

Long Range Plans

A long range plan may be less detailed but identifies issues and activities that span several years. Long range plans are generally developed every 5 years to serve as a broad outline identifying long range opportunities for the management and conservation of resources within the district. A long-range plan should outline what needs to be done and describe how and when the objectives or solutions are to be accomplished. It should function as a practical guide for the planning and accomplishment of work by the district, its cooperators and associated agencies. A carefully prepared long-range plan identifies the district's objectives in priorities that are relevant to present and future needs of the area it serves. All interested constituents and others such as agencies, organizations, county commissioners and legislators should be directly involved in developing the long-range plan. It is imperative that all interested parties feel ownership and are involved with district planning and natural resource improvement efforts.

Long Range Plans are a requirement to obtain state funding as per Conservation District developed policy.

Purpose

1. Serves as a guide for the district's long range goals and objectives
2. Describes activities and demonstrates district functions, needs and goals not only for the district, but for interested agencies and groups.
3. Reflects the conservation and natural resource needs of the district's individual landowners.
4. Serves as the basis for the annual plan of work.
5. Provide a mechanism for creating a common vision and direction for the local Conservation District Board of Supervisors
6. Usually updated every 5 years as progress is made, new problems arise and opportunities emerge.

Components

Long Range Plans should include the following components:

- Introduction describing the district resource base and history (should be brief)
- Goals and Objectives for the Conservation Districts priority resource conservation areas, i.e. conservation forestry, water quality, education
- Any policy the board would utilize to implement the goals and objectives
- Policy to coordinate with state and federal land management agencies, i.e. district policy on timber harvesting practices, grazing practices supported, etc.

Making the Long Range Plan a Recognized document

- Districts should adopt the plan pursuant to the Wyoming Administrative Procedures Act (APA) by formal resolution and file with the County Clerk's office.
 - [Sample Public Notice as per APA](#)
 - [Rules on Rules – Preparation and Filing of Rules by Local Agencies](#)
 - [Sample Certification – See Appendix A](#)
- Long Range Plans should be sent via certified return receipt to all applicable state and/or federal agencies to ensure the plan has been received.

- If one of your district's priorities is to coordinate with federal land management agencies and influence their decisions, WACD recommends you title the plan "Land Use and Natural Resource Management Plan," to be consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Relating your long range plan to your watershed plan is a decision of the local district board. The long range plan may contain language or a goal setting forth the district intent to develop a comprehensive watershed plan. Once a watershed plan is completed, it is recommended that the district amend the Long Range plan to include the watershed plan as a component.

To ensure your Long Range Plan remains a dynamic document, it should include methods for measuring and monitoring successful implementation. The plan should be provided to any individual interested in being a candidate for district supervisor. The plan should also be reviewed by the district supervisors, staff and partner agencies once a year.

Every district should have a current long-range plan on file. A copy of long-range plans must be submitted to the Wyoming Department of Agriculture and Wyoming Association to receive base state funding.