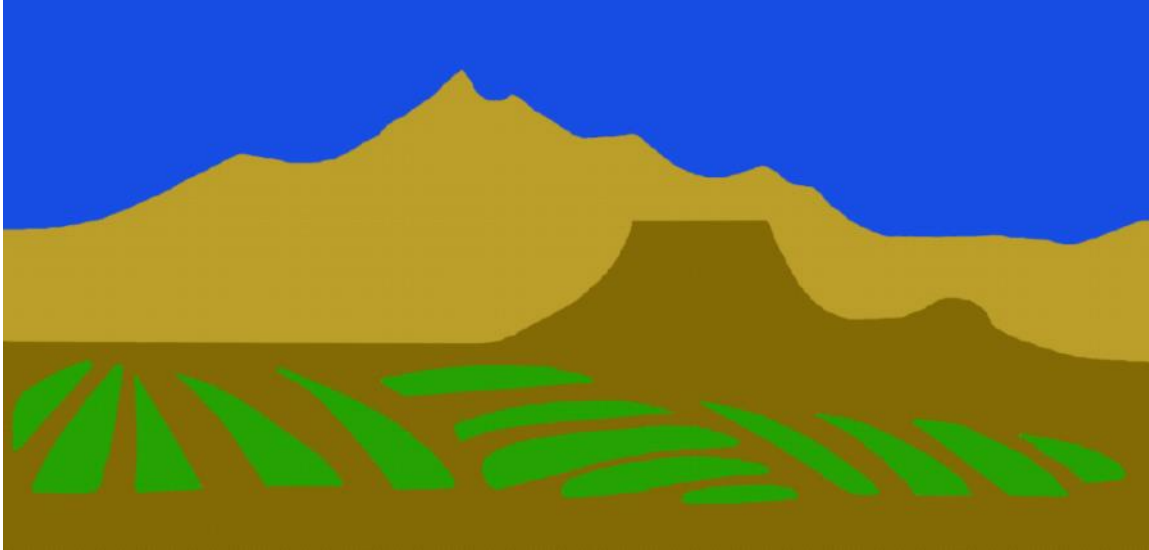


# Dubois-Crowheart Conservation District



## Long Range Plan

**2021-2025**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the beginning of 2020, the Dubois Crowheart Conservation District (DCCD) made two key operational decisions. First, with the retirement of the former District Manager in December 2019, a new District Manager, with a natural resource/science background, was hired. Second, DCCD bookkeeping was moved to an external accounting firm. The combined effect of these decisions would allow the District Manager to spend more time and expertise administering District programs.

The next step was to take a new look at District Operations, Programs and Objectives, and the 2021-2025 Long Range Plan. A professionally facilitated Strategic Planning Initiative involving the DCCD Supervisors, District Manager, and stakeholders was being considered. Due to the pandemic, Strategic Planning was postponed until 2021.

By March 2020, the pandemic shut down most District activities. The District was able to conduct monthly meetings remotely (via teleconference) and safely administer existing programs including annual tree sales, private well water testing, local cost share for greenhouses, irrigation, and livestock watering facilities. The District Manager joined WY DEQ for water testing and investigation of algae blooms in several upper country lakes. Educational outreach programs were conducted with high school Biology students and two National Bighorn Sheep Center outdoor programs. Finally, the District continued to investigate and gather public input related to a community greenhouse project.

In the absence of Strategic Planning results which would have occurred in 2020, the District sent a survey, based on the 2016-2020 plan issues, to the public. The number of returned surveys were low, but still demonstrate that a Strategic Plan for the District is needed.

In the area of District Operations:

- The District needs to focus on stakeholder awareness of what services and financial assistance the DCCD can and cannot provide.
- The District needs to accurately define the type and scope of projects and assistance provided.
- Based on survey suggestions, the District should review new ideas and projects that could meet resource and budget objectives.
- The District needs to better communicate their partnership with the NRCS and NRCS programs that may be more applicable to stakeholders.
- The District needs to refresh existing partnerships and expectations with Federal, State, County and local government entities, and other natural resource advocacy groups.

In the area of District Programs, survey results and supporting comments ranked Water, Wildlife, Food Security and Land Use (*Growth, Development, Soils, Rangelands*) as top issues.

**Water:** A growing watershed awareness with emphasis on the toxic algae bloom in upper country lakes.

**Wildlife:** Increased interest in living with wildlife while avoiding wildlife conflicts with an emphasis on habitat, migration, vegetation damage, and vehicle-wildlife collisions.

**Food Security:** Growing interest in a sustainable community greenhouse, community gardens and expansion of local Farmer's Market.

**Land Use:** Supply educational, relevant, appropriate, and timely land and natural resource use information to all stakeholders. Additionally, there is strong emphasis that all landowners (large and small) work with Fremont County Weed and Pest to control invasive and noxious weeds.

The 2021-2025 Long Range Plan will be considered in two parts: Operations and Programs.

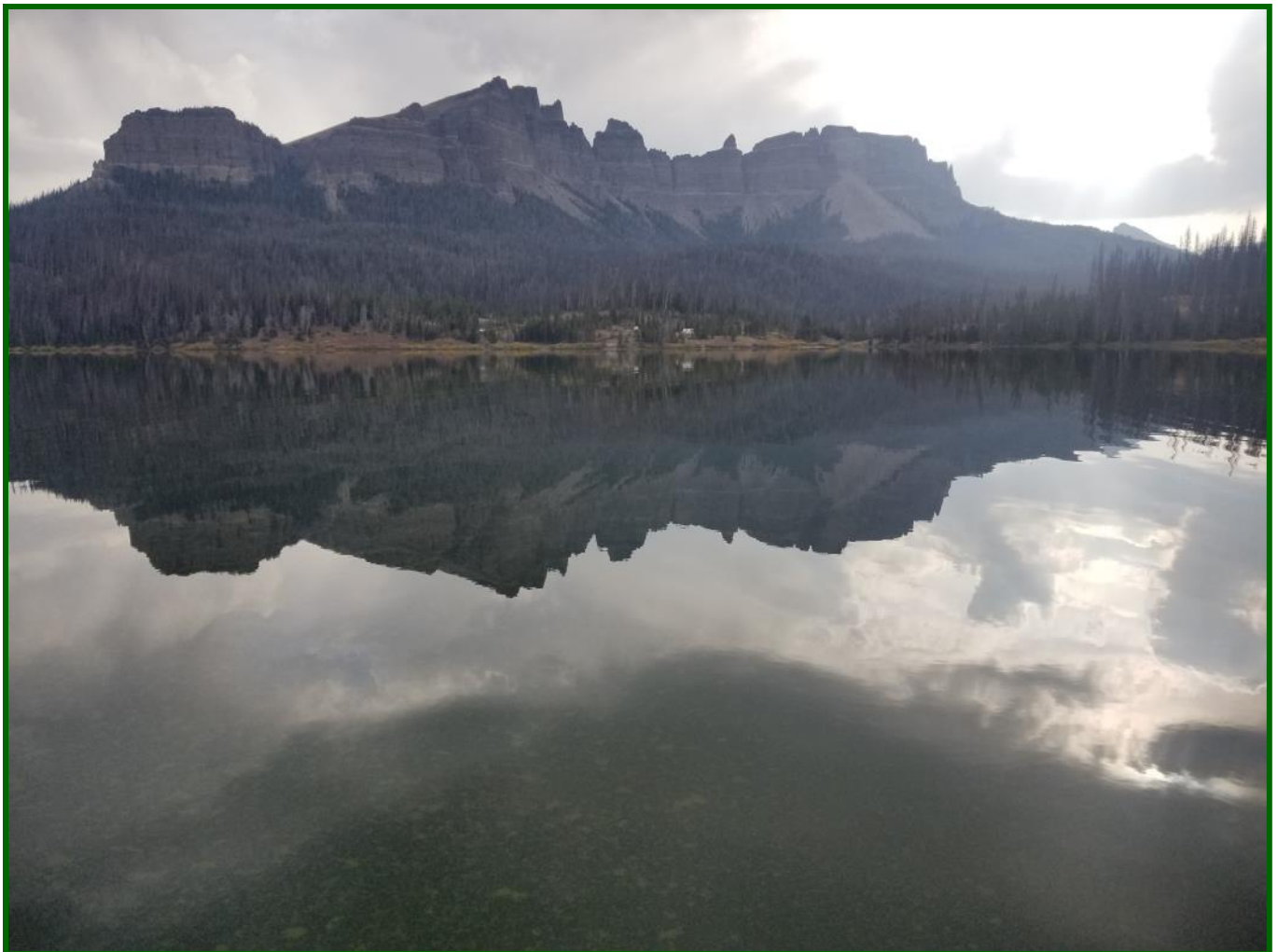
### **Operational Improvements**

- **Strategic Planning and Stakeholder Awareness**
- **Applicable and Appropriate Programs**
- **Enhanced Communication**
- **Partnerships**

### **Programs**

- **Water**
- **Wildlife**
- **Food Security and Sustainability**
- **Land Use**

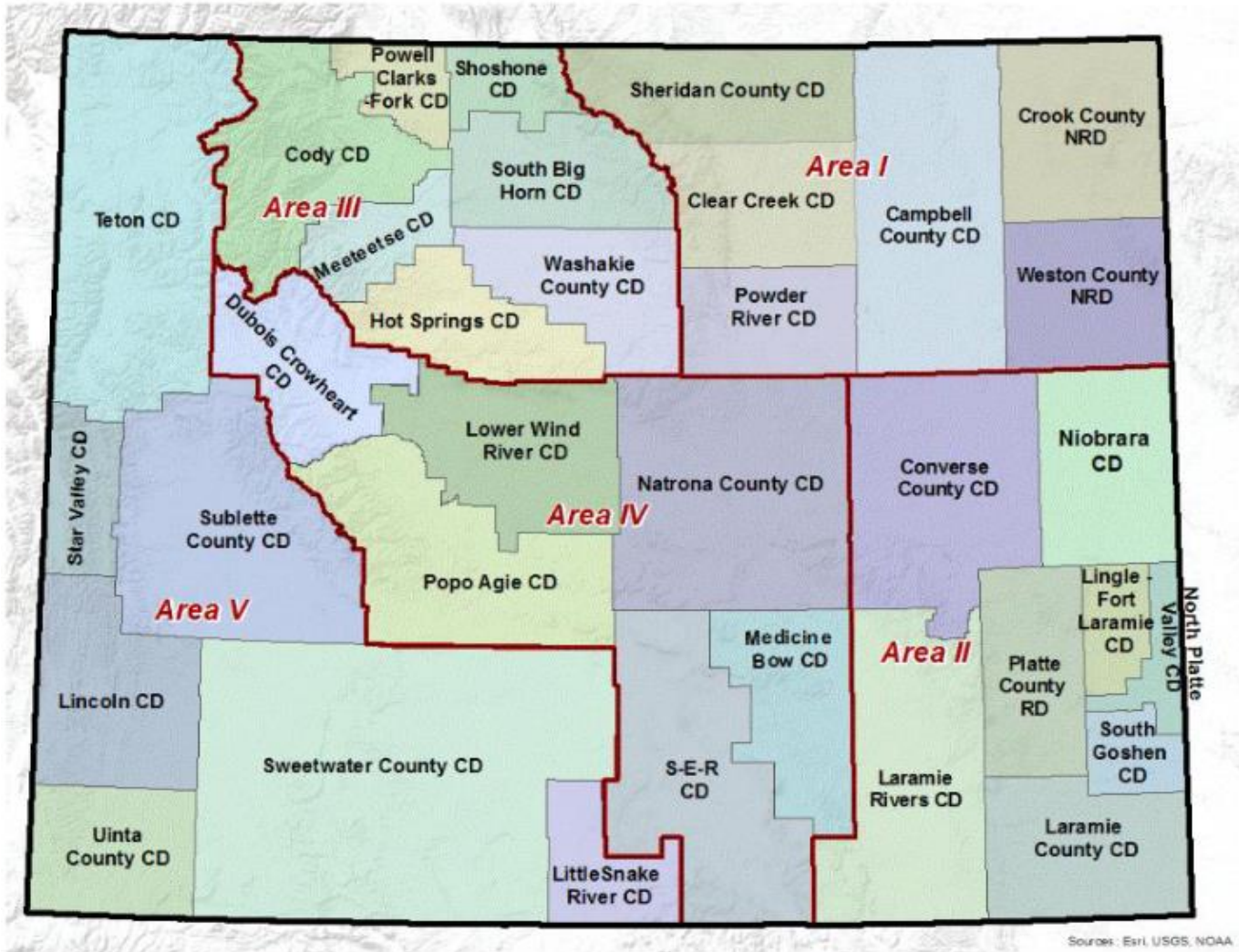
2021 will be a transitional year. The DCCD will continue to support standard programs as funding allows. Strategic Planning results are expected by 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr 2021 and may require the District to modify parts of the 2021-2025 Long Range Plan.



## WYOMING CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

In 1941, the Wyoming State Legislature recognized the need for a local governmental entity which would assist landowners and resource users with conservation practices and provide leadership in natural resource management issues and efforts. As a result, legislation was enacted which enabled the formation of local Conservation Districts and the election of Conservation District Supervisors. The Wyoming legislation authorizing the establishment of Conservation Districts was signed by Governor Smith on March 5, 1941.

There are 34 local Conservation Districts located throughout the state of Wyoming. There are 170 Supervisors throughout Wyoming representing rural and urban interests. These Supervisors are elected during the general election. Conservation Districts today offer a wide variety of programs to help anyone interested in conservation. Some of the programs offered include tree planting, waste management, water quality, wildlife habitat, recycling, and information/education programs. Conservation Districts, as local governments, also play a key role in federal land management planning processes and federal and state legislative and administrative initiatives affecting local conservation and land use activities.



The DCCD is one of three conservation districts serving Fremont County, with headquarters in Dubois, Wyoming.

## DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

The Dubois Crowheart Conservation District (*District*) is a legally organized Wyoming Conservation District by Wyoming State Statutes (W.S. 11-16-101 through 11-16-134) as a legal subdivision of the State of Wyoming, Department of Agriculture. Formed on December 3, 1945, by a special referendum of the landowners in northwestern Fremont County, the District is responsible for the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources within its boundaries. Since the original District was formed, two additions have occurred: the first in 1952, and the second in 1974. Presently, the District provides stakeholder services on 1,487,950 acres, including approximately 568,000 acres of the western part of the Wind River Indian Reservation.

**Applicable Statute:** W.S. 11-16-103. Legislative Declarations and Policy:

*(a) It is hereby declared that the farm and grazing lands of Wyoming are among the basic assets of the state; that improper land use practices cause and contribute to serious erosion of these lands by wind and water; that among the consequences which would result from such conditions are the deterioration of soil and its fertility and the silting and sedimentation of stream channels, reservoirs, dams and ditches; that to conserve soil, and soil and water resources, and prevent and control soil erosion, it is necessary that land use practices contributing to soil erosion be discouraged and that appropriate soil conserving land use practices be adopted.*

*(b) It is hereby declared to be the policy of the legislature to provide for the conservation of the soil, and soil and water resources of this state, and for the control and prevention of soil erosion and for flood prevention or the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water, and thereby to stabilize ranching and farming operations, to preserve natural resources, protect the tax base, control floods, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, preserve wildlife, protect public lands, and protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of this state.*

## DISTRICT OPERATING POLICY

- Cooperate with individuals, groups or institutions having questions concerning the conservation of soil, water, trees, vegetation and wildlife.
- Encourage all District stakeholders to become partners by using conservation planning as the basis for responsible development and conservation of the District's natural resources.
- Provide technical assistance as equitably as possible to all District stakeholders.
- Stay current with new state and national legislation concerning programs which could be beneficial to District constituents.
- Cooperate with State and Federal agencies, and with local governments to provide expertise in the field of resource conservation; and acquire technical assistance for the implementation of conservation measures on the land.
- Exercise a conservative and prudent fiscal policy with all monies received for District operations.
- Offer all assistance on a nondiscriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.

## DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

**2021 District Board of Supervisors:** *(see appendix for a comprehensive list of Supervisors who have served the District)*

Reg Phillips, Chairman; Todd Hirsch, Vice Chairman; Alicia Rux, Secretary; MaryAnn Taylor, Treasurer; and Michael Kenney, Supervisor

**District Manager:** Erin Hannelly

**Responsibilities.** The District Manager oversees the Conservation District business office; as well as conservation, education, informational and promotional programs to help ensure that District goals, objectives and routine activities are implemented and monitored.

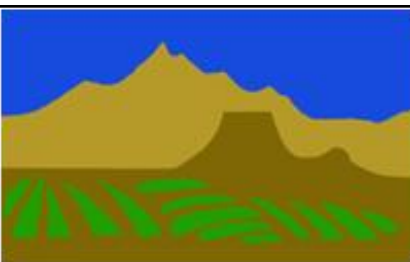
The District Manager also meets and works with the public, to generate broad support and enthusiasm for District projects and programs.

**District Supervisors**, elected by general election ballot for a term of four years, serve as the governing body of the Conservation District with authority as outlined in Conservation District law. They plan and assist in total resource conservation and provide alternative solutions to soil, water and other natural resource problems. These individuals serve their community and district voluntarily and without pay. All decisions and action plans include district and stakeholder participation.

The District is primarily supported via the authority to levy up to a one mill property tax assessment on private land within its boundaries. Additional support includes grants, appropriations from the State of Wyoming, and additional funding applicable to specific projects. In 2014, a petition recall 1 mill levy was approved by the voters to allow the District to maintain their mill levy funding, unless 10% of the voters request to rescind the petition recall.

The most important function of the District is to recognize natural resource conservation needs and develop programs to address these issues. The primary source of technical assistance to the District is the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The District also works cooperatively with the Farm Services Administration (FSA), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), United States Forest Service (USFS), Farmers Home Administration (FHA), Wyoming Game and Fish Department, Fremont County Planning Office, Fremont County Extension Service, Fremont County Commissioners, Town of Dubois, Fremont County Weed and Pest, and others.

## MISSION STATEMENT



*The Dubois Crowheart Conservation District provides leadership for the conservation and management of the area's natural resources. Promoting and sustaining research, education, cooperative projects, sound conservation practices and a visible advocacy; for land, water, vegetation, wildlife, and air quality helps protect the tax base and ensures the health, safety and general welfare of the citizens of the District.*



## DISTRICT CHARACTERISTICS

### Land Ownership within District boundaries (*approx. acreage*)

Bureau of Land Management: 43,540

WY Game & Fish (WGFD): 44,126 (*includes wildlife habitat areas-sometimes referred to as refuge areas*)

USFS-National Forest: 282,451

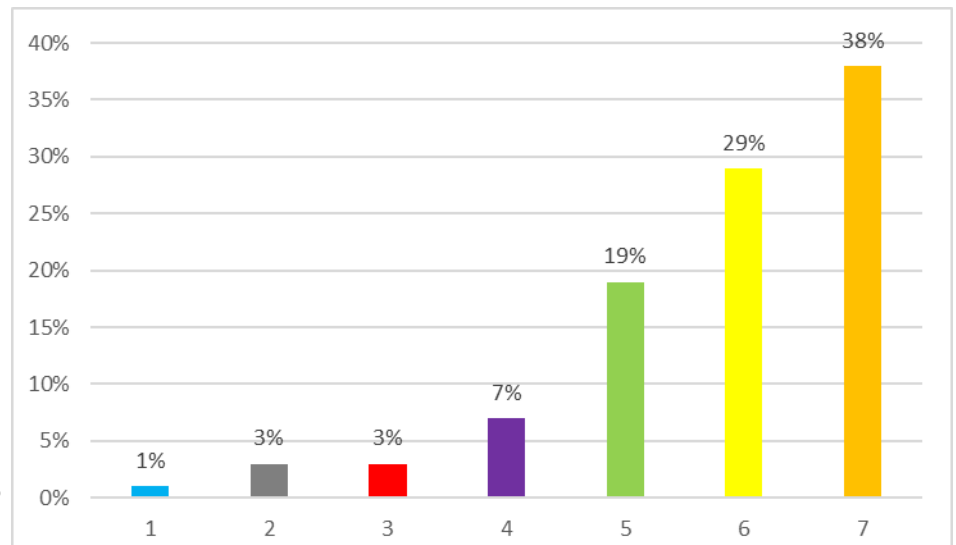
USFS-Wilderness: 430,790

Private Land: 99,330 (*includes deeded property within Wind River Indian Reservation boundaries*)

Wind River Indian Reservation: 568,354 (*Trust and Allotment Acreage*)

Wyoming State Land: 19,350

1. State Land: 1%
2. BLM: 3%
3. WGFD: 3%
4. Private: 7%
5. USFS non-Wilderness: 19%
6. USFS Wilderness: 29%
7. Wind River Indian Reservation: 38%



## PRIMARY LAND USES

### Rangelands

Almost 920,000 acres of the District are classified as rangelands and open to livestock and wildlife grazing, the largest single land use in the District.

### Irrigated Lands

There are approximately 33,000 irrigated acres in the District producing mostly alfalfa, grass hay, and pasture.

### Forest Products

There are roughly 150,000 acres of available forest and woodland classification within the District. Several small-scale operations produce rough-sawn lumber, post and poles, and firewood. The Forest Service administers several mid-size salvage and thinning sales annually.

### Recreation

Most recreation opportunities are concentrated on approximately 715,000 acres of the Shoshone National Forest, Wind River District. Additional opportunities are seasonally available on Bureau of Land Management lands and Wyoming Game and Fish administered habitat areas. These combined areas host increasingly high levels of seasonal uses including snow sports, hunting, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, camping, photography and sightseeing.



## COMMUNITIES

The District has two communities of interest: the largest is the incorporated town of Dubois, with a population of 842 (*2019 estimate*); and the other is Crowheart. With its small fuel station, store, and post office, Crowheart serves as a community center for small and mid-scale agricultural operations located on a mixture of Tribal Trust - allotted and deeded lands that constitute the western part of the Wind River Indian Reservation. The Crowheart CDP population is 150 (*2019 estimate*). The estimated full-time population of the entire District is 2,100.

## ECONOMY

Dubois and the Upper Wind River part of the District can be characterized in general as a recreation, tourism, second home, summer home, and retirement (*or “mailbox”*) economy. A few large ranches are still active and smaller agricultural operations are present. The largest employer is the government (*federal & state*).

Crowheart and the eastern half of the District, located within the exterior boundary of the Wind River Indian Reservation, are home to mostly small and mid-size agricultural operations producing cattle, some sheep, hay, and winter pasture.

The area remains attractive for second homes/vacation homes and retirement homes. In 2020, an influx of “Pandemic Refugees” contributed to steady real estate sales, increased property values, and moderate population growth. New communications facilities were constructed to 32 rural locations in 2020 and 23 rural locations in 2019. As pressures increase on the District’s limited private land resource, so will the need for services that address natural resource challenges of living on small acreages.

## CLIMATE

The climate in the Dubois-Crowheart Conservation District is quite variable. The Dubois area has an average growing season of 53 days, while the eastern portion of the District (Crowheart area) may experience a growing season of 90 to 110 days. From May to September, daytime temperatures average 60° F to 80° F. Temperatures of 32° F or lower (due to rapid nighttime radiation cooling) can occur any time during the summer in the western valleys of the District. Temperature extremes recorded, include a low of -49° F to a high of 105° F.

Strong down valley winds of 30 to 40 mph, with gusts of 50 mph or more may occur year round. Passage of cold and other weather fronts generate periods of sustained winds with gusts that may exceed 75 mph.

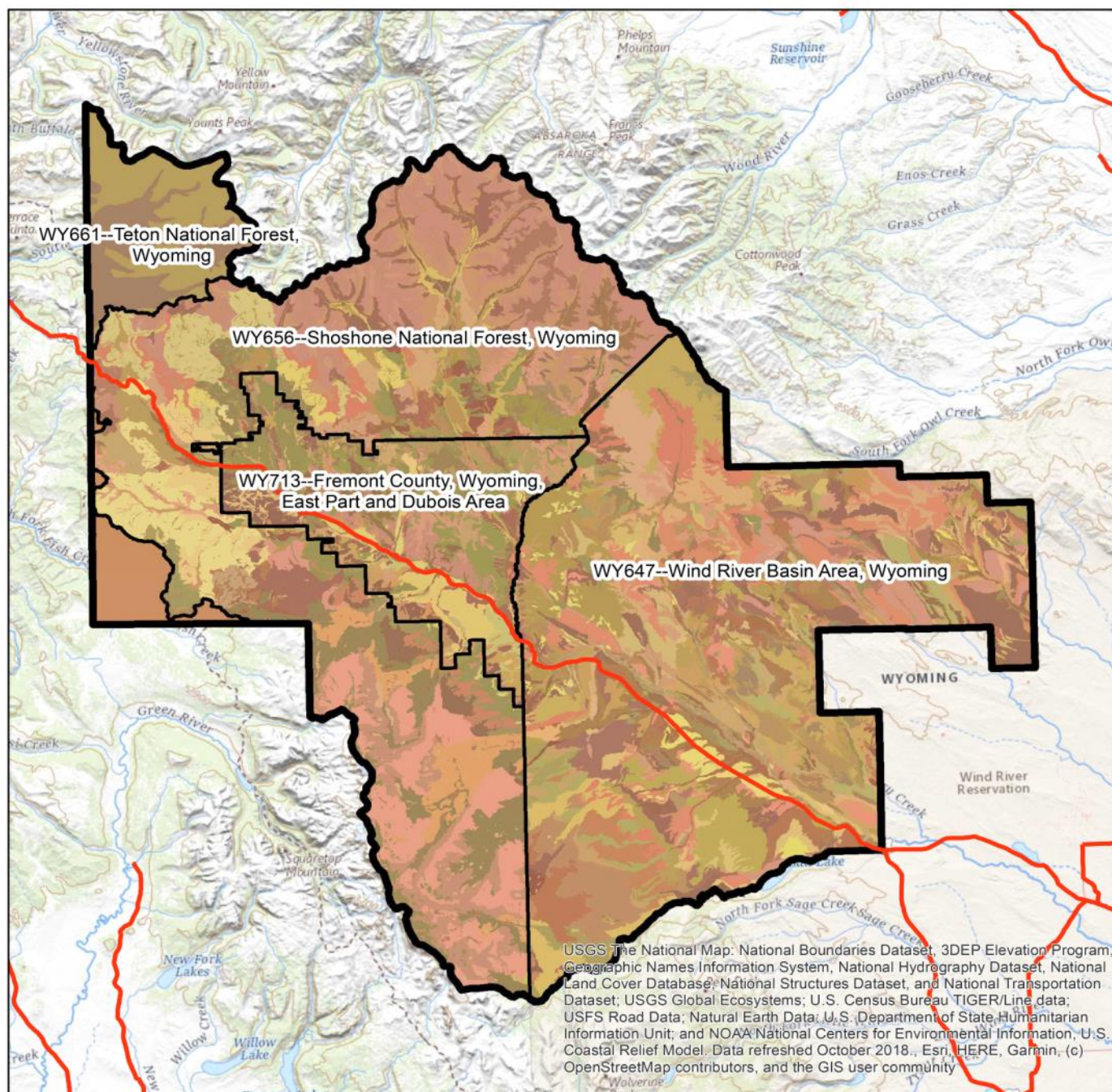
Due to the “rain shadow” effect of the Wind River and Absaroka mountain Ranges, the average annual valley/basin precipitation is 9-11 inches. However, elevations above 9,000 feet may have annual precipitation amounts ranging from 20 to 50 inches, mostly in the form of accumulated snow.



## SOILS

Soil surveys are routinely used in management decisions regarding hayfields/pasturelands, rangelands and wildlife habitat. However, soil surveys are also critical to public and private entities for understanding the suitability for and limitations of industrial, commercial, and residential building site development, local construction material, land classifications and management, recreational development, septic/sanitary facilities, waste management, water management and disaster recovery planning.

### Dubois-Crowheart Conservation District Soil Survey

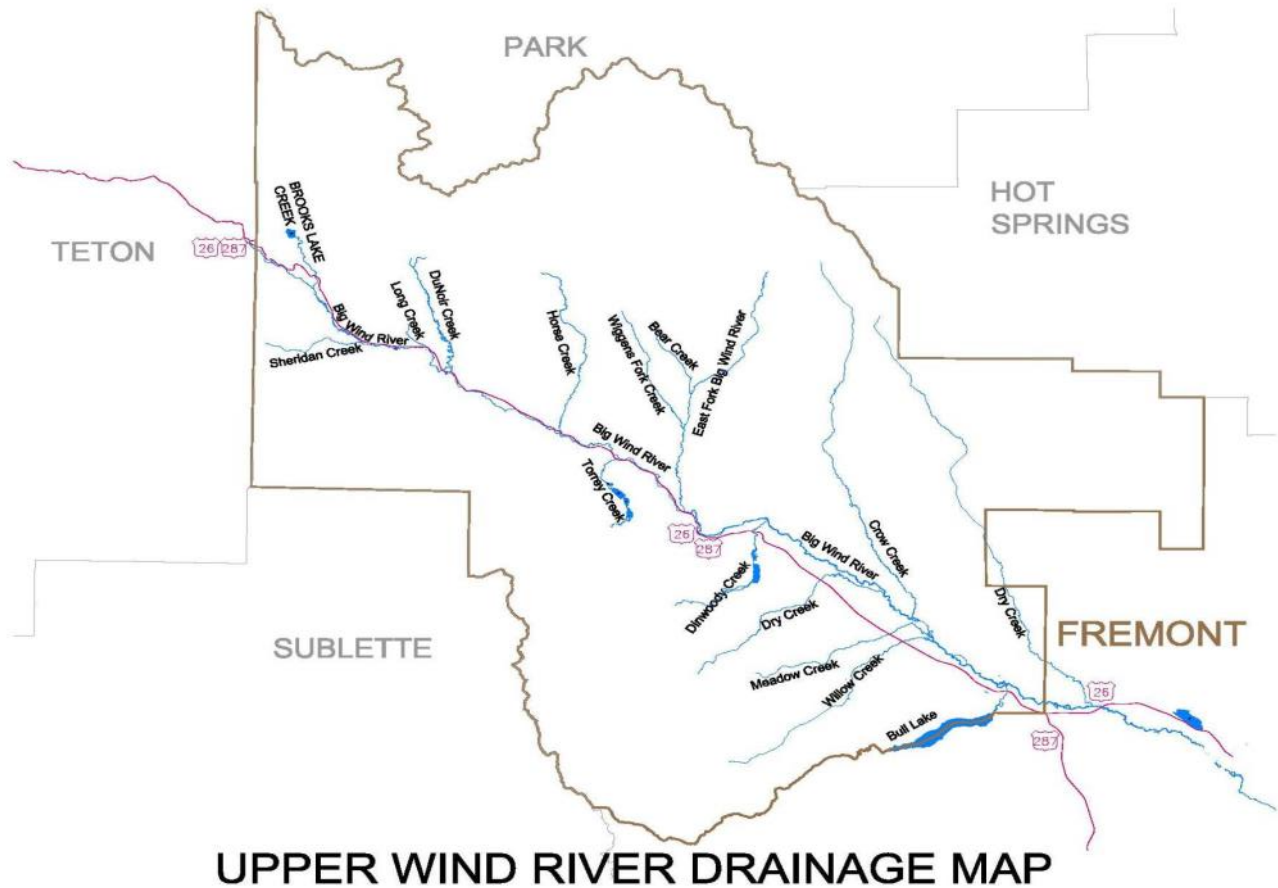


Compiled by United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey Staff. The DCCD Soil Survey map is a composite of information from four mapped and published soil survey areas: WY647 Wind River Basin Area, WY713 Fremont County-East Part and Dubois Area, WY656 Shoshone National Forest and WY661 Bridger-Teton National Forest. There are 281 identified soil types in the District. Detailed information is available online at <https://gdg.sc.egov.usda.gov/>



## UPPER WIND RIVER WATERSHED

The primary drainage of the Dubois-Crowheart Conservation District is the upper Wind River. Recognizable tributaries include: Brooks Lake Cr., Sheridan Cr., Long Cr., Du Bois, Horse Cr., Torrey Cr., Wiggins Fork., Bear Cr., East Fork., Dinwoody Cr., Dry Cr., Meadow Cr., Crow Cr., and Bull Lake Cr. This watershed is a critical component of the greater Wind-Big Horn River Basin.



## WATER QUALITY

Issues that can affect water quality include increased sediment load from snowmelt or nearby rain events over the highly erodible soils in the badlands area of the District and recent burn scars.

Growth in residential building along or near live drainages increases the potential for waste contamination of surface and groundwater resources due to poor septic system planning.

Occurrences of toxic algae blooms in mountain lakes near drainage headwaters may create contaminated and unsafe conditions for downstream water users.

## VEGETATION

The District's valley and lower foothills may be characterized as sagebrush steppe or sagebrush-shrubland, a complex and fragile vegetation community where sagebrush (*Artemisia spp.*) typically dominates the landscape and trees are sparse. There is a diversity of other shrubs such as green rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*), rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), saltbush (*Atriplex spp.*), winterfat (*Krascheninnikovia lanata*), and antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*). Several species of herbaceous flowering plants or forbs (i.e. - bluebells (*Mertensia spp.*), *Phlox spp.*, balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza sagittata*), milkvetch (*Astragalus spp.*), Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja spp.*) and grasses (i.e. - Indian ricegrass (*Achnatherum hymenoides*), western wheatgrass (*Pascopyrum smithii*), Idaho fescue (*Festuca idahoensis*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), Great Basin wild rye (*Leymus cinereus*)) occupy the spaces between shrubs. Cryptobiotic soils composed of lichens, mosses, and alga play a crucial role in supplying nutrients and stabilizing soil in the sagebrush steppe. Lowland riparian areas are dominated by various genera of cottonwood trees (*Populus spp.*) and willows (*Salix spp.*) with a diverse understory.

Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) is common at elevations of 7,500-8,500 feet. Much of the aspen community is in a mature to declining condition. Mature and aging stands cottonwoods are found along lower elevations of the Wind River and tributary riparian areas. The higher foothills and mountainous areas of the District are dominated by six conifer species. Limber pine (*Pinus flexilis*) is widely scattered at lower elevations. At mid-elevations, mountain forests are dominated by Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), grading into more drought tolerant lodgepole pine (*P. contorta*). Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*), subalpine fir (*Abies lasiocarpa*) and whitebark pine (*P. albicaulis*) dominate at higher elevations.

### Species of Note

Whitebark pine (*P. albicaulis*) trees are adapted for extreme conditions; its habitat is harsh with severe winds and cold, intense UV radiation, and significant snowfall. They are critical in stabilizing soil at high elevations, as well as retaining snowpack and regulating the rate of snowmelt runoff. Their seeds provide essential calories for some animals and birds that it has developed mutualistic relationships with over evolutionary time. Whitebark pine may be considered a keystone species of high elevation ecosystems in the Intermountain West. Several stressors have caused precipitous decline in this tree species including: climate change, a mountain pine beetle (*Dendroctonus ponderosae*) epidemic, alterations in fire regimes, and white pine blister rust (*Cronartium ribicola*). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is deliberating whether or not to list this species as Threatened or Endangered under The Endangered Species Act of 1973, as this species has experienced upwards of 85% mortality in some areas, including in the District's western mountains.

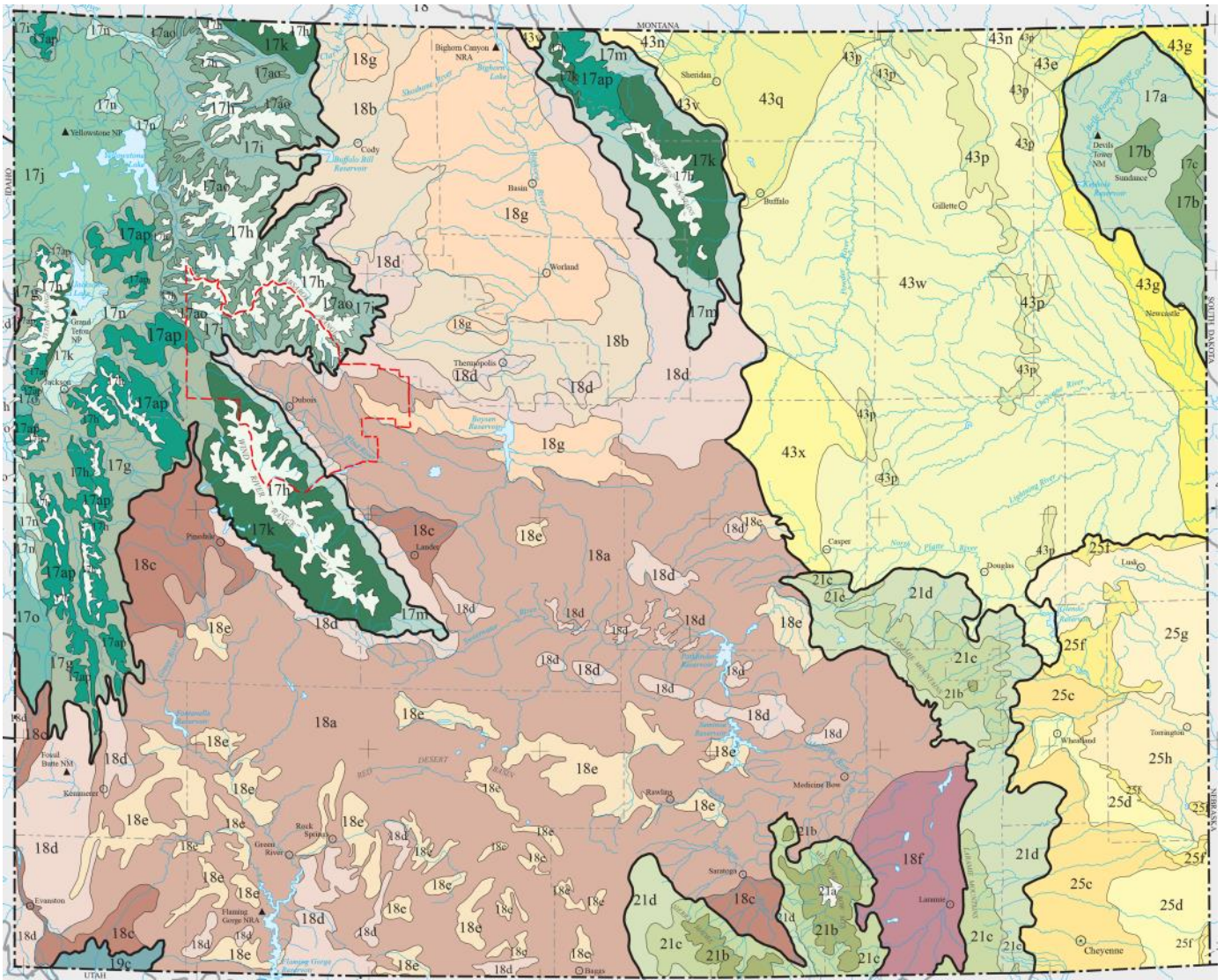


Cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), whitetop (*Lepidium draba*), Russian knapweed (*Rhaponticum repens*), and perennial pepperweed (*Lepidium latifolium*) are some of the predominant invasive plant species growing within District grasslands, foothills, and forests. They can outcompete native perennial grasses, which in some cases can produce an undesirable monocrop. By means of mechanical, chemical, and biological control, ongoing landscape-scale efforts are helping to keep these species at bay.



## RANGELAND

Most of the District's available rangeland is in the Wyoming Basin Ecoregion (Level III designation 18). 18a is classed as Rolling Sagebrush Steppe, and 18d is Foothill Shrublands and Low Mountains. The northern and western part of the District is considered Middle Rockies Ecoregion (Level III designation 17) and includes available rangelands in the Shoshone National Forest, designated as 17g Mid-Elevation Sedimentary Mountains and 17i Absaroka-Gallatin Volcanic Mountains.



State Ecoregion Map from: Chapman, S.S., Bryce, S.A., Omerik, J.M., Despain, D.G., ZumBerge, J., and Conrad, M., 2004, Ecoregions of Wyoming (color poster with map, descriptive text, summary tables, and photographs): Reston, Virginia, U.S. Geological Survey (map scale 1:1,400,000).

The District's rangelands include a variety of uses ranging from livestock grazing, tourism, recreation, fishing, hunting, wildlife watching and limited oil and gas development. Proper management of these uses helps mitigate degradation of the soils, water, riparian, vegetation and air quality resources of the District's rangelands.

Erosion, noxious and invasive plants, variable drought conditions and climate uncertainty create challenges for long term productivity of the District's rangelands.



## WILDLIFE RESOURCES

The western part of the District is partly within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Interconnected tracts of public and private land provide large areas of crucial wildlife habitat for game and non-game wildlife species.

Big game species including moose (*Alces alces*), elk (*Cervus canadensis*), pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) occupy the grasslands, sagebrush steppe, subalpine, and alpine forests. Increasing numbers of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) have expanded their range into the upper country along the Big Wind River riparian corridor.

The mountains and foothills provide habitat for some of the largest herds of bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) in the world. The District boasts an array of predators such as black bears (*Ursus americanus*), cougars (*Puma concolor*), bobcats (*Lynx rufus*), coyotes (*Canis latrans*), red foxes (*Vulpes vulpes*), badgers (*Taxidea taxus*), and several other members in the weasel family (Mustelidae), including the rare and elusive wolverine (*Gulo gulo*). Several federally protected animals continue to maintain populations here including grizzly bears (*Ursus arctos*) and gray wolves (*Canis lupis*). Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) have also been detected in this region, albeit rarely.

There are numerous upland game birds within District boundaries. Ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) and dusky grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*) prefer treed habitats at mid-elevations, mourning doves (*Zenaidura macroura*) are common in most lowland open habitats, while greater sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) are an obligate of the sagebrush steppe ecosystem. Chukar (*Alectoris chukar*), ring-necked pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*), and grey partridge (*Perdix perdix*) are Eurasian species that were introduced for hunting purposes. The District is also on the western edge of the Central Flyway for migratory waterfowl. Waters in the District are used as resting areas by many migrating species.

The District's streams, rivers and lakes provide excellent habitat for a variety of fishes. Rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii*), including the sensitive and habitat specific Yellowstone cutthroat trout, mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*), and burbot (*Lota lota*) are some native species. Introduced eastern brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), golden trout (*Oncorhynchus aguabonita*), and lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) also flourish here.



# 2021-2025 Long Range Plan

## Operational Improvements

**Strategic Planning.** The DCCD Board of Supervisors will undertake a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, facilitated Strategic Planning Initiative in Plan Year 2021. This initiative is necessary to address long term organizational strength, new staff, changing stakeholder demographics, and new land use and natural resource challenges. The District envisions three steps in the process:

1. Board assessment and development.
2. Productive stakeholder input.
3. Well defined strategies and measurable goals.

**Applicable and Appropriate Programs.** The District will review standard cost share programs and objectives to determine applicability and financial support levels. The district will also identify various types of cost share requests that should be directed to the NRCS or other applicable entities with specific expertise and financial assistance programs.

**Communications.** The District will focus on improved communications with stakeholders regarding:

1. The role of a local Conservation District
2. What services and financial assistance the District can and cannot provide
3. The District partnership with the NRCS and NRCS programs that may be more applicable to stakeholders.
4. Better use of Web site, social media and print media to disseminate timely information.

**Partnerships.** Given the challenging mix of public, private and Reservation lands that comprise the District, working partnerships are crucial to addressing natural resource issues.

1. The District will reach out to Federal, Tribal, State, County, and local government entities to initiate new collaborative agreements or memorandums of understanding to address local natural resource issues.
2. The District will engage non-government organizations to determine if natural resource project partnerships are possible.



## Programs

Stakeholder survey results and supporting comments ranked Water, Wildlife, Food Security, and Land Use (*Growth, Development, Soils and Rangelands*) as the top issues.

**Water.** The quality and quantity of ground and surface water is key to sustainable District resources such as Wildlife, Vegetation, Rangelands, Soils, Farm and Ranch Operations, community and private food gardens, and overall stakeholder Quality of Life. Issues such as toxic algae blooms in area lakes or increased development along or near the Wind River directly affect District water quality.

### Actions

1. Successful promotion and expansion the District Private Well Water Testing Program.
2. Continued work with the Fremont County Planning Commission and Public to promote septic system planning, design, maintenance, and safety.
3. Increased outreach to new and existing small acreage landowners to mitigate building or development activities that can adversely affect water quality.

### Education

- Water quality education workshops for the Public.
- Provide workshops and educational materials and support to mitigate residential development in or near riparian areas.

**Watershed Awareness.** There is growing stakeholder awareness of issues and challenges affecting the Upper Wind River Watershed.

- Pursue working partnership with WY DEQ to assist with testing and data collection efforts required in ongoing study of **Toxic Algae Blooms in Upper Country Lakes**.
- Communicate findings to District stakeholders.
- Continue updating existing baseline data of District water resources.
- Determine stakeholder interest in long term watershed management plan.

**Wildlife.** A sustainable and healthy wildlife population is an important area asset. Improperly planned land and real estate development can fragment access to critical habitat. Public education can lessen wildlife conflicts.

#### **Actions**

1. Identify opportunities for cooperative habitat projects.
2. Explore opportunities with WYDOT, WGFD, and others to mitigate highway wildlife-vehicle collisions.
3. Explore opportunities with WGFD and private irrigators to mitigate fish loss at headgates.

#### **Education**

- Provide stakeholder “Living with Wildlife” workshops (partnership with WGFD).
- Offer educational materials to large and small landowners to improve wildlife habitat.
- Continue outreach to local schools and wildlife groups to assist with educational projects.
- Continue involvement with National Bighorn Sheep Center’s Camp Bighorn and Torrey Valley Soil & Mineral Assessment.
- Repair, revitalize, and promote Gilligan’s Island Outdoor Classroom with local schools.





**Food Security and Sustainability.** The continuing success of cost sharing hoop houses and greenhouses demonstrates the desire of District stakeholders to grow their own produce as a supplement to area stores. The local Farmers Market thrives during the summer growing season, but has minimal offerings during the winter months.

### **Actions**

1. Promote and assist with the building and use of hoop houses, greenhouses, and community gardens.
2. Support/lead the development of a large community greenhouse.
3. Actively seek partnerships and outside funding.
4. Support expansion of Farmer's Market and other outlets for locally produced foods and food products.

### **Education**

- Offer site specific soil testing.



**Land Use.** The District is experiencing growth in real estate development including new residential building, new subdivision proposals, sales of existing subdivision lots, and small acreage sales. Some larger agricultural land sales have occurred, and several farm and ranch operations are currently on the market. Poorly planned public and private land use decisions can lead to resource issues such as soil erosion, loss of water quality, fragmentation or loss of wildlife habitat, deterioration or loss of grazing lands and rangelands, introduction of noxious weeds and pests, and an overall decline in the area's Quality of Life.

### **Soils**

#### **Actions**

1. Communicate with the Fremont County Planning commission, about potential adverse effects of development on soil resources. Provide information about mitigation opportunities.
2. Support the Dubois-Crowheart Weed Management Area (DCWMA) in its efforts to control invasive and noxious weeds.
3. Promote rehabilitation projects in areas disturbed by agricultural, urban, recreational, or rural development.

### **Education**

- Provide stakeholder educational resources addressing the cause and effect of erosion (*natural or manmade*) due to urban and rural uses and development.
- Encourage stakeholder participation in DCWMA sponsored annual weed tours to learn about control and abatement.



### **Rangelands**

#### **Actions**

1. In partnership with the NRCS, encourage and assist landowners in developing individual or cooperative rangeland management plans.
2. Support and utilize methods found in the Wyoming Rangeland Monitoring Guide to check progress towards, or achievement of, rangeland management goals and objectives.
3. Encourage weed and pest management on rangelands through cooperative agreements with the Dubois Crowheart Weed Management Area.

### **Education**

- Host county-wide soil and range health workshops.
- Offer soil testing workshop.



## Growth & Development

### Actions

1. Continue conducting subdivision reviews, as required by state statute, to address possible impacts to or hazards related to natural resources of concern.
2. Open new lines of communications and cooperative working relationships with area utility companies and their construction policies.
3. Maintain open communication and share education opportunities with other county entities such as, but not limited to Fremont County Firewise, Fremont County Extension, and Fremont County Weed & Pest.
4. Maintain open communication and a cooperative working relationship with the Town of Dubois.
5. Revisit and redevelop working relationships with all government entities affecting land use.
6. Open avenues of communication with other resource advocacy groups.

### Education

- Hold stakeholder workshops to enhance local knowledge of current land use and resource issues and maintenance objectives.
- Supply educational, relevant, appropriate, and timely land use information to area realtors and their clients, and to the Chamber of Commerce.

### DCCD Specific Land Use Plan

Strategic Planning results may show the need for a District specific Land Use Plan or modification of the Fremont County Land Use Plan to address unique District conditions.



## SELECTED REFERENCES

### Climate

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## Resolution of Adoption

Whereas the 2021-2025 Long Range Plan was developed and prepared by the Dubois-Crowheart Conservation District Supervisors in cooperation with local stakeholders, and government agencies; and,

Whereas the 2021-2025 Land Use and Natural Resource Management Plan provides stakeholder information regarding the District's natural resources; and,

Whereas the 2021-2025 Land Use and Natural Resource Management Plan provides direction for the Dubois-Crowheart Conservation District's role in the conservation of the District's natural resources;

Therefore, the Dubois-Crowheart Conservation District 2021-2025 Long Range Plan is approved and adopted by the Board of Supervisors this \_\_\_\_ day of February 2021.

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Reg S. Phillips, Chairman

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Todd Hirsch, Vice -Chairman

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Mary Ann Taylor, Treasurer

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Alicia Rux, Secretary

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Michael Kenney, Member



## Supervisors Who Have Served the District

Charles Granger	1945-1949
W.N. Harrison	1945-1952
Leon Warnock	1946-1954
Warren Beck	1946-1950; 1957 - -1958
R. D. Robinson	1946-1950
Carl Urbigkit	1950-1952
Fremont Miller	1951-1957
C.W. Pickett	1951-1957
Don Epperson	1953-1958
Ralph Urbigkit	1953-1955; 1963–1980
Gordon Pennoyer	1955 –1957; 1959-1973
Jack Rice	1956
Bud Brown	1958-1962
Burke Johnson	1958-1969
Bob Williams	1958-1959
George Peck	1959-1964
D.R. Daniel, Jr.	1960-1968
Leon Cook	1965-1970
Percy Yarborough	1969-1971
Victor Frank	1970-1971
John Story	1972-1975
Joe Detimore	1971-1973
Jack Winchester	1972--1974; 1976-1990
Milt Miller	1974-1978
Jock Cross	1975-1978
Francis Fox	1975-1976
Bayard Fox	1977-1980
Dale Urbigkit	1979
Nick Anderson	1979-1982
Greg Goodchild	1980-1982
Tim Schell	1981-2003
Jerry DeFord	1981
Jo Story	1982-1984
Mike Allred	1983-1986
Gary Butler	1983-1985
Reg Phillips	1984-present
Michael Kenney	1987-present
Craig Abel	1989-1998
Don Taylor	
Curt Collins	1992-1997
Steve Bailey	1997-2001
Mary Ann Taylor	1994-2003; 2014-present
Eileen Grove	2001-2014
Bert Tuckey	2003-2014
Lyle Alexander	2003-2014
Alicia Rux	2014-present
Todd Hirsch	2016-present