

Long Range Plan

Uinta County Conservation District

2022-2026



204 East Sage Street

PO Box 370

Lyman, WY 82937

(307)787-3070

www.uintacountycd.com

Table of Contents

Introduction and History.....	3
Mission.....	4
Categories of Goals and Objectives.....	5
Public Education.....	6
Natural Resources.....	7
District Operations.....	9

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 (2022-2026).

The history and fruition 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 UCCD was organized on June 4, 1948.

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 Conservation programs that promote sustainable use of our natural resources. Success and advances in conservation in Uinta County is due to the stewardship of the local landowners and concerned citizens of the county. Funding for programs is received through a mill levy passed during general election in 1988.

The Uinta County Conservation District is led by a District Board of Supervisors made up of 5 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 the third Thursday of every month. These meetings are open to the general public.

Mission

The mission of 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.

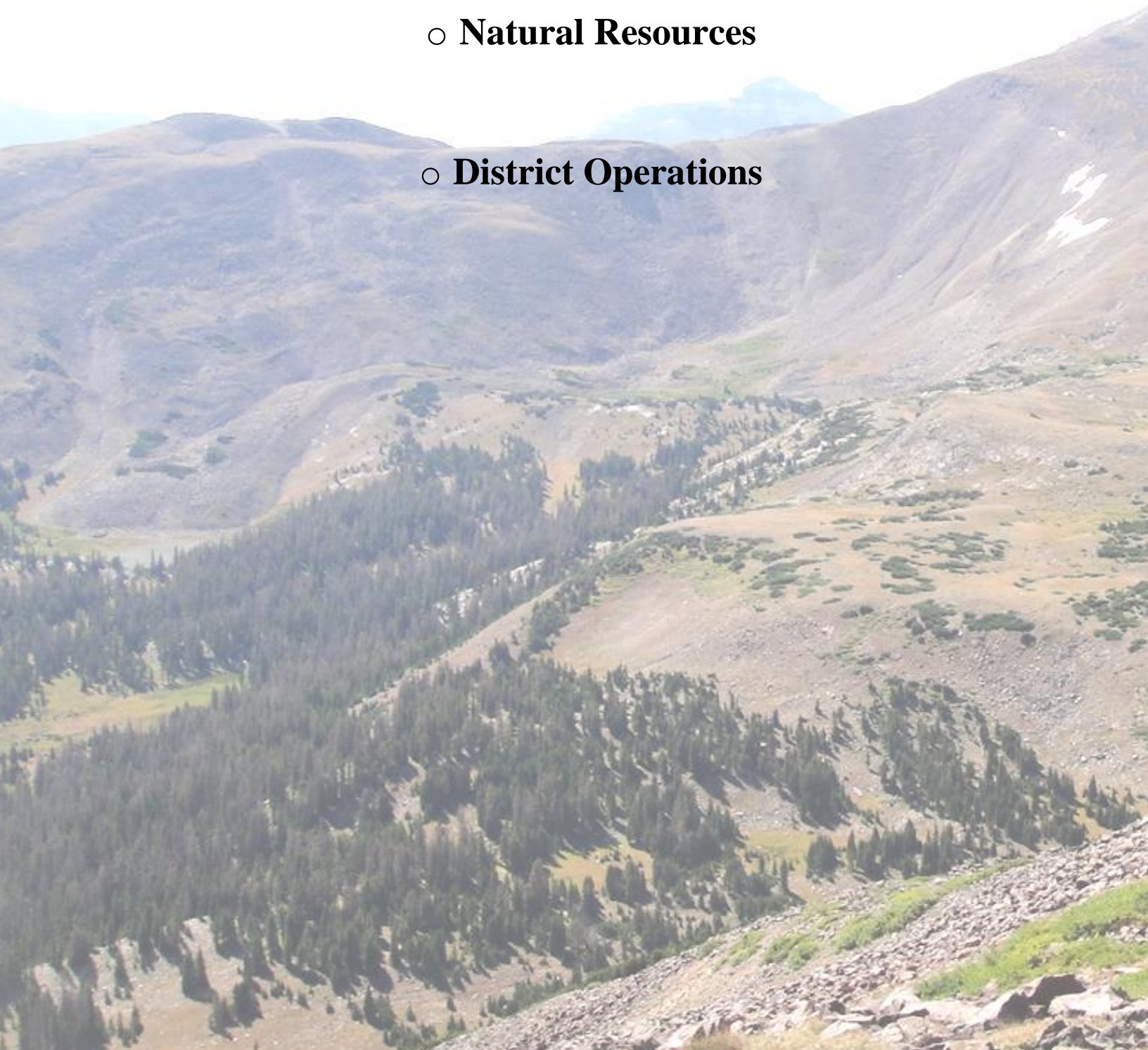


Categories of Goals and Objectives

- **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 water, energy, forestry, plants, soils, and animals.
- Play a key role in educating the young people of Uinta County regarding natural resources 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.
- Regarding natural resources, train educators 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 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.
- Make known educational opportunities in the form of grants and funds; work to make them available especially to local educators.
- Provide information on natural resource topics through social media, 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. In this involvement, act as a local voice representing the views and interests of the residents of Uinta County.
- Work to promote and make available those programs that can help landowners and permittees to both increase their return on the land in addition to improving its health, thus securing its availability to future generations. Work with NRCS to promote its programs in this same regard.
- 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 in addition to comments and reviews.
- Gather and document scientifically sound data in any natural resource areas requiring local input to positively influence policies that affect residents of Uinta County (data including resources such as water quality, range monitoring etc).
- Help producers improve their natural resources by acting as a sponsor, that is, helping to acquire any needed permits, funding, and resources required to make beneficial programs available to the residents of Uinta County.
- Provide cost-share programs designed to make land improvements viable options for Uinta County producers and landowners.
- Continue to provide seedling trees from October through the end of March each year to encourage conservation planting throughout Uinta County and by providing affordable trees and technical assistance.
- Provide range expertise to producers including the development of conservation plans, range monitoring, additional data on permitted ground, and any other technical range related services that could benefit producers and landowners.

- Connect residents of Uinta County with labs specialized in water and soil testing to facilitate safe and proper use of natural resources. Continue to provide a very basic soil test for gardens and small property owners.
- 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 the residents of Uinta County, active and effective in its efforts to be heard within the field of policy and law making as they concern natural resources.
- Work with other agencies to get projects accomplished on the ground that will improve natural resources for 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.

