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1 **INTRODUCTION**

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

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

16 The LCD 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 stabilize
18 the ranching and agriculture industry, to protect the tax base, and to provide for public safety,
19 health, and welfare of the citizens. The LCD is charged with conserving, protecting, and
20 developing these resources on all lands within the LCD and, thus, it is one of the few
21 governmental entities with express authority to address resource issues, in cooperation with
22 private landowners or state or federal land management agencies on private, state, and federal
23 lands. State law also gives the LCD board powers to accomplish these policies and mandates,
24 through research and education, implementation of erosion control, water and range projects,
25 providing financial and other assistance to landowners, management of flood control projects or
26 lands under cooperative agreements with the United States, and adoption of rules and ordinances.
27 Both Federal and state laws authorize intergovernmental coordination and cooperation, which
28 provide a mechanism for the LCD to meet its mandate and policies for all lands within the LCD.

1 **PURPOSE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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
5 **The LCD's objectives are:**

- 6 ● To support the wise use, conservation and protection of public lands and
7 their resources including well-planned, outcome based, management prescriptions. It
8 acknowledges the need, on occasion, to place strict requirements on the management of
9 some resources to provide needed protection, when it has been determined through
10 scientific and supportable analysis that such needs exist, to protect such resources from
11 irreparable harm.
- 12 ● To ensure public lands are managed for multiple use, sustained yield, and prevention of
13 natural resource waste. Further, these lands should be managed to prevent loss of
14 resources, private property and to protect the safety and health of the public.
- 15 ● To ensure management decisions are accomplished with full participation of the LCD and
16 supported by tested and true scientific data. Decisions shall fully analyze and disclose
17 impacts on the area's economy tax base, culture, heritage, and life styles and rights of
18 area residents.
- 19 ● To provide policies, plans, and other documents for governmental agency use to ensure
20 management and planning consistency with the LCD.
- 21 ● To ensure agriculture and grazing lands remain available to produce the food and fiber
22 needed by the citizens of the state and the nation, and to preserve the rural character and
23 open landscape of rural Wyoming through a healthy and active agriculture and grazing
24 industry, consistent with private property rights and state fiduciary duties.
- 25 ● To support agriculture on private and public lands as part of the local economy, custom,
26 culture, heritage, as well as the provisions of a secure national food supply.
- 27 ● To support national energy needs relative to the nation's increasing dependency on
28 foreign oil, all public lands must remain open to the greatest extent possible for the
29 exploration and production of energy and other energy related products.
- 30 ● To ensure mitigation and compensation for impacts to the LCD and its residents. If
31 action results in a taking, all applicable law must be applied.

- 1 ● To ensure public and private access and rights-of-way for utilities and transportation of
2 people and products on and across public lands. Access must be provided to meet such
3 needs.
- 4 ● To ensure that special designations do not influence the use of resources on lands outside
5 those listed in the designation. The LCD opposes the use of a buffer zone management
6 philosophy that dictates land use practices and influences decisions beyond the scope and
7 boundaries of the designation.
- 8 ● To ensure that restrictions placed on any resource are based on analysis of trends, need,
9 and imposed only after a complete analysis.
- 10 ● To ensure that lands designated open for various specified uses are available on a timely
11 basis and permits for such use are processed promptly. Extended delays or no action
12 shall not be used as a method to accomplish restrictions or protections. Waivers
13 modification or exception to restrictions must be provided for when conditions exist or
14 impacts can be mitigated to prevent irreparable damage to the subject resource.

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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 principle.
- 7 ● Multiple-use and sustained-yield management means that federal agencies should
8 develop and implement management plans and make resource-use decisions that:
- 9 ○ achieve and maintain in perpetuity a high level annual or regular periodic
10 output of various renewable resources from public lands;
- 11 ○ support valid existing transportation, mineral, and grazing rights privileges
12 at the highest reasonable sustained levels;
- 13 ○ are designed to produce and provide the desired vegetation for the watershed,
14 timber, food, fiber, livestock forage, and wildlife forage, and minerals that are
15 necessary to meet present needs and future economic growth, community
16 expansion, without permanent impairment of the land;
- 17 ○ meet the personal and business-related transportation needs of the citizens of
18 the state;
- 19 ○ meet the recreational needs of the citizens of the county, state and nation;
- 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 and economic
24 development and socioeconomics; and
- 25 ○ provide for the protection of water rights;
- 26 ○ ensures proper stewardship of the land and natural resources necessary to
27 ensure the health of the watersheds, timber, forage, air, and wildlife resources.
28 This should provide for a continuous supply of resources for the people of the
29 LCD who depend on these resources for a sustainable economy;
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- Forest, rangeland, timber, and other vegetative resources;
 - provide forage for livestock;
 - provide forage and habitat for wildlife;
 - provide resources for the state’s timber and logging industries;
 - contribute to the state’s economic stability and growth;
 - 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 agencies
3 and to resolve differences or points of contention, the LCD will work with public land
4 management agencies in a collaborative or cooperative manner.

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

8 Such agreements must provide that in the processes of coordination or cooperation, the
9 LCD is consulted as appropriate or required by NEPA:

- 10 ○ Provided a written report detailing how consistency with this policy analyzed with
11 respect to their purpose action or plan. The report must identify where
12 inconsistencies exist, and plausible way to correct the inconsistencies, and why
13 consistency is not possible.
- 14 ○ Provided a detailed economic analysis of the impact of agency action or proposed
15 action on the County tax base and socioeconomics. When more than one action is
16 proposed the report must analyze cumulative impacts.
- 17 ○ Provided a certification that applicable data used in development of a proposal or
18 plan meets the requirement of the Environmental Quality Data Act and the
19 Wyoming Credible Data Statute.
- 20 ○ Notified of any proposed action that may affect local culture, social structure and
21 heritage values.
- 22 ○ Provided an opportunity for meaningful participation in the development,
23 monitoring, and analyses of any studies conducted on resources associated with
24 our public lands.
- 25 ○ Queried to determine the impacts of proposed actions on traditional uses or
26 resources such as recreation, grazing, energy development, wildlife, etc.
- 27 ○ To the extent provided by law, provide the LCD cooperator status in the
28 development of any NEPA analysis associated with proposed actions, public
29 land management or planning.
- 30 ○ Keep the LCD fully informed of all management action proposed in a timely
31

1 manner and allow adequate time to develop its position should it not be clearly
2 defined in the LCD's plans or policies or subsequent implementation plans.

- 3 ○ Provided in writing intentions for formal communications or consultation at the
4 onset of any such discussions. Unless so stated, all communications will be
5 considered to be informal and timely.

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1 **POSITION STATEMENTS**

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

8 It is the LCD’s position that:

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

2 It is the LCD's position date:

- 3 ● Maintaining the LCD's air quality at its current level is critical to the health and well-
4 being of its residents.
- 5 ● A high level of air quality is important to future economic development as it reduces
6 the possibility of restrictions being placed on that development due to air quality
7 standards being exceeded.
- 8 ● Air quality baselines for the area must be established with the full participation of the
9 LCD.
- 10 ● All air quality related plans and decisions must be based on deviation from a baseline
11 standard established for the LCD.
- 12 ● To maintain high air quality, the LCD 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 development
15 must be coordinated with, and the findings provided to the LCD.
- 16 ● All air quality studies undertaken by or on behalf of a public land management agency or
17 the Wyoming DEQ-AQD must be coordinated with the LCD.
- 18 ● Non-area sources need to be identified and quantified prior to being used in determining
19 air quality in southern Lincoln County and especially over Class I Air Sheds.
- 20 ● LCD does not currently have any Class 1 Air Sheds within the district and will not
21 support any such designations. If congressionally mandated, the air shed will not exceed
22 beyond the boundary of the land designation.

1 **WATER RESOURCES**

2 It is the LCD's position that:

- 3 ● All waters of the state are:
 - 4 ○ Subject to appropriation for beneficial use:
 - 5 ○ The LCD recognizes that the protection and development of its water
 - 6 resources are essential to its short and long term economics and cultural
 - 7 viability.
 - 8 ○ Essential to the future prosperity of the state and the quality of life within
 - 9 the state;
- 10 ● All water rights desired by federal government must be obtained through the
- 11 state water appropriations system.
- 12 ● Management and resource-use decisions by federal land management and regulatory
- 13 agencies concerning the vegetative resources within the county should reflect serious
- 14 consideration of the proper optimization of the yield of water with the watersheds of the
- 15 LCD.
- 16 ● Proper management of public land watersheds which supply the majority of the
- 17 agriculture, domestic, and industrial water use in this water-short area is critical.
- 18 ● An adequate supply of clean water is essential to the health of the LCD residents and
- 19 the continued growth of its economy.
- 20 ● Agencies must analyze the effect of decisions on water quality, yields, and timing of
- 21 those yields. Actions, or lack of action, or permitted use that results in a significant or
- 22 long term decrease in water quality or quantity will be opposed.
- 23 ● Agency actions must analyze impacts on facilities such as dams, reservoirs, delivery
- 24 systems, monitoring facilities, etc. located on or downstream from land covered by any
- 25 water related proposal.
- 26 ● Movement toward nationalization or federal control of Wyoming's water resources or
- 27 rights will be opposed.
- 28 ● Privately held water rights should be protected from federal and/or state encroachment
- 29 and/or coerced acquisition.
- 30 ● The quality and quantity of water shall not be reduced below current levels.
- 31 ● It will support projects that improve water quality and increase quantity and

- 1 dependability of the water supply.
- 2 ● All potential reservoir sites and delivery system corridors shall be protected from any
 - 3 federal or state action that would inhibit future use.
 - 4 ● To seek to amend the Wilderness Act to allow for the temporary storage of water
 - 5 using natural methods on existing lakes or ponds.
 - 6 ● Any proposed sale, lease, exchange or transfer of water must adequately consider and
 - 7 satisfy the LCD's interest and concerns and fully analyze the effect on existing ground
 - 8 water, return flows, riparian and wetlands.
 - 9 ● It will oppose any proposal that fails to benefit the LCD or compensate for losses to the
 - 10 LCD and/or its residents.
 - 11 ● It recognizes and will protect the existence of all legal canals, laterals, or ditch right-of-
 - 12 way.
 - 13 ● All federal and state mandates government water or water systems shall be developed in
 - 14 cooperation with the LCD and be funded by those agencies.
 - 15 ● It supports livestock grazing and other managed uses of watershed and holds that, if
 - 16 properly planned and managed, multiple use is compatible with watershed management.
 - 17 ● It endorses Wyoming State water laws as the legal basis for all water use within the LCD.
 - 18 ● Beneficial use is the basis for the appropriation of water in the State of Wyoming.
 - 19 ● It will support all reasonable water conservation efforts. Water conserved should be
 - 20 allocated to those persons or entities whose efforts whose efforts created the savings.
 - 21 ● When wetlands are created by fugitive water from irrigation systems and law requires
 - 22 mitigation of impacts from conservation and other projects, the creation of artificial
 - 23 wetlands should be considered only after all other mitigation possibilities have been
 - 24 analyzed. Creation of artificial wetlands is contrary to the intent of conservation of
 - 25 water.
 - 26 ● Managers of public lands must protect watersheds with respect to water quality, with
 - 27 some assurances that water yield will not be decreased but improved.
 - 28 ● All field development plans must provide for water quality monitoring. Data
 - 29 development must be coordinated with, and the findings provided to the LCD.
 - 30 ● All water quality studies undertaken by or on behalf of a public land management
 - 31 agency must be coordinated with the LCD.

- 1 ● Instream flows identified to maintain or enhance fisheries must be derived from water
2 storage and not impair senior water rights.
- 3 ● It will oppose any legislation to broaden the current instream flow statutes for the State
4 of Wyoming or federal government.
- 5 ● Instream flow designations for a fishery population will only be supported if a valid
6 existing population of sensitive native fish is present, excluding non-native populations.
- 7 ● All instream flow designation filings by any entity will be noticed to the LCD in a timely
8 manner by the State Engineers Office (SEO).

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FORAGE ALLOCATION/LIVESTOCK GRAZING

It is the LCD'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.
- Forest, 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 LCD 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 judgement 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.
- Before the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (WGFD) may apply to increase wildlife numbers, there must be data supporting the increase. The increase in wildlife numbers cannot result in a reduction of livestock Animal Unit Months (AUMs).
- It opposes the relinquishment or retirement of grazing AUMs in favor of conservation easements, wildlife, horses and other uses.
- It opposes the transfer of grazing AUMs to wildlife or horses.
- Forage allocated to livestock may not be reduced for allocations 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.
- The continued viability of livestock operations and the livestock industry should be supported on the federal lands within the LCD by management of the lands and forage resources, by the proper optimization of animal unit months for livestock, in accordance

1 with supportable science and the multiple use provisions of the Federal Land Policy and
2 Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq., the provision of the Taylor Grazing
3 of 1934, 43 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.

- 4 ● Land management plans, program, and initiatives should provide that the amount of
5 domestic livestock forage, expressed in AUMS, for permitted, active use as well as
6 wildlife forage, be no less than the maximum number of AUMs sustainable by range
7 conditions in grazing allotment and districts, based on an on-the-ground and scientific
8 analysis.
- 9 ● Any reduction in domestic livestock AUMs must be temporary and scientifically based
10 upon rangeland conditions.
- 11 ● Policies, plans, program, initiatives, resources management plans, and forest plans may
12 not allow the placement of grazing AUMs in a suspended use category unless there is a
13 rational and scientific determination that the condition of the rangeland allotment or LCD
14 in question will not sustain the AUMs proposed to be placed in suspended use.
- 15 ● Any grazing AUMs that are placed in a suspended use category should be returned to
16 active use when range conditions improve.
- 17 ● Policies, plans, program, and initiatives related to vegetation management should
18 recognize and uphold the preference for domestic grazing over alternative forage uses in
19 established grazing districts while upholding management practices that optimize and
20 expand forage for grazing and wildlife in conjunction with state wildlife management
21 plans and programs in order to provide maximum available forage for all uses.
- 22 ● The proper management and allocation of forage on public lands is critical to the
23 viability of the LCD's agriculture, recreation and tourism industry.
- 24 ● Management of forage resources directly affects water quality and water yields.
- 25 ● Increases in available forage resulting from conservation practices, improved range
26 condition, or developments by the livestock operators or other allocated forage users
27 will be credited to that use.
- 28 ● Increases in available forage resulting from practices or improvements implemented
29 by managing agencies will be allocated proportionately to all forage allocations,
30 unless the funding source specifies the benefactor.

- 1 ● Upon termination of a permit, livestock permittee will be compensated for the remaining
2 value of improvements or be allowed to remove such improvements that permittee made
3 on his/her allotment.
- 4 ● Forage reductions resulting from forage studies, fire, drought or other natural disasters
5 will be implemented on an allotment basis and applied proportionately based on the
6 respective allocation to livestock, wildlife and wild horses. Reductions resulting from
7 forage studies will be applied to the use responsible for the forage impact.
- 8 ● Permittee may sell or exchange permits. Such transactions shall be promptly processed.
- 9 ● Changes in season of use or forage allocation must not be made without full and
10 meaningful consultation with permittee.
- 11 The permitted seasons of use set forth in a management plan may be adjusted and still
12 be in conformance with the plan if;
- 13 1. meeting, maintaining, or making progress towards meeting for range management
14 standards officially adopted by the managing agency
- 15 2. managing agency and the permittee sign an agreement documenting monitoring
16 plan
- 17 3. with coordination, consultation and cooperation, the managing agency develop
18 grazing management practices determined necessary, including those that provide
19 for physiological requirements of desired plants.
- 20 ● Livestock allocations must be protected from encroachment by wild horses and wildlife.
- 21 ● Permanent increase or decreases in grazing allocations reflecting changes in available
22 forage will be based on the vegetative type of available forage and applied
23 proportionately to livestock or wildlife based on their respective dietary need.
- 24 ● Rangeland health assessments must identify all causal factors (such as wildlife, weather,
25 fire, etc.) when there is a failure to meet the Wyoming Standards for Health Rangelands.
- 26 ● Livestock grazing uses are not to be reduced to compensate for or mitigate the impacts of
27 other causal factors.
- 28 ● NEPA documents addressing the impacts from field development must also provide for
29 mitigation and compensation to the affected ranchers for loss grazing and disruption.
- 30 ● LCD supports the Wyoming State-wide Bighorn/Domestic Sheep Interaction Working
31 Group Report (2004) with respect to management of domestic sheep allotments.

- 1 ● LCD recognizes no “core native” Bighorn Sheep areas within the district.
- 2 ● There is no scientific basis for “open range or forest” transmission of pasturella from
3 domestic sheep to Bighorn Sheep.
- 4 ● LCD opposes the use of separation buffers for domestic sheep, but will only support
5 voluntary separation on a case by case basis.
- 6 ● LCD will only support voluntary retirement or changes from domestic federal allotments
7 (no federal agency forced vacating or domestic sheep allotments for Big Horn Sheep
8 purposes.)
- 9 ● Environmental organizations receiving federal money from the Equal Rights to Justice
10 Act (ERJA) need to make public full disclosure of all funding amounts awarded.

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1 **TIMBER/FIRE**

2 It is the LCD's position that:

- 3 ● All forested lands must be managed for sustained yield, where capability exists,
4 multiple use and forest health.
- 5 ● Fire, timber harvesting, and treatment programs must be managed as to prevent waste
6 of forest products.
- 7 ● Management programs must provide for fuel load management and fire control to prevent
8 catastrophic events and reduce fire potential at the urban and industrial interface.
- 9 ● Management and harvest programs must be sustainable and designed to provide
10 opportunities for local citizens and small business.
- 11 ● It is the LCD's policy to protect timber resources and promote the continuation of a
12 sustainable wood products industry.
- 13 ● Promote sale sizes that provide opportunities for a wide spectrum of producers that
14 allows for local entrepreneurship.
- 15 ● Fire, both natural or prescribed, is a viable tool for vegetative treatment when properly
16 applied. However, it should not replace harvest of timber products as the primary method
17 to manipulate forested areas and must not create waste of forest products.

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

2 It is the LCD's position that:

- 3 ● A private property owner has a right to dispose of or exchange his property as he/she
- 4 sees fit within applicable law.
- 5 ● Federal and state governments now hold sufficient land to protect the public interest.
- 6 ● There shall be no net loss of the private land base.
- 7 ● No "net loss" shall be measured in acreage or fair market value.
- 8 ● A private property owner should be protected from federal, state and county
- 9 encroachment and/or coerced acquisition.
- 10 ● Lincoln County should be compensated for net loss of private lands with public lands of
- 11 equal value. Tax base resulting from exchanges shall be compensated for by the
- 12 appropriate acquiring agency.
- 13 ● The LCD is to be consulted on any such actions.
- 14 ● Lands must be made available for disposal under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act
- 15 and Special User Act in resource management plans and upon request by an appropriate
- 16 entity in accordance with the acts.
- 17 ● To the extent possible and provided for by law, provide access to public lands for all
- 18 users, including the elderly and the physically impaired. Prevent existing access from
- 19 diminishing and create new access where a need exists.

1 **RECREATION AND TOURISM**

2 It is the LCD's position that:

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

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1 **WILDLIFE**

2 It is the LCD'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 and
6 tourism economy and the preservation of the culture and lifestyles of its residents.
- 7 ● Predator and wildlife numbers must be controlled at levels that protect livestock,
8 private property and other wildlife species from loss or damage.
- 9 ● Guidelines to Manage Sage Grouse and Their Habitat, John W. Connelly, Michael
10 A. Schroeder, Alan R. Sands, and Clait E. Braun represent definite research on sage
11 grouse and their habitat. This publication should be the basis for the creation of any
12 or local sage grouse management plan.
- 13 ● Any state or federal sage grouse study group must include a LCD representative.
- 14 ● Wildlife habitat must comply with Wyoming Health Rangeland Standards and other
15 standards that govern rangeland health. Wildlife populations must be reduced when
16 it has been determined that wildlife is responsible for habitat degradation.
- 17 ● Impacts of development can be mitigated more efficiently in a planned manner
18 through wildlife habitat mitigation banking. When implemented, this system could
19 provide much needed habitat for wildlife while providing for multiple use.
- 20 ● Wildlife populations must not be increased until studies and analysis are completed to
21 determine the ability of forage resources to support population and species trends, and
22 impacts on other wildlife species has been assessed.
- 23 ● It favors quickly and effectively adjusting wildlife population goals and population
24 census numbers in response to variations in the amount of available forage caused by
25 catastrophic events, droughts, or other climatic adjustments.
- 26 ● Reduction in forage allocation resulting from forage studies, drought, or other natural
27 disasters shall be shared proportionately by wildlife.
- 28 ● Wildlife target levels and/or populations must not exceed available wildlife forage as
29 determined by proper monitoring.
- 30 ● In evaluating a proposed introduction, or reintroduction, of wildlife species, priority will
31 be given to species that will provide increased recreational activities.

1 **WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS/ROADLESS**

2 It is the LCD's position that:

- 3 ● The LCD's support for any recommendations made under a statutory requirement to
4 examine the wilderness option during the revision of land and resource management
5 plans, or other methods will be withheld until it is clearly demonstrated that:
 - 6 ○ the duly adopted transportation plans of the state and county or counties without
7 the planning area are fully and completely incorporated into the baseline inventory
8 or information from which plan provisions are derived;
 - 9 ○ valid state or local roads and rights-of-way are recognized and not impaired in
10 any way by the recommendation;
 - 11 ○ the possibility of future development of mineral resources by underground mining
12 or oil and gas extraction by directional or horizontal drilling or other non-surface
13 disturbing methods are not affected by the recommendation;
 - 14 ○ the need for additional administrative or public roads necessary for the full use of
15 the various multiple-uses, including recreation, mineral exploration and
16 development, forest health activities, and grazing operations on adjacent land, or
17 on subject lands for grand-fathered uses, are not unduly affected by
18 recommendations;
 - 19 ○ analysis and full disclosure is made concerning the balance of multiple-use
20 management in the proposed areas, and that the analysis compares the full benefit
21 of multiple-use management to the recreational, forest health and economic needs
22 of the state and the counties to the benefits of the requirements of wilderness
23 management; and
 - 24 ○ the conclusion of all studies related to the requirement to examine the wilderness
25 option are submitted to the LCD for review and action, and the results in support
26 of or in opposition to, are included in any planning documents or other proposals
27 that are forwarded to the United States Congress.
 - 28 ○ Areas must merit the suitable requirements contained in the Wilderness Act of
29 1964 unless requirements are changed by Congress.

- 1 ● Managing public lands for “wilderness characteristics” circumvents the statutory
2 wilderness process and its inconsistent with the multiple-use and sustained-yield
3 management standard that applies to all Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest
4 Service lands that are not wilderness study areas.
- 5 ● The only legal designations of Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) are those designated
6 under the Wilderness Act of 1964 and under section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and
7 Management Act (FLPMA). On Bureau of Land Management Administered Lands the
8 opportunity to create additional wilderness ended in 1991 except as authorized by
9 Congress.
- 10 ● Some or all of the WSA designations pending before congress are legally and/or
11 technically flawed and the LCD will pursue that position when the WSAs’ go before
12 Congress for approval.
- 13 ● The 1999 Wilderness Study Area Planning Project and the Wilderness Inventory and
14 Study Procedures H6310-1 were legally and technically flawed.
- 15 ● The public lands that were determined to lack wilderness character during previous
16 wilderness review processes cannot be managed as if they were wilderness based on
17 new or revised views of wilderness character. These areas were studied and released and
18 they must remain subject to the full range of multiple-uses.
- 19 ● That any proposed wilderness designations in the LCD forwarded to Congress for
20 consideration must be based on a collaborative process in which support for the
21 wilderness designation is unanimous among federal, state, and county officials.
- 22 ● All Wilderness Study Areas (WSA’s) pending Congress, which were not recommended
23 for wilderness designation by the Secretary of Interior, shall be released and managed
24 for multiple-use and sustained yield.
- 25 ● Wilderness designation is not an appropriate, effective, efficient, economic or wise use
26 of land. These lands can be adequately protected with existing management options.
- 27 ● The creation of wilderness limits access for the elderly and the physically impaired. All
28 wilderness management plans must provide for access for these individuals to the fullest
29 extent possible, and provided for by law.
- 30 ● Wilderness management must provide for continued and reasonable access to and
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1 development of property rights within the area and provide for full use and enjoyment of
2 these rights.

- 3 ● Wilderness Study Areas released by Congress must be managed based on the principles
4 of multiple-use and sustained yield. The management plans must be amended in a timely
5 manner to reflect change in status.
- 6 ● Any new wilderness designations or inventories must be provided for by Congress and
7 created in cooperation with the LCD, county and state.
- 8 ● Management must ensure that a wilderness designation does not affect or over-ride state
9 authority over water resources and that Wyoming's substantive and procedural laws
10 controlling appropriations and allocations of water resources remain the primary
11 authorities governing the water of Lincoln County. Wilderness designation does not
12 create a reserved water right.
- 13 ● Any interests in ditches, reservoirs or water conveyance facilities and easements or
14 rights-of-way associated with those interests will be protected from impairment or
15 diminution by wilderness or other specific-use designations.

1 **OTHER SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS**

2 It is the LCD's position that:

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

1 **AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC'S)**

2 It is the LCD's position that:

- 3 ● The LCD support for designations of an Area of Critical Environmental Concern
4 (ACEC), as defined in 43 U.S. Sec. 1702, within federal land management plan will
5 be withheld until:
 - 6 ○ It is clearly demonstrated that the proposed area satisfies all the definitional
7 requirements of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976,
8 U.S.C. Sec. 1702 (a):
 - 9 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the area proposed for designation as an ACEC is
10 limited in geographic size and that the proposed management prescriptions are
11 limited in scope to the minimum necessary to specifically protect and prevent
12 irreparable damage to the relevant and important values identified, or limited in
13 geographic size and management prescriptions to the minimum required to
14 specifically protect human life or safety from natural hazards;
 - 15 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the proposed area is limited only to areas that are
16 already developed or used or to areas where no development is required;
 - 17 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the proposed area contains relevant and important
18 historic, cultural or scenic values, fish or wildlife resources, or natural processes
19 which are unique or substantially significant on a regional basis, or contain natural
20 hazards which significantly threaten human life or safety;
 - 21 ○ the federal agency has fully analyzed regional values, resources, processes, or
22 hazards for irreparable damage and its potential causes resulting from potential
23 actions which are consistent with the multiple-use, sustained-yield principles, and
24 the analysis describes the rationale for any special management attention required
25 to protect, or prevent irreparable damage to the values, resources, processes or
26 hazards;
 - 27 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the proposed designation is consistent with the
28 plans and policies of the LCD where the proposed designation is located.
 - 29 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the proposed ACEC designation will not be applied
30 redundantly over existing protections provided by other state and federal laws for
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1 federal lands or resources on federal lands, and that the federal statutory
2 requirement for special management addition to those specified by the other state
3 and federal laws;

- 4 ○ the difference between special management attention required for an ACEC and
5 normal multiple-use management has been identified and justified, and that any
6 determination of irreparable damage has been analyzed and justified for short and
7 long term horizons.

1 **WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS**

2 It is the LCD's position that:

- 3 ● LCD's support for the addition of a river segment to the National Wild and Scenic
4 River System, 16 U.S.C. Sec. 1271 et seq., will be withheld until:
 - 5 ○ It is clearly demonstrated that water is present and flowing at all times;
 - 6 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the required water-related value is considered
7 outstandingly remarkable within a region of comparison, and that the rationale
8 and justification for the conclusions are disclosed.
 - 9 ○ The plans and policies of the state, LCD and the county or counties where the
10 river segment is located are analyzed and properly considered in the suitability
11 phase of the evaluation;
 - 12 ○ the effects of the addition upon the local and state economics, agricultural and
13 industrial operations and interests, outdoor recreation, water rights, water quality,
14 water resource planning, and access to and across river corridors in both upstream
15 and downstream directions from the proposed river segment have been evaluated
16 in detail by the relevant federal agency;
 - 17 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the provisions and terms of the process for review
18 of potential additions have been applied in a consistent manner by all federal
19 agencies;
 - 20 ○ the rationale and justification for the proposed addition, including a comparison
21 with protections offered by other management tools, is clearly analyzed within the
22 multiple-use mandate, and the results disclosed;
 - 23 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the federal agency with management authority over
24 the river segment, and which is proposing the segment for inclusion in the
25 National Wild and Scenic River System will not use the actual or proposed
26 designation as a basis to impose management standards outside of the federal land
27 management plan;
 - 28 ○ it is clearly demonstrated that the terms and conditions of the federal land and
29 resource management plan containing a recommendation for inclusion in the
30 National Wild and Scenic River System;

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

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

3 It is the LCD's position that:

- 4 ● After desired wildlife population numbers are achieved, hunting must be the preferred
5 method of population control and to prevent wildlife movement outside of their
6 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 introduction
10 or re-introduction, or other means repopulated the LCD, a strategy must be provided for
11 its control by any means where it travels outside it's designated range or becomes a
12 threat to people, property, property rights, livestock, or other wildlife species.
- 13 ● Any plan that provides for the introduction, re-introduction, natural re-population, or the
14 management of any predator must provide for timely compensation to owners for direct
15 and indirect cost associated with loss of life, loss or damage to livestock and property
16 rights. Compensation must be equal to the actual value of the loss (not limited to market
17 value) and include cost associated with development of such claims. Requirements
18 placed on livestock producers to verify the losses of livestock must not be overly
19 restrictive and the producer must be compensated for the cost of meeting such
20 requirements.
- 21 ● Designation or re-introductions must not be allowed to grow beyond physical boundaries
22 and scope resulting in detrimental effects on the economy, life styles, culture and
23 heritage.
- 24 ● No designations or re-introductions shall be made until it is determined and substantiated
25 by verifiable scientific data that; there is a need for such action, protections cannot be
26 provided by other methods, and the area in question is truly unique when compared to
27 other area lands.
- 28 ● Designation or re-introduction plan, guidelines, and protocols must not be developed or
29 implemented without full public disclosure and involvement of the LCD.
- 30 ● Recovery plans must provide indicators to track the effectiveness of the plan, identify at
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1 what point recovery is accomplished and be self-terminating when the point of recovery
2 is reached.

- 3 ● Recovery plans must contain provisions for management after the plan is terminated.
- 4 ● Recovery efforts and/or conservation plans for threatened or endangered species must
5 consider impact to local interests, including resource use and development activities such
6 as ranching, agriculture, mining, oil and gas exploration and production, sand and gravel,
7 wood products, power development and recreation.
- 8 ● LCD supports delisting of species once population goals are achieved.
- 9 ● To the greatest extent possible, any introduction or re-introduction of threatened or
10 endangered species into the LCD or on lands adjacent to the LCD will be designated as
11 non-essential experimental populations.
- 12 ● Recommend management activities for habitat or endangered, threatened or sensitive
13 species must be designed to benefit those species through habitat improvement. Current
14 BLM policy treats candidate species and special status species (state sensitive species,
15 etc.) as federally listed threatened and endangered species. This policy should cease until
16 such time as NEPA analysis is completed for each such candidate or sensitive species, or
17 they become listed.
- 18 ● Any large, endangered species such as wolf, bear, cougars, etc. that is becoming a threat
19 and/or is harming human life or domestic animals must be removed by managing agency
20 authorities in a timely manner.

1 **PUBLIC ACCESS/TRANSPORTATION**

2 It is the LCD's position that:

- 3 ● Access to and across public lands is critical to the use, management and development
4 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 all
6 users including the elderly and the physically impaired.
- 7 ● No roads, trails, rights-of-way, easements or other traditional access for the transportation
8 of people, products, recreation, energy or livestock may be closed, abandoned,
9 withdrawn, or have a change of use without full public disclosure and analysis.
- 10 ● Future access must be planned and analyzed to determine its disposition at the
11 completion of its intended life to ensure access is maintained. In the event that removal
12 of access is deemed appropriate, resulting disturbance shall be reclaimed. Bureau of Land
13 Management (BLM) needs to enforce restrictions on all Travel Management Plan access
14 or not have a Travel Management Plan.
- 15 ● County roads on public lands shall remain open unless it has been determined by the
16 LCD and Lincoln County that the subject road is no longer needed as part of the Lincoln
17 County's 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 maintained.
20 This access must be economically feasible with respect to the method and timing of such
21 access.
- 22 ● BLM must confer with the LCD when developing their Travel Management Plans and
23 present said plan to LCD board members during a LCD board meeting.
- 24 ● The LCD will not support Title 5 BLM road designations that use existing or potential
25 RS-2477 roads established prior to 1976, which may require BLM road bonds or
26 rehabilitation in the future.

1 **CULURAL AND HERITAGE RESOURCES**

2 It is the LCD’s position that:

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

1 **OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES (OHV)**

2 It is the LCD's position that:

- 3 ● Off-highway vehicles (OHV) should be used responsibly, the management of OHV's
4 should be uniform across all jurisdictions to prevent concentration on use on any
5 particular jurisdiction.
- 6 ● OHV's have become an important segment of the LCD's recreation industry and is an
7 important tool and mode of transportation for farmers, ranchers, and resource
8 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 designated trail
11 systems. Private property needs to be respected.
- 12 ● When the necessity for a closure has been established, additional trails and areas must be
13 opened to offset the loss of that recreational opportunity.
- 14 ● Public land management agencies must implement and maintain an aggressive OHV
15 education and enforcement program on reduction of resource impacts.
- 16 ● The non-recreational use of OHV's, such as development and livestock operations, must
17 be provided for in all areas unless restricted by law.
- 18 ● Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Wyoming Game and Fish Department
19 and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service need to be proactive in enforcing OHV travel,
20 especially during hunting season.

1 **PALEONTOLOGY/ARCHEOLOGY/GEOLOGY**

2 Remnants of early life form, geological history and culture have evolved as an important
3 segment of a local economy and have become the signature of the local tourism trade.

4 Considerable investment has been made in museums and visitors center to promote these
5 important resources.

6 It is the LCD's position that:

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

1 **WILDHORSES**

2 It is the LCD's position that:

- 3 ● It opposes the introduction or re-introduction of wild horses or burros on public lands
4 within the LCD.
- 5 ● The presence of uncontrolled and improperly managed wild horses on public lands
6 adversely impact soil, water, wildlife and vegetative resources, spread equine diseases,
7 and are threat to the domestic horse industry. In order to prevent such impacts, a herd
8 management plan must be developed.
- 9 ● Herd management plans must include provisions for periodic gathers of all horses in the
10 unit to limit populations to planned levels, to remove trespass horses, and to test for
11 equine diseases as prescribed by the Wyoming state veterinarian and prevent habitat
12 degradation.
- 13 ● If not properly managed, wild horse populations adversely affect the LCD's economy by
14 spreading disease and reducing forage available for wildlife and livestock.
- 15 ● Wild horses assigned to herd units must be physically identified to ensure that feral or
16 fugitive horses are not assimilated into wild horse herds on public lands.
- 17 ● All authorized feral horses are in trespass and must be removed from public lands.
- 18 ● Any future legally established herds must consist only of wild horses which possess
19 Spanish Barb characteristics.
- 20 ● Horse management plans must contain provisions for the maintenance of the health of
21 wild horses and the prevention of equine diseases.
- 22 ● No herds will be located in areas that do not provide barriers, natural or otherwise, to
23 prevent herd movement, trespass to private lands, or mingling with domestic herds.
- 24 ● As with livestock and wildlife, horses must be subject to Wyoming Rangeland Standards
25 that govern range land health.
- 26 ● Wild horse population can negatively impact private, state and federal land resources and
27 Lincoln County's economy by reducing forage available for wildlife and livestock.
- 28 ● There are no Herd Management Areas (HMAs) in the LCD and proposal to establish
29 new or expanded HMAs into the LCD will be opposed.
- 30 ● All unauthorized feral horses are in trespass and must be removed from public lands. The
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BLM must proceed removal all wild horses outside of HMA's and must remove all wild horses found on private and state land, upon request.

- All-inclusive Herd Management Plan must be developed for each herd.
- When populations have reach 110 percent and the BLM does not remove horses, the horses need to be neutered and spayed to control increases.

1 **ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE**

2 It is the LCD's position that:

- 3 ● In support of the National Energy Policy Act and to reduce the Nations dependency on
4 imported oil, all public lands must remain open to the greatest extent possible for the
5 exploration and development of energy and energy related products. This is to be
6 accomplished with full consideration of the impacts to other public land resources and
7 uses.
- 8 ● Continued access to energy and mineral resources associated with public lands is
9 paramount to the well-being of LCD residents and its economy, the State of Wyoming,
10 National Economy and Security.
- 11 ● It is technically possible to permit appropriate access to mineral and energy resources
12 while protecting other resources form irreparable harm.
- 13 ● Resource management planning should seriously consider all available mineral and
14 energy sources.
- 15 ● The waste of fluid and gaseous minerals within developed areas should be prohibited.
- 16 ● Support for mineral development provisions within federal land management plans will
17 be withheld until the appropriate land management plan environmental impact
18 statement clearly demonstrates:
 - 19 ○ that the authorized planning agency has;
 - 20 ○ considered and evaluated the mineral and energy potential in all areas of
21 the planning area as if the areas were open to mineral development under
22 standard lease agreements in order to establish a baseline from which the
23 effect of management prescriptions can be analyzed; and
 - 24 ○ evaluated any management plan prescription for its impact on the area's
25 baseline mineral and energy potential;
 - 26 ○ that the development provisions do not unduly restrict access to public lands for
27 energy exploration and development;
 - 28 ○ that the authorized planning agency has supported any closure of additional areas
29 to mineral leasing and development of any increase of acres subject to no surface
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1 occupancy restrictions by adhering to:

- 2 ◦ the relevant provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of
- 3 1976, 43 U.S.C. Sec. 1701 et seq.;
- 4 ◦ other controlling mineral development laws, and
- 5 ◦ the controlling withdrawal and reporting procedures set forth in the
- 6 Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. sec. 1701 et
- 7 seq.;
- 8 ◦ that the authorized planning agency evaluated whether to repeal any moratorium
- 9 that may exist on the issuance of additional mining patents and oil and gas leases;
- 10 ◦ that the authorized planning agency analyzed all proposed mineral lease
- 11 stipulations and adopted the least restrictive necessary to protect against damage
- 12 to other significant resource values;
- 13 ◦ that the authorized planning agency evaluated mineral lease restrictions to
- 14 determine whether to waive, modify, or make exceptions to the restrictions on the
- 15 basis that they are no longer necessary or effective.
- 16 ◦ State laws need to be enacted that require reclamation of fossil quarries once
- 17 abandoned.
- 18 ◦ that the authorized federal agency analyzed all areas proposed for no surface
- 19 occupancy restrictions, and that the analysis evaluated:
- 20 ◦ whether the directional drilling feasibility analysis, or analysis of other
- 21 management prescription, in effect, and
- 22 ◦ whether, if the minerals are effectively sterilized, the areas must be
- 23 reported as withdrawn under the provisions of the Federal Land Policy
- 24 and Management Act
- 25 ◦ that the authorized planning agency has evaluated all directional drilling
- 26 requirements in no surface occupancy areas to determine whether directional
- 27 drilling is feasible from an economic, ecological, and technical standpoint
- 28 ● Any proposal or action taken by state or federal agencies that may result in restrictions
- 29 on reasonable and economical access to mineral resources shall be opposed.
- 30 ● Identification of energy and mineral potential and location is important for planning
- 31 future needs and resource management. Such potential must be fully analyzed and

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impacts disclosed in any management or planning action.

- After environmental analysis, and as provided for in the governing resource management plan, all tracts will be available and offered for lease or open to claim as provided by law.
- All permits and applications must be processed on a timely basis. Procedures and required contents of application must be provided to the applicant at the time of application.
- To the extent technically and economically feasible, all produced water should be recycled for use in drilling operations, other developments or reclamation purposes.
- On all private lands, a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) should be adopted before work begins to conserve natural resources.

1 **MITIGATION/HABITAT IMPROVEMENT**

2 It is the LCD's position that:

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

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

1 **TRANSPORTATION**

2 It is the LCD's position that:

- 3 ● Resource plans must provide for, at a minimum, a network of roads on public lands
4 that provide 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 accomplish the
8 purposes of those lands;
 - 9 ○ access to in holdings and for the development and use of property rights;
 - 10 ○ reasonable access to a broad range of resources and opportunities throughout
11 the resource planning area including;
 - 12 ○ search and rescue needs;
 - 13 ○ public safety needs;
 - 14 ○ predator control
 - 15 ○ public safety
 - 16 ○ access for people with disabilities and the elderly;
 - 17 ○ recreational opportunities.
 - 18 ○ access, for resource maintenance and administration.
- 19 ● Transportation and access provisions for all other existing routes, roads, and trails across
20 federal, state, and school trust lands within the State should be determined and identified,
21 and agreements should be executed and implemented, as necessary to fully authorize and
22 determine responsibility for maintenance of all routes, roads, and trails.
- 23 ● The reasonable development of new routes and trails for motorized, human, and animal-
24 powered recreation should be implemented.
- 25 ● The LCD opposes any additional evaluation of national forest service lands as “roadless”
26 or “unroaded” beyond the forest service’s second roadless area review evaluation and
27 opposes efforts by agencies to specially manage those areas in a way that:
- 28 ○ closes or declassifies existing roads unless multiple side by side roads exist
29 running to the same destination and state and local governments consent to close
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- 1 or declassify the extra roads;
- 2 ○ permanently bars travel on existing roads;
- 3 ○ excludes or diminishes traditional multiple-use activities, including grazing and
- 4 proper forest harvesting;
- 5 ○ interferes with the enjoyment and use of valid, existing rights, including water
- 6 rights, and mineral leasing rights; or
- 7 ○ prohibits development of additional roads reasonably necessary to pursue
- 8 traditional multiple-use activities;
- 9 ● LCD support for any forest plan revision or amendment will be withheld until the
- 10 appropriate plan revision or plan amendment clearly demonstrates that:
- 11 ○ established roads are not referred to as unclassified roads or a similar
- 12 classification:
- 13 ○ lands in the vicinity of established roads are managed under the multiple-use,
- 14 sustained yield management standard; and
- 15 ○ no roadless or unroaded evaluations or inventories are recognized or upheld
- 16 beyond those that were recognized or upheld in the forest service’s second
- 17 roadless area review evaluation.
- 18 ● It supports the development of additional roads reasonable necessary to pursue
- 19 traditional multiple-use activities:
- 20 ● Proposed development plans must contain a transportation plan that clearly identifies
- 21 all roads within the project area by jurisdiction, identify, roads or road segments to be
- 22 reconstructed or constructed, the standard to which the roads will be constructed or
- 23 maintained and who will construct and/or maintain them.
- 24 ● BLM must recognize public rights-of-way instead of only authorized local government
- 25 road work or public use under Title V of FLPMA, which only provides for a revocable
- 26 permit.
- 27 ● BLM must also cease and desist from issuing rights-of-way over public roads, because
- 28 BLM lacks jurisdiction to issue such a permit.
- 29 ● Making new roads with vehicles and OHV’s are to be marked “No Travel” with a
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1 significant barrier and a sign and designating amount of money for the fine. Also need
2 monitored by BLM, USFS and Wyoming Game and Fish Department.
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1 **PREADATORS**

2 It is the LCD's position that:

- 3 ● After desired population numbers, hunting must be the preferred method of population
4 control and to prevent the movement outside of their designated range.
- 5 ● Trapping is a historic and environmentally sound method of controlling predatory
6 animals.
- 7 ● Management of predator populations must support levels consistent with the optimum
8 utilization of forage by wild and domestic ungulates.
- 9 ● Supports control of predatory animals to reduce property damage and to protect wildlife
10 and to protect the local economy and tax base, including the viability of the agriculture
11 community.
- 12 ● Supports control of predators, rodents and insects, which are disease-bearing vectors that
13 are recognized threat to public health.
- 14 ● It is opposed to the creation or expansion of grizzly bear, wolverine, lynx populations,
15 habitats, protection, recovery areas, ranges or mitigation corridors.
- 16 ● Any plan for the management of a predator that has naturally, or through introduction or
17 re-introduction, re-populated Lincoln County and the LCD must provide for its control
18 by any means when it travels from the designated range or becomes a threat to people,
19 property rights, livestock or other wildlife species.
- 20 ● Any plan that provides for the introduction, re-introduction, natural re-population or the
21 management of any predator must provide for timely compensation to owners for direct
22 or indirect cost associated with the loss of life, loss or damage to livestock and property
23 rights. Compensation must be equal to the actual value of the loss (not limited to market
24 value) and included associated with development of such claims.
- 25 ● Federal and state agencies are expected to remove problem animals in a timely manner.

1 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

2 The LCD will oppose permanent investments based on the assumption of climate change until:

- 3 ● International scientific controversies are addressed with credible and quality data.
- 4 ● Any project discussion of climate change must reflect scientifically sound and balanced
- 5 viewpoint of the scientific controversy.
- 6 ● The costs and benefits of any regulatory changes adopted to address climate change are
- 7 quantified.

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12 **VISUAL RESOURCE**

13 It is the LCD's position that:

- 14 ● Visible physical features are important to the landscape and the scenic quality of LCD.
- 15 ● Visual Resource Management (VRM) classifications must reflect previous and current
- 16 land uses.
- 17 ● The LCD opposes the use of VRM classifications that will impair or impede land uses on
- 18 private and state lands.
- 19 ● The LCD opposes the use of VRM classifications that undercut the federal land use
- 20 allocations, including grazing permits, special use permits and oil and gas leases.


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**ADOPTION
OF THE
LINCOLN CONSERVATION DISTRICT
PUBLIC LAND RESOURCE USE PLANS AND POLICIES**


On September 27, 2016, the Board of Supervisors for the
Lincoln Conservation District
as duly authorized by Wyoming Conservation District Law, hereby
adopt this Lincoln Conservation District Public Land Use Plans and Policies



Erick Esterholdt, Chairman




Kenneth Petersen, Vice Chairman



Robert Peternal, Secretary/Treasurer



Paula Bowling, Member



Paul Clark, Member