

**Sweetwater County Conservation District's
ADOPTED
FRAMEWORK FOR COORDINATION**

WHEREAS, Sweetwater County Conservation District (the District), a political subdivision of the State of Wyoming, desires to fully participate in the planning and regulatory process at the local, State and Federal government levels; and

WHEREAS, Wyoming State law authorizes the District to develop comprehensive plans for range improvement, conservation of soil, and conservation and utilization of the water resources and to further undertake demonstration projects and other improvement measures within the District; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 80% of the land within the District is owned by either the United States or the State of Wyoming, and the effective coordination with Federal and State land management and regulatory agencies is necessary for the District to meet its statutory goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to participate in a meaningful and effective manner in the land use planning processes of local, State and Federal agencies, as well as regulatory decisions which affect land and water resources and their conservation and utilization within the District; and

WHEREAS, Federal laws and regulations direct Federal agencies to work closely with State, local government entities, and Indian tribes, to resolve conflicts between proposed federal actions or federal land use plans and the land use plans or regulations imposed by state and local governments. With respect to public lands, which comprise about 74% of the District, Federal agencies must also ensure that federal land use plans do not conflict with those of state and local governments, to the extent practical; and

WHEREAS, The District Board of Supervisors has delegated to a Land and Resource Advisory Committee (LRAC) of the District the tasks of gathering relevant information and data and participating in decisionmaking and planning processes; and

WHEREAS, the District desires to implement a framework to enable the District to effectively participate in all appropriate processes, including but not limited to (1) Federal and State rulemaking and policy development, (2) environmental impact statements prepared by Federal agencies that affect the interests of the District and the respective local land use plans, (3) management and policy decisions by Federal and State agencies, and (4) other proposed actions that affect the rangeland, soil, or water resources in the District; and

WHEREAS, the local, State and Federal agencies and governments recognize that the District is impacted by local, State and Federal planning and the regulatory effects, and desire to encourage the District's meaningful participation in the same; and

WHEREAS, the District recognizes that local, State and Federal agencies and governments are impacted by District planning and regulatory effect, and desire to encourage the local, State and Federal agencies' meaningful participation in the same; and

WHEREAS, the District is committed to ensuring that it is a cooperating agency when it determines that its participation is appropriate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the District and/or its designated agents shall proceed to exercise the District's right under federal and state law, including but not limited to the procedures and opportunities available pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and the respective regulations and policies, as follows:

- 1) The District, its agents or staff, shall monitor the development of regulations and policies by Federal, State and local agencies, proposed land use plans or revisions by Federal, State or local governments and agencies, and decisions or actions proposed by Federal, State and local governments and agencies that affect the interests of the District.
- 2) The District or its agents shall prepare and provide to appropriate Federal, State and local agencies and governments meaningful and material comments, including data and provisions of the applicable local plans that the Federal, State and local agencies and governments must consider. When there is a conflict between the local plans and the action proposed by the Federal, State and local agencies and governments, the District shall identify the conflicts and further pursue all necessary actions to ensure that the Federal, State and local agencies and governments have acknowledged and resolved the conflicts or inconsistency. When the issue concerns inconsistent or conflicting data and/or research, the District shall take additional steps to ensure that the Federal, State and local agencies and governments addresses the inconsistent or conflicting data and/or research.
- 3) The District recognizes that the process of consultation, coordination, cooperation, and consistency of land and resource planning and the exercise of cooperating agency opportunities under NEPA place certain responsibilities upon the District. To this end the District commits itself to respond to agency inquiries to participate in the process described herein, and to take part before, during, and after the public participation process. The District further understands its obligation to share information and ideas with local, State and Federal agencies and governments in the similar manner outlined herein. The District recognizes that the rights and obligation enumerated in this paragraph reciprocate amongst local, State, and Federal agencies and governments.

Enacted in open session of the Board of Supervisors on the 8th day of July, 2004

Board of Supervisors



Mary E. Thoman, Chairman



Randy Shipman, Vice-Chairman



Jean M. Dickinson, Secretary



Thomas Burris, Treasurer



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