

District employees can serve as full committee members on area standing committees, but the committee chairperson must be a supervisor. District employees can serve in an advisory capacity on state standing committees, however, voting members shall be elected supervisors.

Section 17. **Publications.** The Association may make provisions for the publication of a newsletter.

Section 18. **Rules of Order.** Meetings of the Board of Directors and the Association shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order Revised unless inconsistent with any policy or special rule adopted by the Association or the Board of Directors.

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CONSERVATION FORESTRY

Policy #1: MANAGEMENT OF FORESTED AREAS - WACD supports the sustainable management of forested areas within the state to improve overall health and productivity while maintaining the economic viability of land-owners, industry and communities that depend on those forested lands. (Sunset – 2010)

Policy #2: MULTIPLE USE - WACD supports the multiple use concept of management in the national forests and other public forests. (Sunset – 2010)

Policy #3: TREE PLANTING - WACD supports the planting and care of trees to protect and enhance the natural and economic resources. (Adopted – 90 - Sunset - 2010)

Policy #4: TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER - WACD supports the development and transfer of information and technology to improve the success and viability of Conservation Districts tree plantings. (Adopted – 90 - Sunset - 2010)

Policy #5: WOODY PLANTS - WACD supports the use and application of alternative woody plants to assist in the diversification of landowner income. (Adopted - 01, Sunset - 2010)

Policy #6: FOREST HEALTH

- 1) WACD recognizes that current fuel loads on forested properties pose an imminent threat to the lives, property and economic stability of Wyoming citizens as a result of extreme and unreasonable risk of catastrophic fire danger as evidenced by the past three fire seasons,
- 2) WACD agrees with the four principal dimensions as outlined by the National Forest County Partnership Restoration Program to address the existing extreme fire potential which are:
 - a) Community based collaboration with stake holders;
 - b) Integration of best management that incorporate peer reviewed science
 - c) Expedited implementation of watershed and landscape restoration and enhancements projects at the stand and landscape levels; and
 - d) Flexibility in authorities and programming.
- 3) Wyoming Conservation Districts should examine criteria for the USDA – Forest Service competitive grant process for the National Fire Plan to determine avenues to improve ranking of projects from Wyoming designed to address wildfire fuels mitigation; and practices ;

an emergency, meetings may be called on shorter notice if this is later approved by a quorum. Special meetings of the Board shall be called by the President upon the written request of a majority of the Directors at a time and place designated by them.

3. The Districts within each of the five designated areas shall hold an annual meeting, with the assistance of the Area Directors, and at a time and place designated by them after consultation with the Districts of the area, for the discussion of common goals, issues, and concerns and for the purpose of making recommendations to the Association. Each District is allowed one voting delegate and shall send a voting delegate to the meeting of the Directors of it's area.

4. The President and past President, Vice President or member of the Board shall be council member and alternate council member at the annual convention of the National Association of Conservation District. The WACD Board shall elect a councilman and alternate councilman. In the event that no such representative is elected, the President of the Association shall represent Wyoming at such national annual convention as council member, and the Vice President shall serve as alternate council member. The WACD shall nominate the NACD Board of Director from Wyoming.
5. A majority of the members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the Board. A majority of the voting delegates shall constitute a quorum at any annual or special meeting of the members of the Association.
6. Resolutions may be considered by the voting delegates at the annual meeting only if they have been proposed by: the Board of Directors, a WACD Committee appointed by the President, or a majority vote of the Districts present at an area meeting, and providing that they have been submitted to the Districts for review 30 days prior to the annual meeting. Resolution of an emergency nature which do not meet the 30 day notice requirement may be considered upon recommendation of a resolutions committee (WACD District Operations Committee), and a motion to consider the emergency resolution has been approved by a ¾ majority vote of the voting delegates present at the annual meeting.

Section 16. **Committees.** The Board of Directors may create by Board action or resolution any necessary committees and define their functions. Each regular committee member must be a WACD member.

of the Association. The President may delegate to the other Area Director of his area or Alternate Director of his area any or all of his duties, and may revoke any such delegation at any time. During such time as any duties as Area Director have been thus delegated by the President, the Alternate Area Director shall serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors, and the President shall waive his voting privileges.

2. The Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall each perform the duties customarily performed by holders of their respective offices, and such other functions as the President or Board of Directors may assign to any of them. In case of death, resignation, or disability of any Officer, the Board of Directors may declare the office vacant and elect a successor. The officers of the Association shall assist all committees in the performance of their responsibilities.

3. The Treasurer or District Operations Chairperson shall deposit all funds that come into his/her possession in a bank selected by the Board of Directors and, in accordance with the approved budget or authorization by the Board or the President, make all disbursements by check therefrom for the necessary expenses of the Association. Checks shall be signed by the Treasurer or District Operation Chairperson and the Executive Director. The Treasurer or District Operations Chairperson shall submit to the Board at each annual meeting statements showing the receipts and disbursements of the Association for the preceding year and it's assets and liabilities. He/She shall furnish to the Association a bond conditioned upon the faithful performance of his/her duties, in such form and amount as the Board shall prescribe, and the premium for the bond shall be paid out of the funds of the Association.

Section 15. Meetings.

1. An annual meeting of the Conservation Districts of Wyoming, who are the members of this Association, shall be held for the discussion of common goals, issues, and concerns at a time and place chosen by the Board of Directors after suitable consultation with the members. The annual meeting shall rotate between each of the five WACD areas.

2. The Board of Directors shall meet during the annual meeting of the members, and shall hold such additional meetings as may be called from time to time by the President, at such time and place as the President may designate with not less than 20 days notice to the Directors. In cases of

Conservation Forestry continued

4) WACD desires to offer conclusions and proposals for action that are consistent with the following: (a) avoid management scenarios that result in a static forest condition; (b) not restrict management actions to a particular size or age of wood material; (c) concentrate activities on current condition as compared to desired condition; (d) contains an aggressive time table for management implementation; (e) uses a systemic, diagnostic approach to anticipate forest health problem; (f) works with and not against nature; (g) accurately accounts for forest health costs and uses a long term risk analysis; (h) prepares the forest for inevitable periods of drought and encourages research into climate/forest health relationship; and that the aforementioned forest management scenarios utilize sylviculturally sound harvest of forest products and materials to finance non-commercial management prescriptions to meet desired condition or funded in conjunction with local, state or federal programs

5) WACD encourages Wyoming Conservation Districts to take the following actions to assist in ensuring healthy and sustainable Wyoming forests:

A) Wyoming Conservation Districts should be encouraged to become actively involved in multi-jurisdictional / county level coordinating committees such as those formed under the National Fire Plan, or where these committees do not currently exist, initiate committee formation to address forest management concerns; and

B) Wyoming Conservation Districts shall be encouraged to provide review and comments to pre-planning project implementation, EA's, and EIS's, document development;

C) Wyoming Conservation Districts should seek cooperating agency status, where appropriate and capacity within the district exists, either as a independent appointment or under the state of Wyoming umbrella, to facilitate input into planning and management for Wyoming forest lands, and

6) The Conservation Districts support the National Forest County Partnership Restoration Program to formulate a multi-year plan that encompasses: a) Community-based cooperation with stake holders; b) Integration of best management practices that incorporate peer reviewed science; c) Expedited implementation of forest and watershed enhancement projects at the stand and landscape levels; and d) flexibility in authorities and planning.
(Adopted –02, Sunset - 2010)

Policy #7: FOREST MANAGEMENT

The objectives of the Conservation Districts are to promote conservation of soil and wildlife, to promote the sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit of people, and to support the economy and tax base of local communities. Therefore, the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts fully supports the policies and positions of the National Association of Conservation Districts (cited below)

Conservation Forestry continued

and efforts by the state and federal government to improve the management of our forestlands. Further, WACD urges congressional representatives and governors of the Western states to support federal and state policy and legislation that will facilitate thinning, prescribed burning, and prescribed grazing to improve the condition of Western forest and rangeland watersheds. WACD also supports development of markets for sale of products derived from such treatments and/or exchange of wood and forage for services performed by private entities to offset the costs of these management actions. Income from these sources will save the taxpayers money and benefit the economy of local communities.

National Association of Conservation Districts Selected Policy Statements on Forest Management (Quoted from NACD Policy Positions 2002)

“The BLM, through the FEHRF, should utilize silvicultural treatments consistent with the 1998 congressional expanded authority to improve the health of forested ecosystems on public lands. Projects should also restore watershed conditions and improve forest ecosystem health and integrity through density reduction and an aggressive fuels management program...” (Section II, B, 4)

“NACD urges the USFS to support salvage timber sales and other sales wherever stands of trees require this to maintain a healthy, viable forest and the reduce the amount of dead wood accumulation with National Forests (Section II, B, 6)

“Because of past management practices and fire suppression, many of our forests administered by Federal agencies have accumulated fuel loads and developed stand structures susceptible to catastrophic fires that destroy the soil and increase the risk of insect and disease attack. Silvicultural practices such as prescribed fire, density control of harvest of commercial forest products can reduce the frequency and intensity of extreme fire events, while benefiting local, regional, and national economies. NACD supports changes in legislation and agency policies budgets that allow conducting effective prescribed fire, pre-suppression activity, and silviculture treatments to accomplish that end.” (Sect II, J, 1)

“NACD supports the Secretary of Interior and Secretary of Agriculture in their efforts to conduct fuel reduction treatments in the urban wildland interface within the vicinity of Federal lands that are at risk from wildfire.”
(Sect II, J, 5)

it deems proper.

6. It shall coordinate activities of Conservation Districts with the Wyoming Board of Agriculture, as deemed necessary.

Section 12. **The Officers: Terms of Office.** The officers of the Association shall be a President, a Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Secretary and Treasurer shall be appointed. The Treasurer need not be a member of the Board of Directors, but shall be an elected supervisor. The nominees shall be from the Board of Directors. The term of office for the President and Vice President shall be for two years. The President and Vice President shall be voted on during the annual business meeting by all the voting delegates present. The Executive Director of the Association shall serve as Secretary or may appoint a designee, for the Association. Officers shall assume duties and responsibilities at the conclusion of the Association annual meeting.

Section 13. **Nomination of Officers.** A committee consisting of one elected supervisor from each area shall nominate the President and Vice President from the Board of Directors. The nominating committee members shall be referred to as Councilmen. The Councilmen shall be elected during area meetings. Councilmen shall serve two year terms not to exceed two consecutive terms.

Section 14. **Powers and Duties of Officers.**

1. The President shall preside at meetings of the Board of Directors and at the annual meeting and all other meetings of the members of the Association, and shall designate a presiding officer at which neither he/she nor the Vice President will be present. He/She shall be responsible for seeing that the policies of the Association are carried out in accordance with the applicable procedures and requirements. He/She is authorized to perform the functions customarily performed by the President of an Association or corporation. He/She is authorized to delegate to one or more officers from time to time the performance of any of his functions or responsibilities, to supervise the performance of such delegated duties, and to revoke any such delegation at any time. He/She shall perform such further duties as shall be assigned to the President from time to time by the board of Directors or by resolution approved at a meeting of the members

be divided into five areas by the Board of Directors, and the Board may, after consultation with the affected Districts modify the boundaries of the areas from time to time. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term by the alternate director who shall become a director. Each director, and alternate director, will serve two year terms. Any supervisor shall be eligible for election as a Director. A Director shall at all times be an elected supervisor.

Section 11. Powers and Duties of the Board. The Board of Directors shall have the following powers and duties:

1. It shall determine the policies and procedures of the Association and shall formulate and keep current a written plan of action for the Association, all of which shall be consistent with the purposes stated in the Constitution, the action plan shall be developed by the Districts and implemented by the Board of Directors.
2. It shall make provision for the annual meeting of the members of the Association and such meetings of the Board of Directors as it may deem advisable, and shall facilitate area meetings or other special meetings of Association members.
3. It shall keep the members of the Association currently informed of the Association's affairs and activities, and of the programs, accomplishments, and problems of the Districts in Wyoming.
4. The Board of Directors shall develop and present an annual budget to the membership. The budget shall be approved by the membership at the annual business meeting. The Board shall amend the budget as necessary and bring the budget amendments to the annual business meeting for explanation. The Board shall fix the rate of compensation of employees, authorize payment of necessary expenses and determine matters relating to any publications of the Association's financial affairs. The WACD Board of Directors will have a third party review conducted of the Association's finances annually, unless otherwise specified by law or stipulated by funders and/or contributors. The WACD Board of Directors and membership reserve the right to call for an audit of the Association's financial records at any time other than those specified above, based on a majority vote of the Association's members during the annual business meeting.
5. It may delegate functions or duties to the President, or other officers, or the Executive Director of the Association subject to such conditions as

Conservation Forestry continued

“There are more than five million acres of overly dense stands of public forestlands at high risk of loss due to catastrophic disease infestation and wildfire. NACD encourages Congress to pass legislation that commands federal agencies to take aggressive action to restore Western forests without size restrictions on cut trees and promotes a policy of private enterprise.” (Section II.J.7)

“The National Association of Conservation Districts urges the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to develop management policies that include consideration of the beneficial effects of planned grazing. NACD also urges Congress to support adequate additional appropriations for the purpose in the next fiscal year.” (Adopted - 03, Sunset - 2009)

DISTRICT OPERATIONS/EDUCATION

Policy #1: DISTRICT STATE APPROPRIATION - WACD strongly endorses the continuation of state appropriations for conservation districts for local district programs. (No sunset date assigned)

Policy #2: LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUNDS - WACD supports NACD in urging Congress to amend legislation necessary to allow conservation districts to be eligible to receive Land and Water Conservation Funds at the local level. Local match requirements should be waived for conservation districts. (Adopted – 90, Sunset - 2009)

Policy #3: NRCS FIELD STAFF - WACD will aggressively pursue and support increased funds for field staff from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. (Adopted – 89, No Sunset)

Policy #4: SUPERVISOR TRAINING - WACD strongly requests the Wyoming Department of Agriculture to provide new supervisor orientation training. (Adopted – 89, No Sunset)

Policy #5: WACD POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT - WACD cannot participate in Political Action Campaigns on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. However, WACD can engage in some political activities so long as that is not its primary activity and any expenditure for political activities would be taxed. (Adopted – 82, Sunset - 2009)

Policy #6: MINERAL TRUST FUND/STATE AGENCY FUNDING - WACD believes:

- a) Any transfer of monies from the permanent mineral trust fund should be made by a vote of the people as mandated by constitutional amendment.
- b) Any such transfers are limited to projects of overall benefit to Wyoming.
- c) No trust fund account is created for the operational support of individual state agencies.
- d) Any state agency receiving funds for any general benefit shall project submit its entire budget for legislative scrutiny. (Adopted – 81, Sunset - 2010)

Policy #7: FEDERAL LAND OWNERSHIP - WACD supports the transfer of ownership of all federal lands, except those especially authorized by the US constitution to the state in which they lie. (Adopted – 79, Sunset - 2010)

Section 6. **Amendments.** This Constitution may be amended at the annual or any special meeting of the Association by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voting delegates of each member District present and voting. No proposed amendment shall be voted upon at any meeting of the voting delegates unless it shall have been submitted to the Board of Directors and the members of the Association at least thirty days prior to the meeting of the voting delegates at which it is to be voted upon, or unless it has been proposed by the Board of Directors or one of the Association's standing Committees.

Section 7. **The Voting Delegates.** Every Conservation District in the State of Wyoming shall be deemed to be a voting member of this Association. Each District shall be entitled to one vote on every question put to a vote at any meeting. Voting delegates shall be elected Supervisors of the District they are representing.

Section 8. **Membership Dues.** Each District will pay the Association as annual dues an amount to be determined annually by the Board of Directors; and, in addition thereto, a seating fee of \$10.00 annually, for voting privileges. The Board of Directors shall be guided in determining the amount of the annual dues by the recommendations of the District Operations Committee and the resolutions approved by the voting members at the annual convention.

Section 9. **Non-Voting Members.** The non-voting members shall be those persons, firms, associations or corporations who shall apply for such membership and shall make the required financial contribution to the Association. The non-voting members shall be eligible to attend the meetings of the Association and to receive its publications.

Section 10. **Board of Directors: Terms of Office.** The affairs of the Association shall be managed by a Board of Directors consisting of ten members, two shall be elected from his/her respective areas. A 1st alternate director shall likewise be elected from each area. At WACD Board meetings, including any special meeting or conference call meeting that may be held, the alternate Director for that area may serve as a voting Director during the Area Director's absence. The State of Wyoming shall

Constitution and By-Laws
of the
Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts

As Amended November 2005

Constitution & Bylaws

Section 1. Name. The name of the Association shall be Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts. The official abbreviation of it's name shall be WACD.

Section 2. Purpose. The Association is organized for educational and scientific purposes. The Association shall promote and assist educational and scientific work concerning Conservation District programs in the conservation, maintenance, improvement, and wise use of land, soil, water, trees, vegetation, wildlife, open-space and other renewable natural resources.

Section 3. Restrictions. No part of the net earnings of the Association shall ensure to the benefit of or be distributed to it's members, Directors, officers, or other private persons except that the Association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in the furtherance of the purposes set forth in Section 2.

Section 4. Dissolution. Upon the dissolution of the Association, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the Association, dispose of all assets of the Association, exclusively for the purposes of the Association in such manner as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the appropriate court of the county in which the principal office of the Association is then located, exclusively for such purpose or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Section 5. Adoption of By-Laws. The members of the Association shall adopt, and may from time to time amend, By-Laws for the Association to define it's organization and procedures.

District Operations/Education Continued

Policy #8: COORDINATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - WACD promotes that the local Conservation Districts be the sponsoring agencies of Coordinated Resource Management (CRM). Therefore, this will ensure that CRM remains voluntary and is exempt from the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). (Adopted – 96, Sunset - 2010)

Policy #9: LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION - WACD jointly with the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, Wyoming Wool Growers Association and Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation will produce an agriculture education packet for all Wyoming Legislators with the cost not to exceed \$1000 or \$250 per organization. Legislators will receive both a printed and electronic copy on issues including, but not limited to, in-stream flow, wolf management, vocational education, public access/private property, the Farm Bureau Ag Tax Brochure, implement tax, general Ag information, and the Wyoming Ag Survey. (Adopted –02, Sunset - 2008)

Policy #10:ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - WACD will promote a philosophy that includes an integrated economic development infrastructure in the State of Wyoming. It should include but not be limited to upfront money and business model advice, low interest rate loans, and long term financing. Investment in projects that add value to Wyoming agriculture strengthens those industries and the overall Wyoming economy. (Adopted – 02, Sunset - 2008)

Policy #11: YOUTH EDUCATION - WACD endorses conservation of natural resource curriculum for youth education. The goal for a comprehensive program is a learning process designed to help young people develop an awareness of the natural environment, how it functions as a whole and how to sustain it. (Adopted – 90, Sunset - 2008)

Policy #12: NRCS & DISTRICT TRAINING - WACD supports updating research and training needs to improve the knowledge of Conservation Districts and Natural Resources Conservation Service staff, who provide land users the most economically feasible Best Management Practices relating to soil, water, climate, and plant relationships for the conservation of Wyoming's resources. (Adopted – 90, Sunset 2010)

Policy #13: CONSERVATION EDUCATION - WACD supports teacher education institutions incorporating conservation education into state and district standards. (Adopted – 90, Sunset - 2008)

District Operations/Education Continued

Policy #14: CONSERVATION CONTESTS - WACD supports range, soil and other conservation contests and events. (Adopted – 84, Sunset - 2010)

Policy #15: ENVIRONMENT - WACD promotes Environment education curriculum and academic competition. (Adopted – 97, Sunset - 2010)

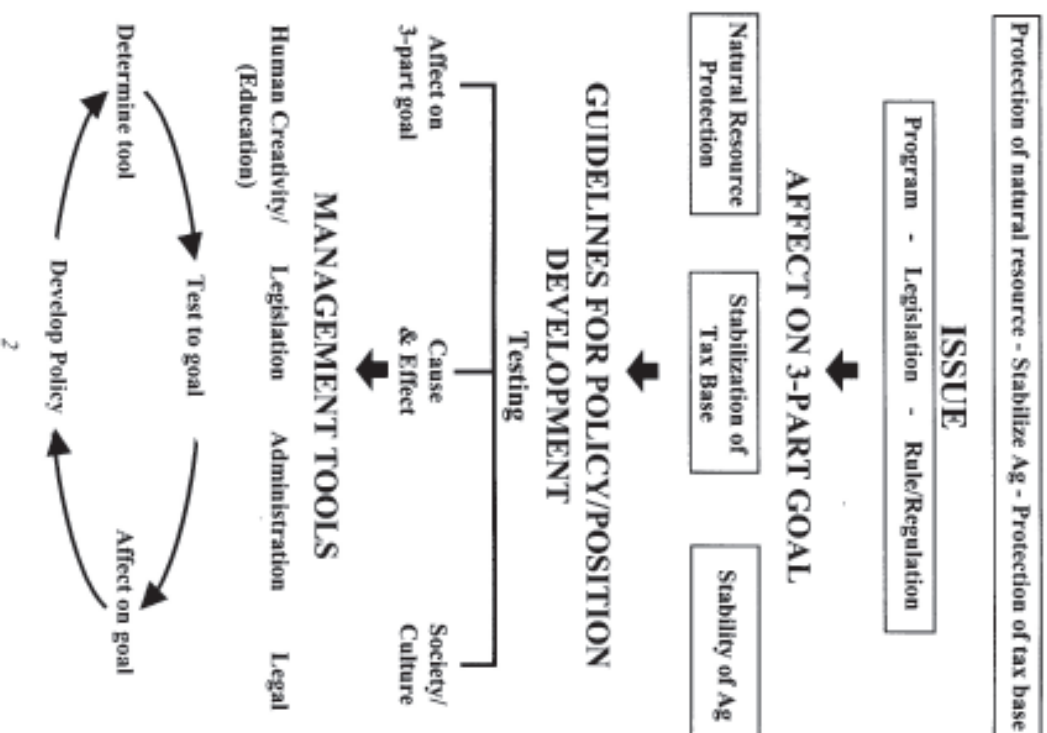
Policy #16: RURAL AND URBAN EDUCATION - WACD promotes and supports natural resource conservation education for rural and urban Wyoming. (Adopted - 01 - Sunset - 2008)

Policy #17: VOCATIONAL EDUCATION - The WACD jointly supports, with WWGA and WSGA, equal vocational education opportunities for all Wyoming students. All Wyoming students, at both large and small schools deserve the opportunity to learn job-creating skills in such programs as ag-education. (Adopted - 02 - Sunset - 2009)

Policy #18: AG SUCCESS STORIES RECOMMENDATION
The WWGA and the WSGA join WACD in highlighting Wyoming Ag success stories on Wyoming Public Radio. (Adopted - 02 - Sunset - 2009)

Policy #19: EMPLOYEE TRAINING & CERTIFICATION PROGRAM - Conservation District Boards/WACD endorse that the WCDEA develop and implement a voluntary, employee driven certification program that covers the statutory responsibilities and authorities of Conservation Districts. Training and test questions will be developed in concert with WCDEA, WDA, and WACD. To achieve certification each employee will be required to pass the test with an 80% accuracy or better. (Adopted - 2006 - Sunset - 2008)

WACD Policy Decision Model
Legislative Intent (Goal)



In the absence of specific policy the following decision model will be utilized to determine Association direction.

2006 DIRECTIVES

- The Conservation District Boards/WACD retain under contract the services of one board approved CPA firm to aid in the assurance that financial statutory responsibilities and authorities of Conservation Districts be carried forth in a expedited and fiscally sound responsible manner.
- WACD leadership pursue discussions and possible NACD bylaw amendment to create a western region to gain efficiencies both at the state and national level.

PRIVATE, STATE AND FEDERAL LANDS

Policy #1: AG EXPERIMENT AND EXTENSION SERVICE FUNDING - WACD supports federal budget requests of the state Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Services at such levels as will enable them to support the conservation districts with research information and extension educational assistance. (Adopted – 90, Sunset 2010)

Policy #2: GRAZING RESEARCH - WACD supports expanded research on grazing systems and condition trends. High priority research needs are for systems that reduce adverse impact on range resources while improving production efficiency and improved pasture and forage management practices. (Adopted – 90, Sunset - 2008)

Policy #3: PLANT MATERIAL RESEARCH - WACD supports broadened plant material research to develop management systems that optimize uses of soil and water resources for the production of warm and cool season plants, improve stand establishment techniques and provide good production with minimum soil loss. (Adopted - 90, **Sunset 2007**)

Policy #4: OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES - WACD supports responsible programs for the expansion of outdoor recreational facilities on public and private lands. (Sunset – 2008)

Policy #5: RECREATION MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES - WACD supports the development of guidelines to assist private recreational managers in operating their enterprises. (Adopted – 90, **Sunset 2007**)

Policy #6: PROPERTY RIGHTS - WACD supports private property rights. (Adopted – 90, Sunset - 2010)

Policy #7: AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY - WACD recommends that aerial photography utilized in USDA Service Center Offices be kept current with new flights at least every five years. (**Sunset – 2007**)

Federal, State and Private Lands continued

Policy #8: SOIL SURVEYS - WACD, supports the following efforts to obtain the necessary resources to accelerate the completion of the soil survey in Wyoming:

1. Increased funding to the USDA-NRCS for soil survey mapping
 2. NRCS be charged to complete the soil survey on priority lands in Wyoming.
 3. State support of the soil survey effort on state lands.
- (Adopted - 02, Sunset – 2010)

Policy #9: SOIL SURVEYS/ECOLOGICAL SITE DESCRIPTION

- WACD recommends the prioritization of soil survey mapping and the uniform use of ecological site descriptions developed by NRCS as the foundation for the inventory, evaluation, setting of monitoring objectives, and management of rangelands and forestlands because ecological sites are the basic units of soils and associated plant communities and they provide the basis for setting vegetative management objectives, monitoring and extrapolations of management impacts to other areas. (Adopted - 02, Sunset – 2010)

Policy #10: CARBON SEQUESTRATION - WACD will take an active role to support actions that may contribute scientific knowledge or result in the identification and enhancement of techniques for the sequestration of carbon on agricultural and forestry lands and marketing of carbon credits; and support the Carbon Sequestration Advisory Committee and their efforts to promote field research that can advance knowledge of carbon sequestration and subsequent marketing of carbon credits. (Adopted - 03, Sunset – 2007)

Policy #11: EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION - Conservation Districts and WACD will seek congressional support for the nationwide funding of the EWP program for FY 2005 and future years. (Adopted - 03, Sunset - 2007)

Policy #12: MULTIPLE USE - WACD supports the multiple use and sound management of public lands. (Sunset – 2010)

Policy #13: ABANDON MINE PROGRAM FUNDING - WACD supports the Rural Abandoned Mine Program and urges Congress to appropriate, and the US Department of Interior to transfer, monies to NRCS for carrying out its provisions. (Adopted – 90, Sunset – 2008)

Wildlife continued

11. Direct the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce and Interior to streamline the ESA Section 7 consultation process through a tiered programmatic consultation at the national, state and local level.
 12. Eliminate the proposed listing of any sub-species. (Amend Section 3(16))
 13. Not allow taxpayer funds to be utilized by non-government entities to sue the Government or others (add to Section 1 (c)(4) as new policy and amend Section 11 (9)(g))
 14. Enhance the incidental take rules to reduce the need for civil violations penalties.
 15. Expedite the delisting process. (add new subsection under Section 4)
 16. Revise the “taking” definition to protect private and states property rights in conformance with the United States Constitution. (Section 3(19))
 17. Provide for “safe-harbor” provisions to make the act more flexible and to encourage landowners to manage lands in a more “endangered species friendly” manner.
- (Adopted –02, Sunset - 2008)

Policy #6: CHANGES ESA and implementing regulations/policy -

The WACD, supports the following 17 points, as adopted by the Western Coalition of Conservation Districts, as it pertains to the Endangered Species Act :

The Endangered Species Act should be changed to:

1. Provide full compensation to individuals for current and long-term “takings”. Take into consideration cost-benefit analysis and mitigate for adverse economic, social, and cultural needs of the human element (change Section 4(b)(2) of ESA)
2. Consider and evaluate cumulative effects in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Single species management does not consider ecosystem needs and may be detrimental to the well being of other organisms. (add to Section 4)
3. Focus on species recovery by improving ecosystem health, instead of single species listing. Listing should be incentive based rather than regulatory (add to subsection (c) of Section 4 and a new statement to Section 4)
4. Seek scientific consensus and require mandatory non-governmental, non-bias peer review prior to the listing of any species.
5. Petitioners requesting endangered or threatened species designation should be responsible for costs incurred if a listing is determined to be unwarranted.
6. Require appropriate bonding by any petitioner for a proposed listing of a species. Bond to be forfeited if a species is determined not warranted to be listed. (add to Section 4(b))
7. Ensure agency regulations conform to ESA law. (ex. Adhere to critical habitat provision)
8. Allow states to design, control, and implement functionally equivalent, state-specific programs for endangered species recovery planning and critical habitat designation with federal funding.
9. Codify applicant status to make clear that permit applicants (consists of any individual seeking a federal permit or license) are provided the opportunity of direct involvement in the Section 7 process. (amend Section 6 and 7(a) and (d))
10. Allow implementation action of any project or activity already underway prior to completion and formal approval of a Recovery Plan (amend Section 7(a))

Policy #14: NO LOSS OF AUMS - WACD recommends no loss of adjudicated preferential rights, including but not limited to, active and suspended Animal Unit Months (AUM's) of state and federal lands while maintaining and improving the resource. (Adopted – 90, Sunset - 2008)

Policy #15: LIVESTOCK GRAZING AS A TOOL - WACD supports livestock and proper grazing as a tool for the sound management of private, state and federal lands. (Adopted – 90, Sunset - 2010)

Policy #16: NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL - WACD supports and strongly encourages the control of noxious weeds and pests by owners, managers and users of all lands. (Adopted – 86, Sunset 2010)

Policy #17: FUNDING FOR NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL - WACD urges private, state and federal land managers to increase funding, support, and coordinate noxious weed control efforts. (Adopted – 90, Sunset 2010)

Policy #18: MANAGEMENT TOOLS - WACD urges all local, state and federal land managers to fund, develop and coordinate the use of prescribed burning, chemical and mechanical treatments as effective management tools. (Adopted – 90, Sunset – 2009)

Policy #19: PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES - WACD supports local, state and federal land managers in proper management of forest and other public lands through Best Management Practices (BMP's) including, but not limited to, timbering, select cutting, fire management and managed grazing practices for the prevention of catastrophic wildfires. (Adopted – 90, Sunset - 2008)

Policy #20: COORDINATED PLANNING AND RANGE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS - WACD encourages the administration and public land managers to continue to support, provide authority and funding to coordinated planning and range stewardship programs at a higher priority. (Adopted – 90, Sunset - 2007)

Policy #21: COMMUNICATION & COOPERATION - WACD supports the communication, cooperation and coordination of all local, state and federal entities with regard to natural resource management policies and decisions. (Sunset - 2008)

Federal, State and Private Lands continued

Policy #22: WILDERNESS AREA MANAGEMENT - WACD urges all federal land management agencies to apply wilderness area management techniques only to those lands officially designated as wilderness areas. (Adopted – 90, Sunset - 2010)

Policy #23: RECLAMATION OF TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS - WACD supports local, state and federal agencies in requiring proper construction, maintenance and reclamation of transportation corridors such as access roads, pipelines, transmission lines, etc. to prevent resource deterioration. (Adopted – 90, Sunset - 2010)

Policy #24: WILDERNESS AREA DESIGNATIONS - WACD recommends that no additional areas be designated as wilderness and that Congress should consider the conversion of some present wilderness areas back to non-wilderness status so that the American people can benefit from the multiple use of those lands. (Adopted – 90, Sunset - 2008)

Policy #25: FUNDING FOR RANGE IMPROVEMENTS - WACD urges that appropriations and resources for range improvement on federal lands be adequate to properly fund the federal share of those range improvements. (Adopted – 90, Sunset - 2008)

Policy #26: DISTRICT LAND USE PLANS - WACD encourages all Conservation Districts to develop and record a locally led natural resource land use plan with policy, to enable full participation in local, state and federal land planning processes. (Adopted – 94, Sunset 2010)

Policy #27: PREFERENTIAL RIGHTS - WACD supports the current state statute 36-5-101 *et. seq.* of preferential rights on state lands. (Adopted – 99, Sunset - 2010)

Policy #28: NO NET LOSS - WACD strongly supports the no net loss of private lands. (Adopted 01, Sunset - 3001)

Policy #29: NRCS FIELD STAFF - WACD supports the addition of more Natural Resource Conservation personnel in the local field offices. (Adopted - 01, Sunset - 2012)

WILDLIFE

Policy #1: WILD HORSES - WACD recommends that wild horses, given that they are not native wildlife, should not be considered or classified as wildlife. (Adopted – 90, Sunset 2010)

Policy #2: ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT LISTINGS - WACD supports amendments to the Endangered Species Act that would require that species listings are based upon clear and convincing peer reviewed scientific data. (Adopted – 98, Sunset - 2010)

Policy #3: PREBLE'S MOUSE ECONOMIC IMPACT - WACD strongly supports the efforts of Platte County Commissioners et al to obtain federal and state funding to do the studies necessary to quantify the economic and other effects of the Prebles Meadow Jumping Mouse and any other species listed or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act on the region and on the State of Wyoming. (Adopted –02, Sunset - 2010)

Policy #4: WOLF STATUS - WACD strongly supports the WY Game & Fish Commission's current position of maintaining the predator status of the wolf in Wyoming except within Yellowstone and Teton National Parks, Jackson Hole Elk Refuge and those congressionally designated wilderness areas contiguous to the parks that are determined to be necessary to maintain a minimally viable wolf population as defined in a Wyoming Wolf Management Plan. (Adopted –02, Sunset -2010)

Policy #5: WILDLIFE FORAGE COMPENSATION - WACD supports the concept of forage compensation for forage harvested by wildlife on private lands provided that such compensation is made available on an equitable basis to all landowners and is payable from monies collected by or appropriated to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and provided further that the current trophy and big game damage compensation program remains intact as a means of compensation for damage other than the harvesting of forage. (Adopted –02, Sunset - 2008)

Water Resources Continued

Policy #11: WEATHER MODIFICATION - WACD supports and request that the Wyoming Water Development Commission continue to fund and advance the development of weather modification planning and activities related to enhancing snow pack augmentation. (Adopted 2005, Sunset 2010)

Policy #12: CREDIBLE DATA - WACD and its member Districts support the use of credible bacteriological water quality data as a means to assess use attainability of contact recreation as a designated use of surface water and oppose the use of such data as the sole means of evaluating land use and management. (Adopted 2005, Sunset 2011)

Policy #13: PRODUCED WATER FROM COALBED METHANE
- WACD recommends that if other beneficial uses of CBM water can be identified and the water can be appropriated for those uses, that the state of Wyoming adopt policy promoting and encouraging the use, treatment and surface discharge of CBM water for other beneficial uses that protect and promote the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of this state. (Adopted 2005, Sunset 2011)

Policy #14: PERMITTED HEIGHT OF STOCKWATER DAMS - WACD recommends that two possible corrective actions need to be undertaken to address this problem.

1. Change statute to say stock water dams may have a maximum dam height of 25 feet but not to exceed 20 acre feet of water on the simplified SW-4 stock water forms.
2. Change the rules of where the downstream toe of the dam is measured to exclude any incised channel and use the primary terrace above the incised channel to determine dam height. (Adopted 2005, Sunset 2008)

Policy #15: WATER DEVELOPMENT FUNDING - WACD shall pursue criteria and/or statutory amendments to allow Conservation Districts to participate as sponsors of a Level II and and/or the grant portion of a Level III water development with the Wyoming Water Development Commission. (Adopted 2006 - Sunset 2008)

Federal, State and Private Lands continued

Policy #30: WILD HORSE MANAGEMENT - WACD supports immediate emergency federal funding specifically targeted to assist the BLM in reducing wild horse numbers to targeted AMLs. (Adopted -02, Sunset 2008)

Policy #31: THUNDER BASIN
WACD in coordination with, WSGA and WWGA

- 1) Request support from the Governor-Elect David Freudenthal, Senator Mike Enzi, Senator Craig Thomas, and Congresswoman Barbara Cubin to support the counties' and grassland association's administrative appeal of the Thunder Basin Grassland plan and its July 2002 revision.
- 2) Request support from them for a verbal presentation of this administrative appeal to the United States Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Mark Rey; and
- 3) Request a full administrative review of this Forest Service Land and Resource Management Plan by the United States Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Mark Rey. (Adopted -02, Sunset - 2010)

Policy #32: RETIREMENT OF GRAZING PERMITS BY PERMIT HOLDER - 1) WACD supports the right of any private individual or group to sell or buy private property on a willing buyer/willing seller basis. The buyer of a ranch should have the right to acquire federal grazing permits attached to that property if they meet all requirements to hold such permits. 2) WACD believes that the only interest acquired in the federal grazing allotment is the right to graze it under terms and conditions established by the land management agency, and any legal rights to water or improvements that may have transferred to the new owner by the previous owner 3) WACD believes that grazing, and all other uses of public land, should be governed by laws enacted by Congress and by the public planning process established under those laws. Any decision to graze or not graze public land grazing allotments must be consistent with direction in land use plans. Neither individuals nor government agencies have the right to make land use decisions not consistent with existing land use plans, government policy and federal law. 4) WACD believes that future livestock grazing on the allotment should be determined by federal law and the land management planning process established by federal law. It is not the right of the permit holder or the land management agency to retire grazing without going through the appropriate legal processes. A permittee who does not wish to graze should be required to relinquish the permit, and it should be granted to another qualified applicant. (Adopted -03, Sunset 2010)

Policy #33: RESTOCKING AFTER DROUGHT - WACD believes that a realistic restocking policy after drought will increase the incentive for permittees to reduce stocking on federal permits when drought occurs. Decisions to either reduce stocking due to drought or increase stocking rates due to end of drought should be made cooperatively with each individual permittee and should consider the entire ranch operation including private and state lands. Decisions should be made on a site-specific basis and should consider the existing forage conditions in all pastures to be used within the foreseeable future. Rigid requirements on utilization levels, ground cover, forage production, or other factors applied over a broad area should be avoided. After each growing season the permittee and the agency should decide whether numbers can be increased or should be reduced given the amount of forage produced and available over the entire ranch and a plan worked out for utilization of existing forage. Use of all classes of forage (perennial grass and forbs, annuals, and browse) should be considered. On some yearlong ranges this decision may have to be made twice a year, i.e. in fall and in spring. Agency and permittees should jointly monitor conditions in the field to adjust the plan as needed. Regarding joint monitoring, the Public Land Council (PLC) Monitoring Task Force recommendations dated 12/20/02 are to be used, as amended, as guidelines. WACD believes that this flexible, cooperative approach will improve the ability of both ranchers and agencies to deal with drought. (Adopted –03, Sunset 2010)

NOTE: For a copy of the PLC Monitoring Task Force recommendations please refer to WACD web site - Private, State and Federal Lands or contact WACD.

Policy #34: FORAGE ALLOCATION - WACD supports the use of a “stock and monitor” or adaptive management approach to adjusting numbers of grazing animals (both livestock and wildlife) permitted on public grazing allotments. WACD does not support the use of one-point-in-time inventories of forage and forage allocation approaches to estimation of permitted carrying capacity for either livestock or wildlife on public lands unless no other information is available for that purpose. In almost every situation there exists a record of stocking rates, weather data, and various kinds of monitoring information that can be used to adjust grazing management to achieve goals of the agency and the livestock operator. Where such information is lacking or inadequate, joint agency permittee monitoring should, along with the professional qualifications of the individuals rendering such opinion, be initiated (See PLC Task Force Recommendation Language 12-20-02, as amended). It can be supplemented by professional opinion. Where professional opinion rather than site-specific data is the basis for decision, that fact should be documented (Adopted –03, Sunset 2010)

remainder of the Snotel system be installed as rapidly as possible. (Adopted – 90, Sunset 2010)

Policy #7: WATER TRANSFERS - WACD urges that the transfer of existing agricultural water uses to non agricultural uses be discouraged where uncommitted water is available, and that industrial water users be encouraged to work with agricultural, municipal, recreational and other interest groups for the multi-purpose development of all uncommitted waters in the state of Wyoming. (Adopted – 73, Sunset 2010)

Policy #8: STATE AUTHORITY OVER WATER RIGHTS - WACD is opposed to any federal government control over individual water rights in the state of Wyoming and furthermore, the State of Wyoming maintain that control of all waters within the state of Wyoming. (Adopted – 77, Sunset 2010)

Policy #9: WATER RESOURCE POLICY - WACD supports the following strategies to address further development of Wyoming's water for beneficial uses:

1. Priority should be given to the development of water storage projects to ensure Wyoming's water is utilized to the benefit of Wyoming people.
2. Support the current in-stream flow statute and oppose any legislation to broaden the current in-stream flow statute.

3. A comprehensive effort to address flow should be supported, to include water storage development, in-bank storage through direct diversion, and watershed/forest health management, predator management, etc.

4. The agricultural organizations shall develop a public outreach and education program aimed at educating Wyoming citizenry on the role agriculture has played in developing and enhancing Wyoming fisheries and recreational opportunities through water storage and irrigation practices.

5. The organizations reinforce those water policies set forth in the Wyoming Water Coalition water policy document created 2/14/98. (Note: Please refer to WACD web site - *Water Resources for complete copy of policy or contact WACD*) (Adopted - 03, Sunset - 2008)

Policy #10: TEMPORARY CHANGE OF USE AG TO AG - WACD supports the temporary change of use statute as it currently exists and opposes changes to allow for ag to ag transfers. (Adopted - 03, Sunset - 2008)

WATER RESOURCES

Policy #1: WATER POLICY - WACD supports the on-going development and adoption of an overall water resources policy for Wyoming (Adopted – 51, Sunset - 2008)

Note: A water policy was developed by the “Wyoming Water Coalition”, consisting of several organizations representing local government, water users and industry, in February 1998 and adopted by WACD. Please refer to WACD web site - link to Water Resources, for complete copy of the policy or contact WACD.

Policy #2: PROTECTION OF STATE WATER RIGHTS - WACD urges that full consideration be given to the following recommendations in the implementation of national policy affecting water:

- a) That no federal policy or action abrogates the traditional rights of the states and their citizens to use beneficially all waters within their boundaries.
- b) That no attempt is made to establish rigid federal guidelines for control over state development and use of water resources.
- c) That the federal role in water resources policy be one of cooperation, allowing the state and citizens input early and throughout the planning process.
- d) That federal financial participation continues to be deemed as investment rather than subsidy.
- e) That the definition of environmental quality as an objective be expanded to encompass the quality of the human as well as the natural resources environment. (Adopted – 90, **Sunset - 2007**)

Policy #3: WATER PROJECT PERMITTING - WACD supports stream-lining the time it takes for water planning or water projects for issuance of all federal permits. (**Sunset – 2007**)

Policy #4: WATERSHED STRUCTURE PROGRAM - WACD supports funding and technical assistance for watershed structure rehabilitation for those structures constructed pursuant to the PL 566 program. (Sunset – 2008)

Policy #5: LIABILITY FOR STRUCTURES - WACD opposes local sponsors of watershed structures being held liable for costs of corrective actions required on dams if the dam was built to Natural Resource Conservation Service specifications at the time of construction. (Adopted - 90, **Sunset 2007**)

Policy #6: SNOW SURVEY PROGRAM - WACD strongly affirms that the Snow Survey Program should remain under the coordination and leadership of NRCS, that it should receive substantial increases in appropriations and the

Federal, State and Private Lands continued

Policy #35: FORAGE UTILIZATION AND RESIDUAL VEGETATION MEASUREMENT - WACD supports the joint agency/permittee in-field monitoring (See PLC 12/20/02 Monitoring Task Force Recommendations, as amended). WACD further recognizes that measurement of utilization and residual vegetation as valuable tools for managing public grazing allotments, but not as management objectives or basis for compliance with terms and conditions of permits. As stated in the Interagency Technical Reference on Utilization (1996) and supported by the Society for Range Management there are three legitimate uses for such data: 1) To identify use patterns, 2) To help establish cause-and-effect interpretations of range trend data, and 3) To aid in adjusting stocking rates when combined with other monitoring data.

WACD believes that when utilization or residual vegetation guidelines are included in management plans or other documents, the following criteria should be documented:

1. The method of measurement
2. The season of measurement, i.e. whether utilization (based on entire growing season's production) or relative use (based on less than annual production) will be measured.
3. Where the measurement will take place, i.e. where are key areas and why were they selected.
4. Which species (key species) or group of species (browse, perennial grasses, annuals, etc) will be measured, and why.
5. Studies that establish the relationship of the proposed measurement to the goals of management in terms of soil, vegetation composition or amount, wildlife values or other factors.
6. Consultation and agreement among grazing permittees and other parties with legitimate interests in the allotment on the protocol and interpretations to be used.

WACD does not support the use of rigid utilization and/or residual measurement standards, alone, to determine compliance with management plans or annual operating plans, or to trigger automatic livestock moves among pastures and/or removal from an allotment. Such actions should consider all pertinent information, including weather and forage conditions in the whole ranch operation, outlook for the rest of the grazing season, and the economic consequences of any proposed action. (Adopted—03, Sunset 2010)

Policy # 36: LIDAR - Conservation Districts of Wyoming support the acquisition of a statewide Light Detection and Ranging based 1-1.5 meter Digital Elevation Model by 2006-2007. (Adopted 2005, Sunset 2008)

Policy #37: LAND EXCHANGES - WACD encourages individual districts to participate in any assessment and analyses of socio and economic and environmental impacts of proposed government land exchanges and purchases and participate fully in any statutory processes and recommends the following guidelines for individual conservation districts to consider when asked to review a specific land exchange and to make recommendations:

1. Any land tenure adjustment by a federal or state agency should be conditioned on no net loss of private land or private property rights and should fully compensate the landowner for the value of the property interest, including investment-backed expectations, and compensate local government for the lost property tax revenue.
2. Voluntary land exchanges between the state and federal government and private landowners should be used to adjust property lines, improve access and land management, and improve land use efficiency.
3. Local, state, and federal land agencies should not acquire any private lands or rights in private lands within the County without first ensuring that the proposed acquisition meets the local government land use plans, programs, and policies.
4. The design and development of all federal and state land dispositions and acquisitions, including land adjustments by sale or exchange, should be carried out for the benefit of the residents of the respective districts and counties affected AND by following a policy of coordination, consultation, cooperation with respective conservation districts and counties and achieve consistency with local land use plans.
5. Local, state and federal government entities should investigate and attempt to increase local economic development within the County and that the citizens of the County suffer no adverse aggregate economic impacts from land ownership adjustments.
6. When federal and state land agencies propose land exchanges and purchases that will result in changes in land use, they will prepare impact studies on the proposed change and adopt mitigation measures in coordination with the District. Impact studies should address community stability (socio-economics), local custom and culture, grazing rights, rangeland resources, water rights, flood prone areas, access, and other identified concerns of the County.

7. Any additional property acquisition by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and State Lands & Investments or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should be carefully examined to ensure that it does not injure the local agriculture industry and each district should receive timely notification regarding any wildlife planning and/or management actions within each County in Wyoming by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
8. To effectively protect the interests of the conservation district, each district should:

- a. Request the opportunity to investigate and evaluate all proposed land ownership changes between private owners and state or federal government entities to determine if the proposal is in the best interest of the county and the conservation district.
- b. Request that local, federal and state government agencies work with each other in implementing proposed land use planning activities through the principles of coordination, consultation, and cooperation with the District and consistency with local land use plans.
- c. Request the opportunity to make recommendations or proposed public or private land withdrawals for hazardous and non-hazardous waste storage, as well as the types of such waste through the principles of coordination, consultation, and cooperation with the District and consistency with local land use plans.
9. Land exchanges may affect land and interests in multiple counties and the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts should convey the position of affected districts to the Wyoming Delegation through the appropriate processes and channels and at the appropriate time. (Adopted 2005, Sunset 2011)

Policy #38: SUPPORT FOR SOLAR PUMP PROGRAM - The Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts convey the importance of continuing the funding for the solar pump program through the petroleum violation fund and continue to seek additional funding for the program. (Adopted 2006 - Sunset 2008)

Policy #39: SUPPORT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT COALITIONS
- WACD encourages local conservation district participation in local government coalitions in their endeavors to facilitate the federal land planning processes. (Adopted 2006 - Sunset 2008)