

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9

# 2013 Crook County Comprehensive Land Use Plan



10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19

**(Succeeds and Replaces all previous Crook County Land Use Plans)**  
**Adopted: 2014**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

20		
21		
22	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Page</u>
23		
24	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	1
25		
26	<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	2
27		
28	<b>HISTORY, CUSTOMS, CULTURES AND ECONOMIC BASE</b>	
29	<b>OF CROOK COUNTY</b>	2
30		
31	<b>LAND USE REGULATION</b>	4
32		
33	<b>MULTIPLE USE/COORDINATION AMONG LANDOWNERS</b>	
34	<b>AND GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES</b>	5
35		
36	<b>SPECIFIC GOALS FOR NATURAL RESOURCE USE</b>	7
37		
38	1. AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK GRAZING	7
39	2. AIR QUALITY	8
40	3. AIR SPACE	9
41	4. CULTURAL	10
42	5. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES	11
43	6. FOREST PRODUCTS	12
44	7. PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES	13
45	8. PRIVATE PROPERTY	13
46	9. RECREATIONAL USE	13
47	10. TRANSPORTATION	14
48	11. WATER RESOURCES	16
49	12. WILDERNESS AND OTHER SET ASIDE DESIGNATIONS	18
50	13. WILDLIFE	19
51	14. THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES	20
52		
53	<b>CONCLUSION</b>	21
54		
55	<b>APPENDICES</b>	22
56		
57	<b>SOURCES</b>	37
58		
59		
60		
61		
62		
63		
64		

## INTRODUCTION

65  
66  
67 The purpose of this Comprehensive Land Use Plan is to establish a process to aid the  
68 Board of County Commissioners in and for Crook County, Wyoming establishing  
69 policies for land use and related activities in Crook County that protect private property  
70 rights, values and the public health and safety of the citizens while keeping regulatory  
71 process, cost, and delay at a minimum.  
72

73 The Board of County Commissioners will coordinate with federal, state, municipalities  
74 and local agencies on their proposed actions that may potentially affect the management  
75 of private and public property and natural resource use. The Board will coordinate on the  
76 proposed actions so Crook County citizens may preserve their customs, culture, and  
77 economic stability while protecting and using their environment. This Comprehensive  
78 Land Use Plan will serve as a guideline for the use of property; and decisions relating to  
79 growth and development in the unincorporated areas of the County that protect private  
80 property values and the public health and safety of the citizens while keeping regulatory  
81 process, cost, and delay at a minimum.  
82

83 Through the land use planning process, Crook County commits itself to the principle that  
84 all natural resource decisions affecting the citizens and businesses of Crook County shall  
85 be guided by the concept of maintaining and enhancing multiple uses of federally  
86 managed, state managed and private lands. Crook County also commits itself to the  
87 protection of private property rights and private property interests including investment  
88 backed expectations, protection of local historical custom and culture, protection of the  
89 traditional economic structures in the County which form the base for economic stability  
90 for the County, opening of new economic opportunities through reliance on open  
91 markets, and protection of the right of the enjoyment of the natural resources of the  
92 County by all citizens and those communities utilizing those natural resources within the  
93 County. Resource and land use management decisions made in a coordinated manner  
94 between federal management agencies, state management agencies and county officials  
95 will not only firmly maintain, revitalize and enhance multiple use of federally managed,  
96 state managed and private lands in Crook County, but will maintain and enhance the  
97 economic growth and environmental quality throughout the County.  
98

99 The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and other state and federal laws  
100 allow the County to fully participate through coordination or as a cooperating agency in  
101 the federal and state planning process. (See Appendix A listing laws and regulations.)  
102

103 The Board of County Commissioners in and for Crook County, Wyoming will hereinafter  
104 be referred to as the Board. The Crook County Land Use Planning and Zoning  
105 Commission will herein after be referred to as the Commission. This Comprehensive  
106 Land Use Plan will hereinafter be referred to as the Plan. Various federal, state and local  
107 agencies will hereinafter be referred to as Agencies.  
108  
109  
110

111 **ADMINISTRATION**

112  
113 Administration of this plan shall be pursuant to the requirements of the Wyoming  
114 Administrative Procedures Act at W.S. 16-3-101 et. seq. and 18-5-201 et seq.

115  
116 Rulemaking and changes, revisions or deletions to any provision in this plan shall be  
117 processed as quasi-legislative matters and acted upon by the Board based upon  
118 recommendations from the Commission.

119  
120 All other matters shall be treated as contested cases and acted upon by the Board based  
121 upon recommendations from the Commission or its designee acting as hearing examiner.  
122 Examples of contestable matters include, but are not limited to; sub-division application,  
123 request for waivers or variances to any county regulations, applications for county  
124 permits or any other matters affecting land use within the county.

125  
126 Recognizing that no law or regulation works perfectly in all cases, the Commission and  
127 the Board shall provide a process for waiver or variance for good cause shown of any  
128 requirement or restriction the Board has established. This Plan has been developed to  
129 provide a vision of what Crook County expects in terms of land use; and the effects of  
130 proposed governmental management activities on private, state and federal lands as well  
131 as the affects from proposed natural resource regulatory actions.

132  
133 If any provision of the Plan should be found to be invalid or unenforceable by a court of  
134 competent jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall not be affected thereby, but shall  
135 remain in full force and effect. The goal of this planning process is to respond promptly  
136 to specific issues and problems as they become apparent. To that end, this plan will be  
137 updated as the need arises. All changes, revisions or deletions shall be annotated showing  
138 the date and substance of the action.

139  
140 **HISTORY, CUSTOMS, CULTURES AND ECONOMIC**  
141 **BASE OF CROOK COUNTY**

142  
143 The people of Crook County historically, traditionally and currently earn their livelihood  
144 from activities reliant upon the productive multiple uses of natural resources. The  
145 economy of the County has been, and is currently dependent upon activities critically and  
146 economically related to ranching, farming, logging, hard rock, placer, underground, in  
147 situ mining, bentonite, sand, gravel, coal, uranium, oil, gas and other mineral production,  
148 tourism, recreation and other natural resource related activities. Most segments of Crook  
149 County’s economy are reliant upon the abundant natural resources occurring countywide.  
150 In addition, family and community traditions have developed around the economic and  
151 recreational use of the land.

152  
153 Public land is managed by federal or state agencies, while use of private land can be  
154 affected by federal or state regulatory agencies. Federal and state agencies may propose

155 management actions and regulations that can affect and change Crook County's custom,  
156 culture and economy. (See Appendix B for chart.)

157  
158 Until the mid-1870's, northeastern Wyoming had been reserved as "Indian Territory".  
159 The Custer Expedition explored the Black Hills in 1874 and discovered gold on French  
160 Creek, Dakota Territory on July 30, 1874. With the news of the discovery, miners poured  
161 into the territory, resulting in eventually opening the Black Hills for settlement.

162  
163 The Sundance Creek Valley was a favored hunting ground for Native Americans, as an  
164 abundance of game, wild fruit, pasture and firewood were present. Sundance Mountain  
165 was the "temple of the Sioux" where Native Americans practiced their religious sun  
166 dance. With the suppression of the Native Americans in the 1870's and 1880's, ranchers  
167 settled in the valley. The Fourth Legislative Assembly in 1875 created Crook County,  
168 naming it for General George Crook, who commanded the second Powder River  
169 Expedition against the Native Americans. The County included all of the area now  
170 making up Crook, Campbell and Weston Counties. Sundance was incorporated in 1887  
171 and Crook County originated in 1885 with Sundance as County seat. The community  
172 became a social, government and trading center.

173  
174 During the World War I era, many homesteaders came into the area. Moisture was  
175 greater than on the surrounding plains and dry-land farming was successful. The County  
176 grew and prospered from numerous small farms. Faced with devastatingly lower crop  
177 prices and drier climate conditions in the 1920s and 1930s, many farming homesteads  
178 were sold or abandoned and absorbed into larger operations, usually livestock raising.

179  
180 Devil's Tower became the country's first National Monument on September 24, 1906, by  
181 President Theodore Roosevelt who set aside a 1,153 acre. Devil's Tower is the prime  
182 attraction for Crook County's tourist industry. The area's large white tail deer and turkey  
183 population also attracted large numbers of in and out-of-state hunters to the area in the  
184 fall.

185  
186 The heavily forested Bear Lodge Mountains became the source of timber for an  
187 increasingly important forest products industry. Several small mills were operated in  
188 Wyoming, and South Dakota that made timbers for the Homestake mine, and coal mines  
189 near Aladdin and Sundance. Pulp wood industry harvest produced income and thinned  
190 the forests.

191  
192 Uranium was discovered in Crook County in 1949 and the Homestake Mining Company  
193 soon opened its Hauber Mine north of Hulett and other mines followed. Uranium  
194 exploration is continuing in the area. Hard rock mining and exploration has occurred in  
195 the Upper Sand Creek, Tinton, and Bearlodge Mountains near Warren Peak.

196  
197 In the late 1950's the United States Air Force established a radar installation powered by  
198 the world's first air transportable atomic power plant atop Warren Peak, northwest of  
199 Sundance. Air Force personnel contributed greatly to the local economy until the facility  
200 was closed in 1968. Since the late 1960's many residents of the county have worked in the

201 growing energy industry near Gillette. This has allowed many small farm and ranch  
202 operations to survive intact.

203

## 204 LAND USE REGULATION

205

206 Crook County recognizes and supports private property and the right of its owners to its  
207 use, enjoyment and financial benefits.

208

209 While Crook County residents are supportive of the concept that the action of one  
210 landowner or the activity on the land of an owner should not harm the value of the  
211 property of a neighbor, they are generally and strongly opposed to traditional single use  
212 zoning, which takes land use decision making away from the owners and places it under  
213 the control of a government agency.

214

215 Such zoning may become intrusive and restrictive, making the conduct of land use and  
216 business more time consuming, expensive and sometimes impossible. Although mixed-  
217 use zoning is coming into practice as an attempt to avoid these problems, mixed-use  
218 zoning still requires a representative form of government to approve any use(s) it failed to  
219 anticipate and include in the original mix.

220

221 Using the process of multiple-use zoning, the public health and safety, as well as property  
222 values, can be protected by prohibiting or restricting identified dangerous or devaluing  
223 activities or facilities while allowing all other uses of property.

224

225 Multiple-use zoning, following the concept of the Multiple Use – Sustained Yield Act of  
226 1960, allows all uses of land except those that are prohibited or restricted.

227

### 228 **Processes:**

229 If the Board adopts zoning or other land use regulations, it shall use the multiple-use  
230 format to protect against identified problems without creating additional costs of  
231 administration.

232

233 The Board shall, to the fullest extent not prohibited by federal law, be notified of all state,  
234 interstate, federal and international actions that have any impact on the water or use of  
235 water in Crook County, prior to such actions or planning processes being initiated.

236

237 The Board shall comment on any proposed actions that affect water quality and quantity  
238 or use.

239

240 The Board shall provide additional information, comments or positions, via written or  
241 oral comments or through an additional alternative that should be considered by the  
242 appropriate agency.

243

244 **MULTIPLE USE/ECONOMIC USE OF FEDERAL, STATE**  
245 **AND PRIVATE LANDS, AND COORDINATION WITH**  
246 **FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES**

247  
248 **GOAL & BACKGROUND:**

249  
250 When a transfer of land from private to public ownership is being considered within  
251 Crook County the Board may identify the County's position on the potential transfer. The  
252 Board may evaluate and issue a position on that proposed action. The Board should  
253 adopt the following step by step process so the Board can evaluate each situation  
254 according to its individual characteristics and issue a decision accordingly.  
255

256 **Process:**

- 257 1. The Board gathers pertinent data:
- 258 a. Existing classification of the land from the County Assessor;
  - 259 b. Current land use for the property (i.e. farming, development,
  - 260 timber, grazing, wasteland, etc.);
  - 261 c. Current amount of taxes paid on the property to the County;
  - 262 d. To the extent feasible, the proposed use of the land after transfer;
  - 263 e. Any potential income to the County from the public entity
  - 264 responsible for the land after the transfer occurs;
  - 265 f. What rights if any, a public or private entity currently has in the
  - 266 property (i.e. rights-of-way, county roads, public utility easements,
  - 267 etc.).
- 268
- 269 2. The Board will then solicit input from and provides information to:
- 270 a. The parties directly affected by the proposed transfer (i.e. the
  - 271 sellers and the buyers of the lands as well as landowners within
  - 272 one (1) mile);
  - 273 b. The general public – a public hearing should be held to make
  - 274 information on the proposed transfer available to all interested
  - 275 parties and to provide a public forum to discuss the proposed
  - 276 action;
  - 277 c. The Sheriff's Office, Fire Warden, local Homeland Security, and
  - 278 other concerned agencies regarding potential impacts on public
  - 279 safety.
- 280
- 281 3. The Board will then consider the potential effect the proposed transfer will
- 282 have on individual residences, businesses and on the general economy of
- 283 the area. Good judgment and a clear understanding of local and state
- 284 economic conditions will be necessary to reach any reasonable conclusion
- 285 on this subject, as the effect will be difficult to quantify.
- 286

287 The Board should issue a position statement concerning the proposed land transfer to the  
288 appropriate state or federal agency proposing to convey or acquire the property. This

289 statement will, as specifically as possible, reference the information gathered and the  
290 input from the public and detail the reasoning behind the decision. Given the amount of  
291 land currently owned or controlled by government entities in this County and State, the  
292 Board will adhere, as much as possible, to the concept of “no net loss” of private lands or  
293 reduction in tax base.

294  
295 In recognition of the critical tie between the use of private, federal and state natural  
296 resources and the economic stability of the County, the Board developed this land use  
297 planning process to serve as a guide to coordinate and cooperate in the planning for  
298 federally and state managed lands as well as the consideration of the County in any  
299 federal or state natural resource actions or regulations affecting private lands directly or  
300 indirectly.

301  
302 Federal law mandates multiple uses of most federally managed property. The Board  
303 strongly supports continued multiple uses for these lands and supports the continued  
304 economic multiple use of private and state lands.

305  
306 The Board is committed to the protection of the physical environment of Crook County  
307 and will offer comments proposals or alternatives to proposed decisions that affect the  
308 environment. The Board will be involved in federal and state agency decisions that affect  
309 the environment.

310  
311 The Board, to the fullest extent required or not prohibited by law, will formally request  
312 all federal and state agencies in all actions proposed that have the potential of affecting  
313 the use of land or natural resources in Crook County, do the following:

314  
315 A. Meet with the Board to establish a process for coordination and cooperation  
316 that may include joint planning, joint research and data collection, joint hearings or joint  
317 environmental assessments or any other considerations the Board deems relevant.

318  
319 B. Analyze and consider the effects those actions will have on:  
320 - Community stability;  
321 - Maintenance of custom, culture and economic opportunity;  
322 - Conservation and productive multiple use of the environment and natural resources.

323  
324 C. Coordinate and cooperate with the Board, to the fullest extent possible on any  
325 federal or state action or decision.

326  
327 D. The Board shall have the option to modify or submit a viable alternative for  
328 consideration by the agency.

329  
330 This coordination follows the procedure as described in Wyoming Statute

331  
332 **§ 18-5-208. Special expertise of board of county commissioners and coordination of**  
333 **planning efforts with federal agencies**

334

335 (a) When representing a county as a cooperating agency in matters related to the  
336 National Environmental Policy Act and in federal land planning, implementation and  
337 management actions, a board of county commissioners shall be deemed to have special  
338 expertise on all subject matters for which it has statutory responsibility, including but not  
339 limited to, all subject matters directly or indirectly related to the health, safety, welfare,  
340 custom, culture and socio-economic viability of a county.

341

342 (b) The board of county commissioners of a county which has officially adopted a  
343 comprehensive plan pursuant to W.S. 18-5-202(b) may participate in efforts to  
344 coordinate the plan with federal agencies as provided in the Federal Land Policy and  
345 Management Act of 1976, the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act  
346 of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 and any other  
347 federal statute which provides for coordination with local governments and federal  
348 regulations adopted pursuant to those acts.

349

350 CREDIT(S) Laws 1993, ch. 104, § 1; Laws 2012, ch. 13, § 1, eff. March 6, 2012.  
351 W. S. 1977 § 18-5-208, WY ST § 18-5-208 Current through the 2013 General Session

352

353 (See Appendix C for 36 CFR, Part 219.7, and 43 CFR, Part 1610.3.)

354

## 355 SPECIFIC GOALS FOR NATURAL RESOURCE USE

356

### 357 1. AGRICULTURE & LIVESTOCK GRAZING

358

#### 359 **Goal:**

360 Continuation of agriculture and livestock grazing on both public and private land.

361

#### 362 **Background:**

363 Livestock production has occurred in Crook County for more than a century, and  
364 ranching has symbolized the County's economy, lifestyle and culture. A "ranch" consists  
365 of more than just the animals, a house and surrounding corrals and outbuildings. The  
366 concept of ranching, and therefore, the "ranch" includes the buildings, the home site, the  
367 equipment, the livestock, the land, timber resources, the forage resource, the water rights  
368 and all activities devoted to the ranching operation including but not limited to providing  
369 hunting and other recreational uses of the land.

370

371 Crook County's agricultural industry is evaluated in the context of cattle and sheep  
372 ranching. Dry land and irrigated hay production is typically part of most livestock  
373 operations in the County. In light of these operational characteristics, the combined  
374 description enables the calculation of a more accurate evaluation of ranching's  
375 contribution to the Crook County economy. (See Appendix D for agricultural statistics.)

376

377 Some ranches have historically grazed livestock on public land for the past 100+ years  
378 and Reduction of Animal Unit Months (AUM) on public land would have a disastrous  
379 economic effect on some individual ranches, and collectively on the County. Continued  
380 grazing use of federally and state managed land is vital for healthy rangeland, fuel

381 reduction and the survival some individual ranches. The livestock industry in the County  
382 is essential to support economic stability and to preserve the custom and culture of the  
383 citizens. In addition, livestock grazing is beneficial and enhances rangeland conditions in  
384 both riparian areas and uplands, and reduces fuel load and wild land fire danger.

385  
386 Forage crops, hay, silage and feed grains produced in Crook County are an integral part  
387 of the livestock industry.

388  
389 Irrigated and intensive agriculture also provide a portion of the diverse economic base  
390 and stability of the County. Productive watersheds must be maintained as essential  
391 factors to preservation of irrigated agriculture.

392

393 **Processes:**

394 Federal and state agencies shall, to the fullest extent not prohibited by federal law, notify  
395 the County of any actions or regulations which may impact agricultural or livestock  
396 production.

397

398 The Board shall carefully evaluate all existing and proposed federal and state actions or  
399 regulations that could affect private property, private property interests, and investment  
400 backed expectations.

401

402 The Board shall provide additional information, comments or positions, via written or  
403 oral comments or through an additional alternative that should be considered by the  
404 appropriate agency.

405

406 When action is being considered regarding agriculture and livestock grazing by the Board  
407 or any other Agency, the Board shall evaluate and consider the effect of that action on the  
408 other existing or potential multiple uses. If the action is being considered by another  
409 Agency, the Board shall comment or take such other action it deems in the best interests  
410 of the residents and businesses of Crook County.

411

412 **2. AIR QUALITY**

413

414 **Goal:**

415 The Board will monitor the available data to identify any potential conflict with federal  
416 and state law regarding the protection of air quality.

417

418 **Background:**

419 Crook County must comply with Class 2 Air Quality standards (See Appendix E for more  
420 information.)

421

422 There is an air quality monitoring station located at Devils Tower.

423

424 **Processes:**

425 The Board shall request that federal and state agencies notify the County of any  
426 proposed actions changing air quality standards in Crook County.

427  
428  
429  
430  
431  
432  
433  
434  
435  
436  
437  
438  
439  
440  
441  
442  
443  
444  
445  
446  
447  
448  
449  
450  
451  
452  
453  
454  
455  
456  
457  
458  
459  
460  
461  
462  
463  
464  
465  
466  
467  
468  
469  
470  
471  
472

The Board shall carefully evaluate all federal and state proposals, actions or regulations that could change standards for air quality over Crook County.

The Board shall provide additional information, comments or positions, via written or oral comments or through an alternative method that should be considered by the appropriate agency.

When action is being considered regarding air quality by the Board or any other Agency, the Board shall evaluate and consider the effect of that action on the other existing or potential multiple uses. If the action is being considered by another Agency, the Board shall comment or take such other action it deems in the best interests of the residents and businesses of Crook County.

### 3. AIR SPACE

**Goal:**

Crook County will strive to maintain air access for emergency and operational activity over the County within current laws and regulations.

**Background:**

Crook County covers 2,871 square miles with many regions that are extremely remote and while they are accessible over land, travel is extremely slow. Any increased air space restrictions must be minimal in order to preserve civilian use for law enforcement, medical emergency, search and rescue, livestock management, and predator control measures. (See Appendix F for more information.)

**Processes:**

Federal and state agencies shall, to the fullest extent not prohibited by federal law, notify the County of any proposed actions changing air access for emergency and operational activities in Crook County.

The Board shall review any proposals that would change air space standards over Crook County.

The Board shall provide additional information, comments or positions, via written or oral comments or through an alternative method that should be considered by the appropriate agency.

When action is being considered regarding air space by the Board or any other Agency, the Board shall evaluate and consider the effect of that action on the other existing or potential multiple uses. If the action is being considered by another Agency, the Board shall comment or take such other action it deems in the best interests of the residents and businesses of Crook County.

473 **4. CULTURAL**

474  
475 **Goal:**

476 Crook County will strive to maintain and share the story of its cultural history.

477  
478 **Background:**

479 Petroglyphs and pictographs still can be seen in several areas, usually on sandstone cliffs,  
480 facing south.

481  
482 They told of the cultural past of nomadic ancient people, probably living several hundred  
483 years ago. Many sites may be vulnerable to vandalism and destruction because of the  
484 remote areas in which they are located.

485  
486 Buffalo jumps tell us part of the story of the cultural past of these Ancient People. There  
487 are several jumps in Crook County, but the most significant site is the Vore Buffalo  
488 Jump. For over three hundred years, Plains Indian groups stampeded bison over the rim  
489 and into the deep natural “sink hole”. The buffalo provided Native Americans not only  
490 their primary food, but was the source of many other materials, tools, weapons, clothing  
491 and housing used in their culture. Teepee rings and stone circles identify ancient  
492 campsites.

493  
494 When settlers came to this area schools became cultural sites both in the established  
495 towns and out in the country. Many are still in used as Community Halls and polling  
496 places.

497  
498 Devils Tower was the site for early cultural and social events and was established as our  
499 nation’s first National Monument in 1906, and continues to be of great importance today.

500  
501 Warren Peak and Cement Ridge, fire lookouts administered by the U.S. Forest Service,  
502 are also a part of this County’s developments.

503  
504 Ranch A, Moses Annenberg’s vacation lodge, built in the 1930s, now owned by the State  
505 of Wyoming, is a conference and learning center for the area.

506  
507 The U.S. Air Force Radar Site on Warren Peak, built in the 1960’s, was the world’s first  
508 air transportable nuclear power plant. This highly sophisticated device was tested on  
509 Warren Peak for several years. It was removed at the end of the test period.

510  
511 Crook County has many other cultural aspects that affect different areas and groups of  
512 citizens that should be recognized and considered.

513  
514 **Processes:**

515 The Board shall request that federal and state agencies, to the fullest extent not prohibited  
516 by federal law, notify the County of any actions which could potentially affect the  
517 County’s residents and existing or potential, businesses.

518

519 The Board shall carefully evaluate all federal and state actions or regulations that could  
520 affect the County’s cultural resources.

521

522 The Board shall provide additional information, comments or positions, via written or  
523 oral comments or through an alternative method that should be considered by the  
524 appropriate agency.

525

## 526 **5. ENERGY & MINERAL RESOURCES**

527

### 528 **Goal:**

529 Crook County will support responsible energy, mining and mineral exploration,  
530 development, and production as an important historical, current and future multiple use.

531

### 532 **Background:**

533 Energy and mineral resources provide a major contribution to the economy of Crook  
534 County. Oil, gas and mineral industry payroll and expenditures for supplies and various  
535 taxes paid are the largest contributor to the economy of the County.

536

537 There have been a variety of minerals extracted for commercial use in Crook County.

538

539 Bentonite is produced around the beginnings of the Black Hills from Colony to  
540 Moorcroft. Small coal mines were in operation at one time near Aladdin and west of  
541 Sundance. The Hauber Uranium Mine, located north of Hulett, had been the state’s first  
542 uranium mine, and was owned by Homestake Mining Company. In-situ uranium mining  
543 has occurred near Oshoto and Crook County has the potential for sizable uranium  
544 production in that area and north of Aladdin. Upper Sand Creek, Tinton and the Bear  
545 Lodge Mountains including Warren Peak, are also highly mineralized and potential exists  
546 for hard rock mining for rare earth elements and other metals.

547

548 Limestone quarries, sand and gravel mining operations in Crook County produce quality  
549 aggregate for Crook and neighboring counties and States.

550

551 The Powder River Basin is an important oil, coal and uranium producing region. Oil  
552 production is primarily Cretaceous in age. Typical of this formation, oil and gas  
553 production is prolific when discovered but depletes quite rapidly requiring secondary  
554 recovery to maintain production of the resources. Coal and uranium are predominately  
555 produced from the Fort Union and White River formations. Along the contact between  
556 the Black Hills Uplift and the Powder River Basin are numerous outcroppings of granite,  
557 limestone, bentonite, and other minerals.

558

559 The Geological Survey of Wyoming lists many natural mineral occurrences in Crook  
560 County. (See Appendix G for the list of minerals.)

561

562

563

564

565 **Processes:**

566

567 The Board shall request that federal and state agencies, to the fullest extent not prohibited  
568 by federal law, notify the County of any actions which could potentially affect the  
569 County's residents and existing or potential, businesses.

570

571 The Board shall carefully evaluate all federal and state actions or regulations that could  
572 affect the County's cultural resources.

573

574 The Board shall provide additional information, comments or positions, via written or  
575 oral comments or through an alternative method that should be considered by the  
576 appropriate agency.

577

578 When action is being considered regarding energy and mineral resources by the Board or  
579 any other Agency, the Board shall evaluate and consider the effect of that action on the  
580 other existing or potential multiple uses. If the action is being considered by another  
581 Agency, the Board shall comment or take such other action it deems in the best interests  
582 of the residents and businesses of Crook County.

583

584 **6. FOREST RESOURCES**

585

586 **Goal:**

587 Crook County will strive to maintain and enhance sustainable timber harvesting as an  
588 important and historic multiple use of federal, state and private lands and as an effective  
589 forest management tool.

590

591 **Background:**

592 Historically, forest resources in Crook County have been used for fuel, tools, weapons,  
593 lodge poles, travois, and other purposes by Native Americans and for commercial and  
594 domestic uses since the settlement by European settlers in the 1800's. A significant  
595 portion of Crook County's economy and tax base is based on the harvest and processing  
596 of timber from private, state and federal property.

597

598 The Bear Lodge and Moskee areas of Crook County contain the majority of federally  
599 managed commercial timber acreage. The USFS is the single largest land manager of  
600 Crook County's timber resources. Private, BLM, and state school lands make up the  
601 additional forest resources.

602

603 Crook County has a historical, cultural and economic relationship to forest management.  
604 The state has been actively managing its timber resources on state lands through  
605 commercial timber sales and pre-commercial treatment. Many private lands are being  
606 managed for both grazing and timber production by landowners and local mills with the  
607 aid of the State Division of Forestry. (See Appendix H for more information.)

608

609 The Black Hill National Forest is being managed for multiple use of the forest by the  
610 USDA Forest Service under the Black Hills National Forest Land and Resource

611 Management Plan, as amended by the Phase 2 Amendment (2006). Harvesting of timber  
612 was decreased from historic amounts which has led to an over growth of the forest  
613 causing more intense and potential for catastrophic fires, as well as insect invasions and  
614 other natural thinning processes. These natural processes of fire and bugs waste a  
615 valuable resource and cause the increased production of carbon dioxide being released  
616 into the atmosphere and increased flooding after catastrophic fire events.

617

618 **Processes:**

619 The Board shall request that federal and state agencies, to the fullest extent not prohibited  
620 by federal law, notify the County of any actions affecting forest or timber resources or  
621 their use.

622

623 The Board shall carefully evaluate all federal and state actions or regulations that could  
624 affect forest or timber resources

625

626 The Board shall provide additional information, comments or positions, by written or oral  
627 comments or through any additional alternative that should be considered by the  
628 appropriate agency.

629

630 When action is being considered regarding forest resources by the Board or any other  
631 Agency, the Board shall evaluate and consider the effect of that action on the other  
632 existing or potential multiple uses. If the action is being considered by another Agency,  
633 the Board shall comment or take such other action it deems in the best interests of the  
634 residents and businesses of Crook County.

635

636 Any vegetative treatment, prescribed burning, or public land set-aside shall be reviewed  
637 by Crook County.

638

639 **7. PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

640

641 **Goal:**

642 Crook County should strive to maintain the integrity and the opportunity to research its  
643 significant paleontological sites.

644

645 **Background:**

646 There are several sites in Crook County that contain significant fossilized remains. (See  
647 Appendix I for more information.)

648

649 The importance of future paleontological digs and subsequent findings are recognized by  
650 Crook County. However, the protection of such resources should not automatically  
651 supersede the best interests of Crook County or its citizen's rights.

652

653 **Processes:**

654 The Board shall request that federal and state agencies, to the fullest extent not prohibited  
655 by federal law, notify the County of any actions which could potentially affect the  
656 integrity of, or access to, County paleontological resources.

657  
658 The Board shall carefully evaluate all federal and state actions or regulations that could  
659 affect paleontological resources

660  
661 The Board shall provide additional information, comments or positions, via written or  
662 oral comments or through an additional alternative that should be considered by the  
663 appropriate agency.

664  
665 When action is being considered regarding paleontological resources by the Board or any  
666 other Agency, the Board shall evaluate and consider the effect of that action on the other  
667 existing or potential multiple uses. If the action is being considered by another Agency,  
668 the Board shall comment or take such other action it deems in the best interests of the  
669 residents and businesses of Crook County.

670

## 671 **8. PRIVATE PROPERTY**

672

### 673 **Goal:**

674 Crook County will strive to protect its citizens' constitutional rights to private property  
675 including but not limited to water, mineral, surface and subsurface rights in its planning  
676 and actions.

677

### 678 **Background:**

679 Crook County recognizes its citizens' rights to private property, as defined and upheld by  
680 the United States Constitution and Wyoming State Constitution.

681

682 All people who live in Crook County are reliant upon the land and its productive use.  
683 Private ownership and the incentive provided by such ownership are one of the major  
684 driving forces that support the livelihoods, cultures, customs and economic stability of  
685 Crook County citizens.

686

687 Development and actions on private property that the Board determines to be a threat to  
688 public health and safety or that adversely affects the value of property adjacent to and in  
689 the immediate area may be declared a nuisance by the Board of County Commissioners  
690 and abated according to WS 18-2-101 a (viii) and 18-2-115. In addition, certain activities  
691 may be abated by WS 6-6-201 Nuisance, et seq, 31-13-101 Abandoned Vehicles et seq,

692

### 693 **Processes:**

694 Federal and state agencies shall, to the fullest extent not prohibited by federal law, notify  
695 the County of any actions affecting the existing use of or on private property or public  
696 lands.

697

698 The Board shall evaluate and comment on federal and state actions or regulations that  
699 could affect private property, private property interests, and investment backed  
700 expectations.

701

702 The Board shall plan for, and take positive action to ensure, that private property, private  
703 property interests and investment backed expectations are protected under the Fifth  
704 Amendment to the United States Constitution and state constitution which prohibits the  
705 taking of private property for public use without due process and just compensation.  
706

707 When action is being considered regarding private property by the Board or any other  
708 Agency, the Board shall evaluate and consider the effect of that action on the other  
709 existing or potential multiple uses. If the action is being considered by another Agency,  
710 the Board shall comment or take such other action it deems in the best interests of the  
711 residents and businesses of Crook County.  
712

## 713 **9. RECREATIONAL USE**

714

### 715 **Goal:**

716 Crook County will strive to protect recreational opportunities compatible with local  
717 custom, culture and environmental stewardship within the constraints of private property  
718 rights.  
719

### 720 **Background:**

721 Crook County offers a variety of recreational opportunities, many of which generate  
722 revenues for the local economy. (See Appendix J for list of recreational activities in the  
723 County.)  
724

725 Recreationists enjoy access to activities on public lands in Crook County, but are  
726 expected to demonstrate ethical behavior that respects and help maintain the  
727 sustainability of the County's natural resources. There is no charge for some of these  
728 activities and, consequently, the costs to provide these services are picked up by all  
729 taxpayers.  
730

### 731 **Processes:**

732 The Board shall request that the federal and state agencies, to the fullest extent not  
733 prohibited by federal law, notify the County of any actions affecting recreational  
734 opportunities in Crook County.  
735

736 The Board shall carefully evaluate any federal and state actions or regulations that could  
737 affect recreational use.  
738

739 The Board shall provide additional information, comments or positions, via written or  
740 oral comments or through an additional alternative that should be considered by the  
741 appropriate agency.  
742

743 When action is being considered regarding recreational use by the Board or any other  
744 Agency, the Board shall evaluate and consider the effect of that action on the other  
745 existing or potential multiple uses. If the action is being considered by another Agency,  
746 the Board shall comment or take such other action it deems in the best interests of the  
747 residents and businesses of Crook County.

748

749 The planning of recreational management areas, facilities and byways shall consider  
750 time and cost impacts on County services and provide for economic or other management  
751 mitigation of such impacts as well as the benefits.

752

## 753 **10. TRANSPORTATION**

754

755 **Goal:** To provide all weather access to all Crook County residences, industrial,  
756 agricultural and commercial operations.

757

758 **Background:** Crook County is a highly desirable location for rural residences, which are  
759 being constructed at an ever-increasing rate. Industrial and commercial development of  
760 Crook County's abundant natural resources requires adequate transportation systems.

761

762 Existing funding is inadequate to support construction and maintenance of these  
763 necessary infrastructure improvements.

764

765 **Processes:** The Board shall explore additional and alternative funding to provide these  
766 infrastructure improvements. Options and alternatives should include but are not limited  
767 to; cooperative projects, improvement districts, designated capital improvement elections  
768 or federal and state funding assistance, and increasing private transportation to cut back  
769 on the impact to inadequate publicly funded transportation and infrastructure such as  
770 Rural Utility Service, telephone, internet, cell towers, pipelines, and railroads.

771

772 When action is being considered regarding transportation by the Board or any other  
773 Agency, the Board shall evaluate and consider the effect of that action on the other  
774 existing or potential multiple uses. If the action is being considered by another Agency,  
775 the Board shall comment or take such other action it deems in the best interests of the  
776 residents and businesses of Crook County.

777

### 778 **10a. RIGHTS OF WAY**

779

780 **Goal:** All planning efforts in Crook County shall seek to maintain historic rights to  
781 travel over private property, federally and state managed property wherever necessary in  
782 pursuit of mining, logging, agriculture, residential, recreation and other historic uses.

783

784 Given the fact that property is valueless without access, it shall be obtainable or  
785 expandable as necessary to meet safety, physical, legal or regulatory requirements for  
786 access to legally or functionally landlocked parcels of property.

787

#### 788 **Background:**

789 Utility corridors have historically been very important in Crook County. Historically, the  
790 development of mining, logging, livestock grazing, ranching, and farming has required  
791 establishment of numerous rights of way over the private, and federally and state  
792 managed property. Continued use of these rights of way is essential to continuation of  
793 the associated commerce.

794 The potential exists for the County to assert its RS 2477 rights.  
795

796 **Processes:**

797 The Board shall request that federal and state agencies, to the fullest extent not prohibited  
798 by federal law, notify the County of any actions which could potentially affect the  
799 historic rights to travel within and across Crook County.  
800

801 The Board shall carefully evaluate all federal and state actions, proposals or regulations  
802 that could affect the County's right to travel.  
803

804 The Board shall support efforts to obtain statutory and regulatory changes necessary to  
805 ensure access to legally or functionally landlocked parcels of property.  
806

807 The Board shall have the option to provide additional information, comments or  
808 positions, by written or oral comments or through an additional alternative that should be  
809 considered by the appropriate agency.  
810

811 Along with right to travel over these rights of way, any maintenance necessary to  
812 continue the historic use shall be allowed.  
813

814 Historic travel routes that cross private, state or federal property are those that have been  
815 used for at least ten years. Appropriate historic travel routes may be identified under RS  
816 2477.  
817

818 When action is being considered regarding rights of way by the Board or any other  
819 Agency, the Board shall evaluate and consider the effect of that action on the other  
820 existing or potential multiple uses. If the action is being considered by another Agency,  
821 the Board shall comment or take such other action it deems in the best interests of the  
822 residents and businesses of Crook County.  
823

824 **NATIONAL FOREST ACCESS**

825  
826 Require two (2) routes for in-holders, including a main access and a useable emergency  
827 access/egress.  
828

829 **10b. CORRIDOR CONSTRUCTION**

830  
831 Whether for roads, railroads, pipelines or power lines, rights of ways are a major concern  
832 to Crook County stakeholders, environmentalists, the general public and elected officials.  
833 Protection of the investment backed expectations of Crook County stakeholders will be  
834 enhanced by the adoption of the following actions and will allow corridor development  
835 while protecting the investment backed expectations of the county stakeholders:  
836  
837  
838  
839

840 **Processes:**

841

842 The Board shall request that federal and state agencies, to the fullest extent not prohibited  
843 by federal law, notify the County of any actions which could potentially affect the  
844 County's residents and existing or potential, businesses.

845

846 The Board shall carefully evaluate all federal and state actions or regulations that could  
847 affect the County's cultural resources.

848

849 The Board shall provide additional information, comments or positions, via written or  
850 oral comments or through an alternative method that should be considered by the  
851 appropriate agency.

852

853 When action is being considered regarding corridor construction by the Board or any  
854 other Agency, the Board shall evaluate and consider the effect of that action on the other  
855 existing or potential multiple uses. If the action is being considered by another Agency,  
856 the Board shall comment or take such other action it deems in the best interests of the  
857 residents and businesses of Crook County.

858

859 **11. WATER RESOURCES**

860

861 **Goal:** Crook County will strive to protect the quality, quantity and use of surface and  
862 ground water.

863

864 **Background:**

865 The beneficial, consumptive use of water consistent with Wyoming law is essential to the  
866 public health and safety and to the economy of Crook County and its residents. Water  
867 quality and quantity in Crook County has determined where development has and will  
868 occur.

869

870 Crook County seeks to maintain the historic and economic use of water for agricultural,  
871 irrigation, industrial, commercial, municipal and domestic use. (See Appendix K for  
872 more information.)

873

874 The Wyoming State Engineer has exclusive jurisdiction over water quantity i.e. amount,  
875 location, type and priority of use.

876

877 The State of Wyoming, Department of Environmental Quality maintains jurisdiction over  
878 water quality enhancement and protection from point source and non-point source  
879 pollution.

880

881 The Board supports the present state laws and regulatory system administering the use  
882 and ownership of all surface and ground water within the State of Wyoming. The Board  
883 recognizes that the protection and development of its water resources are essential to its  
884 short and long term environmental, economic and cultural viability.

885

886  
887  
888  
889  
890  
891  
892  
893  
894  
895  
896  
897  
898  
899  
900  
901  
902  
903  
904  
905  
906  
907  
908  
909  
910  
911  
912  
913  
914  
915  
916  
917  
918  
919  
920  
921  
922  
923  
924  
925  
926  
927  
928  
929  
930

**Processes:**

The Board shall use the resources and expertise of state and other agencies to protect the quality and manage the use of water within its boundaries or the watersheds and aquifers affecting Crook County residents or businesses.

If a proposed activity poses a threat to water quality in the County, based on sound scientific analysis, the Board shall notify those agencies having jurisdiction over the situation or activity and use the expertise and authority of those agencies to prevent or remedy the problem.

If no other entity has jurisdiction appropriate to a situation posing a threat to water quality, the County will take action as necessary pursuant to Land Use Regulation.

When action is being considered regarding water resources by the Board or any other Agency, the Board shall evaluate and consider the effect of that action on the other existing or potential multiple uses. If the action is being considered by another Agency, the Board shall comment or take such other action it deems in the best interests of the residents and businesses of Crook County.

**Water Quality:**

A. Riparian Areas: The maintenance of the custom, culture, and economic stability of the County and private property rights and interests including investment backed expectations shall be considered of high importance in the application of any riparian area management plans, including Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management allotments or grazing plans, point source and non-point source pollution laws.

B. Clean Water Act: The Board shall monitor and evaluate implementation of all the provisions of the Clean Water Act by federal and state regulatory agencies as to the effect on the custom, culture or economic stability of Crook County residents.

C. Aquifers: Crook County requests that the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) work with the County to assure that minimal potable water is used for secondary oil recovery injection wells and that injection of non-potable water be regulated to prevent contamination of potable water aquifers. Alternatives shall be evaluated.

**Water Quantity:**

A. The protection and preservation of existing water rights and water uses within the County is of primary importance to the County’s economic and cultural well-being. Therefore, transfers or abandonment of water use shall be considered carefully in relationship to the history, traditions, culture and economics of Crook County.

931 B. Crook County recognizes existing water rights and promotes new development of  
932 water for agricultural, municipal, industrial, domestic, recreation and hydroelectric power  
933 purposes for future economic and cultural growth.  
934

## 935 **12. WILDERNESS AND OTHER SET ASIDE DESIGNATIONS**

936

937 **Goal:** Crook County shall have an active role in the decision-making process regarding  
938 Wilderness or other set aside designations within its borders.  
939

### 940 **Background:**

941 The Wilderness Act of 1964, 16 U.S.C. § 1131-1136, created a National Wilderness  
942 Preservation System to be composed of federally managed lands designated by Congress  
943 as "wilderness areas." The Act defined Wilderness as "an area where the earth and its  
944 community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not  
945 remain." The definition stated that a wilderness thus was in "contrast with those areas  
946 where man and his own works dominate the landscape." See 16 U.S.C. § 1131 (c).  
947

948 The Wyoming Wilderness Bill of 1984, Public Law 98-550, aimed "To designate certain  
949 national forest system lands in the State of Wyoming for inclusion in The National  
950 Wilderness Preservation System, to release other forest lands for multiple use  
951 management, to withdraw designated wilderness areas in Wyoming from minerals  
952 activity, and for other purposes." Sand Creek area was considered for Wilderness but was  
953 released.  
954

955 There are no designated Wilderness areas in Crook County., however the upper portion  
956 of the Sand Creek drainage and Inyan Kara mountain are designated as roadless areas  
957 under the Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Rule.  
958

### 959 **Processes:**

960 Current Wilderness or set aside recommendations made by federal agencies shall be  
961 reviewed by the County in relation to the impacts on natural resource based industries, on  
962 the economic stability of the County, and on the custom and culture of the citizens of  
963 Crook County. This evaluation and subsequent recommendation from the County will be  
964 forwarded to Congress.  
965

966 Should the recommendation be made by Congress not to designate an area as Wilderness  
967 or set aside, the area under consideration shall be released from further wilderness  
968 consideration.  
969

970 When action is being considered regarding wilderness and other set aside designations by  
971 the Board or any other Agency, the Board shall evaluate and consider the effect of that  
972 action on the other existing or potential multiple uses. If the action is being considered  
973 by another Agency, the Board shall comment or take such other action it deems in the  
974 best interests of the residents and businesses of Crook County.  
975  
976

977 **13. WILDLIFE**

978  
979 **Goal:** Crook County will encourage the Wyoming Game and Fish Department to  
980 maintain balanced wildlife populations for both consumptive and non-consumptive uses.

981  
982 **Background:**

983 The Wyoming Game and Fish Department is the principle agency responsible for  
984 managing the wildlife resource in Crook County. White-tailed deer, mule deer, elk,  
985 pronghorn, wild turkey and mountain lions are the main species of interest for the hunting  
986 public in this area. Small game and game bird hunting opportunities also exist. Bobcats  
987 and coyotes are targets for trappers. (See Appendix L, #1 for more information.)

988  
989 The Wyoming Game and Fish Department works to minimize damage to growing and  
990 stored crops by game birds and game animals, and depredation on livestock by trophy  
991 game animals. In damage situations where statutory and Wyoming Game and Fish  
992 Commission regulations are met, claimants are reimbursed for verified losses.  
993 Additionally, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department provides damage prevention  
994 materials to qualifying landowners for protection of stored crops. (See Appendix L, #2  
995 for more information.)

996  
997 Coyotes, red foxes, jackrabbits, skunks, raccoons and porcupines are defined in statute as  
998 predators. Wolves have a dual classification in Wyoming, of both trophy game and  
999 predator, but are considered predators year round in Crook County. There is no  
1000 reimbursement for damage caused by predators, predacious birds and nongame wildlife,  
1001 although the Wyoming Game and Fish Department contributes financial and technical  
1002 support to the Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board. (See Appendix L, #3 for  
1003 more information.)

1004  
1005 **Processes:**

1006 Hunting regulations shall be coordinated with Crook County to achieve balanced multiple  
1007 use.

1008  
1009 The Board shall provide additional information, comments or positions, via written or  
1010 oral comments or through an additional alternative that should be considered by the  
1011 appropriate agency.

1012  
1013 The Board shall request that the Wyoming Game and Fish Department hold local  
1014 meetings to allow for input from the public.

1015  
1016 The Board shall request that the Wyoming Game and Fish Department consider public  
1017 input in the hunting season setting process.

1018  
1019 When action is being considered regarding wildlife by the Board or any other Agency,  
1020 the Board shall evaluate and consider the effect of that action on the other existing or  
1021 potential multiple uses. If the action is being considered by another Agency, the Board

1022 shall comment or take such other action it deems in the best interests of the residents and  
1023 businesses of Crook County.

1024

#### 1025 14. **THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**

1026

##### 1027 **Goal:**

1028 Crook County will take an active role in the decision-making process regarding  
1029 threatened and/or endangered species within its borders.

1030

1031 **Background:** Crook County is opposed to the recovery and/or re-introduction or  
1032 introduction of, including designation of critical habitat for, any threatened or endangered  
1033 species that will negatively affect the current custom, culture and economic stability of  
1034 Crook County, public use, public access; and as to private property rights, may constitute  
1035 a taking under the state and federal constitutions, laws and rules.

1036

1037 The purpose of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 at 16 U.S.C.A. § 1531 (b) is  
1038 “to provide a means whereby the ecosystems upon which endangered species and  
1039 threatened species depend may be conserved, to provide a program for the conservation  
1040 of such endangered species and threatened species, and to take such steps as may be  
1041 appropriate to achieve the purposes of the treaties and conventions set forth in subsection  
1042 (a) of this section . . . .”

1043 The policy of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 at 16 U.S.C.A. § 1531 (c) is  
1044 that all Federal departments and agencies shall seek to conserve endangered species and  
1045 threatened species and shall utilize their authorities in furtherance of the purposes of this  
1046 chapter; and that Federal agencies shall cooperate with State and local agencies to resolve  
1047 water resource issues in concert with conservation of endangered species.

1048

##### 1049 **Processes:**

1050 Crook County shall request that federal and state agencies, to the fullest extent not  
1051 prohibited by federal law, coordinate with and give actual notice to the County, at the  
1052 earliest possible time, of the intent to consider or propose any conservation actions  
1053 regarding specific species residing in or having critical habitat within Crook County.

1054

1055 In connection with any action related to threatened or endangered plant or animal species  
1056 in Crook County, a federal or state agency shall:

- 1057 - Base the listing of a species on the best scientific and commercial data relating  
1058 specifically to Crook County and not generalized over wider geographic area;
- 1059 - List a species as threatened or endangered only after taking into account the  
1060 efforts of Crook County, private property owners, state and federal agencies and  
1061 governments to conserve the species;
- 1062 - Only implement a recovery plan if it will provide for conservation of a species;  
1063 In designating critical habitat, base the designation on the best scientific data  
1064 available and, after taking into consideration economic impacts, exclude as  
1065 critical habitat all impacted areas unless, based upon the best scientific and  
1066 commercial data available, failure to designate would result in extinction of the  
1067 species;

- 1068 - Complete and forward to Crook County in a timely manner all documentation  
1069 required by law when designating critical habitat;
- 1070 - Consider and directly respond to comments submitted by Crook County;
- 1071 - Not develop protective regulations or recovery plans if a Crook County plan is in  
1072 place to effectively protect the species with Crook County or the State of  
1073 Wyoming;
- 1074 - Protect the species through alternatives with the least impact on the custom,  
1075 culture and economic stability and preservation and use of the environment of  
1076 Crook County; and to the extent permitted by law, take appropriate mitigation  
1077 measures adopted with the agreement of the County to mitigate adequately any  
1078 impact on custom, culture, economic stability, and protection and use of the  
1079 environment, including any impact on public use and access and private property  
1080 rights

1081  
1082 In accordance with State Statute 9-5-303, Crook County requests the attorney general  
1083 prepare an assessment of takings for any state actions related to the Endangered  
1084 Species Act in Crook County.

1085  
1086 When action is being considered regarding threatened and endangered species by the  
1087 Board or any other Agency, the Board shall evaluate and consider the effect of that  
1088 action on the other existing or potential multiple uses. If the action is being  
1089 considered by another Agency, the Board shall comment or take such other action it  
1090 deems in the best interests of the residents and businesses of Crook County.

1091  
1092 **CONCLUSION**

1093  
1094 This Plan provides the formal outline of the planning process as it relates to private  
1095 property, federally and state managed lands, and federal, state and county regulation of  
1096 private property.

1097  
1098 The implementation process of the Plan with federal agencies will be continual, and will  
1099 be coordinated on a government to government basis as required by federal law, rules and  
1100 regulations and authorized by state law, county regulations and this plan.

1101  
1102 The implementation process of the Plan with federal and state agencies, municipalities  
1103 and elected officials will be continual, and coordinated on a government to government  
1104 basis as required by federal and state law, federal, state and county rules and regulations,  
1105 as authorized by federal and state law, county regulations and this plan.

1106  
1107 The implementation process of the Plan with private property owners will be limited as  
1108 authorized by federal and state law, federal, state and county regulations and this plan.

1109  
1110 The Board and its designees shall remain involved with analysis and evaluation of all  
1111 stages of the planning cycles followed by private developers, federal and state  
1112 management agencies, including plan development, implementation and monitoring.

1113

1114 Federal, state and county regulatory actions as well as management actions on private,  
 1115 federal and state lands should be carried out with integrity and in a manner reflecting  
 1116 accepted and applicable scientific knowledge and principles which support high  
 1117 expectations of success. Monitoring must provide applicable, relevant, accurate, and  
 1118 truthful data to unbiased scientific interpretation to guide plan amendments to assure  
 1119 sustained productivity of County resources for future generations.  
 1120  
 1121 Management plans, implementation actions, and monitoring activities should adhere  
 1122 strictly to the laws of the United States, the State of Wyoming, Crook County, and all its  
 1123 municipalities. Productive sustained multiple use will be the goal at all times.  
 1124

1125 **APPENDICES TO THE PLAN**  
 1126

1127 **APPENDIX A - Introduction**  
 1128

1129 **List of Laws and Regulations that impact state and federal planning processes:**

- 1130 Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974
- 1131 Forest Service Regulations
- 1132 Bureau of Land Management Regulations
- 1133 Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- 1134 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
- 1135 Historic Preservation Act Regulations
- 1136 Clean Air Act
- 1137 Clean Water Act
- 1138 Rural Environmental Conservation Act
- 1139 Resource Conservation Act of 1981
- 1140 Presidential Executive Order 12866 - Regulatory Planning and Review (Sept. 30, 1993)
- 1141 Presidential Executive Order 12630 - Governmental Actions and Interference with
- 1142 Constitutionally Protected Property Rights (March 15, 1988)
- 1143 Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)
- 1144 Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)
- 1145 Food and Agriculture Conservation Trade Act
- 1146 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- 1147 The Wilderness Act of 1964
- 1148 The Wyoming Wilderness Bill of 1984
- 1149 American Heritage Rivers Initiative

1150  
 1151 **APPENDIX B - Custom, Culture and Economic Base of Crook County**

1152 There are 1,827,840 acres in Crook County.

1153 **Land Ownership in Crook County**

1154	Private	77%
1155	Non-Private	23%
1156	<b><u>Breakdown of Non-Private Land</u></b>	
1157	US Forest Service	8.7%
1158	State of Wyoming	6.4
1159	Bureau of Land Management	4.8

1160	Bureau of Reclamation	0.9
1161	National Park Service	<0.1
1162	Cities	<0.1
1163	Wyoming Game & Fish	<0.1
1164	Crook County	<0.1
1165	School District	<0.1
1166	Water	0.6
1167	Other	<u>1.3</u>
1168		23.0%

1169

1170 Source: Crook County Assessor's Office.

1171

1172 **APPENDIX C - Multiple Use/Economic Use of Federal, State and Private Lands and**  
 1173 **Coordination with Federal and State Agencies**

1174

1175 The following is Part 219.7, Title 36, of the Code of Federal Regulations:

1176

1177 **§ 219.7 New plan development or plan revision.**

1178

1179 *(a) Plan revisions. A plan revision creates a new plan for the entire plan area, whether*  
 1180 *the plan revision differs from the prior plan to a small or large extent. A plan must be*  
 1181 *revised at least every 15 years. But, the responsible official has the discretion to*  
 1182 *determine at any time that conditions on a plan area have changed significantly such that*  
 1183 *a plan must be revised (16 U.S.C. 1604(f)(5)).*

1184

1185 *(b) New plan development. New plan development is required for new NFS units. The*  
 1186 *process for developing a new plan is the same as the process for plan revision.*

1187

1188 *(c) Process for plan development or revision.*

1189

1190 *(1) The process for developing or revising a plan includes: Public notification and*  
 1191 *participation (§§ 219.4 and 219.16), assessment (§§ 219.5 and 219.6), developing a*  
 1192 *proposed plan, considering the environmental effects of the proposal, providing an*  
 1193 *opportunity to comment on the proposed plan, providing an opportunity to object before*  
 1194 *the proposal is approved (subpart B), and, finally, approving the plan or plan revision. A*  
 1195 *new plan or plan revision requires preparation of an environmental impact statement.*

1196

1197 *(2) In developing a proposed new plan or proposed plan revision, the responsible official*  
 1198 *shall:*

1199

1200 *(i) Review relevant information from the assessment and monitoring to identify a*  
 1201 *preliminary need to change the existing plan and to inform the development of plan*  
 1202 *components and other plan content.*

1203

1204 *(ii) Consider the goals and objectives of the Forest Service strategic plan (§ 219.2(a)).*

1205

1206 (iii) Identify the presence and consider the importance of various physical, biological,  
1207 social, cultural, and historic resources on the plan area (§ 219.6), with respect to the  
1208 requirements for plan components of §§ 219.8 through 219.11.  
1209

1210 (iv) Consider conditions, trends, and stressors (§ 219.6), with respect to the requirements  
1211 for plan components of §§ 219.8 through 219.11.  
1212

1213 (v) Identify and evaluate lands that may be suitable for inclusion in the National  
1214 Wilderness Preservation System and determine whether to recommend any such lands for  
1215 wilderness designation.  
1216

1217 (vi) Identify the eligibility of rivers for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers  
1218 System, unless a systematic inventory has been previously completed and documented  
1219 and there are no changed circumstances that warrant additional review.  
1220

1221 (vii) Identify existing designated areas other than the areas identified in paragraphs  
1222 (c)(2)(v) and (c)(2)(vi) of this section, and determine whether to recommend any  
1223 additional areas for designation. If the responsible official has the delegated authority to  
1224 designate a new area or modify an existing area, then the responsible official may  
1225 designate such area when approving the plan, plan amendment, or plan revision.  
1226

1227 (viii) Identify the suitability of areas for the appropriate integration of resource  
1228 management and uses, with respect to the requirements for plan components of §§ 219.8  
1229 through 219.11, including identifying lands that are not suitable for timber production (§  
1230 219.11).  
1231

1232 (ix) Identify the maximum quantity of timber that may be removed from the plan area (§  
1233 219.11(d)(6)).  
1234

1235 (x) Identify questions and indicators for the plan monitoring program (§ 219.12).  
1236

1237 (xi) Identify potential other content in the plan (paragraph (f) of this section).  
1238

1239 (3) The regional forester shall identify the species of conservation concern for the plan  
1240 area in coordination with the responsible official.  
1241

1242 (d) Management areas or geographic areas. Every plan must have management areas or  
1243 geographic areas or both. The plan may identify designated or recommended designated  
1244 areas as management areas or geographic areas.  
1245

1246 (e) Plan components. Plan components guide future project and activity decisionmaking.  
1247 The plan must indicate whether specific plan components apply to the entire plan area, to  
1248 specific management areas or geographic areas, or to other areas as identified in the  
1249 plan.  
1250

1251 (1) Required plan components. Every plan must include the following plan components:

1252

1253 (i) *Desired conditions.* A desired condition is a description of specific social, economic,  
1254 and/or ecological characteristics of the plan area, or a portion of the plan area, toward  
1255 which management of the land and resources should be directed. Desired conditions  
1256 must be described in terms that are specific enough to allow progress toward their  
1257 achievement to be determined, but do not include completion dates.

1258

1259 (ii) *Objectives.* An objective is a concise, measurable, and time-specific statement of a  
1260 desired rate of progress toward a desired condition or conditions. Objectives should be  
1261 based on reasonably foreseeable budgets.

1262

1263 (iii) *Standards.* A standard is a mandatory constraint on project and activity  
1264 decisionmaking, established to help achieve or maintain the desired condition or  
1265 conditions, to avoid or mitigate undesirable effects, or to meet applicable legal  
1266 requirements.

1267

1268 (iv) *Guidelines.* A guideline is a constraint on project and activity decisionmaking that  
1269 allows for departure from its terms, so long as the purpose of the guideline is met. (§  
1270 219.15(d)(3)). Guidelines are established to help achieve or maintain a desired condition  
1271 or conditions, to avoid or mitigate undesirable effects, or to meet applicable legal  
1272 requirements.

1273

1274 (v) *Suitability of lands.* Specific lands within a plan area will be identified as suitable for  
1275 various multiple uses or activities based on the desired conditions applicable to those  
1276 lands. The plan will also identify lands within the plan area as not suitable for uses that  
1277 are not compatible with desired conditions for those lands. The suitability of lands need  
1278 not be identified for every use or activity. Suitability identifications may be made after  
1279 consideration of historic uses and of issues that have arisen in the planning process.  
1280 Every plan must identify those lands that are not suitable for timber production (§  
1281 219.11).

1282

1283 (2) *Optional plan component: goals.* A plan may include goals as plan components.  
1284 Goals are broad statements of intent, other than desired conditions, usually related to  
1285 process or interaction with the public. Goals are expressed in broad, general terms, but  
1286 do not include completion dates.

1287

1288 (3) *Requirements for the set of plan components.* The set of plan components must meet  
1289 the requirements set forth in this part for sustainability (§ 219.8), plant and animal  
1290 diversity (§ 219.9), multiple use (§ 219.10), and timber (§ 219.11).

1291

1292 (f) *Other content in the plan.*

1293

1294 (1) *Other required content in the plan.* Every plan must:

1295

1296 (i) *Identify watershed(s) that are a priority for maintenance or restoration;*

1297

1298 (ii) Describe the plan area's distinctive roles and contributions within the broader  
1299 landscape;

1300

1301 (iii) Include the monitoring program required by § 219.12; and

1302

1303 (iv) Contain information reflecting proposed and possible actions that may occur on the  
1304 plan area during the life of the plan, including: the planned timber sale program; timber  
1305 harvesting levels; and the proportion of probable methods of forest vegetation  
1306 management practices expected to be used (16 U.S.C. 1604(e)(2) and (f)(2)). Such  
1307 information is not a commitment to take any action and is not a "proposal" as defined by  
1308 the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR  
1309 1508.23, 42 U.S.C. 4322(2)(C)).

1310

1311 (2) Optional content in the plan. A plan may include additional content, such as potential  
1312 management approaches or strategies and partnership opportunities or coordination  
1313 activities.

1314

1315 *AUTHORITY:* 5 U.S.C. 301; 16 U.S.C. 1604, 1613.

1316 36 C. F. R. § 219.7, 36 CFR § 219.7

1317 Current through November 07, 2013; 78 FR 66857

1318

1319 The following is Part 1610.3, Title 43, of the Code of Federal Regulations:

1320

1321 **§ 1610.3–1 Coordination of planning efforts.**

1322

1323 (a) In addition to the public involvement prescribed by § 1610.2, the following  
1324 coordination is to be accomplished with other Federal agencies, state and local  
1325 governments, and federally recognized Indian tribes. The objectives of the coordination  
1326 are for the State Directors and Field Managers to:

1327

1328 (1) Keep apprised of non–Bureau of Land Management plans;

1329

1330 (2) Assure that BLM considers those plans that are germane in the development of  
1331 resource management plans for public lands;

1332

1333 (3) Assist in resolving, to the extent practicable, inconsistencies between Federal and  
1334 non–Federal government plans;

1335

1336 (4) Provide for meaningful public involvement of other Federal agencies, State and local  
1337 government officials, both elected and appointed, and federally recognized Indian tribes,  
1338 in the development of resource management plans, including early public notice of final  
1339 decisions that may have a significant impact on non–Federal lands; and

1340

1341 (5) Where possible and appropriate, develop resource management plans collaboratively  
1342 with cooperating agencies.

1343

1344 (b) When developing or revising resource management plans, BLM State Directors and  
1345 Field Managers will invite eligible Federal agencies, state and local governments, and  
1346 federally recognized Indian tribes to participate as cooperating agencies. The same  
1347 requirement applies when BLM amends resource management plans through an  
1348 environmental impact statement. State Directors and Field Managers will consider any  
1349 requests of other Federal agencies, state and local governments, and federally  
1350 recognized Indian tribes for cooperating agency status. Field Managers who deny such  
1351 requests will inform the State Director of the denial. The State Director will determine if  
1352 the denial is appropriate.

1353

1354 (c) State Directors and Field Managers shall provide other Federal agencies, State and  
1355 local governments, and Indian tribes opportunity for review, advice, and suggestion on  
1356 issues and topics which may affect or influence other agency or other government  
1357 programs. To facilitate coordination with State governments, State Directors should seek  
1358 the policy advice of the Governor(s) on the timing, scope and coordination of plan  
1359 components; definition of planning areas; scheduling of public involvement activities;  
1360 and the multiple use opportunities and constraints on public lands. State Directors may  
1361 seek written agreements with Governors or their designated representatives on processes  
1362 and procedural topics such as exchanging information, providing advice and  
1363 participation, and timeframes for receiving State government participation and review in  
1364 a timely fashion. If an agreement is not reached, the State Director shall provide  
1365 opportunity for Governor and State agency review, advice and suggestions on issues and  
1366 topics that the State Director has reason to believe could affect or influence State  
1367 government programs.

1368

1369 (d) In developing guidance to Field Manager, in compliance with section 1611 of this  
1370 title, the State Director shall:

1371

1372 (1) Ensure that it is as consistent as possible with existing officially adopted and  
1373 approved resource related plans, policies or programs of other Federal agencies, State  
1374 agencies, Indian tribes and local governments that may be affected, as prescribed by §  
1375 1610.3–2 of this title;

1376

1377 (2) Identify areas where the proposed guidance is inconsistent with such policies, plans  
1378 or programs and provide reasons why the inconsistencies exist and cannot be remedied;  
1379 and

1380

1381 (3) Notify the other Federal agencies, State agencies, Indian tribes or local governments  
1382 with whom consistency is not achieved and indicate any appropriate methods,  
1383 procedures, actions and/or programs which the State Director believes may lead to  
1384 resolution of such inconsistencies.

1385

1386 (e) A notice of intent to prepare, amend, or revise a resource management plan shall be  
1387 submitted, consistent with State procedures for coordination of Federal activities, for  
1388 circulation among State agencies. This notice shall also be submitted to Federal  
1389 agencies, the heads of county boards, other local government units and Tribal Chairmen

1390 or Alaska Native Leaders that have requested such notices or that the responsible line  
1391 manager has reason to believe would be concerned with the plan or amendment. These  
1392 notices shall be issued simultaneously with the public notices required under § 1610.2(b)  
1393 of this title.

1394

1395 (f) Federal agencies, State and local governments and Indian tribes shall have the time  
1396 period prescribed under § 1610.2 of this title for review and comment on resource  
1397 management plan proposals. Should they notify the Field Manager, in writing, of what  
1398 they believe to be specific inconsistencies between the Bureau of Land Management  
1399 resource management plan and their officially approved and adopted resources related  
1400 plans, the resource management plan documentation shall show how those  
1401 inconsistencies were addressed and, if possible, resolved.

1402

1403 (g) When an advisory council has been formed under section 309 of the Federal Land  
1404 Policy and Management Act of 1976 for the area addressed in a resource management  
1405 plan or plan amendment, BLM will inform that council, seek its views, and consider them  
1406 throughout the planning process.

1407

1408 *AUTHORITY: 43 U.S.C. 1711–1712.*

1409 *43 C. F. R. § 1610.3–1, 43 CFR § 1610.3–1*

1410 *Current through November 07, 2013; 78 FR 66857*

1411

1412 **§ 1610.3–2 Consistency requirements.**

1413

1414 (a) Guidance and resource management plans and amendments to management  
1415 framework plans shall be consistent with officially approved or adopted resource related  
1416 plans, and the policies and programs contained therein, of other Federal agencies, State  
1417 and local governments and Indian tribes, so long as the guidance and resource  
1418 management plans are also consistent with the purposes, policies and programs of  
1419 Federal laws and regulations applicable to public lands, including Federal and State  
1420 pollution control laws as implemented by applicable Federal and State air, water, noise,  
1421 and other pollution standards or implementation plans.

1422

1423 (b) In the absence of officially approved or adopted resource-related plans of other  
1424 Federal agencies, State and local governments and Indian tribes, guidance and resource  
1425 management plans shall, to the maximum extent practical, be consistent with officially  
1426 approved and adopted resource related policies and programs of other Federal agencies,  
1427 State and local governments and Indian tribes. Such consistency will be accomplished so  
1428 long as the guidance and resource management plans are consistent with the policies,  
1429 programs and provisions of Federal laws and regulations applicable to public lands,  
1430 including, but not limited to, Federal and State pollution control laws as implemented by  
1431 applicable Federal and State air, water, noise and other pollution standards or  
1432 implementation plans.

1433

1434 (c) State Directors and Field Managers shall, to the extent practicable, keep apprised of  
1435 State and local governmental and Indian tribal policies, plans, and programs, but they

1436 shall not be accountable for ensuring consistency if they have not been notified, in  
1437 writing, by State and local governments or Indian tribes of an apparent inconsistency.

1438

1439 (d) Where State and local government policies, plans, and programs differ, those of the  
1440 higher authority will normally be followed.

1441

1442 (e) Prior to the approval of a proposed resource management plan, or amendment to a  
1443 management framework plan or resource management plan, the State Director shall  
1444 submit to the Governor of the State(s) involved, the proposed plan or amendment and  
1445 shall identify any known inconsistencies with State or local plans, policies or programs.  
1446 The Governor(s) shall have 60 days in which to identify inconsistencies and provide  
1447 recommendations in writing to the State Director. If the Governor(s) does not respond  
1448 within the 60-day period, the plan or amendment shall be presumed to be consistent. If  
1449 the written recommendation(s) of the Governor(s) recommend changes in the proposed  
1450 plan or amendment which were not raised during the public participation process on that  
1451 plan or amendment, the State Director shall provide the public with an opportunity to  
1452 comment on the recommendation(s). If the State Director does not accept the  
1453 recommendations of the Governor(s), The State Director shall notify the Governor(s) and  
1454 the Governor(s) shall have 30 days in which to submit a written appeal to the Director of  
1455 the Bureau of Land Management. The Director shall accept the recommendations of the  
1456 Governor(s) if he/she determines that they provide for a reasonable balance between the  
1457 national interest and the State's interest. The Director shall communicate to the  
1458 Governor(s) in writing and publish in the Federal Register the reasons for his/her  
1459 determination to accept or reject such Governor's recommendations.

1460

1461 *AUTHORITY: 43 U.S.C. 1711–1712.*

1462 *43 C. F. R. § 1610.3–2, 43 CFR § 1610.3–2*

1463 *Current through November 07, 2013; 78 FR 66857*

1464

## 1465 **APPENDIX D - Agriculture & Livestock Grazing**

1466

### 1467 **Agricultural Statistics for Crook County:**

1468 The primary contribution of agriculture to the revenue base of Crook County is through  
1469 the collection of ad valorem taxes. Crook County assigns an assessed value to several  
1470 classes of agricultural lands. This assessment includes varied assessment values for dry  
1471 farm, irrigated lands, range, farmsteads, waste and bog lands, as well as related  
1472 improvements. Crook County's total assessed value in the 2013 abstract is \$237,247,417.  
1473 1,363,281 acres of agricultural lands shows an agricultural productive value of  
1474 \$126,335,522 resulting in an assessed value of \$12,127,779.

1475

1476 Source: Crook County Assessor's Office.

1477

1478 For Agricultural Statistics, see National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2013 Publication  
1479 available at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wy/>

1480

1481

1482 **APPENDIX E - Air Quality**

1483

1484 Information on air quality area classifications and standards can be obtained from the  
1485 *Wyoming Air Quality Regulations*, a publication available through the Wyoming  
1486 Department of Environmental Quality, Air Quality Division, 122 West 25th Street,  
1487 Herschler Building, Cheyenne, WY 82002. A copy of the publication will remain on file  
1488 in the office of the Crook County Clerk, Sundance, Wyoming.

1489

1490 **APPENDIX F - Air Space**

1491

1492 Currently, Devils Tower National Monument, (Department of the Interior, National Park  
1493 Service) has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the US Air Force concerning  
1494 over flights of the Tower. This MOU was signed with Colonel Shuebbert, stationed at  
1495 Ellsworth Air Force Base in 1995. The request for the MOU came from the Devils  
1496 Tower National Monument Superintendent, who reported that the over flights were  
1497 disruptive to visitors at the Monument.

1498

1499 The MOU states that there will be a reserved air space as defined by five (5) nautical and  
1500 vertical air miles and followed by all Department of Defense personnel.

1501

1502 **APPENDIX G- Energy & Mineral Resources**

1503

1504 **List of Minerals in Crook County**

1505 Alum	Barite	Bentonite
1506 Calcite	Coal	Columbite
1507 Copper	Fluorite	Garnet
1508 Gold	Gypsum	Iron-Pyrite
1509 Lead	Limestone	Manganese
1510 Nepheline-syenite	Oil and Gas	Quartz-agates
1511 Tripolite	Silver	Sandstone
1512 Stone-marble	Titanite	Tourmaline
1513 Uranium	Rare Earths	Vanadium
1514 Zinc	Sand & Gravel	

1515

1516 Source: Crook County Land Use Plan, December 19, 1977, page 13.

1517

1518 **APPENDIX H - Timber Resources**

1519

1520 The current US Forest Service “Forest Plan” has a proposed harvest of 83.8 million board  
1521 feet (MMBF) per year on the Black Hills National Forest. This has decreased 30% from  
1522 the 1983 Forest Plan.

1523 Reference: Revised Forest Plan for the Black Hills National Forest and related EIS. See  
1524 these documents, on file with the County Clerk, for further information.

1525

1526

1527

1528 **APPENDIX I – Cultural and Paleontological Resources**

1529

1530 The Little Houston Quarry, part of the Jurassic Morrison Formation and located between  
1531 Moorcroft and Sundance, has produced fossils of the prehistoric *Camarasaurus*.

1532

1533 Fossils found at the Hawken Site, a buffalo jump located seven miles south of Sundance,  
1534 suggest the existence of a sizable herd of now-extinct bison (*bison bison occidentalis*)  
1535 from approximately 4400-4500 B.C.

1536

1537 The Vore Buffalo Jump, a National Historical Place, is located 3 miles west the town of  
1538 Beulah, WY. This buffalo jump, that is thought to have been used by 5-7 different plains  
1539 tribes, is located in a geologic sinkhole that allows all the bones and other artifacts from  
1540 all the events to stay where they were deposited. It is estimated that there are remains of  
1541 15,000 – 20,000 buffalo at the Vore site.

1542

1543 Source: Crook County Museum, Sundance.

1544

1545 **APPENDIX J - Recreational Use**

1546

1547 Recreational activities in Crook County include, but are not limited to: hunting, fishing,  
1548 four-wheeling, snowmobiling, rock climbing, spelunking, hiking, motor biking, camping,  
1549 biking, golfing, berry picking, sightseeing, bird- and wildlife-watching, picnicking,  
1550 swimming, horseback riding, boating, waterskiing, kiteboarding and windsurfing,  
1551 snowshoeing, cross country skiing, rock hounding, trapping, target shooting, rodeo and  
1552 flying.

1553

1554 **APPENDIX K - Water Resources**

1555

1556 The largest portion of crops produced with irrigation in Crook County are, alfalfa, grass  
1557 and other hay and feed grains that are produced for the livestock industry.

1558

1559 Each year, millions of gallons of potable water is used for the secondary recovery of oil  
1560 on private, state and federal lands. This water becomes unsuitable for human or livestock  
1561 use.

1562

1563 **APPENDIX L - Wildlife**

1564

1565 Population objectives for big game animals are as follows; Black Hills White-Tailed Deer  
1566 Herd Unit – 40,000, Black Hills Mule Deer Herd Unit – 20,000, Pronghorn – Crook  
1567 County is split by two large herd units that include parts of Campbell and Weston  
1568 Counties, Black Hills Elk Herd Unit – objective is based upon hunter and landowner  
1569 satisfaction and the age of harvested bulls, Northeast Mountain Lion Management Unit –  
1570 currently managed as a “sink area” to reduce the population.

1571

1572 The Wyoming Game and Fish Department provides fencing materials and other damage  
1573 prevention supplies to qualifying landowners for protection of stored crops.

1574  
1575  
1576  
1577  
1578  
1579  
1580  
1581  
1582  
1583  
1584  
1585  
1586  
1587  
1588  
1589  
1590  
1591  
1592  
1593  
1594  
1595  
1596  
1597  
1598  
1599  
1600  
1601  
1602  
1603  
1604  
1605  
1606  
1607  
1608  
1609  
1610  
1611  
1612  
1613  
1614  
1615  
1616  
1617  
1618  
1619

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department contributes \$100,000 annually to the Wyoming Animal Damage Management Board.

Source: Wyoming Game and Fish Department <http://wgfd.wyo.gov/>

## **APPENDIX M - Threatened and Endangered Species**

### Definitions:

**Threatened** = the classification provided to an animal or plant likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

**Endangered** = the classification provided to an animal or plant in danger of extinction within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

**Conservation** = from section 3(3) of the Federal Endangered Species Act: “The terms ‘conserve,’ ‘conserving,’ and ‘conservation’ mean to use and the use of all methods and procedures which are necessary to bring any endangered species or threatened species to the point at which the measures provided under this Act are no longer necessary. Such methods and procedures include, but are not limited to, all activities associated with scientific resources management such as research, census, law enforcement, habitat acquisition and maintenance, propagation, live trapping, and transportation, and, in the extraordinary case where population pressures within a given ecosystem cannot be otherwise relieved, may include regulated taking.”

**Critical habitat** = Specific geographic areas, whether occupied by listed species or not, that are determined to be essential for the conservation and management of listed species, and that have been formally described in the Federal Register.

**Habitat** = the location where a particular taxon of plant or animal lives and its surroundings (both living and nonliving) and includes the presence of a group of particular environmental conditions surrounding an organism including air, water, soil, mineral elements, moisture, temperature, and topography.

Source: “Endangered Species Glossary”, <http://es.southeast.fws.gov/glossary.html>

## SOURCES

1620  
1621  
1622  
1623  
1624  
1625  
1626  
1627  
1628  
1629  
1630  
1631  
1632  
1633  
1634  
1635  
1636  
1637  
1638  
1639  
1640

This plan is based on sources and references that were included in the 1998 Land Use Plan that immediately precedes this plan.

- Joe Baron, Crook County Attorney, Sundance, Wyoming.
- For Agricultural Statistics, see National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2013 at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wy/>
- Crook County Land Use Planning and Zoning Commission - Members:
  - Nels J. Smith, Chairman
  - Roger Connett, Vice Chairman
  - Dennis R. McGirr
  - Robert W. Olver
  - Becky Rolf

**To access more information on land use planning in Crook County or more details on the County's land use planning process, please contact the office of the County Clerk, P.O. Box 37, Sundance, WY 82729 - County Courthouse, Sundance, Wyoming - Phone: 307-283-1323.**

DRAFT 12/04/13