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| --- |
| [name of county] County, Wyoming |
| Natural Resource Plan |
| Adopted [date of adoption] |

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# Introduction

## Purpose

This county natural resource plan serves as a basis for communicating and coordinating with the federal government and its agencies on land and natural resource management issues. Counties are particularly well-suited to understand the impacts that federal land management decisions may have on the local economy, custom and culture. Under Wyoming statute, a county is

deemed to have special expertise on all subject matters for which it has statutory responsibility, including but not limited to, all subject matters directly or indirectly related to the health, safety, welfare, custom, culture and socio-economic viability of a county.[[1]](#footnote-1)

Federal statutes provide opportunities for counties to share with agencies this kind of expertise. Specifically, federal laws require federal agencies, including the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), to consider state and local land use plans and to explain deviations from these plans in decision documents per the following statutes.

* The **National Environmental Policy Act** (NEPA) and its implementing regulations require all federal agencies to address inconsistencies between a proposed action and State and local plans and address the extent to which the agency would harmonize its proposed action with the local law or plan.[[2]](#footnote-2) Federal agencies are required to “cooperate with State and local agencies to the fullest extent possible to reduce duplication between NEPA and State and local requirements.”[[3]](#footnote-3)
* The **Federal Land Policy Management Act** (FLPMA), BLM’s guiding statute, requires BLM to coordinate their land use plans with local and state government land use plans, providing that BLM’s plans “shall be consistent with State and local plans to the maximum extent [the Agency] finds consistent with Federal law and the purposes of this Act.”[[4]](#footnote-4)
* The **National Forest Management Act** (NFMA) requires the USFS to coordinate National Forest land and resource plans with “the land and resource management planning processes of State and local governments and other Federal agencies[.]”[[5]](#footnote-5) While the USFS is not required to comply with State and local plans, a final decision document must contain results of a review of local plans, including consideration of objectives, the compatibility and interrelated impacts of USFS plans and local government policies, opportunities to contribute to common objectives and ways to reduce conflicts between a Forest Service plan and local policies.[[6]](#footnote-6)

While the objectives and priorities of the county may not be consistent with existing management plans or practices of the federal or State of Wyoming government, the plan is consistent with federal and State law.

## Organization

This plan considers the current conditions of federal resources, county objectives for each resource, and how the county would like to see those objectives achieved. For all federal resources in the county, this plan addresses the following:

* **Resource Assessment.** Includes background and detailed information on the resource, including qualitative as well as quantitative information. The assessment includes an evaluation of the importance of the resource to the county, location, quality and size, as well as a map of the resource, where appropriate. The Resource Assessment relies on the best data available at the time of publication, though new data collection or research is not required. The Resource Assessment addresses the question, “What is the state of the resource now?”
* **Resource Management Objectives**. For each resource, describes general goals in the form of broad policy statements regarding the use, development and protection for each resource. Where applicable, objectives should be stated in measurable terms and include tangible metrics for which resource objectives can be met. This may include quantifiable goals and timelines, where applicable and feasible. Resource Management Objectives address the question, “What does the county want for and from this resource?”
* **Priorities**. Describes specific priorities on how to achieve the county’s Resource Management Objective for each resource. Priorities tier to Resource Management Objectives for each resource and address the question, “How would the county like to see its objectives achieved?”

## Process

Consistent with Wyo. Stat. § 9-4-218(a)(viii)(D), the county developed this plan in public meetings in accordance with Wyo. Stat §§ 16-4-401 through 16-4-408, allowing for participation and contribution from the public.

*[The Governor’s criteria recommends that public engagement occur at a minimum in the initial, draft and final plan development stages and final plans should include a description of the core substantive issues identified by way of public comments and how, if at all, these issues were addressed in the final plan.*

*Describe in more detail the process by which the county and/or its consultant prepared this plan, including data gathering, public engagement, document preparation, reviews of drafts and final adoption by the Board of County Commissioners.*]

This plan is based on criteria developed by the Office of the Governor of the State of Wyoming in consultation with the counties, consistent with Wyo. Stat. § 9-4-218(a)(viii)(B).

## Updating the Plan [*optional*]

To the extent county resources allow, this plan will be updated [as new information is acquired or resource conditions change] [every 10 to 15 years][some other schedule].

# Chapter 1: Custom and Culture

[Discuss the county’s local customs, local culture, and the components necessary for the county's economic stability.]

# Chapter 2: Land Use

## Land Use

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

## Land Access

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

## Wilderness

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

## Fire Management

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

## Forest Management

### Resource Assessment

*Example of a Resource Assessment related to forest management from the San Juan County Resource Management Plan in Utah:*

*Forested lands are an important natural resource in the county, and contribute to quality of life by providing employment, forest products, open space, wildlife habitat, forage for livestock, recreation, and numerous other social and economic benefits. . . .*

*Disease, wildland fire suppression policy and encroachment of woodland species (pinyon and juniper) has led to unhealthy, less productive and unnatural forest and woodland ecosystems which affect county economics and opportunities (San Juan County, personal communication)*.

### Resource Management Objectives

*Example of a Resource Management Objective related to forest management from the San Juan County Resource Management Plan in Utah:*

*Forests, woodlands, rangelands, watersheds, and habitats are healthy and resilient and are managed for multiple use.*

### Priorities

*Example of a Resource Management Objective related to forest management from the San Juan County Resource Management Plan in Utah:*

*Support the use of mechanical, chemical, biological, prescribed fire, or controlled wildland fire to alter or perpetuate timber stands and increase herbaceous forage yield or cover as appropriate in areas where harvest methods are impractical or demand does not exist.*

*Support the agencies in permitting sustainable harvest of woodland and forest products (including cutting of green willows, and cottonwoods) for Native American traditional and ceremonial uses.*

# Chapter 3: Geology, Mining and Air

## Mining

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

## Energy Resources

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

## Mineral Resources

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

## Air Quality

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

## Soils

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

# Chapter 4: Water Resources

## Irrigation and Related Infrastructure

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

## Dams and Reservoirs

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

## Water Rights

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

## Water Quality

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

## Flood Plains

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

## Rivers and Streams

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

## Wetlands

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

## Riparian Areas

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

## Wild and Scenic Rivers

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

# Chapter 5: Wildlife

## Fisheries

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

## Threatened, Endangered, And Sensitive Species

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

## Wildlife

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

## Predator Control

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

## Wild Horses and Burros

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

## Invasive Species

### Resource Assessment

### Resource Management Objectives

### Priorities

# Chapter 6: Economics & Society

## Recreation and Tourism

#### Resource Assessment

#### Resource Management Objectives

#### Priorities

## Law Enforcement

#### Resource Assessment

#### Resource Management Objectives

#### Priorities

## Cultural, Historical, Geological, and Paleontological Resources

#### Resource Assessment

#### Resource Management Objectives

#### Priorities

## Economic Considerations

#### Resource Assessment

#### Resource Management Objectives

#### Priorities

# Chapter 7: Agriculture

## Livestock and Grazing

#### Resource Assessment

#### Resource Management Objectives

#### Priorities

## Noxious Weeds

#### Resource Assessment

#### Resource Management Objectives

#### Priorities

# References Cited

[*Cite references here unless reference were cited by footnote throughout*.]

# List of Appendices

## Appendix I

## Appendix II

## Appendix III

1. Wyo. Stat. § 18-5-208(a). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. 40 C.F.R. § 1506.2. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *Id*. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. 43 U.S.C. § 1712(c)(9). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. 16 U.S.C. § 1604(a). [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. 36 C.F.R. § 2019.4(b)(2). [↑](#footnote-ref-6)