# NORTHFORK AREA COMPREHENSIVE POLICY STATEMENT

FEBRUARY 20, 1996

#### CERTIFICATION

Date: February 20, 1996

The Park County Planning and Zoning Commission, hereby certifies the Northfork Area Comprehensive Policy Statement to the Board of Park County Commissioners, City of Cody, City of Powell, Town of Meeteetse, Town of Frannie, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service.

The Northfork Area Comprehensive Policy Statement shall be used as guidance in the development of other elements of the Comprehensive Plan for Park County and shall not be used to review land use classifications, reclassifications, planned unit developments, and subdivisions unless the Northfork Area Comprehensive Policy Statement is endorse by the Board of County Commissioners pursuant to the "Park County Development Standards and Regulations".

Colln Simpson, Vice-Chairman

Park County Planning and Zoning Commission

#### INTRODUCTION

Planning is essential to the efficient operations of both government and private enterprises. It is especially important in Park County to manage change through planning. Recognizing the changes and choices confronting Park County, the Park County Planning and Zoning Commission has adopted these principles to guide planning within the Northfork Area.

The Comprehensive Policy Statement (CPS) is advisory in nature. When used in evaluating specific actions or proposals, the CPS is intended to provide guidance. The CPS does not exclude consideration of actions or proposals which were not anticipated by the CPS.

The Local Area CPS is Intended to do the following:

- (1) Provide direction for elected and appointed officials as to the community's desires.
- (2) Enable the county and others to anticipate the community's desires for public services and facilities, type and intensity of development, and public participation in the decision-making process.
  - (3) Make the best use of the community's natural resources.
  - (4) Encourage a well-balanced, prosperous economy.
- (5) Enhance the community's unique character, customs, culture, traditions, and quality of life, and protect the community's natural environment pursuant to their stated goals and objectives.
- (6) Act as a guide to decision makers in reviewing development proposals and actions concerning the community.
- (7) Provide coordination of the use of resources in areas of diverse ownership.

This CPS applies to the unincorporated areas of Park County within the Northfork Planning Area, and includes a number of components which address particular issues such as land use, the economy, public facilities, natural resources, and the local customs and culture.

At times, the CPS may need to be amended as the Northfork Area's desires or factors affecting the Northfork Planning Area change. Park County anticipates using a Local Citizen Advisory Committees to recommend changes to the CPS as needs are identified by citizens of the Northfork Area or elected and appointed officials.

# AUTHORITY

Title 18, Chapter 5 and Title 9, Chapter 3 of the Wyoming State Statute provide the authority for and detail the scope and purpose of plans for counties or portions of counties.

# THE NORTHFORK PLANNING AREA

Starting at the N. line of T.53N. on the E. border of Yellowstone N. P., thence S. along the Park to the S. line of T.51N., thence E. to the S.E. corner of T.51N., R.105W., thence N. to the N.W. corner of Sec. 7, T.51N., R.104W., thence E. to the mid-section line of Sec. 6, thence N. 1 mile, thence E. to the S.E. corner of Sec. 34, T.52N., R.104W., thence N. 1 mile, thence E. to the S.E. corner of Sec. 25, thence N. to the N.E. corner of Sec. 24, thence E. to the S.E. corner of Sec. 14, T.52N., R.103W., thence N. to the N. shore of Buffalo Bill Res., thence along the shore E. to the ridge line of Rattlesnake Mtn., thence along the ridge line N.W. to the S. line of Sec. 21, T.54N., R.104W., thence W. to the N.W. corner of Sec. 30, thence S. 1 mile, thence W. to the N.W. corner of Sec. 35, T.54N., R.105W., thence S. 1 mile, thence W. to the point of beginning.

# **ECONOMICS**

# Northfork Area Goals and Objectives

**GOAL #1 NFEC:** 

Achieve and maintain a sustainable diverse economy.

**OBJECTIVE #1 NFEC:** 

Retain and expand existing business.

**OBJECTIVE #2 NFEC:** 

Maintain the agricultural sector.

**OBJECTIVE #3 NFEC:** 

Increase the availability of "family-wage" jobs.

**OBJECTIVE #4 NFEC:** 

Increase the diversification of businesses.

**OBJECTIVE #5 NFEC:** 

Maintain oil, gas, and other extractive industries.

**OBJECTIVE #6 NFEC:** 

Retain the multiple use of public lands.

**OBJECTIVE #7 NFEC:** 

Maintain a high-quality, well-educated work force.

**OBJECTIVE #8 NFEC:** 

Encourage value-added businesses.

**OBJECTIVE #9 NFEC:** 

Maintain public services at adequate levels to accommodate new development.

Recommended Actions or Policies to Help Achieve the Northfork Area's Goals and Objectives for Economics

**POLICY #1 NFEC:** 

Provide incentives for existing businesses, farms, and ranches to help retain them as part of a diverse economy.

**POLICY #2 NFEC:** 

Support the multiple use of public lands.

#### POLICY #3 NFEC:

Communicate with state and federal agencies about the development of policies and regulations affecting the use of public lands.

# **POLICY #4 NFEC:**

Provide education on conservation easements and other private property tools that can help farmers and ranchers retain their land.

# POLICY #5 NFEC:

Encourage the responsible development and exploration of natural resources

#### POLICY #6 NFEC:

Develop land use regulations that support reasonable commercial opportunities while maintaining the rural character of our community.

# ENVIRONMENT

# Northfork Area Goals and Objectives

GOAL #1 NFEN:

Maintain a healthy environment.

**OBJECTIVE #1 NFEN:** 

Sustain renewable natural resources.

**OBJECTIVE #2 NFEN:** 

Conserve scenic areas and open spaces.

**OBJECTIVE #3 NFEN:** 

Maintain the quality of big game habitat without the loss of private property.

**OBJECTIVE #4 NFEN:** 

Protect watersheds.

**OBJECTIVE #5 NFEN:** 

Improve or maintain air, water, and soil quality.

Recommended Actions or Policies to Help Achieve the Northfork Area's Goals and Objectives for Environment

**POLICY #1 NFEN:** 

Encourage maintenance of sensitive natural areas.

**POLICY #2 NFEN:** 

Encourage working relationships with other agencies and private property owners.

**POLICY #3 NFEN:** 

Encourage citizens about proper stewardship.

**POLICY #4 NFEN:** 

Encourage signs that are in character with the area.

POLICY #5 NFEN:

Encourage developers to provide open space.

POLICY #6 NFEN:

Enforce present regulations concerning the removal or screening of junk and trash.

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# PRIVATE LAND USE

Northfork Area Goals and Objectives

GOAL #1 NFPV:

Maintain existing private property rights while protecting the scenic beauty of the Northfork.

**OBJECTIVE #1 NFPV:** 

No net loss of private land.

**OBJECTIVE #2 NFPV:** 

Protect activity of agriculture based on Northfork.

**OBJECTIVE #3 NFPV:** 

Preserve existing private property rights.

Recommended Actions or Policies to Help Achieve the Northfork Area's Goals and Objectives for Private Land Use

POLICY #1 NFPV:

Grandfather the existing uses, permits, and structures.

POLICY #2 NFPV:

Encourage public participation.

POLICY #3 NFPV:

Support fair market value compensation for wildlife damage provided by Wyoming Game and Fish.

# WATER

# Northfork Area Goals and Objectives

GOAL #1 NFWA:

Promote an adequate, healthy water supply for the population and agriculture and for current and future needs.

**OBJECTIVE #1 NFWA:** 

Support fair market value compensation for wetlands takings.

**OBJECTIVE #2 NFWA:** 

Maintain a safe drinking water supply.

**OBJECTIVE #3 NFWA:** 

Improve land management practices.

**OBJECTIVE #4 NFWA:** 

Protect water rights from federal acquisition.

**OBJECTIVE #5 NFWA:** 

Support water uses by people and agriculture while recognizing the need for instream flow.

Recommended Actions or Policies to Help Achieve the Northfork Area's Goals and Objectives for Water

POLICY #1 NFWA:

Park County (and the Northfork) should have a request on file to be notified of all state, interstate, and other actions which have an impact on Park County water prior to such actions being initiated.

POLICY #2 NFWA:

Encourage the education of citizens regarding the use of chemicals.

POLICY #3 NFWA:

Review development proposals for potential impacts to ground and riparian water.

POLICY #4 NFWA:

Encourage sustainable land and water use on private and public lands to minimize erosion and pollution.

POLICY #5 NFWA:

Develop a plan to provide for future water needs.

#### **POLICY #6 NFWA:**

Educate the public about water use issues and water conservation practices.

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# RECOMMENDED ACTIONS AND POLICIES FOR 'IRONMENT (cont.)

# **POLICY #7 NFEN:**

Enforce existing standards for the protection of air, water, and soll quality.

# POLICY #8 NFEN:

Promote the sustainable use of renewable resources.

# NATURAL PESOURCES

Northfork Area 6 4s and Objectives

#### **GOAL #1 NFNR:**

Encourage the orderly development, use, and conservation of Park County's renewable resources and for the orderly development of non-renewable natural resources.

#### **OBJECTIVE #1 NFNR:**

Maintain the use of the natural resources of Park County for the benefit of its citizens.

# **OBJECTIVE #2 NFNR:**

Increase citizen involvement in decisions concerning federal resource extraction.

# Recommended Actions or Policies to Help Achieve the Northfork Area's Goals and Objectives for Natural Resources

#### **POLICY #1 NFNR:**

Promote selective timbering on public land as a management tool.

#### POLICY #2 NFNR:

Defend the opportunity to explore for oil, gas, and minerals.

#### **POLICY #3 NFNR:**

Educate citizens on the benefits of proper resource management.

#### POLICY #4 NFNR:

Coordinate, and consult with the local conservation districts.

#### **POLICY #5 NFNR:**

Manage renewable natural resources pursuant to the principle of sustained yield on public land.

# PUBLIC LAND 'SE Northfork Area Goals and Jiectives

# GOAL #1 NFPU:

Protect and maintain public lands (including state, BLM, and federal).

# **OBJECTIVE #1 NFPU:**

Protect and maintain scenic beauty, wildlife habitat, and multiple use.

# Recommended Actions or Policies to Help Achieve the Northfork Area's Goals and Objectives for Public Land Use

# POLICY #1 NFPU:

Mandate Park County Commissioners to be active participants in goals set by state and national government, and have a say on what goes on in our country.

# **WASTE WATER**

Northfold Area Goals and Objectives

GOAL #1 NFWW:

Assure adequate, safe sewage disposal.

**OBJECTIVE #1 NFWW:** 

Maintain water quality.

Recommended Actions or Policies to Help Achieve the Northfork Area's Goals and Objectives for Waste Water

POLICY #1 NFWW:

Assure adequate percolation and sewage disposal is available for all new residential or commercial development.

POLICY #2 NFWW:

Assure proper septic disposal and systems are a available in subdivisions.

# GOVEP"'MENT

Northfork Area Galas and Objectives

GOAL #1 NFGV:

Government that is accountable, accessible, efficient, effective, and sensitive to the changing demands of the community through competent and decisive leadership and meaningful citizen participation.

**OBJECTIVE #1 NFGV:** 

Minimize size and complexity of government.

**OBJECTIVE #2 NFGV:** 

Increase cost effectiveness of government.

**OBJECTIVE #3 NFGV:** 

Balance government growth with community growth and needs.

**OBJECTIVE #4 NFGV:** 

Maximize coordination between local, state and federal governments.

**OBJECTIVE #5 NFGV:** 

Increase citizen and local community involvement in government decision-making.

Recommended Actions or Policies to Help Achieve the Northfork Area's Goals and Objectives for Government

POLICY #1 NFGV:

Recognize and encourage local public input as a mechanism for recommendation to the Planning and Zoning Commission and/or the Board of County Commissioners.

POLICY #2 NFGV:

Protect and enhance private property rights.

POLICY #3 NFGV:

Encourage Commissioners to support the culture and customs of the community.

**POLICY #4 NFGV:** 

Sworn duty of each public office holder to support Constitution of the United States, and uphoid it.

# **POLICY #5 NFGV:**

Public agencies proposing actions to affect the Northfork should prepare and submit to the County Commissioners reports on the purposes, objectives, and estimated impacts of such actions, including economic, social, and cultural impacts.

#### **POLICY #6 NFGV:**

Encourage education of the public regarding community issues.

# POLICY #7 NFGV:

Support recall legislation for county government.

# **POLICY #8 NFGV:**

Establish an advisory board.

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# **POPULATION**

# Northfork Area Goals and Objectives

# GOAL #1 NFPO:

Population growth consistent with our economic base, the availability of natural resources, and the community's rural character.

# **OBJECTIVE #1 NFPO:**

Encourage age diversity.

Recommended Actions or Policies to Help Achieve the Northfork Area's Goals and Objectives for Population

# POLICY #1 NFPO:

Encourage public understanding of the need to maintain open space, clean water, and wildlife habitat in the face of population growth.

# HOUSING

# Northfork Area Goals and Objectives

#### GOAL #1 NFHG:

Encouraging orderly housing development.

# OBJECTIVE #1 NFHG:

Encourage present operating ranches and farms to stay in business.

#### OBJECTIVE #2 NFHG:

Encourage rural character of Northfork without using tax dollars.

#### **OBJECTIVE #3 NFHG:**

No mobile home parks.

# Recommended Actions or Policies to Help Achieve the Northfork Area's Goals and Objectives for Housing

# POLICY #1 NFHG:

Adopt tax incentives to keep operating ranchers and farmers in business.

# POLICY #2 NFHG:

Impact fees.

# POLICY #3 NFHG:

Encourage developers to use deed and plat restrictions that help promote rural character of the Northfork.

# COMMUNICATIONS

# Northfork Area Goals and Objectives

# GOAL #1 NFCM:

Encourage adequate communications.

#### **OBJECTIVE #1 NFCM:**

Encourage enough telephone and other communication infrastructure to meet current and future needs.

# Recommended Actions or Policies to Help Achieve the Northfork Area's Goals and Objectives for Communications

# POLICY #1 NFCM:

Encourage competition among providers.

# HISTOPIC PRESERVATION

Chfork Area Goals

#### GOAL #1 NFHI:

Encourage recording Information of historic value.

Recommended Actions or Policies to Help Achieve the Northfork Area's Goals for Historic Preservation

#### POLICY #1 NFHI:

Encourage existing historical society to record history.

# POLICY #2 NFHI:

Preserve private property owners' rights in regard to historical sites.

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# RECREATION.

Northfork Area G .s and Objectives

#### **GOAL #1 NFRE:**

Acknowledge recreation as an integral part of multiple use on federal, state, and private lands, and encourage private recreational enterprises as an alternative to tax supported recreational enterprises.

#### **OBJECTIVE #1 NFRE:**

Maintain traditional use of public lands for recreational purposes.

# Recommended Actions or Policies to Help Achieve the Northfork Area's Goals and Objectives for Recreation

# POLICY #1 NFRE:

Encourage maintenance of public trail heads.

# ARTS AND HUMA TIES Northfork Area Goals and Jectives

# GOAL #1 NFAH:

Recognize arts and humanities.

# **OBJECTIVE #1 NFAH:**

Encourage private funding support for arts and humanities.

# Recommended Actions or Policies to Help Achieve the Northfork Area's Goals and Objectives for Arts and Humanities

# POLICY #1 NFAH:

No public funding of arts and humanities.

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# CULTURAL IDENTITY

Northfork Area Goals and Objectives

# **GOAL #1 NFCI:**

Maintain friendly rural character based on local customs and traditions.

# **OBJECTIVE #1 NFCI:**

Increase the level of independence from federal or state government control.

#### **OBJECTIVE #2 NFCI:**

Encourage citizens' involvement in the government decision making process.

#### **OBJECTIVE #3 NFCI:**

Encourage the protection of our culture by maintaining agriculture, oil and gas, timbering, outfitting, hunting, dude ranching, and other recreation.

# Recommended Actions or Policies to Help Achieve the Northfork Area's Goals and Objectives for Cultural Identity

# **POLICY #1 NFCI:**

Encourage incentives for open spaces, outfitting, agriculture, and ranching.

# **EMERGENCY PLANNING**

Northfork Area Goals and Objectives

#### GOAL #1 NFEP:

Provide for ongoing emergency planning in coordination with the county.

# GOAL #2 NFEP:

Provide basic Information on where resources are -- available to each home and business.

#### **OBJECTIVE #1 NFEP:**

Inform the public as to resources available to cope with emergencies that arise.

# **OBJECTIVE #2 NFEP:**

Coordinate with the county for information concerning emergencies.

# Recommended Actions or Policies to Help Achieve the Northfork Area's Goals and Objectives for Emergency Planning

#### POLICY #1 NFEP:

Encourage volunteers to assist in case of emergencies.

# POLICY #2 NFEP:

Assure that plans are adequately tested, and that resources are available to support the plans.

# FIRE PROTECTION

Northfork Area Goals and Objectives

#### GOAL #1 NFFP:

Maintain adequate fire protection.

# **OBJECTIVE #1 NFFP:**

Continue to work with the Fire District, and get more equipment and manpower as the population and exposures rise.

# Recommended Actions or Policies to Help Achieve the Northfork Area's Goals and Objectives for Fire Protection

# POLICY #1 NFFP:

Continue the use of the "satellite" philosophy; train volunteer firemen in outlying areas and have a fire truck available.

#### POLICY #2 NFFP:

Keep a representative on the Fire Board.

### POLICY #3 NFFP:

Restrict building heights.

#### POLICY #4 NFFP:

Establish an information base and keep a computer update of water sources.

# **HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

Northfo Area Goals and Objectives

GOAL #1 NFHH:

Get more First Responders, EMTs, and trained volunteers in the Valley.

**OBJECTIVE #1 NFHH:** 

Emphasize the need for community volunteers.

Recommended Actions or Policies to Help Achieve the Northfork Area's Goals and Objectives for Health and Human Services

POLICY #1 NFHH:

Encourage adequate and accessible training programs.

POLICY #2 NFHH:

Offer First Aid and C.P.R. classes more frequently.

# POLICE/CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Northfork Area C .s and Objectives

GOAL #1 NFPC:

Encourage public participation with local law enforcement.

**OBJECTIVE #1 NFPC:** 

Encourage adequate law enforcement.

Recommended Actions or Policies to Help Achieve the Northfork Area's Goals and Objectives for Police/Criminal Justice

**POLICY #1 NFPC:** 

Coordinate Neighborhood Watch Programs with local law enforcement.

# **EDUCATION**

Northfork Area Goals and Jectives

GOAL #1 NFED:

Continue to provide a quality education opportunity.

**OBJECTIVE #1 NFED:** 

Offer quality education at reasonable cost to taxpayer.

Recommended Actions or Policies to Help Achieve the Northfork Area's Goals and Objectives for Education

POLICY #1 NFED:

Maintain strong and balanced educational curriculum.

POLICY #2 NFED:

Include a program on how to live in the normal world.

# SOLID WASTE

Northfork Area Goals and Objectives

**GOAL #1 NFSW:** 

Assure safe and adequate disposal of solid waste.

**OBJECTIVE #1 NFSW:** 

Assure safe disposal of garbage.

Recommended Actions or Policies to Help Achieve the Northfork Area's Goals and Objectives for Solid Waste

**POLICY #1 NFSW:** 

No landfill on Northfork.

POLICY #2 NFSW:

Encourage recycling.

# TRANSPORTATION

Northfork Area Goals and Objectives

GOAL #1 NFTR:

Encourage efficient, cost-effective road maintenance.

**OBJECTIVE #1 NFTR:** 

Improve cost-effectiveness.

Recommended Actions or Policies to Help Achieve the Northfork Area's Goals and Objectives for Transportation

POLICY #1 NFTR:

Encourage future safe upgrading of roads without sacrificing scenic qualities.

POLICY #2 NFTR:

Encourage a sensitivity to safety concerns of recreational and agricultural activities.

# DEFINITIONS

All words an irases shall be construed and understood according to the common and approved usage of the language, but technical words and phrases that may have a peculiar and appropriate meaning in the law shall be construed and understood according to such peculiar or appropriate meaning. Some terms used in this CPS are specifically defined as follows unless the context of the CPS clearly indicates otherwise:

Acknowledge:

To take notice and acceptance of and consider with validity.

Conserve:

To protect from loss or depletion .

Cooperate:

To act or work with others to a

common end.

Coordinate:

To bring into a common action. movement, or condition.

Crucial Habitat:

The specific area within the geographical area containing those physical or biological features necessary for a wildlife population to maintain and reproduce itself

over the long-term.

**Culture:** 

The body of customary beliefs, social forms, material traits including the traditions of racial, religious, and social groups, and their morals. knowledge, customs, religions, law. beliefs, superstitions and art.

Custom:

A common tradition or usage so long established.

Discourage:

To seek to check, hinder or deter by disfavor.

**Educate:** 

To make information available.

**Encourage:** 

To stimulate and inspire with action. courage, spirit, and hope.

**Enhance:** 

To augment or increase.

Holistić:

Emphasizing the organic or functional relationship between

parts and wholes.

Home-Based **Business:** 

A commercial activity which is conducted by a person on the same lot as where the person resides, and which is clearly incidental and secondary to the use of the dwelling for residential purposes and does not involve the alterations of residential facilities which change the residential character of the property.

Manage:

To control and direct.

Minimize:

To redu o the smallest possible

number or extent.

Monitor:

The periodic observation and orderly collection of data to evaluate the effects of management actions and the effectiveness of actions in

meeting objectives.

Multiple Use:

The management of lands and their resources so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some or all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; the use of some land for less than all of the resources; a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses that takes into account the long-term needs of future generations including , but not limited to, recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historical values; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources, each with each other. without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment with consideration being given to the relative values of the resources and not necessarily to the combination of uses that will give the greatest economic return or the greatest output per unit.

Preserve:

To keep in tact unless the CPS is amended to permit loss or depiction.

Prevent:

Hinder the progress, appearance, or fulfillment of.

Promote:

To contribute to the growth. enlargement, health or prosperity

Protect:

To shield from encroachment or harm in consideration of other factors or needs that might destroy, injure or have detrimentally effects.

Recognize:

To acknowledge.

Reduce:

To diminish in size, extent, amount

or number.

Reduce:

To decrease.

Require:

To ask or insist.

Restrict:

To limit by number or condition.

Retail/

The sale of goods or services to consumers with the primary aim of

obtaining a profit.

Riparian Area:

Commercial:

An area containing both permanent free-flowing water and riparian or water dependant vegetation.

Rural:

An area where agricultural lands. undeveloped lands and open space predominate the landscape. buildings are generally dispersed. and vistas are uninterrupted.

Successional:

Gradual evolution from and replacement of one species by

another.

Support:

To encourage.

Sustain:

To keep in existence and prolong.

Sustainable:

Capable of being maintained at length without interruption, weakening, or losing power or quality.

Sustainable Yield: The achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level annual or regular periodic output of various renewable resources, without impairment of the productivity of the land.

Urban:

An area where dwellings and businesses predominate the

landscape, vistas are interrupted by development, buildings are

concentrated, and the area has the general characteristics of a town or

city.

Wetland:

Areas including lakes, streams. ponds, areas of seasonal standing water, areas with a predominance of wetland vegetation (such as willows. rushes or sedges), or areas with boggy soils. Wetlands do not include areas which are saturated solely by the application of agricultural Irrigation water. Manmade lakes or ponds built for the purpose of detaining runoff are not considered

wetlands.

# **NORTHFORK AREA**

