

PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

Hicken Conservation Leadership Initiative

Utah Association of Conservation Districts

- ❑ Non-profit organization
- ❑ Provides an Engineer and Education Specialist, and administrative staff as well as technicians and planners to assist Utah's 38 conservation districts
- ❑ One "voice" for 38 conservation districts on legislative issues
- ❑ Coordinates legislative activities
- ❑ Provides training to conservation districts



National Association of Conservation Districts

- Vision: America's Voice for Natural Resource Conservation
- Mission: Serving conservation districts by providing national leadership and a unified voice for natural resources conservation
- Purpose: Conservation, orderly development and judicious use of the nation's land, water, timber and related natural resources through local initiatives, decisions and self-government



NACD Priority Issues

- Public awareness and public relations
 - Education & Stewardship program is high priority
- Support for state & local members
 - Capacity building, training and resources
 - Working with partners to increase opportunities
 - contribution agreements, computer network & connectivity, grants, federal programs for producers, etc.
- Grassroots advocacy
 - Farm Bill deliberations
 - Federal Appropriations
 - Influence from the ground up!
- Contact: www.nacdnet.org



Utah Conservation Commission (UCC)

- Provide oversight, guidance and support of conservation districts
- The Utah Conservation Commission (UCC) is authorized under Title 4, Chapter 18 of the Utah Code.
 - ▣ The act's Purpose Declaration states that "The Legislature finds and declares that the soil and water resources of this state constitute one of its basic assets and that the preservation of these resources requires planning and programs to ensure the development and utilization of these resources and to protect them from the adverse effects of wind and water erosion, sediment, and sediment related pollutants."
- Created in 1937, this unique state government entity has been active continually since, evolving to meet new environmental and social conditions.
- Today this 16 person board strives to protect the natural resources within the state.

Utah Department of Agriculture & Food

- Houses the Utah Conservation Commission (UCC)
- Provides funding to UACD and the conservation districts
- Assists with technical elements of approved programs
- Administers many assistance programs for farmers, ranchers and other private land owners
- Contact:

www.ag.utah.gov/conservation/UtahConservationCommission.html



Utah Partners for Conservation & Development

- UtahPCD is a unique partnership of several natural resource oriented agencies and organizations committed to providing solutions to conservation issues.
- From Federal agency representation and State leadership, to local coordinators on the ground, the UtahPCD members work together to leverage resources and increase effectiveness.
- Core Values :
 - ▣ Protecting Utah's Biological Diversity (wildlife and vegetation)
 - ▣ Water Quality and Water Quantity (yield) for municipal, agricultural and natural resource uses
 - ▣ Sustainable Agriculture through working, productive farms and ranches
 - ▣ Outdoor Recreation opportunity, access, delivery, and quality

Utah Partners for Conservation & Development

□ Members:

- Utah Association of Conservation Districts
- Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
- USU Cooperative Extension Services
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Utah Department of Environmental Quality
- Utah Department of Natural Resources
- Utah State and Institutional Trust Lands Administration
- USDA Farm Services Agency
- USU College of Natural Resources
- Utah Resource Development and Conservation State Association

Utah Partners for Conservation & Development

□ Members (continued):

- Utah State Historic and Preservation Office
 - USDI Bureau of Land Management
 - USDA Agriculture Research Service
 - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 - USDI Bureau of Reclamation
 - USDI National Park Service
 - Utah Governor's Energy Office
 - USDA Forest Service
- Contact: www.upcd.info



Natural Resources Conservation Service

- Our mission: To help people implement local solutions that sustain and improve Utah's natural resources through partnerships, planning, and programs.
- NRCS provides assistance to land users, communities, units of state and local government, and other Federal agencies in planning and implementing conservation systems.
- The purpose is to reduce erosion, improve soil and water quality, improve and conserve wetlands, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, improve air quality, improve pasture and range condition, reduce upstream flooding and improve woodlands.
- Provides technical assistance through staff, standards & specs, technical training, etc.
- For a full listing of available programs, please visit: www.nrcs.usda.gov

Utah State University Cooperative Extension

- Provides local resources and expertise to assist conservation districts
- Co-sponsors some local programs
- Provides conservation education assistance and training
- Contact: www.extension.usu.edu



Utah Dept of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

- Mission is to safeguard public health and our quality of life by protecting and enhancing the environment
- Implement State and Federal environmental laws and work with individuals, community groups, and businesses to protect the quality of our air, land and water
- Provide assistance for programs adopted by the UCC
- Contact: www.deq.utah.gov



Utah Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

- Mission: To sustain and enhance the Utah quality of life today and tomorrow through the coordinated and balanced stewardship of our natural resources.
- Contact: www.nr.utah.gov



Conservation Partnership

- Farm Bureau
- The Trust for Public Land
- The Nature Conservancy
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Other conservation organizations: wildlife councils, recreation organizations, etc.
- Endless other nonprofit associations



Conservation Programs

- The following slides share information about programs available through our partner agencies.
- For more information about any of the partners or programs, please contact your Zone Coordinator or visit the agency/program website.



Utah Forest Legacy Program

- Designed to protect and manage, for future generations, environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses.
- One method of assistance to landowners is to purchase conservation easements on a “willing seller” basis.
- A Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) is drawn up for each property to encourage long-term stewardship of private forest land.
- Contact:
 - Laura Ault, Forest Legacy Program Coordinator
 - Utah DNR, Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands
 - 801.538.5540
 - lauraault@utah.gov

Working Lands Initiative

- Helps agencies and communities keep working lands working while preserving the environmental benefits.
- This is often done using conservation easements, legal agreements that restrict the type and amount of development on a property while compensating the landowner for the value such development might represent.
- Contact:
 - The Trust for Public Land – Utah
 - 801.333.8526
 - www.tpl.org/utah



Partners for Fish and Wildlife

- Provides cost-share dollars to farmers and ranchers interested in increasing production while improving wildlife habitat.
- This private lands program provides funding through cost-share agreements for 10-30 years for both uplands and wetlands.
- Projects can include fencing, water development, re-establishment of riparian habitat, installation of water control structures and others.
- Contact:
 - UACD Zone Coordinator
 - Karl Fleming, USFWS
 - 435.723.5887 ext 22
 - www.fws.gov/partners



Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- CRP, a federal Farm Bill program, encourages farmers to convert highly erodible cropland or other environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as native grasses and wildlife plantings.
- Farmers receive an annual rental payment for the term of the multi-year contract.
- Cost sharing is provided to establish the vegetative cover practices.
- Contact:
 - ▣ Local FSA office or UACD Zone Coordinator
 - ▣ Lori Jones, FSA
 - 801.524.4250
 - ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs



Continuous CRP Sign-Up

- Continuous CRP Sign-up, a federal Farm Bill program, helps landowners install conservation buffers along streams and waterways.
- Program applies to cropland as well as overgrazed, eroded pasture along streams, lakes and wetlands.
- Program offers cost-sharing for conservation practice installation and annual rental payment.
- Contact:
 - Local FSA office, UACD Zone Coordinator
 - Lori Jones, FSA
 - 801.542.4250



State Revolving Fund (SRF) Nonpoint Source Financial Assistance Program

- ❑ This program provides loans and/or grants for water quality improvement projects, including lakes, streams, wetlands and groundwater.
- ❑ Individuals, businesses, corporations, associations, private entities and government agencies are eligible.
- ❑ Loans are usually provided at 0% interest.
- ❑ These NPS funds can provide match for other funding sources including 319 grants, ARDL loans and other state and federal funds.
- ❑ Contact:
 - ❑ UACD Zone Coordinator
 - ❑ Shelly Andrews, DEQ - Division of Water Quality
 - 801.538.6516
 - waterquality.utah.gov

Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants

- The 319 Program provides grants to states to implement nonpoint source projects and programs in accordance with Section 319 of the Clean Water Act.
- Grants are provided to a lead agency in each state. The Utah Department of Environmental Quality administers this program and contracts for local projects through the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, conservation districts, UACD and other entities.
- Grant awards are for up to 60% of the project cost.
- Contact:
 - UACD Zone Coordinator, Watershed Coordinator, or the Utah Division of Water Quality
 - Mike Reichert, Dept of Environmental Quality
 - 801.538.6954
 - Roy Gunnell, Dept of Agriculture and Food
 - 801.538.7174

Agriculture Resource Development Program

- The ARDL program is a \$27 million revolving fund that provides low interest (3%) loans for projects with a conservation benefit.
- Goal is to help landowners conserve soil and water, increase yields, maintain and improve water quality, conserve and improve wildlife habitat, prevent flooding, develop on-farm energy projects and mitigate damages caused by natural disasters.
- Contact:
 - UACD Zone Coordinator or
 - Richard Sandberg, UDAF
 - 801.538.7030
 - www.ag.utah.gov/conservation/agloans.html



Grazing Improvement Program (GIP)

- Provides grants to private landowners to improve range conditions and control weeds.
- The GIP program utilizes state grazing and weed boards to provide leadership to Utah's livestock industry and state and federal partners on rangeland and noxious weed issues.
- Contact:
 - UACD Zone Coordinator or
 - Bill Hopkin, Dept of Ag & Food
 - 801.538.4927
 - www.ag.utah.gov



Environmental Quality Incentive Program

- EQIP, a federal Farm Bill program, offers financial, educational and technical assistance to help install or implement conservation practices in 1-10 year contracts.
- Cost sharing will pay from 50-75% of the costs.
- Contact:
 - Local NRCS office
 - UACD Zone Coordinator
 - Tim Julander, NRCS
 - 801.524.4561
 - www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs



Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

- WHIP, a federal Farm Bill program, provides financial incentives to develop habitat for fish and wildlife on private lands.
- Participants enter into a 5-10 year cost share agreement for wildlife habitat development.
- Cost sharing will pay 75% of the cost.
- Contact:
 - Local NRCS office or UACD Zone Coordinator
 - Karen Fuller, NRCS
 - 801.524.4566
 - www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs



Ground and Surface Water Conservation

- The GSW section of the EQIP program provides cost share payments, incentive payments and loans to producers to carry out eligible activities:
 - to improve or enhance irrigation efficiencies
 - convert to production of less water-intensive agricultural commodities, such as dryland farming
 - improving water storage through water banking and groundwater recharge
- To qualify, the assistance must facilitate a conservation measure resulting in net savings in ground or surface water.
- Contact:
 - Local NRCS office, UACD Zone Coordinator
 - Tim Julander, NRCS – 801.542.4561



Farm & Ranch Lands Protection Program

- FRPP, a federal Farm Bill program, helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture by providing matching funds to purchase conservation easements.
- The land must contain prime, unique or other productive soil, or historical or archaeological resources, be privately owned and be large enough to sustain agricultural production.
- Contact:
 - Local NRCS office or UACD Zone Coordinator
 - Tim Julander, NRCS
 - 801.542.4561
 - www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs



Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

- WRP, a federal Farm Bill program, is a program to restore wetlands.
- Landowners can establish conservation easements of either permanent or 30 year duration or can enter into restoration cost-share agreements where no easement is involved.
- In exchange, the landowner receives a percentage of payment or cost of restoring the wetland, depending on the agreement.
- Contact:
 - Local NRCS office or UACD Zone Coordinator
 - Karen Fullen, NRCS
 - 801.542.4566
 - www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs



PL-566 Watershed Protection Program

- This program provides cost-share funds for land treatment measures to develop and conserve soil, water, woodlands, wildlife, energy and recreation resources on the land.
- Structural measures for flood prevention, recreation facilities and water quality improvements can be implemented on a watershed basis working with local and state agencies in small watersheds.
- Contact:
 - Local NRCS office, UACD Zone Coordinator
 - Norman Evanstad, NRCS
 - 801.524.4569
 - www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs

