Leading the Charge: Conservation and the Wyoming Energy Strategy

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY
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**Achieving Excellence**
- Lead in Energy Development, Production, Generation and Export
- Innovate in Adding Value to Resources
- Be the Standard Bearers in Responsible Development

**Highest Benefit**
- Maintain and Grow Energy Market Share, Good Jobs and a Strong Economy
- Create Affordable, Abundant, Reliable Power and Fuel Production
- Conserve Natural Resources and Heritage

- Economic Competitiveness, Expansion and Diversification
- Efficient, Effective Regulation
- Natural Resource Conservation, Reclamation, and Mitigation
- Education, Innovation, and New Technologies

Governor Matthew H. Mead • 2013
Natural Resource Conservation, Reclamation and Mitigation

Conservation
- Wyoming will manage, utilize, protect and preserve natural resources in a balanced manner.

Reclamation
- Wyoming will make it a priority that developed land be returned to an equal or more productive ecological state with a positive transitional trend.

Mitigation
- Wyoming will achieve excellence in mitigation practices and create innovative approaches for both on-site and off-site mitigation.

Bonding
- Wyoming will have a consistent, effective approach to bonding for the financial assurance of reclamation.
Mitigation

“Wyoming will achieve excellence in mitigation practices and create innovative approaches for both on-site and off-site mitigation.”

Initiative 11A. Development of the Wyoming Off-site Mitigation Program

A statewide mitigation program will be developed and managed to reclaim or maintain key habitat and natural resources. This program’s focus will be on the reclamation, rehabilitation and conservation efforts in the places that are most likely to be adversely impacted by development.
Principles

• Allow individuals, groups and companies to act on their own knowledge, guided by defensible baseline data, good science, and clear regulations

• Frame issues and solutions in terms of simple, generic units that can be combined and used in different ways over time to meet today’s needs

• Create credible, understandable, enduring, and enforceable commitments

• Have verification and monitoring, conflict resolution, and enforcement

• Protect competition, employ constant feedback, create alternatives based on lessons learned
Initiative Implementation: The Charge

• Background:
  • Need for tools to address the areas and species of “highest concern”
  • Flexibility to address temporary and permanent impacts
  • Effectiveness requires consistency across land ownerships jurisdiction
  • No net loss of conservation goal

• Purpose:
  • Create certainty by developing a state recognized conservation exchange process

• Activities:
  • Cooperatively facilitate the development of functional pieces necessary for “banking” to occur under a the guidelines, standards, key administration

• Outcomes:
  • Guidelines, rules, structure, validation procedures, recommendations necessary for implementation...functional exchange

• Responsible Parties:
  • WNRTF (Lead), WGFD, WDEQ, SHPO, WDA – in consultation with federal agencies, conservation districts, conservation groups with demonstrated expertise, industry, academia

• Cost, Timeline, Milestones...
Direction

- Functioning market (exchange), not a single “mitigation bank”
- Verifiable transactions, rights and rules
- Assurances through agreements and primacy of regulation
- Quantification tools, methodologies and mechanisms
- Market development, verification and oversight (WNRT)
- Advisory group for ranking processes (WDEQ, SHPO, others...)
- Metrics? (acres, stream feet, etc.)
- Management Units? (Forest, Sage Brush, Stream Class, etc...)