

Crook County Natural Resource District



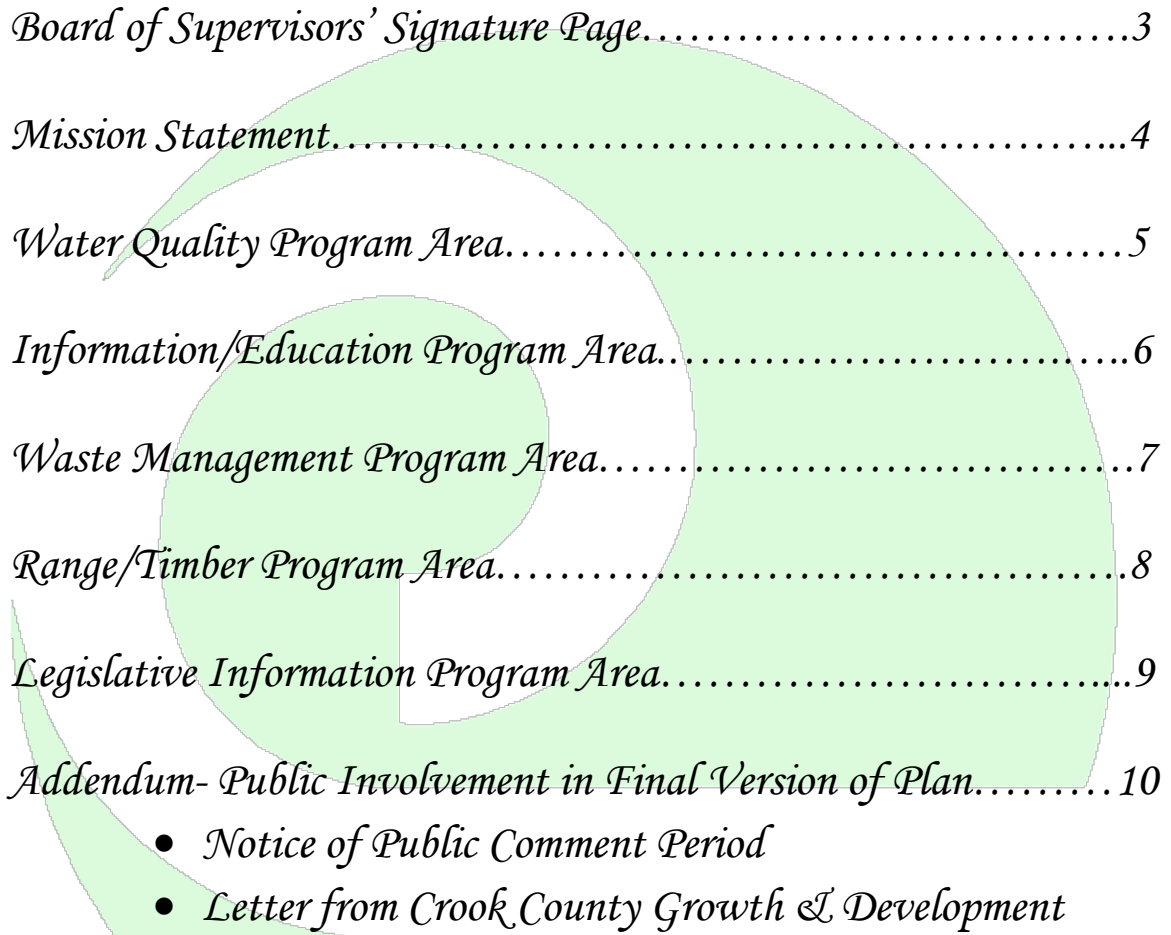
Long-Term
Natural Resource Management

& Land Use Plan

Drafted 2005, Revised 2010

*Crook County Natural Resource District
Long-Term Natural Resource Management & Land Use Plan*

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Crook County Natural Resource District

We, the supervisors of the Crook County Natural Resource District, as duly authorized by the Wyoming Conservation District Law, hereby adopt this 2010-2015 plan as the current, long-term guide for work priorities in this conservation district.

Wayne Garman, Chairman

Date

Ted Parsons, Vice Chairman

Date

Jim Geis, Secretary

Date

Tom Ferrell, Treasurer

Date

Clinton Streeter, Member

Date



Mission Statement:

To Provide Coordinated Leadership in Resource Conservation to Assist and/or Meet the Needs of Resource Users

This Long-Term Natural Resource Management & Land Use Plan, intended to serve as a foundation and guidepost for the Crook County Natural Resource District from 2010-2015, focuses on the CCNRD mission statement and the wise use of Crook County's natural resources in the following program areas:

- *Water Quality*
- *Education and Information*
- *Waste Management*
- *Range and Timber Management*
- *Legislative Information*

Because the future of local natural resources depends on past and present use, CCNRD acknowledges the many dedicated conservation-minded individuals that have helped the conservation districts to achieve their goals and embraces the notion that the technology and resources available today will enable the preservation of a healthy and sustainable environment for future generations.



GOAL: *To conserve and improve the quality and quantity of water sources in Crook County*

CCNRD will offer pertinent and factual information on local water quality issues to Crook County residents and elected officials. District activities may include:

- Continuing to disperse information through printed media such as newspaper articles, newsletters, direct mailings and the district website (www.ccnrd.org)
- Continuing to provide input on local water quality issues to the Belle Fourche River Landowner Advisory Committee (LAC), local municipalities and the Crook County Board of Commissioners
- Continuing to offer educational activities related to water quality to local schools and groups
- Maintaining the CCNRD Water Quality Monitoring Program in order to gather scientifically credible data on local watershed health. .
- Pursuing local funding and applying for grants to finance the CCNRD Water Quality Programs.

CCNRD will encourage local water conservation efforts. District activities may include:

- Providing or facilitating informational seminars and workshops on water conservation
- Distributing brochures, newsletters, news articles and other printed materials pertaining to water conservation
- Advocating water conservation measures to residents and local elected officials addressing agricultural, industrial, recreational, residential, commercial or other concerns

CCNRD will support locally-led watershed planning and the voluntary implementation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to address local water quality impairments.

District activities may include:

- Continuing, with guidance from the LAC, to oversee the implementation of the Belle Fourche River Watershed Plan and to participate in the revising of this plan, when appropriate
- Continuing to providing information on proper septic system installation and maintenance
- Continuing to advocate the sustainable management of riparian areas and the use of vegetative buffer/filter strips to decrease non-point source pollution issues related to run-off and snowmelt

CCNRD will participate, with guidance from the LAC, in the setting of the Belle Fourche River/Donkey Creek (BFR/DC) Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) in order to ensure that local stakeholders remain informed of and involved in the process.

District activities may include:

- Continuing to participate in TMDL work-group calls, meetings and watershed tours while critically assessing the process and ensuring that local concerns are addressed
- Continuing to facilitate public meetings and encouraging local stakeholders to attend
- Maintaining a cooperative relationship with neighboring counties and states to enable the exchanging of ideas and information related to the setting and implementing of TMDLs
- Focusing on helping landowners avoid regulation and advocating the addressing of local water quality issues on a voluntary basis



GOAL: *To initiate and coordinate educational and informational programs supporting the wise use and conservation of Crook County's natural resources*

CCNRD will provide current and pertinent information on local natural resources issues. District activities may include:

- *Coordinating conservation-related educational activities for the youth and adults*
- *Providing or facilitating informational seminars and workshops on natural resource conservation*
- *Distributing brochures, newsletters, news articles and other printed materials pertaining to the conservation of natural resources*
- *Advocating wise natural resource use by local land managers and policy-makers*

CCNRD will encourage communication and cooperation amongst agencies, organizations and individuals as a means of improving the sustainability of local natural resource management. District activities may include:

- *Continuing to emphasize the need to consider sustainable natural resource management with regard for local quality of life issues and cultural customs*
- *Continuing to supporting sustainable natural resource management which allows for multiple uses*
- *Continuing to enhance the knowledge of CCNRD board members and employees through educational trainings related to conservation and wise natural resource management*
- *Continuing to utilize the technical knowledge and support of the local NRCS employees while supporting NRCS programs and projects*



GOAL: *To increase local awareness of issues related to waste management and to encourage the development of sustainable local waste management systems*

CCNRD will support sustainable approaches to local waste management. District activities may include:

- Continuing to emphasize the need for Crook County residents and elected officials to promote waste stream minimization strategies (i.e. decrease the amount of waste being generated) and adopt waste stream diversion strategies (i.e. limiting waste through recycling)
- Continuing to distribute current information on waste management issues through printed materials, meetings with elected officials and educational events
- Continuing to provide e-cycling opportunities for Crook County residents
- Supporting all local recycling efforts

CCNRD will provide current information to local landowners on agricultural waste management issues. District activities may include:

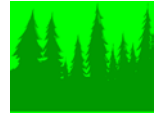
- Continuing to keep local landowners and elected officials informed of current regulations pertaining to animal feeding operation/confined animal feeding operation (AFO-CAFO) and nutrient management issues
- Supporting the voluntary implementation of waste management BMPs by providing education materials, technical assistance and information about possible cost-share opportunities

CCNRD will provide information to local homeowners, developers and elected officials on proper septic system maintenance and installation. District activities may include:

- Continuing to distribute information on proper septic systems installation, permitting and maintenance through printed materials, presentations and online
- Continuing to provide educational workshops and tours on proper septic system installation, permitting and maintenance
- Continuing to review proposed subdivision sites to inform the Crook County Growth & Development Department, developers and potential homeowners of site-specific waste management issues

CCNRD will support the remediation of failing or undersized septic systems in Crook County. District activities may include:

- Continuing to distribute information on septic systems and pollution issues associated with septic system failure through printed materials, presentations and online
- Continuing to provide the CCNRD Cost-Share Program for septic system remediation projects



GOAL: *To provide information and education to county residents, enabling them to practice wise and productive management of range and timber resources*

CCNRD will advocate wise, multiple-use concepts for range/timber management.

District activities may include:

- *Collaborating with organizations that promote wise, multiple-use management*
- *Cooperating with natural resource managers to develop wise, multiple-use management plans for local range and timber resources*
- *Continuing to sponsor workshops and tours that demonstrate livestock and wildlife can sustainably utilize the same range/timber resources with wise management*
- *Supporting range/timber resource management strategies that address multiple resource concerns including invasive species control, wildlife habitat preservation, etc.*

CCNRD will encourage the planting of trees to achieve conservation goals. District activities may include:

- *Continuing to provide the annual CCNRD Seedling Tree Sale*
- *Planting and maintaining "Living Snow Fences"*
- *Providing information to local landowners about planting trees to achieve conservation goals*



GOAL: *To inform Crook County residents of current legislative activity and issues at the national, state and local levels*

CCNRD will distribute information on the management of publicly owned natural resources and promote multiple-use concepts. District activities may include:

- *Continuing to keep local residents and elected officials informed of local land use planning, public land management and multiple use issues*
- *Continuing to monitor and, if appropriate, comment on legislation or practices affecting natural resource related issues*

CCNRD will continue to recognize local concern regarding issues of private landowner rights and will attempt to stay abreast of current issues and to distribute current information to Crook County residents. District activities may include:

- *Contacting natural resource policymakers and providing comments regarding natural resource issues and the concerns of Crook County residents*
- *Continuing to strive to keep the public informed of current private landowner rights in terms of resource management*

CCNRD will provide information regarding the implications of federal and state legislation in terms of natural resource management to landowners and natural resource users in Crook County.

- *Identifying trends in federal and state policymaking and investigating the implications of natural resource-related legislation and informing local landowners and elected officials of possible concerns*
- *Conveying local natural resource concerns to policy makers at the state and local level*
- *Continuing to advocate the creation of natural resource policies that allow for locally-led, voluntary efforts to sustainably manage natural resources*

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Addendum:

Public Involvement in Final Version of Plan

For the district to successfully serve local resource users, it is imperative that all interested parties feel ownership and are involved with district planning and natural resource improvement efforts. Therefore, CCNRD encouraged the involvement of all interested constituents and others such as agencies, organizations, county commissioners and legislators in developing and revising this long-range plan and published the following Notice of Public Comment Period upon the release of the draft version of this plan:

**PUBLIC NOTICE:
CROOK COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT (CCNRD)
LAND USE AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2011-2015
RELEASED FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Crook County Natural Resource District (CCNRD) will accept written comments on the draft CCNRD Land Use & Natural Resource Management Plan 2011-2015 (previously referred to as “CCNRD Long Range Plan”) beginning Wednesday, November 17, 2010 and will continue through Friday, December 31, 2010. Copies of the document are available at the Crook County Clerk’s office in the courthouse (309 Cleveland St., Sundance, WY) CCNRD office located in the USDA building (117 S. 21st St. in Sundance) as well as on the district website (www.ccnrd.org). The finalized plan, including all public comments, will be reviewed at the CCNRD Board of Supervisors’ meeting at the January 4th, 2011 at 6 p.m. at the USDA building. For more information, contact the district at (307)283-2501.

Input garnered during this period is reflected in the final version of this plan, and all written comments received are attached.