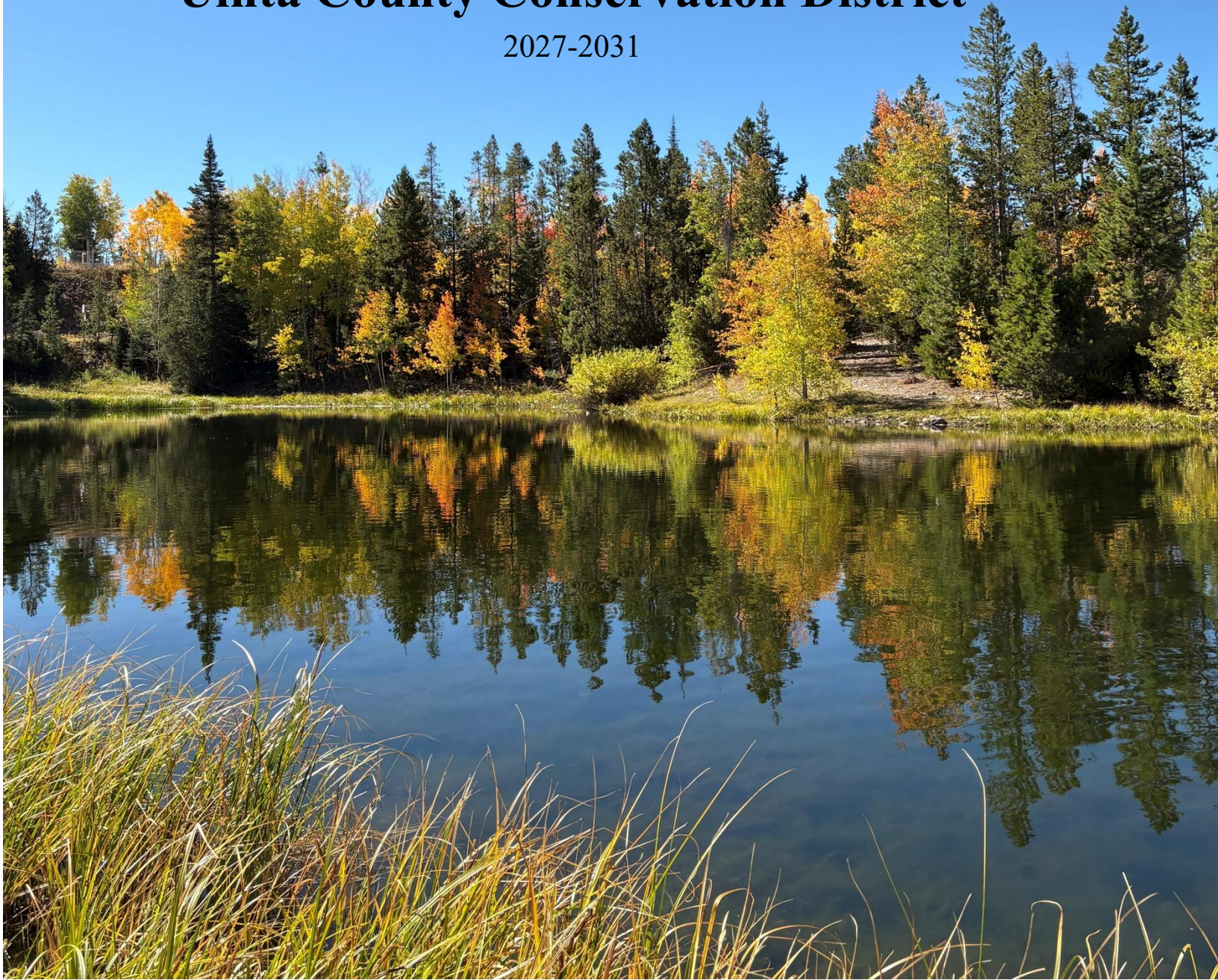


Long Range Plan

Uinta County Conservation District

2027-2031



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Introduction and History

The purpose of this document is to set forth the goals and objectives of the Uinta County Conservation District for the next five years (2027-2031).

The history of the Uinta County Conservation District (UCCD) originates back to the 1930's, where drought and misuse of the land turned the Great Plains into the Dust Bowl. Millions of acres of farmland were abandoned by farmers following the loss of topsoil to wind erosion, leaving hundreds homeless. By 1935, federal and state governments made extensive efforts to develop programs for soil conservation. The Soil Conservation Service, now named the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), was created under the Soil Conservation Act of 1935 to develop and implement soil erosion control programs. At times, agencies working with conservation ended up competing with each other and the need for local leadership was evident. In March 1941, the Wyoming State Legislature passed an act to establish conservation districts in Wyoming. Conservation Districts were to direct programs aimed at protecting local renewable natural resources. Following these directives, the Uinta County Conservation District was organized on June 4, 1948. The District was originally called the Bridger Valley Soil and Water Conservation District but as more landowners petitioned to be included in the district boundaries, the name was later changed to the Uinta County Conservation District.

The Uinta County Conservation District is responsible for directing conservation programs that aim to conserve the soil, water, and vegetative resources within our county. This is accomplished through education and conservation programs that promote sustainable use of our natural resources. Success and advances in conservation in Uinta County are due to the stewardship of the local landowners and concerned citizens of the county. Funding for programs is received through a mill levy that was passed during general election in 1988, as well as funding from a number of both state and federal partners.

The Uinta County Conservation District is led by a Board of Supervisors made up of 5 elected members, 3 rural, 1 urban and 1 at large- who are elected during the general election. This Board of Supervisors directs the operations of the conservation district, in part, through meetings generally held every month. These meetings are open to the general public. Information about board meetings can be found on the Uinta County Conservation Districts website at www.uintacountycd.com.

Mission

The mission of the Uinta County Conservation District (UCCD) is to promote and protect agriculture and to provide leadership, information, education and technical assistance for the development and improvement of our natural resources, to protect the tax base and promote the health, safety and well-being of Uinta County residents.

It is imperative to note that the UCCD is directed and led by the experienced and professional hand of agriculture and that such direction must persist in order to fulfill this mission.

As a means for realizing UCCD's mission, the following goals and objectives have been identified for implementation. These goals are designed to direct the operations of UCCD for the long term. Together, these goals, objectives, and the mission combine to make up the Long-Range Plan of UCCD.

UCCD's Long-Range plan is intended to be a guide and not an exhaustive list incapable of editing or additions. The Plan's goals and objectives are assigned to one of three relevant categories (found on the following page) that encompass the mission of UCCD.

Goals and Objectives

- **Public Education**
- **Natural Resources**
- **District Operations**

Public Education

Goals

- Provide Uinta County with a readily available resource of education covering natural resource subjects specific to our area, including agriculture, water, energy, forestry, plants, soils, and animals.
- Play a key role in educating the youth of Uinta County regarding natural resources and agriculture and their vital importance to our area.
- Work to make available any grants and other funding opportunities to facilitate the educational process for the people of Uinta County.
- Train educators in natural resource and agriculture topics as a means of facilitating the teaching of the youth in Uinta County.

Objectives

- Provide lessons that meet the Content and Performance Standards established by the Wyoming Department of Education to be given in the classroom per request of public and private school instructors covering subjects related to natural resources.
- Establish and execute educational programs for youth and interested adults.
- Provide instructional opportunities for teachers as training to facilitate the education of young people in natural resources.
- Provide workshops designed to inform and educate local producers on programs, practices, and other resources available to help them in their efforts to succeed in agriculture while improving the health of the land.
- Research educational opportunities in the form of grants and other funding and provide that information to local educators.
- Provide information on natural resource topics through social media, the UCCD website, newsletters, radio, newsprint, displays at events and other available avenues.

Natural Resources

Goals

- Act as a local source for current and valid scientific data which can be used to positively influence policies and decisions that impact the residents of Uinta County.
- Act as an authorized agency to provide comment and other recognized actions in regard to state, national, and local natural resource policies. As part of this involvement, act as a local voice representing the views and interests of the residents of Uinta County.
- Work to promote and make available programs that can help landowners and permittees increase their return on the land in addition to improving its health, thus securing its availability to future generations. Work with other partners and agencies to promote similar programs.
- Act as a technical resource for Uinta County residents to help improve the land's ecological health and return. In addition, act as an advocate for producers in efforts to maintain healthy working relationships between land management agencies and permittees.

Objectives

- Participate as a cooperating agency in the federal land planning policy and decision making process by providing local data as well as comments and reviews.
- Gather and document scientifically sound data in natural resource areas requiring local input to positively influence policies that affect residents of Uinta County.
- Provide opportunities for producers and other Uinta County residents to participate in beneficial programs by assisting with program applications for funding and act as a sponsor of the project if needed.
- Provide cost-share programs through UCCD to assist Uinta County producers and landowners with the cost to implement small conservation projects that will improve natural resources in Uinta County
- Continue to offer seedling trees from October through the end of March each year to provide affordable trees and encourage conservation plantings throughout Uinta County.
- Provide producers and landowners with comprehensive rangeland information and technical assistance, including conservation planning, range monitoring, data on permitted grazing lands, and other range-related services.

- Connect residents of Uinta County to specialized labs for water and soil testing to facilitate safe and proper use of natural resources. Continue to provide a very basic soil test for lawns and gardens.
- Coordinate and partner with other land and resource management agencies to improve funding opportunities and expand scope of work to include a variety of resource benefits such as fisheries, recreation, wildlife, forestry, and more.
- Provide soil and other resource information and comments on proposed subdivisions as required by Wyoming State Statute 18-5-306(b).

District Operations

Goals

- Exercise fiscal responsibility to protect the tax base through careful and conservative use of UCCD funds.
- Work to provide the public with well informed, educated, honest, and competent personnel to function well in their respective roles within UCCD.
- Maintain UCCD as an authorized and accurate representative of Uinta County residents, actively and effectively advocating for their interests in policy and lawmaking related to natural resources.
- Work with other agencies to get projects accomplished on the ground that will improve natural resources in Uinta County.
- Maintain the leadership and direction of UCCD under the experienced and professional hand of agriculture.

Objectives

- Keep personnel properly informed and qualified by having them attend any training necessary to competently accomplish their work.
- Hold fair and scheduled elections to ensure the Board Members accurately represent the residents of Uinta County.
- As a cooperating agency, operate in a respectful, educated, responsible, and dependable manner while participating in the decision-making processes with other agencies.