degradation.
- 21 • Impacts of development can be mitigated more efficiently in a planned manner
22 through wildlife habitat mitigation banking. When implemented, this system
23 could provide much needed habitat for wildlife while providing for multiple
24 use.

- 1 • Wildlife numbers must remain at the allocated level until studies and analyses
2 are completed to determine the ability of forage resources to support population
3 and species trends, and impacts on other wildlife species has been assessed.
- 4 • It favors quickly and effectively adjusting wildlife population goals and
5 population census numbers in response to variations in the amount of available
6 forage caused by catastrophic events, drought, or other climatic adjustments.
- 7 • Reduction in forage allocation resulting from forage studies, drought, or other
8 natural disasters shall be shared proportionately by wildlife.
- 9 • Wildlife target levels and/or populations must not exceed available wildlife
10 forage as determined by proper monitoring.
- 11 • In evaluating a proposed introduction, or reintroduction, of wildlife species,
12 priority will be given to species that will provide increased recreational
13 activities.

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1 **WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS/ROADLESS**

2 It is the District’s position that:

- 3 • The District’s support for any recommendations made under a statutory
4 requirement to examine the wilderness option during the revision of land and
5 resource management plans, or other methods will be withheld until it is clearly
6 demonstrated that:
 - 7 ○ the duly adopted transportation plans of the state and county or counties
8 within the planning area are fully and completely incorporated into the
9 baseline inventory or information from which plan provisions are derived;
 - 10 ○ valid state or local roads and rights-of-way are recognized and not
11 impaired in any way by the recommendations;
 - 12 ○ the possibility of future development of mineral resources by
13 underground mining or oil and gas extraction by directional or horizontal
14 drilling or other non surface disturbing methods are not affected by the
15 recommendations;
 - 16 ○ the need for additional administrative or public roads necessary for the
17 full use of the various multiple-uses, including recreation, mineral
18 exploration and development, forest health activities, and grazing
19 operations on adjacent land, or on subject lands for grand-fathered uses,
20 are not unduly affected by the recommendations;
 - 21 ○ analysis and full disclosure is made concerning the balance of multiple-
22 use management in the proposed areas, and that the analysis compares the
23 full benefit of multiple-use management to the recreational, forest health,

- 1 and economic needs of the state and the counties to the benefits of the
2 requirements of wilderness management; and
- 3 ○ the conclusion of all studies related to the requirement to examine the
4 wilderness option are submitted to the District for review and action, and
5 the results in support of or in opposition to, are included in any planning
6 documents or other proposals that are forwarded to the United States
7 Congress
 - 8 ○ Areas must merit the suitable requirements contained in the Wilderness
9 Act of 1964 unless requirements are changed by congress.
- 10 ● Managing public lands for “wilderness characteristics” circumvents the statutory
11 wilderness process and is inconsistent with the multiple-use and sustained-yield
12 management standard that applies to all Bureau of Land Management and U.S.
13 Forest Service lands that are not wilderness study areas.
 - 14 ● The only legal designations of Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) are those
15 designated under the Wilderness Act of 1964 and under section 603 of the
16 Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). On Bureau of Land
17 Management Administered Lands the opportunity to create additional wilderness
18 ended in 1991 except as authorized by Congress.
 - 19 ● Some or all of the WSA designations pending before congress are legally and/or
20 technically flawed and *the district* will pursue that position when the WSAs go
21 before Congress for approval.
 - 22 ● The 1999 Wilderness Study Area Planning Project and the Wilderness Inventory
23 and Study Procedures H6310-1 were legally and technically flawed.

- 1 • The public lands that were determined to lack wilderness character during
2 previous wilderness review processes cannot be managed as if they were
3 wilderness based on new or revised views of wilderness character. These areas
4 were studied and released and they must remain subject to the full range of
5 multiple uses.
- 6 • That any proposed wilderness designations in the District forwarded to congress
7 for consideration must be based on a collaborative process in which support for
8 the wilderness designation is unanimous among federal, state, district and county
9 officials.
- 10 • All Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) pending congress, which were not
11 recommended for wilderness designation by the Secretary of Interior, shall be
12 released and managed for multiple use and sustained yield.
- 13 • Wilderness designation is not an appropriate, effective, efficient, economic or
14 wise use of land. These lands can be adequately protected with existing
15 management options.
- 16 • The creation of wilderness limits access for the elderly and the physically
17 impaired. All wilderness management plans must provide for access for these
18 individuals to the fullest extent possible, and provided for by law.
- 19 • Wilderness management must provide for continued and reasonable access to and
20 development of property rights within the area and provide for full use and
21 enjoyment of these rights.
- 22 • Wilderness Study Areas released by Congress must be managed based on the
23 principles of multiple use and sustained yield. The management plans must be
24 amended in a timely manner to reflect change in status.

1 **OTHER SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS**

2 It is the District's position that:

- 3 • It is clearly demonstrated that the proposed designation:
- 4 ○ is not a substitute for a wilderness suitability recommendation;
 - 5 ○ is not a substitute for managing areas inventoried for wilderness
 - 6 characteristics after 1993 under the BLM interim management plan for
 - 7 valid wilderness study areas and;
 - 8 ○ it is not an excuse or justification to apply de facto wilderness
 - 9 management.
 - 10 ○ That access and development of mineral resources have been fully
 - 11 analyzed and such designations needs out weigh the loss of value of the
 - 12 mineral resource.
- 13 • Special designations, such as wilderness, areas of critical environmental concern
- 14 (ACEC), wild and scenic rivers, critical habitat, semi primitive and non-motorized
- 15 travel, etc. result in single purpose or non-use and are detrimental to the area
- 16 economy, life styles, culture, and heritage.
- 17 • Needed protections can be provided by well planned and managed use.
- 18 • No special designations should be proposed until it is determined and
- 19 substantiated by verifiable scientific data that; a need exists for the designation,
- 20 protections cannot be provided by other methods, and the area in question is truly
- 21 unique when compared to other area lands.
- 22 • Designations must be made in accordance with the spirit and direction of the acts
- 23 and regulations that created them.
- 24 • Designations not properly planned or managed are inconsistent with the mandates
- 25 that public lands be managed for multiple use and sustained yield.

26

1 **Areas of Critical Environmental Concern [ACEC’S]**

2 It is the District’s position that:

- 3 • The District’ support for designation of an Area of Critical Environmental
4 Concern (ACEC), as defined in 43 U.S.C. Sec. 1702, within federal land
5 management plans will be withheld until:
 - 6 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the proposed area satisfies all the
7 definitonal requirements of the Federal Land Policy and
8 Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. Sec. 1702(a);
 - 9 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the area proposed for designation as an
10 ACEC is limited in geographic size and that the proposed
11 management prescriptions are limited in scope to the minimum
12 necessary to specifically protect and prevent irreparable damage to
13 the relevant and important values identified, or limited in geographic
14 size and management prescriptions to the minimum required to
15 specifically protect human life or safety from natural hazards;
 - 16 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the proposed area is limited only to
17 areas that are already developed or used or to areas where no
18 development is required;
 - 19 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the proposed area contains relevant
20 and important historic, cultural or scenic values, fish or wildlife
21 resources, or natural processes which are unique or substantially
22 significant on a regional basis, or contain natural hazards which
23 significantly threaten human life or safety;

- 1 ○ the federal agency has fully analyzed regional values, resources,
2 processes, or hazards for irreparable damage and its potential causes
3 resulting from potential actions which are consistent with the
4 multiple-use, sustained-yield principles, and the analysis describes
5 the rationale for any special management attention required to
6 protect, or prevent irreparable damage to the values, resources,
7 processes or hazards;
- 8 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the proposed designation is consistent
9 with the plans and policies of the district where the proposed
10 designation is located.
- 11 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the proposed ACEC designation will
12 not be applied redundantly over existing protections provided by
13 other state and federal laws for federal lands or resources on federal
14 lands, and that the federal statutory requirement for special
15 management addition to those specified by the other state and federal
16 laws;
- 17 ○ the difference between special management attention required for an
18 ACEC and normal multiple-use management has been identified and
19 justified, and that any determination of irreparable damage has been
20 analyzed and justified for short and long term horizons.

21

1 **WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS**

- 2 • District support for the addition of a river segment to the National Wild and
3 Scenic Rivers System, 16 U.S.C. Sec.1271 et seq., will be withheld until:
- 4 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that water is present and flowing at all times;
 - 5 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the required water-related value is
6 considered outstandingly remarkable within a region of comparison, and
7 that the rationale and justification for the conclusions are disclosed.
 - 8 ○ the plans and policies of the state, district and the county or counties
9 where the river segment is located are analyzed and properly considered
10 in the suitability phase of the evaluation,
 - 11 ○ the effects of the addition upon the local and state economies, agricultural
12 and industrial operations and interests, outdoor recreation, water rights,
13 water quality, water resource planning, and access to and across river
14 corridors in both upstream and downstream directions from the proposed
15 river segment have been evaluated in detail by the relevant federal
16 agency;
 - 17 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the provisions and terms of the process for
18 review of potential additions have been applied in a consistent manner by
19 all federal agencies;
 - 20 ○ the rationale and justification for the proposed addition, including a
21 comparison with protections offered by other management tools, is
22 clearly analyzed within the multiple-use mandate, and the results
23 disclosed;

- 1 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the federal agency with management
2 authority over the river segment, and which is proposing the segment for
3 inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System will not use the
4 actual or proposed designation as a basis to impose management
5 standards outside of the federal land management plan;
- 6 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the terms and conditions of the federal land
7 and resource management plan containing a recommendation for
8 inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System;
- 9 • Evaluates all eligible river segments in the resource planning area completely for
10 suitability for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System.
- 11 • Does not suspend or terminate any studies for inclusion in the National Wild and
12 Scenic River System at the eligibility phase.
- 13 • Fully disclaims any interest in water rights for the recommended segment as a
14 result of the adoption of the plan.
- 15 • Fully disclaims the use of recommendation for inclusion in the National Wild and
16 Scenic River System as a reason or rationale for an evaluation of impacts by
17 proposals for projects upstream, downstream, or within the recommended
18 segment,
- 19 • it is clearly demonstrated that the agency with management authority over the
20 river segment commits not to use an actual or proposed designation as a basis to
21 impose Visual Resource Management Class I or II management prescriptions that
22 do not comply with the provisions of Subsection (8)(t); and,
- 23 • it is clearly demonstrated that including the river segment and the terms and
24 conditions for managing the river segment as part of the National Wild and
25 Scenic River System will not prevent, reduce, impair, or otherwise interfere with:
- 26 ▪ the state and its citizens' enjoyment of complete and exclusive
27 water rights in and to the rivers of the state as determined by the
28 laws of the state; or
- 29 ▪ local, state, regional, or interstate water compacts to which the
30 state or any county is a party.

1 **INTRODUCED, THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE**
2 **SPECIES, RECOVERY PLANS, EXPERIMENTAL POPULATIONS**

3 It is the District’s position that:

- 4 • After desired wildlife population numbers are achieved, hunting must be the
5 preferred method of population control and to prevent wildlife movement outside
6 of their designated ranges.
- 7 • It is opposed to the creation or expansion of grizzly bear, wolf, wolverine, lynx
8 populations, habitats, protection, ranges or migration corridors.
- 9 • Any plan for the management of a predator that has naturally or through
10 introduction or re-introduction or other means repopulated the District must
11 provide for its control by any means when it travels outside it’s designated range
12 or becomes a threat to people, property, property rights, livestock, or other
13 wildlife species.
- 14 • Any plan that provides for the introduction, reintroduction, natural repopulation,
15 or the management of any predator must provide for timely compensation to
16 owners for direct and indirect cost associated with the loss of life, loss or damage
17 to livestock and property rights. Compensation must be equal to the actual value
18 of the loss (not limited to market value) and include cost associated with
19 development of such claims. Requirements placed on livestock producers to
20 verify the losses of livestock must not be overly restrictive and the producer must
21 be compensated for the cost of meeting such requirements.

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

1 **PUBLIC ACCESS/TRANSPORTATION**

2 It is the District’s position that:

- 3 • Access to and across public lands is critical to the use, management, and
4 development of those lands and adjoining state and private lands.
- 5 • To the extent possible and provided for by law, provide access to public lands for
6 all users including the elderly and the physically impaired.
- 7 • No roads, trails, rights-of-way, easements or other traditional access for the
8 transportation of people, products, recreation, energy or livestock may be closed,
9 abandoned, withdrawn, or have a change of use without full public disclosure and
10 analysis.
- 11 • Future access must be planned and analyzed to determine its disposition at the
12 completion of its intended life to ensure access is maintained. In the event that
13 removal of access is deemed appropriate, resulting disturbances shall be
14 reclaimed.
- 15 • County roads on public lands shall remain open unless it has been determined by
16 the County that the subject road is no longer needed as part of the County’s
17 transportation system.
- 18 • Access to all water related facilities such as dams, reservoirs, delivery systems,
19 monitoring facilities, livestock water and handling facilities, etc., must be
20 maintained. This access must be economically feasible with respect to the
21 method and timing of such access.

CULTURAL AND HERITAGE RESOURCES

It is the District's position that:

- All management decisions regarding cultural resources shall include appropriate opportunities for participation by the district.
- All management decision providing for the protection of cultural resources must be based on the quality and significance of that particular resource.
- Sites and trails will be allocated to other resource users based on their natural and relative preservation value. Such use allocation must be based on cultural resources not areas of land.
- Potential adverse effects to significant and high quality cultural resources will be managed to the extent possible through avoidance and confidentiality of location before for other protections are considered.
- Many sites represent a unique culture and are closely related to early religious settlement of the area. They continue to have historical significance and are held by many residents as reverent or consecrated sites. These sites must be preserved and remain accessible.
- The preservation and perpetuation of heritage and culture is important to the area economy as well as to the life styles and quality of life of the area residents.
- The maintenance of the resources and their physical attributes such as trails, cabins, livestock facilities, etc., is critical to present and future tourism development.
- The land, its people, and their heritage form an inseparable trinity for the majority of the area residents and this relationship must be considered in all proposed actions.
- Livestock grazing, the resulting lifestyles and imprint on the landscapes of the west are some of the oldest enduring and economically important cultural and heritage resources in the west, and must be preserved and perpetuated.
- It is the District's position that the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) is the basis for cultural and historical preservation and defines federal agency's responsibility for protection and preservation of the District's cultural and heritage resources.

1 **OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES (OHV)**

2 It is the District’s position that:

- 3 • Off –highway vehicles should be used responsibly, the management of off-
4 highway vehicles should be uniform across all jurisdictions to prevent
5 concentration on use on any particular jurisdiction.
- 6 • OHV’s have become an important segment of the Districts 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.

1 **PALEONTOLOGY/ARCHEOLOGY/GEOLOGY**

2 Remnants of early life forms, geological history and cultures have evolved as an
3 important segment of a local economy and have become the signature of the local
4 tourism trade. Considerable investment has been made in museums and visitors
5 centers to promote these important resources.

6 It is the District’s position that:

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

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WILD HORSES

It is the District's position that:

- It opposes the introduction or reintroduction of wild horses or burros on public lands within the District.
- The presence of uncontrolled and improperly managed wild horses on public lands adversely impact soil, water, wildlife and vegetative resources, spread equine diseases, and are a threat to the domestic horse industry. In order to prevent such impacts a herd management plan must be developed.
- Herd management plans must include provisions for periodic gathers of all horses in the unit to limit populations to planned levels, to remove trespass horses, and to test for equine diseases as prescribed by the Wyoming state veterinarian and prevent habitat degradation.
- If not properly managed wild horse populations adversely affects the District's economy by spreading disease and reducing forage available for wildlife and livestock.
- Wild horses assigned to herd units must be physically identified to ensure that feral or fugitive horses are not assimilated into wild horse herds on public lands.
- All unauthorized feral horses are in trespass and must be removed from public lands.
- Any future legally established herds must consist only of wild horses which possess Spanish Barb characteristics.
- Horse management plans must contain provisions for the maintenance of the health of wild horses and the prevention of equine diseases.
- No herds will be located in areas that do not provide barriers, natural or otherwise, to prevent herd movement, trespass to private lands, or mingling with domestic herds.
- As with livestock and wildlife, horses must be subject to Wyoming Rangeland Standards that govern range land health.

1 **ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE**

2 It is the District’s position that:

- 3 • In support of the National Energy Policy Act and to reduce the Nations
4 dependency on imported oil, all public lands must remain open to the greatest
5 extent possible for the exploration and development of energy and energy
6 related products. This is to be accomplished with full consideration of the
7 impacts to other public land resources and uses.
- 8 • Continued access to energy and mineral resources associated with public lands
9 is paramount to the well being of District residents and its economy, the state of
10 Wyoming, National Economy and Security.
- 11 • It is technically possible to permit appropriate access to mineral and energy
12 resources while protecting other resources from irreparable harm.
- 13 • Resource management planning should seriously consider all available mineral
14 and energy sources.
- 15 • The waste of fluid and gaseous minerals within developed areas should be
16 prohibited.
- 17 • Support for mineral development provisions within federal land management
18 plans will be withheld until the appropriate land management plan
19 environmental impact statement clearly demonstrates:
 - 20 ○ that the authorized planning agency has;
 - 21 ■ considered and evaluated the mineral and energy potential in all
22 areas of the planning area as if the areas were open to mineral
23 development under standard lease agreements in order to

- 1 establish a baseline from which the affect of management
2 prescriptions can be analyzed; and
- 3 ■ evaluated any management plan prescription for its impact on the
4 area's baseline mineral and energy potential;
 - 5 ○ that the development provisions do not unduly restrict access to public
6 lands for energy exploration and development;
 - 7 ○ that the authorized planning agency has supported any closure of
8 additional areas to mineral leasing and development or any increase of
9 acres subject to no surface occupancy restrictions by adhering to:
 - 10 ■ the relevant provisions of the Federal Land Policy and
11 Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. Sec. 1701 et seq.;
 - 12 ■ other controlling mineral development laws; and
 - 13 ■ the controlling withdrawal and reporting procedures set forth in
14 the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C.
15 sec. 1701 et seq.;
 - 16 ○ that the authorized planning agency evaluated whether to repeal any
17 moratorium that may exist on the issuance of additional mining patents
18 and oil and gas leases;
 - 19 ○ that the authorized planning agency analyzed all proposed mineral lease
20 stipulations and adopted the least restrictive necessary to protect against
21 damage to other significant resource values;
 - 22 ○ that the authorized planning agency evaluated mineral lease restrictions
23 to determine whether to waive, modify, or make exceptions to the
24 restrictions on the basis that they are no longer necessary or effective;

- 1 ○ that the authorized federal agency analyzed all areas proposed for no
2 surface occupancy restrictions, and that the analysis evaluated:
- 3 ▪ whether the directional drilling feasibility analysis, or analysis of
4 other management prescriptions, demonstrates that the proposed
5 no surface occupancy prescription, in effect, sterilizes the
6 mineral and energy resources beneath the area; and
- 7 ▪ whether, if the minerals are effectively sterilized, the area must
8 be reported as withdrawn under the provisions of the Federal
9 Land Policy and Management Act
- 10 ○ that the authorized planning agency has evaluated all directional drilling
11 requirements in no surface occupancy areas to determine whether
12 directional drilling is feasible from an economic, ecological, and
13 technical standpoint
- 14 • Any proposal or action taken by state or federal agencies that may result in
15 restrictions on reasonable and economical access to mineral resources shall be
16 opposed.
- 17 • Identification of energy and mineral potential and location is important for
18 planning future needs and resource management. Such potential must be fully
19 analyzed and impacts disclosed in any management or planning action.
- 20 • After environmental analysis, and as provided for in the governing resource
21 management plan, all tracts will be available and offered for lease or open to
22 claim as provided by law.
- 23 • All permits and applications must be processed on a timely basis. Procedures
24 and required contents of application must be provided to the applicant at the
25 time of application.
- 26 • To the extent technically and economically feasible, all produced water should
27 be recycled for use in drilling operations other development or reclamation
28 purposes.

1 **MITIGATION/HABITAT IMPROVEMENT**

2 It is the District’s position that:

3 The best method for accomplishing well planned, successful, habitat
4 improvements or mitigation is through a local habitat collaborative planning group.
5 Facilitated by the District this group should consist of local governments, federal and
6 state resource managers, industry, and permittees interested in the creation of productive
7 and properly functioning habitats.

- 8 • Any conservation initiative, mitigation or compensatory mitigation programs or
9 studies must be coordinated with, and provide for full participation of the
10 District.
- 11 • All disturbances of habitats must be reclaimed as soon as feasible after impacts
12 have been created.
- 13 • All mitigation of surface disturbances must be accomplished on or adjoining the
14 site of disturbance. No off-site mitigation may be considered until onsite
15 opportunities have been exhausted or that proper analysis shows that habitat
16 losses can not be mitigated on site.
- 17 • Off-site mitigation is voluntary on the part of project proponents.
- 18 • Off-site mitigation must provide for the full involvement of the District.
- 19 • Off-site mitigation should not be permanent, but be of duration appropriate to
20 the anticipated impacts being mitigated.
- 21 • The most cost effective method of mitigation or habitat improvement is to pool
22 committed mitigation funds to fund larger efforts to mitigate the impacts of
23 multiple impacts. This can be accomplished through a mitigation banking
24 system which provides for the banking of dollars or mitigation credits.
- 25 • It favors habitat improvement projects that are jointly sponsored by cattlemen’s,
26 sportsmen’s, and wildlife groups such as chaining, logging, seeding, burning,
27 and other direct soil and vegetation prescriptions that are demonstrated to
28 restore forest and rangeland health, increase forage, and improve watersheds for
29 the mutual benefit of domestic livestock, wildlife, and watersheds.

1 **TRANSPORTATION**

2 It is the District’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 in holdings 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 ■ predator control
- 16 ○ public safety
- 17 ○ access for people with disabilities and the elderly;
- 18 ○ recreational opportunities.
- 19 ○ Access, for resource maintenance and administration.

- 20 • Transportation and access provisions for all other existing routes, roads, and
21 trails across federal, state, and school trust lands within the state should be
22 determined and identified, and agreements should be executed and

1 implemented, as necessary to fully authorize and determine responsibility for
2 maintenance of all routes, roads, and trails.

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

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

- 9 ○ closes or declassifies existing roads unless multiple side by side
10 roads exist running to the same destination and state and local
11 governments consent to close or declassify the extra roads;
- 12 ○ permanently bars travel on existing roads;
- 13 ○ excludes or diminishes traditional multiple-use activities, including
14 grazing and proper forest harvesting;
- 15 ○ interferes with the enjoyment and use of valid, existing rights,
16 including water rights, local transportation plan rights, grazing
17 allotment rights, and mineral leasing rights; or
- 18 ○ prohibits development of additional roads reasonably necessary to
19 pursue traditional multiple-use activities;

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

- 22 ○ established roads are not referred to as unclassified roads or a similar
23 classification;

- 1 o lands in the vicinity of established roads are managed under the
- 2 multiple-use, sustained yield management standard; and
- 3 o no roadless or unroaded evaluations or inventories are recognized or
- 4 upheld beyond those that were recognized or upheld in the forest
- 5 service’s second roadless area review evaluation.

- 6 • It supports the development of additional roads reasonably necessary to
- 7 pursue traditional multiple-use activities:
- 8 • Proposed development plans must contain a transportation plan that clearly
- 9 identifies all roads within the project area by jurisdiction, identify roads or
- 10 road segments to be reconstructed or constructed, the standard to which the
- 11 roads will be constructed or maintained and who will construct and or
- 12 maintain them.

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