

**LINGLE-FORT LARAMIE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
STRATEGIC PLAN
2007-2012**

LINGLE-FORT LARAMIE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Lingle-Fort Laramie Conservation District (LFLCD) is one of 34 districts in Wyoming organized to provide leadership in the wise and sustained use of the natural resources. This district was organized in 1946 and currently works with approximately 300 agricultural units encompassing over 500,000 acres. District programs address concerns related to soil and water, cropland, range, woodlots, pastures, hayland, and natural resource needs of the communities and urban areas.

The Conservation District is governed by an elected board of local supervisors who meet monthly to provide leadership in the delivery of programs. Current supervisors include:

**Donna Phipps
Jack Pugsley
Earl Cross
Dave Johnson
Hugh Hageman**

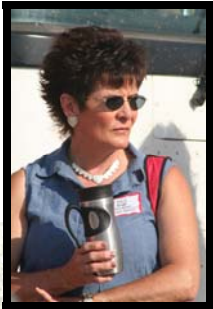
**Chairman
Vice Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer
Education Leader**

**Lingle
Jay Em
Lingle
Lingle
Fort Laramie**



District Employees

Nancy Borton-Manager



Samantha Hattan-Secretary



Levi Knudsen-Tree Specialist



NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Rusty Schwartz, District Conservationist, is employed by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and provides technical assistance to district projects and programs. Additional staff members include: Dave Neider, Dan Martin, Bailey Rapp, Justin Shirley, Pammie Rapp, Don Kessler and Jerry Hattan who now is a volunteer since his retirement.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Supervisors of the Lingle-Fort Laramie Conservation District would like to take this opportunity to thank the people who took the time and effort to attend our public meeting and assist us in brainstorming ideas for our next Long Range Plan. Grassroots support and input is vital in developing a mission statement and specific goals that the district will be working to achieve over the next five years.

We would like to give a special thanks to Rusty Schwartz, District Conservationist, who is always, willing and ready to assist the district in any way possible throughout the year. We also would like to thank the other staff member of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for all their assistance throughout the years as well.

Our deep gratitude to our District Manager, Nancy Borton, and District Secretary, Samantha Hattan, who assisted with recording all the information gathered at the public meeting. Our District Manager is responsible for compiling all the information gathered at this meeting into a 5 Year Plan. Our Employee's hard work for the district in carrying out their many duties is very much appreciated.

We would like to extend our appreciation to Matt Hoobler, who is with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, for being our facilitator at this meeting as well as contributing many great ideas. Matt also will be assisting with compiling the notes he took from this meeting and sending them to Nancy to incorporate into the plan.

We would also like to thank the cooperating agencies that have and will continue to work with and give us guidance on carrying out our Long Range Plan.



COOPERATING AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

USDA Agencies: FSD, RD, NRCS

Goshen County Commissioners

Goshen County Weed and Pest

Environmental Protection Agency

Fort Laramie Presbyterian Church

Irrigation Districts

Jay Em Forest Mound Chapel

Kaspiere Women's Club

Lingle Presbyterian Church

Lucerine Canal and Power

North Hills Baptist Church

Rural Electric Association

University of Wyoming

Western Area Power Admin

Wyoming Assoc. of Conservation Districts

Wyoming Department of Roads

Wyoming State Forester

Goshen County Master Gardeners

Goshen County Stock Growers

Goshen County Farmers Union

Goshen Rooster Boosters

Goshen County School District

Wyoming Game and Fish Commission

Corps of Engineers

Fort Laramie City Council

UW Research and Extension Center

High Plains Archaeological Society

Jay Em Women's' Club

Lingle City Council

Local Watershed Sponsoring District

National Association of Conservation Districts

Resource Conservation and Development

U.S. Forest Service/Geological Survey

UW Water Research Center

Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE)

Wyoming Department of Agriculture

Wyoming Dept. of Environmental Quality

Bureau of Land Management

Goshen County Farm Bureau

Goshen County Cattlewomen

US Fish & Wildlife

VISION

RENEW THE NATURAL RESOURCES THAT WILL ALLOW USERS TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH THEIR ENVIRONMENT

This vision will commit the district to the following:

- **Implementation of natural resource programs that address physical Biological, and human elements.**
- **Promote positive changes in the resources that provide economic and Natural resource benefits to all parties involved.**
- **Use social and natural science research to enhance objective decision-making.**
- **Ensure positive impacts on future generations.**
- **Encourage collaborative efforts between the private and public sectors.**
- **Serve as natural resource counselors and/or mentors for the entire district.**

MISSION

TO PROVIDE LEADERSHIP FOR STEWARDSHIP PROGRAMS IN NATURAL RESOURCES SATISFYING CURRENT NEEDS, YET RENEWING THE ENVIRONMENT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

In support of this mission the district will:

- **Develop a comprehensive approach to resource management.**
- **Monitor the effects of technology that address production of food and fiber.**
- **Develop working relationships with other agencies, organizations, and Interested publics.**
- **Develop and implement collaborative programs representing public involvement and decision-making.**

PUBLIC PLANNING PROCESS

The districts' responsibility is to provide leadership in the management of natural resources. Citizens residing in the district are invited to assist the Supervisors in this endeavor. The district supervisors have made every effort to involve the stakeholders in the planning process to ensure that the programs relate directly to the concerns expressed by their constituents.

This strategic plan builds on the previous plan created in 2001 and addresses the natural resource needs as expressed by local residents residing within the confines of the district boundaries. A public meeting held in Lingle on the 12th of July, 2006 discussed both opportunities and concerns within the categories listed below:



PUBLIC INPUT AND CONCERNS:

No Till / Low Till

- **Reduced dust**
- **More Wheat/Alfalfa**
 - **Trees**
 - **Pivots/Pipe**
- **Fuel prices/Market driven**
- **Less beets/bean**
 - **Increased bare ground**

Alternative Crops

- **Grapes**
- **Sunflowers**
- **Biodiesel**
- **Canola**
- **Oil Seed Crops**
- **Sandfoin**
- **Falcata**
- **Triticale**
- **Dairy**
- **Manure Management**
 - **Odor and subdivisions**

Other Opportunities

- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)**
 - **Go into range**
 - **Fence & Water**
 - **Short extensions**
- **Grazing Lands**
 - **Drought**
 - **Solar Wells**
 - **Living on a few acres (LOAFA)**
 - **Subdivision Reviews**
 - **Water delivery (flood)**

Community

- **Age**
 - **LOAFA Competition**
 - **Operation size**
- **Markets**
 - **World**
 - **Land investment**
- **Ranking on projects could include age and years of farming**
- **Wyoming Ag In the Classroom is good**

Education

- **Get kids interested**
 - **Won't be in agriculture at school**
 - **Do youth see opportunities?**
- **Other Classes**
 - **Equine and Horticulture??**
- **Continued education of political leaders**
 - **Environment "key" words**
- **Realtors**

Water Quality/Quantity

- **Monitor with schools**
- **Reclassify water bodies**
- **Increases restrictions**
- **Increase efficiency of water use**
- **Return Flow**
- **Point Source/Non-point Source (PS/NPS)**
- **Potential water table**
- **New wells**

Natural Resources

- **Trees**
- **Cost Share**
- **Silt Runs'**
- **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)**
- **Solar / Wind**
- **Elk / fences**
- **Water for Wildlife**
- **LOAFA fencing**

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Jack & Elaine Pugsley	District Supervisor & Wife
Dave Johnson	District Supervisor
Dick & Marcie Saul	Landowner
Rusty Schwartz	NRCS
Samantha Hattan	District Secretary
Tim Bartel	Landowner
Nancy Borton	District Manager
Linda Nichol	Landowner
Earl Cross	Supervisor
Don McDowell	Landowner/Supervisor to be
Donna Phipps	Supervisor
Matt Hoobler	Facilitator

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In 2001 The Lingle-Fort Laramie Conservation District completed a five-year strategic plan addressing the needs of farmers and ranchers, citizens, and communities lying within the confines of the district boundaries. Although it is time to update the plan, many of the goals outlined in 2001 are still relevant and the following programs/ projects will be integrated into the updated five-year plan.

- 1. Marketing strategies promoting conservation and highlighting contemporary activities**
- 2. Improve the quality of both ground and surface waters**
- 3. Continue with programs to reduce the severity of wind and water erosion on irrigated and dry land cropland and rangeland.**
- 4. Establish and enhance opportunities to develop an informed stewardship/conservation ethic.**
- 5. Continue working with the youth within the district and county.**

AGRICULTURE/ NATURAL RESOURCES

Goshen County is ranked number one in the state for the value of livestock and crop production. Approximately 688 farms produce livestock, sugar beets, alfalfa , grass hay, wheat, barley, oats, corn grain and silage, dry beans, sunflowers, sorghum, millet and potatoes. The value of agriculture products in 2000-2006 was estimated by Wyoming Agricultural Statistics to be over \$140,000,000.

The sustainable production of goods and services provided by healthy natural resource systems remains a priority issue. Contemporary environmental concerns also require new applications of natural resource expertise. These applications include multidisciplinary perspectives that enable citizens with diverse interest to understand and manage social, political, and environmental issues related to land, water, air and other resources.

GOAL

- **Establish and maintain a conservation ethic for the residents of the district and Goshen County. Provide the leadership that will afford them the opportunity to gain and appreciation for agriculture and the importance of natural resources.**
- **Landowners will gain a greater appreciation for conserving the natural resource base and adopt practices that will improve and maintain a quality environment.**

OBJECTIVES

- **Encourage farmers growing beans and beets to roughen up their fields after harvest to reduce wind erosion.**
- **In collaboration with the UW Research and Extension Center determine the feasibility of alternative crops that could improve profitability and reduce winter erosion with winter cover crops. (Hemp, Soybeans, Turnips, etc.)**
- **Develop fact sheets and hold field tours to acquaint landowners with the correct procedures for planting and maintaining the CRP under both ideal and adverse conditions.**
- **In collaboration with NRCS and the ranching community provide information on those programs that would improve pasture management on rangeland. (HRM, CRM, etc.)**
- **Provide training materials to school teachers on the importance of natural resources and the virtues of agriculture as a viable and honorable economic activity.**
- **Provide material to schools through our “Ag In the Classroom Tool chest” for them to incorporate into their outdoor classroom programs.**
- **Work with landowners on Animal Feeding Operations(AFO) and Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO).**
- **In collaboration with local, state, regional, and national agricultural organizations, develop strategies that will improve the cost-share programs through government programs. (Increased funding and additional programs will improve the quality of the environment)**
- **Educate general public on benefits of silt run and how it increases lake holding capacity.**

- **Cooperate with the Bureau of Reclamation to find ways to reduce erosion on riverbanks that are subjected to drastic changes in stream flows.**
- **Work with ranchers to determine the extent of excess water from windmills and the impact on the surrounding terrain.**
- **Work with landowners on new technology such as solar wells and wind power to better utilize pastures by providing water in area that do not have electricity near by.**
- **Provide continued support for the tree program for Shelterbelts, living snow fences and livestock protection.**
- **Support the Wyoming Game and Fish Dept in addressing the problems with wildlife and predators.**

WATER QUALITY

The abundance of good, clean water for whatever use is not guaranteed as some kind of right. Rather, it is a resource that must be earned and re-earned as time passes and conditions change. The technology is generally available to ensure a clean water supply. The real challenge is to develop the collective community and political will to get the job done. Conservation Districts are being asked to be a lead player in watershed issues and management efforts representing local interests.

GOAL

- **Increase the understanding of landowners and local citizens concerning water quality problems and provide them with the knowledge and skills necessary to make positive adjustments.**
- **Improve the quality of ground and surface waters within the boundaries of the Lingle-Fort Laramie Conservation District**

OBJECTIVES

- **Initiate educational/informational programs on abandoned wells and provide assistance to those individuals desirous of closing their well (s).**
- **Conduct educational programs on water management for both irrigated agriculture and homeowners.**
- **In collaboration with state and federal agencies initiate a monitoring program on the extent of point and non-point pollution.**
- **Develop and implement informational programs/workshops to assist landowners with the guidelines addressing Animal Feeding Operations (AFO) and Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO).**
- **Provide leadership in conducting a study of return flows from irrigation water.**
- **Work with University of Wyoming and Quentin Skinner on the reclassification of streams within LFLCD>**

- **Encourage the proper use of fertilizers and pesticides in both urban and rural areas for Water Quality protection.**
- **Sponsor a Water Monitoring day with Lingle Middle School in conjunction with the World Wide Monitoring Day.**
- **Assist landowners within LFLCD to understand the importance of good management practices on their operation to keep a high Water Quality Standard.**

EDUCATION

Supervisors have a unique role in the district to communicate directly to local residents. Reliance on scientific methods and principles enables them to deliver objective information. The district involves people, communities, and organizations in experiences that teach them how to apply appropriate technology to everyday problems.

GOAL

- **Provide the leadership necessary to conduct educational programs on a variety of topics for diverse publics.**
- **Provide leadership in promoting the future of our youth to see the opportunities within the agricultural realm through workshops, working with teachers on school programs and marketing ideas of ways to continue to stay on the family farm/ranch and carry on the family tradition.**
- **Provide education workshops/meetings with local politicians, realtors and environmental groups on the environmental issues and their effects within our area.**

OBJECTIVES

- **Conduct an informational program for area realtors to assist them in objectively assessing the carrying capacity of agricultural units for sale.**
- **Continue to foster youth education by supporting camps, special tours, stewardship materials, and provide schools with information on WYRED, Range Judging and community activities.**
- **In collaboration with Eastern Wyoming College consider a special one or two-day Agriculture and Natural Resources session. A smorgasbord of topics could be included ranging from environmental concerns and Agricultural practices to marketing the goals of the Conservation District.**
- **Sponsor informational meetings or workshops to get Local input as needed on programs that are promoted by the District to educate landowners on rules and regulations that may affect them within the District/County.**
- **Assist the Goshen County Commissioners, Planning Commissions, Goshen County Realtors and Developers on best management practices to be included within subdivisions and housing developments within our District.**
- **Develop and maintain as active relationship with the local media by inviting them to district functions, tours, demonstration projects and educational events to keep our local constituents informed of what the Districts provides for them.**

COMMUNITY/QUALITY OF LIFE

The Board of Supervisors recognizes that healthy and prosperous communities do not just happen. The quality and nature of a community are determined by the choices people make over several generations. The Lingle-Fort Laramie Conservation District can assist communities make informed and objective decisions through educational programs and by providing hands on technical assistance.

GOAL

- **Provide leadership to community citizens in addressing the issues they have identified that adversely affects the quality of life.**
- **Develop a comprehensive marketing strategy promoting conservation and showcasing contemporary activities. The active involvement of local citizens will improve their understanding of the environment and generate community support and commitment to district programs.**
- **Assist the youth in acquiring the knowledge and skills necessary to make informed decisions that contribute to the sustainability of the natural resources.**

OBJECTIVES

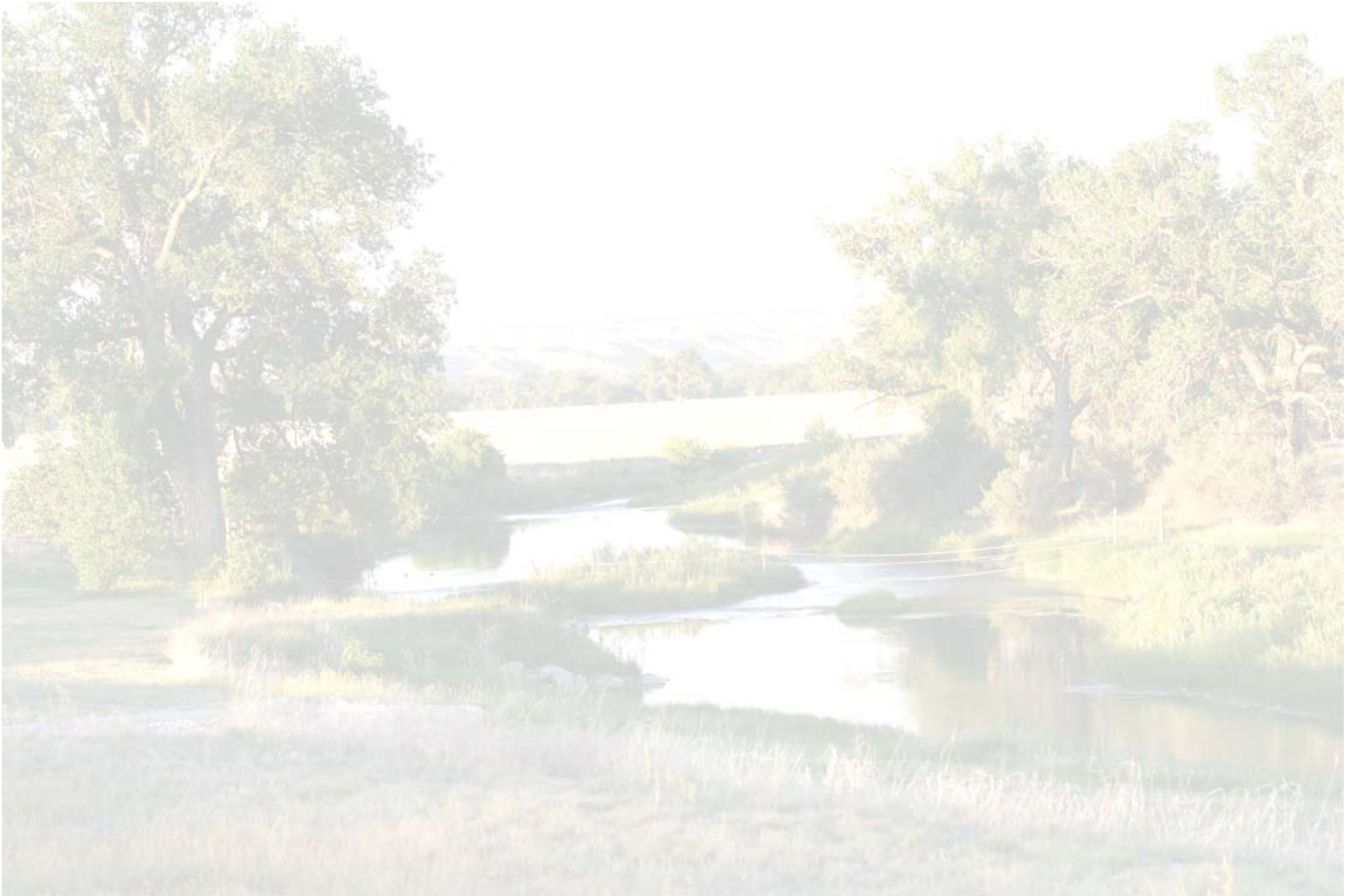
- **Develop a comprehensive program with agricultural producers to improve water quality, reduce wind erosion and offensive smells.**
- **Conduct an educational program for interested citizens on the endangered species act, clean water act, and other federal mandates that adversely affect small towns, rural communities, and their economies.**
- **In collaboration with the RC&D program and local communities explore the potential for attracting new diversified businesses that would increase employment opportunities, especially for the youth.**
- **Work with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture on the Beginning Farmer/Rancher program within LFLCD.**

SUMMARY

The Lingle-Fort Laramie board of supervisors recognize that local residents make choices every day of their lives. Some of these choices are made with full knowledge of their consequences. Others have unintended results. The conservation district is ready, willing, and able to help residents make choices that result in fostering a healthy life style within an environment that will be sustained for generations to come. For the next 5 years the LFLCD Board will work very hard to accomplish the goals and objectives outlined within this document.

LINGLE-FORT LARAMIE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

5 YEAR LONG RANGE PLAN



2007 - 2012