

Utah Partners for Conservation and Development (UtahPCD) Charter and Signature Document

3/23/2009

MISSION

The Utah Partners for Conservation and Development (UtahPCD or Partnership) will provide coordinated leadership in natural resource management and public service in cooperation with property owners/users for the long-term sustainability of Utah's natural resources to meet the needs of current and future generations.

VISION

Utah's environmental, economic and social values operate in harmony for sustainable long-term quality of life.

OPPORTUNITIES

To serve as a clearinghouse for coordinating and sharing participants' conservation concerns and priorities, discussing potential solutions and fostering an atmosphere where collaboration becomes the rule rather than the exception for implementing conservation activities.

To have an inclusive membership composed of state and federal natural resource agencies, the Utah Association of Conservation Districts and the Utah Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils.

To invite conservation minded non-governmental organizations and stakeholders to participate in statewide, regional and local conservation planning and implementation.

To collectively recognize and support local conservation activities.

To support and encourage conservation programs developed and delivered at the grass-roots level in a coordinated and effective manner.

To work at state, regional or local levels using consensus based decision making.

Partnership Values:

- Protect and maintain Utah's plant and animal biological diversity, especially wildlife and beneficial vegetation.
- Work for high levels of water quality and quantity (yield) for municipal, agricultural and natural resource uses.
- Promote sustainable agriculture through working and productive farms and ranches.

- Maintain a high quality of life for Utah's citizens through resource stewardship that includes abundant outdoor recreation opportunities.
- Respect private property rights and values; and, realize that humans are an integral part of the environment.
- Maintain and foster grass-roots planning and delivery of conservation programs.

Strategic Priorities of Joint Concern:

- Water supply, drought and drought effects--water conservation addressed through water use, yield and quality improvements, especially on impaired watersheds.
- Watershed planning, especially for wildfire management and ecosystems that are at risk.
- Land use, land use planning, sustainable agriculture, and rural community development.
- Utah's wildlife, especially species of conservation concern.
- Integrated and shared partnership planning, implementation and operations capacity building.
- Public policy, relations and education on conservation issues.
- Public agency and legislative outreach for communication successes.
- Current concerns include: 1) shrub steppe restoration and vegetative improvements that bring about soil, water and air protection; 2) reducing invasive species, wild-land fires, and fuels management; and, 3) protecting wildlife species of special conservation concerns.

We Pledge To Work Together To:

- Recognize that the Partnership is a voluntary organization, not a policy setting body, but has sufficient structure to be self-perpetuating, without becoming overly bureaucratic.
- Maintain consistent communication, coordination and cooperation.
- Advance sound science integrated with adequate planning and management.
- Promote mutual respect, support, trust and honesty.
- Promote and share leadership, ownership, responsibility and credit.

We Will Meet Our Mission And Vision By:

- Demonstrating professionalism and dedication.
- Emphasizing quality.
- Empowering people to make decisions, recognize their diversity and respecting the rights of others.
- Building new alliances to expand our partnership.
- Using our time and financial resources wisely and cooperatively.
- Striving for continuous improvement.

PARTNERS

We, the undersigned Partnership leaders, hereby affirm or re-affirm our commitment to the UtahPCD effort. As Partners, we recognize the organizations we represent each have our own uniqueness, missions, legislative mandates and duties. Yet, we know that even though we are interdependent, we share the same client base and serve the natural resource protection needs of the general public of Utah and USA.

Leonard M. Blackham, Commissioner,
Utah Department of Agriculture & Food

Noelle Cockett, Vice Pres for University Extension;
Dean, College of Agriculture, Utah State University

Willard “**Bill**” **Rasmussen**, President,
Utah Association of Conservation Districts

Sylvia Gillen, State Conservationist, USDA,
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Michael Styler, Executive Director
Utah Department of Natural Resources

Selma Sierra, State Director, USDI,
Bureau of Land Management

Bill Sinclair, Acting Executive Director,
UT Department of Environmental Quality

Harv Forsgren, Regional Forester – Region 4,
USDA, Forest Service

Kevin Carter, Director, UT School &
Institutional Trust Lands Administration

Larry Crist, State Field Supervisor, USDI
Fish and Wildlife Service

Joseph “**Joe**” **Hill**, Chair, State
Committee, USDA Farm Service Agency

Tom Miyagishima, State Executive Dir., USDA
Farm Service Agency

Donald Falvey, President, Utah Association of RC&D Councils

Bruce Barrett, Area Manager, USDI Bureau of Reclamation

Gordon Younker, Executive Vice President, Utah Association of Conservation Districts

Cordell Roy, State Coordinator, USDI National Park Service

Nat Frazer, Dean, College of Natural Resources, Utah State University

Jack Staub, Leader, Forage and Range Research Lab, USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS)

Wilson Martin, Associate Director, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), Div. State History, UT Dept. of Community and Culture

History of Partnership: UACD, UDA/USCC, NRCS, and USU Extension have worked closely together without a formal signed document since the 1950's; in the 1980's the Partnership became known as the RC&D Utah Style; a formal agreement was signed in Nov 1993 as the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development among these four entities; USDA FSA State Director and Chair of the State FSA Committee for county committees & UDEQ signed in 1995; DNR & URC&DC signed on in 1997; FS signed in 1999; USBR and BLM signed in 2000 and all of these re-signed in 2002; USFWS, USITLA, & USNPS signed in 2004; SHPO, USU CNR, and USDA ARS agreed to join in 2007.