

APPENDIX A

The Action Plan serves as a guideline for all CRM committee levels and identifies their responsibilities. The plan attempts to provide uniformity and continuity to the statewide CRM program.

The Action Plan replaces the previous statewide Memorandum of Understanding and provides the foundation on which Wyoming CRM can build and grow. Purpose, policy, goals and objectives, coordination, and procedures are all outlined in the plan which has been endorsed by the signing agencies and organizations.

The Wyoming Department of Agriculture developed this Action Plan to provide an efficient CRM management structure that all resource owners, managers, and users can use in a coordinated and cooperative manner to achieve their goals and objectives.

WYOMING COORDINATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN

I. PURPOSE

This action plan establishes a framework for use by private landowners in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Forest Service (FS), Soil Conservation Service (SCS), Cooperative Extension Service (ES), the state of Wyoming, and other interested groups and organizations in Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) for operating units containing both private and public lands. This action plan supports the National Memorandum of Understanding on Coordinated Resource Planning.

II. POLICY

The BLM, FS, SCS, ES, state of Wyoming, and interested parties are encouraged to foster CRM on intermingled or adjacent public and private lands. Techniques and procedures as outlined in the CRM Workbook will be available as a guideline for implementing CRM where statutory authority, resource needs, public support and financial capability exists.

Agencies are encouraged to cooperate with all owners, managers, and users of land and resources within each specific area, including federal, state, counties, and private landowners. Other persons, agencies and organizations with interest in the CRM area will be involved as appropriate.

CRM or the intent of this process will not infringe or interfere with private landowner rights.

III. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goals:

Coordinated Resource Management is to serve as a vehicle to reach agreement on natural resource issues that will improve natural resource values for all users and to promote quality natural resource management through collaborative efforts.

Objectives:

- A. Encourage coordination and cooperation of natural resources management efforts between local landowners and permittees and local land management agencies and other interested parties and organizations using a team approach;
- B. Provide for optimum public and private benefit from the land and its resources;
- C. Improve or maintain the land and its resources for the benefit of domestic livestock and wildlife, watershed values, recreational opportunities, and other uses important to the CRM area;
- D. Provide for public involvement on public land natural resource management decisions;
- E. Allow decisions to be made focusing on what will be good for the resource, rather than what is good for a single interest;
- F. Allow decisions to be made and action taken when consensus is reached; and
- G. Improve natural resources values for all users.

IV. COORDINATED PLANNING PROCEDURE

A. Application for Assistance

1. Landowner requests for planning assistance are made to the local conservation district or the county extension service (Appendix B)
2. Either the conservation district or the extension service will submit all CRM applications to the Regional CRM Committee, if established, for review and prioritization. If a Regional CRM Committee has not been established the conservation district and extension service, in coordination with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, will review and prioritize applications.
3. A copy of the request form will be forwarded to the Wyoming Department of Agriculture and federal land management agencies.
4. Requests forwarded by the conservation district or county extension service will be scheduled for planning assistance by the Regional CRM Committee during requested or semi-annual meetings. Funding, time, and availability of

personnel will be used to determine the number of units scheduled during the year. The Regional CRM Committee will form Local Coordinating Committees and select a landowner or agency to assume lead responsibilities.

5. In the absence of a Regional CRM Committee, conservation districts, county extension service, and the Wyoming Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the local landowner(s) will be responsible for forming Local Coordinating Committees and carrying out all other Regional CRM Committee responsibilities.

B. Planning Process

1. Coordinated resource management for the unit to be planned will be developed by the Local Coordinating Committee in the format "Procedures of the CRM Process" section of the Wyoming CRM Workbook.

2. Environmental documentation will be completed as necessary.

3. The assigned planning team will work on-site with the land user in developing decisions for the unit in accordance with the planning parameters of each agency. Individual CRM program bylaws or Memorandum of Understandings (Appendix D), along with any agency environmental documentation, will be filed with the plan.

V. COORDINATION

A. Local Coordinating Committee

1. Organization

The local coordination committee will address local needs and consists of local landowners in cooperation with the FS representative, BLM Area Manager, SCS District Conservationist, University Extension Agent, Wyoming Game and Fish representative, representative from the Department of Environment Quality, Conservation District board representative, agriculture groups, wildlife groups, sportsman groups, environment groups, and other local interest groups. Chairmanship of this committee will be determined by the committee.

2. Responsibilities

A. Establish common goals and objectives.

B. Assist requesting land user in developing a CRM plan to meet agreed upon objectives for the operating unit.

C. Assign and carry out planning responsibilities and in accordance with the CRM Work Book guidelines and policies and procedures of each member's respective agency.

D. Appoint Technical Task Force Members.

B. Technical Task Forces

1. Organization

Members would be appointed by the local coordinating committees and given specific assignments to provide an in-field examination of a specific resource problem within the CRM area.

2. Responsibilities

A. Develop specific natural resource management alternatives.

B. Provide consensus management recommendations to the local coordinating committee in accordance with agreed-upon objectives.

C. Regional CRM Committee (Optional)

1. Organization

Regional CRM committee will be optional. Upon request, by local coordinating committees, it will be the responsibility of a local representative from the conservation district, the local county extension agent, a representative from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, and local landowners to organize and determine geographical boundaries of the Regional CRM Committee. The Regional CRM Committee may consist of conservation districts, BLM district managers, forest service representatives, district rangers, SCS district conservationists or area conservationists, county extension agents, Wyoming Game and Fish representatives, landowners, and local interest groups. Chairmanship of this committee will rotate annually.

2. Responsibilities of the Regional CRM Committee

A. Establish planning teams and leaders for scheduled planning units.

B. Report all significant issues and concerns of local coordinating committees to the Wyoming Department of Agriculture.

C. Identify issues and develop solutions, implement newly accepted proposals, provide assistance and recommendations in accordance with CRM goals and objectives;

D. Provide for training and education to all personnel in their respective agencies and organizations;

E. Provide for facilitators to local coordinating committees as needed;

F. Identify and provide funding resources;

G. Coordinate with the Wyoming Department of Agriculture in reviewing requested CRM assistance, assign priorities, and schedule units for planning;

H. The Regional CRM Committee will meet upon written request of local Coordinating Committees or at least twice annually to coordinate CRM activities;

I. Staff and technical support will be provided by all agencies and organizations that have vested interest.

D. Executive Committee

1. Organization

The Executive Committee (EC) will operate within the Wyoming Department of Agriculture and consist of representatives from the BLM, FS, State Grazing Board, SCS, Wyoming Game and Fish, UW Extension Service, Conservation Districts, Public Lands Council, Wyoming Board of Agriculture, Wyoming State Land-Farm Loan Office, Department of Environmental Quality, environmental and agricultural groups, as well as ranchers/landowners.

2. Responsibilities

A. Members of the committee representing state and federal agencies must have the authority to speak and make management decisions or recommendations for their respective agencies.

B. Each member is encouraged to attend at least two Local Coordinating Committee meetings per year.

C. The Executive Committee will review progress, provide direction, assess needs, assist in cooperation, and make necessary changes in the organization and its activities to make it more effective in accomplishing CRM objectives.

D. Ensure that all involved personnel in their respective organizations are aware of, understand, and are fully trained in Coordinated Resource Management by developing and implementing information and educational programs.

E. Members will be supported by technical and managerial staff, and subcommittees created to address specific issues.

F. Members should attend all meetings and should not be represented by alternates unless absolutely necessary.

G. This committee will meet to address Coordinated Resource Management issues as often as deemed necessary.

H. Issue news releases.

3. Responsibilities of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture

A. Serve as lead support agency and develop programs and strategies to achieve the stated objectives. Schedule meetings and constantly inform all involved agencies and organizations of recent changes and developments.

B. Provide guidance and direction to the Executive Committee, Regional CRM Committees, Local Coordinating Committees, Conservation Districts, and the effected landowner in achieving CRM goals and objectives.

C. Assist in developing a cooperative and effective education and training program. Develop and distribute an educational video, manual/workbook, and brochure.

D. Assist in providing public information and education by publishing news articles and corresponding with the state and local news media.

E. And, other duties as specified by the Executive Committee.

VI. FOLLOW -UP/IMPLEMENTATION

Follow-up assistance will normally be provided by the lead agency of the CRM area or by mutual agreement. The lead agency will keep other agencies informed of all actions. If on-site examinations present a problem, the other cooperating agencies should be contacted for a joint review with the land user.

VII. ANNUAL REVIEW

All coordinated resource management plans will be reviewed annually by the local Conservation District Board, Regional CRM Committee, land user, and the local coordinating committee.

VIII. MODIFICATIONS

This action plan is subject to modification or change by the concerned parties to meet the dynamic needs of CRM in Wyoming. This action plan is renegotiable at the discretion of anyone of the cooperating parties. All requests will be in writing.

IX. ENDORSEMENTS

The Executive Committee endorses and promotes the Action Plan.