

SENATE FILE NO. SF0007

Conservation districts-special expertise.

Sponsored by: Joint Agriculture, State and Public Lands
and Water Resources Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to conservation districts; providing for
2 conservation district supervisors to be deemed to have
3 special expertise as specified; providing that conservation
4 district supervisors may represent a conservation district
5 in federal land planning decisions as a cooperating agency
6 with special expertise; providing that supervisors for a
7 conservation district which has adopted a comprehensive
8 plan may participate in efforts to coordinate the plan with
9 federal agencies as specified; and providing for an
10 effective date.

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12 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

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14 **Section 1.** W.S. 11-16-135 is created to read:

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1 **11-16-135. Special expertise of supervisors of**
2 **conservation districts.**

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4 (a) When representing a conservation district as a
5 cooperating agency in matters related to the National
6 Environmental Policy Act and in federal land planning,
7 implementation and management actions, supervisors of a
8 conservation district shall be deemed to have special
9 expertise on all subject matters for which they have
10 statutory responsibility, including but not limited to all
11 subject matters directly or indirectly related to
12 stabilization of the agriculture industry, wildlife
13 habitat, protection of water quality and water yield,
14 silviculture and forestry practices, range management,
15 range improvement and stabilization, conservation of soil
16 and water resources, control and prevention of soil
17 erosion, flood prevention or the conservation, development,
18 utilization and disposal of water within the district.

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20 (b) The supervisors of a conservation district which
21 has officially adopted a comprehensive plan pursuant to
22 W.S. 11-16-122(b)(xvi) may coordinate with federal agencies
23 as provided in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act
24 of 1976, the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources

1 Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest
2 Management Act of 1976 and any other federal statute which
3 provides for coordination with local governments and
4 federal regulations adopted pursuant to those acts.

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6 **Section 2.** W.S. 11-16-122(b)(viii), (xvi) and by
7 creating a new paragraph (xxviii) is amended to read:

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9 **11-16-122. Powers and duties of districts and**
10 **supervisors thereof generally.**

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12 (b) A conservation district organized under this act
13 and the supervisors thereof, in addition to other powers
14 granted by this act, may:

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16 (viii) Cooperate, including but not limited to
17 representing the conservation district as a cooperating
18 agency with special expertise in matters related to the
19 National Environmental Policy Act and in federal land
20 planning implementation as provided in W.S. 11-16-135(a) or
21 enter into agreements with and furnish financial or other
22 aid to, any agency, governmental or otherwise, or any owner
23 or occupier of lands within the district, in carrying on
24 range management or erosion control and prevention

1 operations and works of improvement for flood prevention or
2 the conservation, development, utilization and disposal of
3 water within the district, subject to such conditions as
4 the supervisors deem necessary;

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6 (xvi) Develop and implement comprehensive land
7 resource use and management plans for range improvement and
8 stabilization, conservation of soil, ~~and~~ water and
9 resources, control and prevention of soil erosion and for
10 flood prevention or the conservation, development,
11 utilization and disposal of water within the district,
12 which plans shall include range management provisions and
13 shall specify in detail the acts, procedures, performances
14 and avoidances necessary or desirable to carry out the
15 plans, including the specification of engineering
16 operation, fence and stockwater developments, methods of
17 cultivation, the growing of grass and other vegetation,
18 cropping and range programs, tillage and grazing practices,
19 and changes in use of lands. In developing plans under this
20 paragraph, the supervisors of the district shall consider
21 the customs and culture of residents of the district as
22 those customs and culture relate to the land and resource,
23 current and historical information and data related to the
24 uses of the land and resource;

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(xxviii) Coordinate with federal land managers pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, National Forest Management Act and other federal statutes as specified by law.

Section 3. This act is effective July 1, 2013.

(END)