LINCOLN COUNTY, WYOMING

PUBLIC LANDS POLICY
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purpose</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area History</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kemmerer</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamondville</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cokeville</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Star Valley</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LaBarge</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objectives</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management Actions</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategies</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Land Committee</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position’s Statements</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilderness Designations/Roadless</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Special Designations</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACEC’S</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild and Scenic Rivers</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduced, Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experimental Populations</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Access/Transportation</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Exchanges, Acquisitions, and Sales</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recreation and Tourism</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water Resources</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timber</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy and Mineral Resource</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wild Horses</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural and Heritage Resources</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soils</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Quality</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildlife</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forage Allocation/Livestock Grazing</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paleontology/Archeology/Geology</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off Highway Vehicles (OHV)</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitigation/Habitat Improvement</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
INTRODUCTION

Wyoming law confers broad authority on the counties to provide governmental services and to regulate the construction of buildings and facilities on unincorporated land within the county.

The county may issue building permits and set standards, for the “condition of use or occupancy of lands for residence, recreation, agriculture, industry, commerce, public use and other purposes.”

The county is authorized to establish police, fire protection, transportation, court, school and public health facilities and to provide access to same.

The county regulates land use through its land use planning commission and adopts zoning that applies to all unincorporated land within the county.

The county may also establish districts to regulate sanitary facilities, including water, sewage, rodent and insect control, the storage, collection and disposal of refuse.

The county is also responsible for the identification and maintenance of roads within the county excluding state and federal highways. The county also decides whether to vacate or abandon such roads.

Lincoln County covers an area of approximately 2,619,816 acres. Of that acreage, approximately 2,016,219 acres are lands administered by federal and state agencies, which accounts for nearly 77% of the County. The Bureau of Land Management, the United States Forest service, the National Park Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife service, and the State of Wyoming manage lands located within Lincoln County.
Management decisions made on these lands greatly impact the economy, culture, health, safety, and quality of life of Lincoln County and its residents. Therefore, it is extremely important that public land agency plans and management are consistent with Lincoln County Land Use Plan.

PURPOSE

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

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

The public lands portion of the Lincoln County General Plan reflects the County’s position on the management and use of public lands, within County or, that impact County interests. The plan clearly and concisely states the County policies, issues and objectives that relate to federal and state public land management, planning efforts, and decision-making processes.

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

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

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

**AREA HISTORY**

The following provides a brief history of the county. Although seemingly diverse, all of the communities in Lincoln County, Wyoming have strong ties to the land, most of which is public land. Local economies have historically been and will continue to be dependent upon grazing, mining, logging and recreation. The mineral industry accounts for three fourths of the property tax base of the county, without resource development on public land the level of services offered by county government would be drastically reduced. This county is divided by mountain ranges and watersheds that created a remote and rugged environment for the first settlers. Those very obstacles are now attractions to new settlers and visitors alike. Recreationists are swarming to the area to enjoy its excellent hunting, fishing, and hundreds of miles of snowmobile and ATV trails.

**KEMMERER**
Kemmerer, county seat of Lincoln County, was founded in 1897 by Patrick J. Quealy. It was named after Quealy's financial backer, Pennsylvania coal magnate Mahlon S. Kemmerer.

1834 – Hams Fork Rendezvous with the American Fur Company.
1853 – Kit Carson took 13,000 head of sheep through the area to Fort Laramie.
1869 – Justin Pomeroy started herding sheep in the Pomeroy Basin area.
1902 – James Cash Penney opened the Golden Rule Store. In 1913 the name was changed to J.C. Penney Co.
1920 - 1933 Prohibition. Bootlegging was rampant in the Kemmerer area and Kemmerer became known as “Little Chicago”.

Mines in the Kemmerer area:

- Cumberland – 1904 a six ton piece of coal was sent to the St. Louis World Fair. The mine closed in 1930.
- Sublet – owned by the Kemmerer Coal Company. Opened 1907, it closed in 1933.
- Frontier – named by P.J. Quealy in 1897. In 1923, 99 men were killed by explosion.
- Oakley – Opened 1896, closed 1942. The mine superintendent, Thomas Snedden was from Oakley, Scotland.

Today the Pittsburg & Midway Coal Mining Company (P&M) Kemmerer Mine operates Wyoming’s deepest open pit coal mine. The mine’s foremost customer is PacifiCorp’s nearby coal fired 715-megawatt Naughton Plant. Two thirds of the coal
taken from the Kemmerer Mine each year goes to fuel Naughton. The rest goes to industrial customers, mostly in the Green River, Wyoming area.

**DIAMONDVILLE**

Diamondville was incorporated about 1896. The name was derived from the quality of the coal mined here, as it seemed to resemble black diamonds and was of a superior grade.

1868 – Harrison Church discovered coal on Hamsfork. He built a cabin on the hill where the present Diamondville now stands.

1896 – Oakley mine superintendent Thomas Sredden, was the first mayor of Diamondville.

Diamondville was a booming town in the early 1900’s with 13 saloons, churches, bakeries, hotels, a theater, dress shop, hardware store, and a local jail.

There were several nationalities that worked in the mires. They came from England, Ireland, Scandinavia, Japan and several Slavic countries.

**COKEVILLE**

Cokeville was incorporated in 1910. The community was named for the coke producing coal found nearby. Ranching is the major occupation today.

1869 – Tilford Kutch settled here and later opened a trading post and operated a ferry across Smith’s Fork for early pioneers. He was joined in 1874-75 by Mormon pioneers, the Collett, Gee and Bourne families.

The year 1882 brought the railroad to Cokeville and the sheep industry to new heights, earning the claim to fame in 1918 as "Sheep Capital of the World" with its claims of the most millionaires per capita in the United States.
1926 – U.S. Highway was commissioned with its route passing through Cokeville. By 1935 the highway had an oil surface and Cokeville found itself once again on a major route across the country.

**STAR VALLEY**

Most towns in Star Valley were founded by Mormons. Star Valley lies to the northwest of Kemmerer and is separated from the rest of Lincoln County, and indeed, the rest of the State by the Salt River Range. Although the area received its first settlers in 1859 when some English Mormons were employed to work on the Lander Cutoff which passed through the area, the primary growth began about 1880 when Moses Thatcher and Charles C. Rich, apostles in the LDS Church, dedicated the valley for Mormon settlement.

In Idaho, United States Marshal Fred Dubois, after whom Dubois, Wyoming, is named, embarked on a crusade against practitioners of multiple marriages. Many Mormons with multiple wives fled Utah and Idaho to Canada and Mexico. Others sought refuge in the secluded Star Valley. One of the first towns founded was Freedom settled in 1879. Freedom had the advantage that the main street was split by the Territorial Line with Idaho. Thus, to escape an Idaho marshal it was only necessary to cross the street. According to Granville Stuart, the Snake Indians interchangeably called the Salt River “To-sa car-nel” meaning “white lodges” in reference to a number of small white gyserite cones left along its course by extinct mineral springs, and “O-na-bit-a-pah,” which he translated to mean “salt water”, referring to the salt ledges and saline springs which occur along its principal tributaries, Crow and Stump Creeks.
Early residents of Star Valley were self-sufficient until the creation of creameries and dairies brought a cash economy. Forest grazing and logging have been continuous activities since the first settlers. Some coal mining was done in the Greys River area. Big game hunting, fishing and outfitting on public land also play important roles in the local economy.

LABARGE

LaBarge incorporated in 1982. The area was settled during the oil boom of the 1920's. It was first called Tulsa, but the name was changed because of confusion with the city in Oklahoma.

It was not long after the town was incorporated that Exxon announced it would be building its Shute Creek Plant. That brought a swell of population and economic impact assistance to the infant community.

Not far from the town of LaBarge is Names Hill. The oldest inscriptions date 1822. In 1825, J.J. Shay inscribed his name. Other names include that of John Danks in 1827, and J. Ames, May 4, 1830. The most famous inscription is that of Jim Bridger. Some question exists as to whether it was personally placed by Bridger in that he normally signed his name with an “X”.

OBJECTIVES

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

The County’s objectives are:

- To Support the wise use, conservation and protection of public lands and its resources including well-planned, outcome based, management prescriptions. It
acknowledges the need, on occasion, to place strict requirements on the management of some resources to provide needed protection, when it has been determined through scientific and supportable analysis that such needs exist, to protect such resources from irreparable harm.

- To ensure management decisions are accomplished with full participation of the County and supported by tested and true scientific data. Decisions shall fully analyze and disclose impacts on the Lincoln Basin economy tax base, culture, heritage, and life styles and rights of area residents.

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

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

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

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

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

- To support agriculture on private and public lands as part of the local economy,
custom, culture, heritage as well as the provision of a secure national food supply.

- To provide policies, plans, and other documents for governmental agency use to
ensure management and planning consistency with the County. To ensure
resource management and planning that is consistent with that of the County.

- To ensure that restrictions placed on any resource are based on analysis of trends,
need, and imposed only after a complete analysis.

- To ensure that lands designated open for various specified uses are available on a
timely basis and permits for such use are processed promptly. Extended delays or
no action shall not be used as a method to accomplish restrictions or protections.
Waivers modification or exception to restrictions must be provided for when
conditions exist or impacts can be mitigated to prevent irreparable damage to the
subject resource.

- Agriculture and grazing lands should continue to produce the food and fiber
needed by the citizens of the state and the nation, and the rural character and open
landscape of rural Wyoming should be preserved through a healthy and active
agricultural and grazing industry, consistent with private property rights and state
fiduciary duties.
MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

- Federal Agencies shall recognize and comply with the following principles when preparing any policies, plans, programs, process, or desired outcomes relating to federal lands and natural resources on federal lands pursuant to this section.
  
  o The citizens of the state are best served by applying multiple-use and sustained-yield principles.

- Multiple-use and sustained-yield management means that federal agencies should develop and implement management plans and make other resource-use decisions that:
  
  o achieve and maintain in perpetuity a high level annual or regular periodic output of mineral and various renewable resources from public lands;
  
  o support valid existing transportation, mineral, and grazing privileges at the highest reasonably sustainable levels;
  
  o support the specific plans, programs, processes, and policies of state agencies and local governments;
  
  o are designed to produce and provide the desired vegetation for the watersheds, timber, food, fiber, livestock forage, and wildlife forage, and minerals that are necessary to meet present needs and future economic growth, community expansion, without permanent impairment of the land;
  
  o meet the personal and business-related transportation needs of the citizens of the state;
  
  o meet the recreational needs of the citizens of the state;
  
  o meet the needs of wildlife;
• provide for the preservation of cultural resources, both historical and archaeological;
• meet the needs of economic development;
• is conducive to well planned and measured community development; and
• provide for the protection of water rights;
• proper stewardship of the land and natural resources is necessary to ensure the health of the watersheds, timber, forage, and wildlife resources to provide for a continuous supply of resources for the people of the county and local communities who depend on these resources for a sustainable economy;
• Forests, rangelands, 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 timber and logging industries;
    ▪ contribute to the state's economic stability and growth;
    ▪ are important for a wide variety of recreational pursuits;
• Management programs and initiatives that improve watersheds, forests, and increase forage for the mutual benefit of wildlife species and vital to the state's economy and the quality of life in Wyoming.
STRATEGIES:

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

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

Such agreements must provide that in the processes of coordination or cooperation, the county is as appropriate or required:

  o Provided a written report detailing how consistency with this policy analyzed with respect to their purpose action or plan. The report must identify where inconsistencies exist, any plausible way to correct the inconsistencies, and why consistency is not possible.

  o Provided a detailed economic analysis of the impact of agency action or proposed action on the County tax base and area economy. When more than one action is proposed the report must analyze cumulative impacts.

  o Provided a certification that applicable data used in development of a proposal or plan meets the requirements of the Environmental Quality Data Act.

  o Notified of any proposed action that may affect local culture, social structure, and heritage values.
Provided an opportunity for meaningful participation in the development, monitoring, and analyses of any studies conducted on resources associated with are public lands.

Engaged to determine the County’s ability to provide emergency services, law enforcement, water and waste management, search and rescue and other essential services needed to support the proposed action.

Queried to determine the impacts of proposed actions on traditional uses of resources such as recreation, grazing, energy development, wildlife, etc.

To the extent provided by law, provide the County cooperator status in the development of any NEPA analysis associated with proposed actions, public land management, or planning.

Keep the County fully informed of all management action proposed and allow adequate time to develop its position should it not be clearly defined in the County’s General Plan or subsequent Implementation Plans.

Provided in writing intentions for formal communications or consultation at the onset of any such discussions. Unless so stated, all communication will be considered to be informal.

PUBLIC LAND COMMITTEE

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

The duties of the public lands committee include the following:
• Ensure all relevant provisions of this policy are followed by federal and state agencies in the management of public lands.

• Improve dialogue and interaction between County residents and agency officials. The Public Lands Committee will utilize the expertise of citizens by encouraging and allowing input at public lands meetings and act as a public lands issues clearing house.

• Keep the county commission fully informed of proposed public land management actions and concerns.

POSITION’S STATEMENTS

The following position statements were developed to communicate the County’s position on various public land management issues and provide suggestions on how concerns may be addressed:

WILDERNESS DESIGNATIONS/ROADLESS

It is the County’s position that:

• The County’s support for any recommendations made under a statutory requirement to examine the wilderness option during the revision of land and resource management plans, or other methods will be withheld until it is clearly demonstrated that:
  o the duly adopted transportation plans of the state and county or counties within the planning area are fully and completely incorporated into the baseline inventory or information from which plan provisions are derived;
  o valid state or local roads and rights-of-way are recognized and not impaired in any way by the recommendations;
- the development of mineral resources by underground mining is not affected by the recommendations;
- the need for additional administrative or public roads necessary for the full use of the various multiple-uses, including recreation, mineral exploration and development, forest health activities, and grazing operations is not unduly affected by the recommendations;
- analysis and full disclosure is made concerning the balance of multiple-use management in the proposed areas, and that the analysis compares the full benefit of multiple-use management to the recreational, forest health, and economic needs of the state and the counties to the benefits of the requirements of wilderness management; and
- the conclusion of all studies related to the requirement to examine the wilderness option are submitted to the county for review and action, and results in support of or in opposition to, are included in any planning documents or other proposals that are forwarded to the United States Congress.

- Areas must merit the suitable requirements contained in the Wilderness Act of 1964 unless requirements are changed by congress.

- To manage public lands for “wilderness characteristics” circumvents the statutory wilderness process and is inconsistent with the multiple-use and sustained-yield management standard that applies to all Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service lands that are not wilderness study areas.
• The only legal designations of Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) are those designated under the Wilderness Act of 1964 and under section 603 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). On Bureau of Land Management Administered Lands the opportunity to create additional wilderness ended in 1991 except as authorized by Congress.

• Some or all of the WSA designations pending before congress are legally and/or technically flawed and will pursue that position when the WSAs go before Congress for approval.

• The 1999 Wilderness Study Area Planning Project and the Wilderness Inventory and Study Procedures H6310-1 were legally and technically flawed.

• The public lands that were determined to lack wilderness character during previous wilderness review processes cannot be managed as if they were wilderness based on new or revised views of wilderness character. These areas were studied and released and they must remain subject to the full range of multiple uses.

• That any new wilderness designations in the County by congress must be based on a collaborative process in which support for the wilderness designation is unanimous among federal, state and county officials.

• Any new wilderness designations or inventories must be provided for by congress and created in cooperation with the county and the state.

• All Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs) pending congress, which were not recommended for wilderness designation by the Secretary of Interior, shall be released and managed under for multiple use and sustained yield.
• Wilderness designation is not an appropriate, effective, efficient, economic or wise use of land. These lands can be adequately protected with existing management options.

• The creation of wilderness limits access for the elderly and the physically impaired. All wilderness management plans must provide for access for these individuals to the fullest extent possible, and provided for by law.

• Wilderness management must provide for continued and reasonable access to and development of property rights within the area and provide for full use and enjoyment of these rights.

• Management must ensure that a wilderness designation does not affect or override state authority over water resources and that Wyoming’s substantive and procedural laws controlling appropriation and allocation of water resources remain the primary authorities governing the water of Lincoln County. Wilderness designation does not create a reserved water right.

• Any interests in ditches, reservoirs or water conveyance facilities and easements or rights-of-way associated with those interests will be protected from impairment or diminution by wilderness or other special use designations.

• Wilderness Study Areas released by Congress must be managed based on the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. The management plans must be amended in a timely manner to reflect change in status.

**OTHER SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS**

It is the County’s position that:
• Special designations, such as wilderness, areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC), wild and scenic rivers, critical habitat, semi primitive and non-motorized travel, etc. result in single purpose or non-use and are detrimental to the area economy, life styles, culture, and heritage.

• Protections deemed necessary by the Agency can be provided by well planned and managed use.

• Designations must be made in accordance with the spirit and direction of the acts and regulations that created them.

• Designations not properly planned or managed are inconsistent with the mandates that public lands be managed for multiple use and sustained yield.

• No special designations should be proposed until it is determined and substantiated by verifiable scientific data that: a need exists for the designation, protections cannot be provided by other methods, and the area in question is truly unique when compared to other area lands.

• Special designations shall be opposed unless determined that:
  o it is not a substitute for a wilderness suitability recommendation;
  o it is not a substitute for managing areas inventoried for wilderness characteristics after 1993 under the BLM interim management plan for valid wilderness study areas;
  o it is not an excuse or justification to apply de facto wilderness management; and
that access and development of mineral resources have been fully
analyzed and such designations needs outweigh the loss of value of the
minerals and other resources.

ACEC'S

It is the County's position that:

- The County will oppose any designation of an Area of Critical
Environmental Concern (ACEC), as defined in 43 U.S.C. Sec. 1702, within
federal land management plans unless:
  - it is clearly demonstrated that the proposed area satisfies to meet all
    the definitional requirements of the Federal Land Policy and
    Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. Sec. 1702(a);
  - it is clearly demonstrated that the area proposed for designation as an
    ACEC is limited in geographic size and that the proposed
    management prescriptions are limited in scope to the minimum
    necessary to specifically protect and prevent irreparable damage to
    the relevant and important values identified, or limited in geographic
    size and management prescriptions to the minimum required to
    specifically protect human life or safety from natural hazards;
  - it is clearly demonstrated that the proposed area is limited only to
    areas that are already developed or used or to areas where no
    development is required;
○ it is clearly demonstrated that the proposed area contains relevant and important historic, cultural or scenic values, fish or wildlife resources, or natural processes which are unique or substantially significant on a regional basis, or contain natural hazards which significantly threaten human life or safety;

○ the federal agency has fully analyzed regional values, resources, processes, or hazards for irreparable damage and its potential causes resulting from potential actions which are consistent with the multiple-use, sustained-yield principles, and the analysis describes the rationale for any special management attention required to protect, or prevent irreparable damage to the values, resources, processes or hazards;

○ it is clearly demonstrated that the proposed designation is consistent with the plans and policies of the county where the proposed designation is located as those plans and policies are developed according to Subsection (3);

○ it is clearly demonstrated that the proposed ACEC designation will not be applied redundantly over existing protections provided by other state and federal laws for federal lands or resources on federal lands, and that the federal statutory requirement for special management addition to those specified by the other state and federal laws;
the difference between special management attention required for an ACEC and normal multiple-use management has been identified and justified, and that any determination of irreparable damage has been analyzed and justified for short and long term horizons.

**WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS**

- County support for the addition of a river segment to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, 16 U.S.C. Sec.1271 et seq., will be withheld until:
  - it is clearly demonstrated that water is present and flowing at all times;
  - it is clearly demonstrated that the required water-related value is considered outstandingly remarkable within a region of comparison, and that the rationale and justification for the conclusions are disclosed.

- The plans and policies of the state and the county or counties where the river segment is located as those plans and policies are developed according to:
  - the effects of the addition upon the local and state economies, agricultural and industrial operations and interests, outdoor recreation, water rights, water quality, water resource planning, and access to and across river corridors in both upstream and downstream directions from the proposed river segment have been evaluated in detail by the relevant federal agency;
  - it is clearly demonstrated that the provisions and terms of the process for review of potential additions have been applied in a consistent manner by all federal agencies;
  - the rationale and justification for the proposed addition, including a comparison with protections offered by other management tools, is
clearly analyzed within the multiple-use mandate, and the results disclosed;

- it is clearly demonstrated that the federal agency with management authority over the river segment, and which is proposing the segment for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System will not use the actual or proposed designation as a basis to impose management standards outside of the federal land management plan;
- it is clearly demonstrated that the terms and conditions of the federal land and resource management plan containing a recommendation for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System;

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

PREDATORS

It is the County’s position that:

• After desired population numbers, hunting must be the preferred method of
  population control and to prevent the movement outside of their designated
  range.

• Trapping is a historic and environmentally sound method of controlling predatory
  animals.

• Management of predator populations must support levels consistent with the
  optimum utilization of forage by wild and domestic ungulates.
• Supports control of predatory animals to reduce property damage and to protect wildlife and to protect the local economy and tax base, including the viability of the agriculture community.

• Supports control of predators, rodents and insects, which are disease-bearing vectors that are a recognized threat to public health.

• It is opposed to the creation or expansion of grizzly bear, wolf, wolverine, lynx populations, habitats, protection, recovery areas, ranges or migration corridors.

• Any plan for the management of a predator that has naturally, or through introduction or re-introduction, repopulated the County must provide for its control by any means when it travels from its designated range or becomes a threat to people, property, property rights, livestock, or other wildlife species.

• Any plan that provides for the introduction, reintroduction, natural repopulation, or the management of any predator must provide for timely compensation to owners for direct or indirect cost associated with the loss of life, loss or damage to livestock and property rights. Compensation must be equal to the actual value of the loss (not limited to market value) and included associated with development of such claims.

INTRODUCED, THREATENED, ENDANGERED, AND SENSITIVE SPECIES, RECOVERY PLANS, EXPERIMENTAL POPULATIONS

It is the County’s position that:

• After desired population numbers, hunting must be the preferred method of population control and to prevent the movement outside of their designated range.
• It is opposed to the creation or expansion of grizzly bear, wolf, wolverine, lynx populations, habitats, protection, ranges or migration corridors.

• Any plan for the management of a predator that has naturally or through introduction or re-introduction repopulated the County must provide for its control by any means when it travels from its designated range or becomes a threat to people, property, property rights, livestock, or other wildlife species.

• Any plan that provides for the introduction, reintroduction, natural repopulation, or the management of any predator must provide for timely compensation to owners for direct or indirect cost associated with the loss of life, loss or damage to livestock and property rights. Compensation must be equal to the actual value of the loss (not limited to market value) and included associated with development of such claims.

• Designations or reintroductions must not be allowed to grow beyond physical boundaries and scope resulting in detrimental effects on the economy, life styles, culture and heritage.

• No designations or reintroductions shall be made until it is determined and substantiated by verifiable scientific data that: there is a need for such action, protections cannot be provided by other methods, and the area in question is truly unique when compared to other area lands.

• Designation or reintroduction plans, guidelines, and protocols must not be developed or implemented without full public disclosure and involvement of the County.
• Recovery efforts and/or conservation plans for threatened or endangered species must consider impacts to local interests, including resource use and development activities such as ranching, agriculture, mining, oil and gas exploration and production, sand and gravel, wood products, power development and recreation.

• Recovery plans must provide indicators to track the effectiveness of the plan, identify at what point recovery is accomplished and be self-terminating when the point of recovery is reached.

• Lincoln County supports delisting of species once population goals are achieved, as set out in recovery plans.

• Recovery plans must contain provisions for management after the plan is terminated.

• To the greatest extent possible, any introductions or re-introductions of threatened or endangered species into the County or on lands adjacent to the County will be designated as nonessential experimental populations.

• Recommend management activities for habitat of endangered, threatened or sensitive species must be designed to benefit those species through habitat improvement. Current BLM policy treats candidate species and special status species (state sensitive species, etc.) as federally listed threatened and endangered species. This policy should cease until such time as NEPA analysis is completed for each such candidate or sensitive species, or they become listed.

**PUBLIC ACCESS/TRANSPORTATION**

It is the County’s position that:
• Access to and across public lands is critical to the use, management, and development of those lands and adjoining state and private lands.

• No roads, trails, rights-of-way, easements or other traditional access for the transportation of people, products, recreation, energy or livestock may be closed, abandoned, withdrawn, or have a change of use without full public disclosure and analysis.

• Future access must be planned and analyzed to determine its disposition at the completion of its intended life to ensure access is maintained. In the event that removal of access is deemed appropriate, resulting disturbances shall be reclaimed.

• County roads shall remain open. The County will take all necessary action to protect these rights, including identification, inventory, and participation in any legal processes.

• Proposed development plans must contain a transportation plan.

• Access to all water related facilities such as dams, reservoirs, delivery systems, monitoring facilities, livestock water and handling facilities, etc., must be maintained. This access must be economically feasible with respect to the method and timing of such access.

LAND EXCHANGES, ACQUISITIONS, AND SALES

It is the County’s position that:

• To the extent possible and provided for by law, provide access to public lands for all users including the elderly and the physically impaired. Prevent existing access from diminishing and create new access where a need exists.
• A private property owner has a right to dispose of or exchange his property as he/she sees fit within applicable law.

• Federal and state governments hold sufficient land to protect the public interest.

• There shall be no net loss of the private land base.

• No “net loss” shall be measured in acreage or fair market value.

• A private property owner should be protected from federal, state and county encroachment and/or coerced acquisition.

• The County shall be compensated for net loss of private lands with public lands of equal value. Tax base resulting from exchanges shall be compensated for by the appropriate acquiring agency.

• The County is to be consulted on any such actions.

• Lands must be made available for disposal under the recreation and public purposes act and special user act.

**RECREATION AND TOURISM**

It is the County’s position that:

• The area has outstanding potential for recreation and tourism.

• Resource development, recreation, and tourism are compatible when properly managed.

• Motorized, human, and animal-powered outdoor recreation should be integrated into a fair and balanced allocation of resources within the historical and cultural framework of multiple-uses in rural Wyoming, and outdoor recreation should be supported as part of a balanced plan of state and local economic support and growth;
Potential developments should include family oriented activities and developments that are accessible to the general public and not limited to special interest groups.

It supports cultivating recreational facility development and maintenance partnerships with other entities, agencies and special interest groups.

**WATER RESOURCES**

It is the County’s position that:

- All waters of the state are:
  - Subject to appropriation for beneficial use;
  - Essential to the future prosperity of the state and the quality of life within the state;

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

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

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

- An adequate supply of clean water is essential to the health of County residents and the continued growth of its economy.
• Agencies must analyze the effect of decisions on water quality, yields, and timing of those yields. Any action, lack of action, or permitted use that results in a significant or long term decrease in water quality or quantity will be opposed.

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

• Movement toward nationalization or federal control of Wyoming’s water resources or rights will be opposed.

• Privately held water rights should be protected from federal and/or state encroachment and/or coerced acquisition.

• The quality and quantity of water shall not be reduced below current levels.

• It will support projects that improve water quality and increase the amount and dependability of the water supply.

• All potential reservoir sites and delivery system corridors shall be protected from any federal or state action that would inhibit future use.

• Any proposed sale, lease or other exchange of water must adequately consider and satisfy the County’s interest and concerns.

• It will oppose any proposal that fails to benefit the County or compensate for losses to the county and/or its residents.

• It recognizes and will protect the existence of all legal canals, laterals, or ditch rights-of-way.
• All federal and state mandates governing water or water systems shall be
developed in cooperation with the County and be funded by those agencies.

• It supports livestock grazing and other managed uses of watershed and holds
that, if properly planned and managed, multiple use is compatible with
watershed management.

• It endorses Wyoming State water laws as the legal basis for all water use within
the County.

• Beneficial use is the basis for the appropriation of water in the State of
Wyoming.

• It will support all reasonable water conservation efforts. Water conserved
should be allocated to those persons or entities whose efforts created the
savings.

• Many wetlands are created by fugitive water from irrigation systems. When law
requires mitigation of impacts from conservation and other projects, the creation
of artificial wetlands should be considered only after all other mitigation
possibilities have been analyzed. Creation of artificial wetlands is contrary to
the intent of conservation.

• Managers of public lands must protect watersheds with respect to water quality
with the assurance that water yield will not be decreased but improved.

TIMBER

It is the County’s position that:

• All forested lands be managed for sustained yield and multiple use.
• Fire, timber harvesting, and treatment programs must be managed as to prevent waste of forest products.

• Management programs must provide for fuel load management to prevent catastrophic events and reduce fire potential at the urban interface.

• Management and harvest programs must be designed to provide opportunities for local citizens and small business.

ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCE

It is the County’s position that:

• To support of the National Energy Policy and to reduce the nations dependency on imported oil, all public lands must remain open to the greatest extent possible for the exploration and development of energy and energy related products. This is to be accomplished with full consideration of the impacts to other public land resources and uses.

• Continued access to energy and mineral resources associated with public lands is paramount to the well being of County residents and its economy, the State of Wyoming, National Economy and Security.

• It is technically feasible to permit appropriate access to mineral and energy resources while protecting other resources from irreparable harm.

• Resource management planning should seriously consider all mineral and energy resources.

• The waste of fluid and gaseous minerals within developed areas should be prohibited.
• The county support for mineral development provisions within federal land management plans will be withheld until the appropriate land management plan environmental impact statement clearly demonstrates:
  o that the authorized planning agency has:
    ▪ considered and evaluated the mineral and energy potential in all areas of the planning area as if the areas were open to mineral development under standard lease agreements; and
    ▪ evaluated any management plan prescription for its impact on the area’s baseline mineral and energy potential;
  o that the management stipulations do not unduly restrict access to public lands for energy exploration and development;
  o that the authorized planning agency has proposed any closure of additional areas to mineral leasing and development or any increase of acres subject to no surface occupancy restrictions without adhering to:
    ▪ the relevant provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C. Sec. 1701 et seq.;
    ▪ other controlling mineral development laws; and
  o that the authorized planning agency evaluated whether to repeal any moratorium that may exist on the issuance of additional mining patents and oil and gas leases;
that the authorized planning agency analyzed all proposed mineral lease stipulations and adopted the least restrictive necessary to protect against damage to other significant resource values;

that the authorized planning agency evaluated mineral lease restrictions to determine whether to waive, modify, or make exceptions to the restrictions on the basis that they are no longer necessary or effective;

that the authorized federal agency analyzed all areas proposed for no surface occupancy restrictions, and that the analysis evaluated:

- whether the directional drilling feasibility analysis, or analysis of other management prescriptions, demonstrates that the proposed no surface occupancy prescription, in effect, sterilizes the mineral and energy resources beneath the area; and

- if the minerals are effectively sterilized, the area must be reported as withdrawn under the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act;

that the authorized planning agency has evaluated all directional drilling requirements in no surface occupancy areas to determine whether directional drilling is feasible from an economic, ecological, and technical standpoint.

- Any proposal or action taken by state or federal agencies that may result in restrictions on reasonable and economical access to resources shall be opposed.

- Identification of energy and mineral potential and location is important for planning future needs and resource management. Such potential must be fully
analyzed with impacts of the proposed action and disclosed in any management or planning action.

- After environmental analysis, and as provided for in the governing resource management plan, all tracts open to leasing 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.

**WILD HORSES**

It is the County’s position that:

- We do not have any wild horses within Lincoln County, nor do we want any.

- The presence of uncontrolled and improperly managed wild horses on public lands within the County is cause for great concern. The possibility of the spread of equine diseases from uncontrolled and improperly managed wild horse herds on public lands are a threat to the County’s domestic horse industry and other aspects of the County’s economy.

- Wild horse populations can negatively impact private, state and federal land resources and the County’s economy by reducing forage available for wildlife and livestock.

- There are no Herd Management Areas (HMAs) in Lincoln County and any proposal to establish new or expand HMAs into Lincoln County will be opposed.
• All unauthorized feral horses are in trespass and must be removed from public lands. The BLM must proceed to remove all wild horses outside of HMAs and must remove all wild horses found on private and state land, upon request.

• An inclusive Herd Management Plan must be developed for each herd.

• Any Herd Management Plans must include provisions for periodic gathers of all horses in the unit to limit populations to meet agreed-upon levels, to remove trespass horses, and to test for equine diseases as prescribed by the Wyoming state veterinarian and prevent habitat degradation.

• Wild horses assigned to herd units must be identified to ensure that feral or fugitive horses are not assimilated into wild horse herds on public lands.

• Any future legally established herds must consist only of wild horses which possess Spanish Barb characteristics.

• Horse management plans must contain provisions for the maintenance of the health of wild horses and the prevention of equine diseases.

• No herds will be located in areas that do not provide barriers, natural or otherwise, to prevent herd movement, trespass to private lands, or mingling with domestic herds.

• As with livestock and wildlife, horses are subject to Wyoming Rangeland Standards that govern range land health.

**CULTURAL AND HERITAGE RESOURCES**

It is the County’s position that:

• All management decisions regarding cultural resources shall include appropriate opportunities for participation by the county.
• All management decisions providing for the protection of cultural resources must be based on the quality and significance of that particular resource.

• Sites and trails will be allocated to other resource users based on their natural and relative preservation value. Such use allocation must be based on cultural resources not areas of land.

• Potential adverse effects to significant and high quality cultural resources will be managed to the extent possible through avoidance and confidentiality of location being for other protections are considered.

• Many sites represent a unique culture and are closely related to early religious settlement of the area. They continue to have historical significance and are held by many residents as reverent or consecrated sites. These sites must be preserved and remain accessible.

• The preservation and perpetuation of heritage and culture is important to the area economy as well as to the life styles and quality of life of the basin residents.

• The maintenance of the resources and their physical attributes such as trails, cabins, livestock facilities, etc., is critical to present and future tourism development.

• The land, its people, and their heritage form an inseparable trinity for the majority of the area residents and this relationship must be considered in all proposed actions.
• Livestock grazing, the resulting lifestyles and imprint on the landscapes of the west are some of the oldest enduring and economically important cultural and heritage resources in the west, and must be preserved and perpetuated.

• It is the County’s position that the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) is the basis for cultural and historical preservation and defines federal agency’s responsibility for protection and preservation of County Cultural and heritage resources.

**SOILS**

It is the County’s position that:

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

• The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) soil survey is the basis for all public land soil related activities.

• It supports the need for completion of a NRCS soil survey that included both public and private land in the county.

• Soil related activities will be based on all available survey data until a final survey is published. Any deviation from this material or soil data developed outside of the survey must be coordinated with NRCS.

**AIR QUALITY**

It is the County’s position that:
- Maintaining the County's air quality at its current level is critical to the health and well being of its residents.
- A high level of air quality is important to future economic development as it reduces the possibility of restrictions being placed on that development due to air quality standards being exceeded.
- Air quality baselines for the County must be established with the full participation of the County.
- All air quality related plans and decisions must be based on deviation from a baseline standard established for the County.
- To maintain high air quality, the County must protect the air from degradation from non-area sources.

WILDLIFE

It is the County's position that:

- The County favors quickly and effectively adjusting wildlife population goals and population census numbers in response to variations in the amount of available forage caused by catastrophic events, drought, or other climatic adjustments.
- Properly managed wildlife populations are important to the area's recreation and tourism economy and the preservation of the culture and lifestyles of its residents.
- With proper management and planning, healthy wildlife populations are not incompatible with other resource development.
• Wildlife numbers must remain at the allocated level until studies and analyses are completed to determine the ability of forage resources to support population and species trends, and impacts on other wildlife species has been assessed.

• Reduction in forage allocation resulting from forage studies, drought, or other natural disasters shall be shared proportionately by wildlife.

• Wildlife target levels and/or populations must not exceed the forage assigned to wildlife in forage allocations.

• In evaluating a proposed introduction, or reintroduction, of wildlife species, priority will be given to species that will provide increased recreational activities.

• Predator and wildlife numbers must be controlled at levels that protects livestock and other private property from loss or damage and prevents the decline of other wildlife species populations.

• Impacts of development can be mitigated more efficiently in a planned manner through wildlife habitat mitigation banking. When implemented, this system could provide much needed habitat for wildlife while providing for multiple use.

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

**FORAGE ALLOCATION/LIVESTOCK GRAZING**

It is the County's position that:
• Management of public lands must maintain and enhance public land grazing to retain its contribution to the local economy, customs, culture and heritage as well as a secure national food supply.

• Forests, rangelands, and watersheds, in a healthy condition, are necessary and beneficial for wildlife, livestock grazing, and other multiple-uses.

• Management programs and initiatives that are implemented to 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 County were classified as chiefly valuable for livestock grazing and were withdrawn from operation of most of the public land laws. The available forage was then allocated between wildlife and grazing preference holders, such that the established grazing preference represented the best professional judgment of the Bureau of Land Management at that time. The government cannot properly change these decisions without amending the original withdrawal and revising the land use plan based upon sound and valid monitoring data.

• Forage allocated to livestock may not be reduced for allocation to other uses. Current livestock allocation will be maintained.

• The government agencies should support financially the needed structural and vegetation improvements to ensure there is sufficient forage, especially when there is pressure from other land uses.

• The continued viability of livestock operations and the livestock industry should be supported on the federal lands within the County by management of the lands
and forage resources, by the proper optimization of animal unit months for livestock, in accordance with the multiple use provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, 43 U.S.C 1701 et seq., the provisions of the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, 43 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.

- Land management plans, programs, and initiatives should provide that the amount of domestic livestock forage, expressed in animal unit months, for permitted, active use as well as wildlife forage, be no less than the maximum number of animal unit months sustainable by range conditions in grazing allotments and districts, based on an on-the-ground and scientific analysis.

- The county opposes the relinquishment or retirement of grazing animal unit months in favor of conservation, wildlife, horses and other uses.

- The County opposes the transfer of grazing animal unit months to wildlife or horses.

- Any reductions in domestic livestock animal unit months must be temporary and scientifically based upon rangeland conditions.

- Policies, plans, programs, initiatives, resource management plans, and forest plans may not allow the placement of grazing animal unit months in a suspended use category unless there is a rational and scientific determination that the condition of the rangeland allotment or district in question will not sustain the animal unit months proposed to be placed in suspended use.

- Any grazing animal unit months that are placed in a suspended use category should be returned to active use when range conditions improve.
• Policies, plans, programs, and initiatives related to vegetation management should recognize and uphold the preference for domestic grazing over alternate forage uses in established grazing districts while upholding management practices that optimize and expand forage for grazing and wildlife in conjunction with state wildlife management plans and programs in order to provide maximum available forage for all uses.

• In established grazing districts, animal unit months that have been reduced due to rangeland health concerns should be restored to livestock when rangeland conditions improve, and should not be converted to wildlife use.

• The proper management and allocation of forage on public lands is critical to the viability of the County's agriculture, recreation and tourism industry.

• Management of forage resources directly affects water quality and water yields.

• Increases in available forage resulting from a conservation practice, improved range condition, or development of improvements by the livestock operators or other allocated forage users will be credited to that use.

• Lincoln County will oppose any agency efforts to restrict the development of livestock water or other rangeland improvements.

• Increases in available forage resulting from practices or improvements implemented by managing agencies will be allocated proportionately to all forage allocations, unless the funding source specifies the benefactor.

• Upon termination of a permit, livestock permittee will be compensated for the remaining value of improvements or be allowed to remove such improvements that permittee made on his/her allotment.
• Forage reductions resulting from forage studies, fire, drought or other natural
  disasters will be implemented on an allotment basis and applied proportionately
  based on the respective allocation to livestock, wildlife and wild horses.
  Reductions resulting from forage studies will be applied to the allocated use
  responsible for the forage impact.

• Rangeland health assessments must identify all causal factors (such as wildlife,
  weather, fire, etc.) when there is a failure to meet the Wyoming Standards for
  Healthy Rangelands. Livestock grazing uses are not to be reduced to
  compensate for or mitigate the impacts of other causal factors.

• Permittee may sell or exchange permits. Such transaction shall be promptly
  processed.

• Changes in season of use or forage allocation must not be made without full and
  meaningful consultation with permittee.

• The permitted seasons of use set forth in a management plan may be adjusted
  and still be in conformance with the plan if:

  1. meeting, maintaining, or making progress towards meeting for range
     management officially adopted by the managing agency

  2. managing agency and the permittee sign an agreement documenting
     monitoring plan

  3. with coordination, consultation and cooperation, the managing agency
     develop grazing management practices determined necessary including
     those that provide for physiological requirements of desired plants.
• Livestock allocations must be protected from encroachment by wild horses and wildlife.

• Increases or decreases in grazing allocations reflecting changes in available forage will be based on the vegetative type of that forage and applied proportionately to livestock or wildlife based on their respective dietary need.

• Federal law provides that the seasons of use are part of the grazing permit and these terms cannot be unilaterally changed.

• NEPA documents addressing the impacts from field development must also provide for mitigation and compensation to the affected ranchers for loss of grazing and disruption.

• Lincoln County supports the Wyoming State-wide Bighorn/Domestic Sheep Interaction Working Group Report (September 2004 -copy attached) with respect to management of domestic sheep allotments.

• Lincoln County recognizes no “core native” Bighorn sheep areas within the County.

• There is no specific basis for “open range or forest” transmission of pasteurella from domestic sheep to Bighorn sheep.

• Lincoln County opposes the use of separation buffers for domestic sheep but will only support voluntary separation on a case by case basis.

• Lincoln County will only support voluntary retirement or changes from domestic federal allotments (no Federal Agency forced vacating of domestic sheep allotments for Bighorn Sheep purposes).
PALEONTOLOGY/ARCHEOLOGY/GEOLOGY

It is the County’s position that:

- All significant discoveries found in the area should remain here.

- Management Plans must provide opportunity for amateur collectors and students of these sciences to study, explore for, and collect related items as provided for by law.

- Public land management agencies should promote these resources with educational material, signage, and information centers where appropriate.

OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES (OHV)

It is the County’s position that:

- Off–highway vehicles should be used responsibly, the management of off-highway vehicles should be uniform across all jurisdictions, and laws related to the use of off-highway vehicles should be uniformly applied across all jurisdictions.

- OHV’s have become an important segment of the County recreation industry and is an important tool and mode of transportation for farmers, ranchers, and resource development.

- It will support limiting OHV use and travel to existing roads, trails, and designated trail systems.

- Support the identification of OHV loops and trail systems that respond to current and future demand for motorized recreation.

- When the necessity for a closure has been established, additional trails and areas must be opened to offset the loss of that recreational opportunity.
• Public land management agencies must implement and maintain an aggressive OHV education and enforcement program on reduction of resource impacts.

• The non-recreational use of OHVs, such as development and livestock operations, must be provided for in all areas unless restricted by law.

**MITIGATION/HABITAT IMPROVEMENT**

The best method for accomplishing well planned, successful, habitat improvements is through a local habitat collaborative planning group. Facilitated by the County, this group should consist of local governments, federal and state resource managers, industry, livestock operators, private land owners, sportsman, and special interest groups interested in the creation of productive and properly functioning habitats. It is the County’s position that:

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

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

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

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

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

• The most cost effective method is to pool committed mitigation funds to fund larger efforts to mitigate the impacts of multiple impacts.
• It favors habitat projects that are jointly sponsored by cattlemen’s, sportsmen’s, and wildlife groups such as chaining, logging, seeding, burning, and other direct soil and vegetation prescriptions that are demonstrated to restore forest and rangeland health, increase forage, and improve watersheds in grazing districts and allotments for the mutual benefit of domestic livestock, wildlife, and watersheds.

TRANSPORTATION

It is the County’s position that:

• Resource plans must provide for, at a minimum, a network of roads on public lands that provides for:
  o movement of people, goods, and services across public lands;
  o access to federal lands for people with disabilities and the elderly;
  o access to state lands and school and institutional trust lands to accomplish the purposes of those lands;
  o access to inholdings and for the development and use of property rights;
  o reasonable access to a broad range of resources and opportunities throughout the resource planning area including:
    ▪ search and rescue needs;
    ▪ public safety needs;
    ▪ access for transportation of wood products to market.
    ▪ predator control
  o public safety
o access for people with disabilities and the elderly;

o access to state lands and other inholdings and development of property rights;

o recreational opportunities.

- Transportation and access provisions for all other existing routes, roads, and trails across federal, state, and school trust lands within the state should be determined and identified, and agreements should be executed and implemented, as necessary to fully authorize and determine responsibility for maintenance of all routes, roads, and trails.

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

- The County opposes any additional evaluation of national forest service lands as "roadless" or "unroaded" beyond the forest service's second roadless area review evaluation and opposes efforts by agencies to specially manage those areas in a way that:

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

  o permanently bars travel on existing roads;

  o excludes or diminishes traditional multiple-use activities, including grazing and proper forest harvesting;
o interferes with the enjoyment and use of valid, existing rights, including water rights, local transportation plan rights, grazing allotment rights, and mineral leasing rights; or

o prohibits development of additional roads reasonably necessary to pursue traditional multiple-use activities;

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

  o established roads are not referred to as unclassified roads or a similar classification;

  o lands in the vicinity of established roads are managed under the multiple-use, sustained yield management standard; and

  o no roadless or unroaded evaluations or inventories are recognized or upheld beyond those that were recognized or upheld in the forest service’s second roadless area review evaluation.

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