



Natrona County Conservation District

2011 - 2015 Long Range Strategic Plan Summary

NATRONA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT MISSION

The Natrona County Conservation District Board of Supervisors is committed to the wise use and conservation of our natural resources. The district will provide collaborative leadership, education and technical assistance to the people of Natrona County.

NATURAL RESOURCES PERSPECTIVES

The Natrona County Conservation District plays a major role as a steward of the conservation of Natural Resources. Since the use of Natural Resources is such an integral part of our economy and culture, the Conservation District must focus not only on our Natural Resources, but also on the people and communities who are dependent upon them. **Natural resources include, but are not limited to, soil, water, land, trees, forest, grasses/range lands, wildlife and agriculture.**

Natrona County Conservation District works closely with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Natrona County Weed & Pest, the University of Wyoming, and many others, to ensure that wise practices are utilized in farming, ranching and range management. **Agriculture bases its very existence on sustainable use of our Natural Resources, while the world's human population bases its existence on sustainable agriculture.** If you eat, you are a part of agriculture. Communities, organizations, institutions, and agriculturalists will have to work together managing renewable Natural Resource systems to ensure sustainability.

DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Natrona County Conservation District is governed by an elected board of supervisors who meet monthly to provide leadership in the delivery of programs. The Board of Supervisors consists of three rural, one urban, and one at-large member. They serve staggered four year terms, with two positions available at a general election one year and three positions available at the next general election. Supervisors are unpaid, elected volunteers who attend monthly board meetings and are actively involved in overseeing the activities of the conservation district. Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the NCCD office and are open to the public.

HISTORY OF NCCD

Nationally, the first conservation district was formed in 1937. Wyoming passed the Soil Conservation Act in 1941. Wyoming Conservation Districts started forming later that year. The original Casper-Alcova Conservation District was formed in 1946 with the boundaries of the newly created Kendrick Irrigation Project. That same year the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) placed an office in Casper to assist the new Conservation District.

There are 34 districts in Wyoming, with each having specific boundaries and being governed by elected people who live within those boundaries. Their responsibility is to conserve our soil, water and other natural resources.

After many boundary changes, the Casper-Alcova Conservation District has evolved to include all of Natrona County including the City of Casper. In order to reflect the broad responsibility of the District, the name was changed in 1993 to the Natrona County Conservation District.

STRATEGIC GOALS

Based on our investigation of District values, vision, mission and input from surveys and public meetings, the following persistent issues and opportunities emerged.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS & ADMINISTRATION

Goal #1: Natrona County Conservation District will be accountable for all public funds and ensure that all district programs are accomplished responsibly.

WATER QUALITY, CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT GOALS

Goal #1: The Natrona County Conservation District will serve as a leader in Watershed Planning effort throughout the county.

Goal #2: The Natrona County Conservation District will serve as a leader in Watershed Implementation efforts throughout the county.

Goal #3: Minimize damage and erosion in Natrona County from storm water and decrease storm water pollution.

Goal #4: Address Legislative issues.

RANGE MANAGEMENT & QUALITY GOALS

Goal #1: Monitor conversion of agriculture lands.

Goal #2: Promote use of bio-solids for soil enhancement.

Goal #3: Reduce soil erosion throughout Natrona County.

Goal #4: Preserve and promote healthy habitat for wildlife.

Goal #5: Coordinate with and assist county partners to control prairie dog growth.

Goal #6: Address Legislative issues.

PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH GOALS

Goal #1: Educate Public Regarding Water Quality, Conservation & Management.

Goal #2: Range Management & Conservation Education

Goal #3: Strive to increase public awareness of NCCD and the resources offered by the District to the community.

Goal #4: Adult Education and Outreach.

Goal #5: Youth Education and Outreach.

Goal #6: Educate elected officials and leaders.

PURSUIT OF FUNDING RESOURCES

Goal #1: Garner sufficient funding to support District activities with attention paid to an ever-increasing workload.