



RESOLUTION NO. _____

Submitted by: Crook County Natural Resource District

**RECOGNIZING LOCAL EXPERTISE AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION IN
EFFICIENT FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

WHEREAS, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321–4370h, promotes informed Federal decision-making through consideration of environmental effects, alternatives, and relevant information; and

WHEREAS, the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts supports Federal efforts to make environmental reviews more timely and efficient through clear schedules, early coordination, proportional analysis, use of existing information, and elimination of unnecessary duplication; and

WHEREAS, NEPA § 107(c), 42 U.S.C. § 4336a(c), requires an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Notice of Intent to request public comment concerning alternatives, effects, and relevant information, studies, or analyses; and

WHEREAS, public participation and early intergovernmental coordination can improve the efficiency and quality of environmental review by identifying local conditions, potential impacts, reasonable alternatives, mitigation opportunities, and existing technical information before decisions are finalized; and

WHEREAS, NEPA § 107(a)(3), 42 U.S.C. § 4336a(a)(3), recognizes the role of Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise as cooperating agencies; and

WHEREAS, 43 CFR § 46.225, 7 CFR § 1b.9(m)(3), and 23 CFR § 771.111(d) demonstrate the importance of providing eligible State and local governments meaningful opportunities to participate in Federal environmental reviews; and

WHEREAS, Conservation Districts possess unique, place-based knowledge concerning watersheds, soils, agriculture, water resources, conservation practices, wildlife habitat, wildfire resilience, and local infrastructure that can strengthen Federal environmental analysis and reduce project delays; and

WHEREAS, Federal procedures that impose unnecessarily compressed schedules, extensive administrative requirements, or unfunded obligations can effectively prevent Conservation Districts and other resource-constrained State and local governments from meaningfully participating as cooperating agencies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts supports **efficient environmental review without sacrificing meaningful participation** and recognizes local and State expertise as an asset to, rather than an impediment to, timely Federal decision-making;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Federal agencies should preserve meaningful opportunities for public input and provide eligible State, Tribal, and local governments timely opportunities to participate in scoping and environmental review, consistent with **42 U.S.C. § 4336a(c)** and **42 U.S.C. § 4336a(a)(3)**;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Federal agencies should engage cooperating agencies early, clearly define their roles and schedules, use existing State and local information where appropriate, and tailor participation requirements to the capacity of participating governments and Conservation Districts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Federal agencies should avoid unnecessary or unfunded administrative burdens that make meaningful cooperating-agency participation impracticable; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts advocates for a Federal environmental review system that is **timely, predictable, proportional, coordinated, and locally informed**, recognizing that better coordination and meaningful participation can help achieve faster and better environmental decisions.

APPROVED BY THE CROOK COUNTY NATURAL RESOURCE DISTRICT BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AT THE SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2026 BOARD MEETING.