

ZONE 4 NEWSLETTER

UTAH CONSERVATION DISTRICT

3rd Quarter 2015

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WELCOME TO THE NEW ZONE 4 NEWSLETTER!

Stay informed with local events, programs, projects, and more with our new Zone 4 newsletter. Packed full of information, our newsletter will become a valuable resource for local supervisors, ranchers, farmers, partners, commissioners, and anyone else with an interest in agriculture and conservation. Do you have a suggestion for the newsletter? Let us know! Any information you would like to see each month, from hay prices to snowpack, we want to know. Contact Colette at 435-896-5489 ext. 101 or colettewalker@utah.gov for ideas.

New Website

It's official – our website is now www.utahconservationdistrictzone4.com – It's a long name, but a great resource!!! Check the website for news, meeting minutes, schedules, current events, and more!

FISCAL YEAR 2016

With Fiscal Year 2015 coming to a close, we look ahead at the opportunities of 2016.

New conservation programs, and funding opportunities

Conservation programs are ever-changing from year to year. It seems keeping up with the opportunities has become a full time job. With our coordination of NRCS, DWQ, and other entities, we will be keeping you updated on current opportunities.

With the long-anticipated transition of Conservation District Employees to the State, more funding has been allocated to each CD. This increase in funding is an opportunity to explore new ideas, trainings, and programs that were not possible with the previous allocation. Conservation Districts throughout the Zone are bringing more public involvement to their communities with new education and outreach programs. See the calendar of events for programs we will be participating in.

Conservation Programs at Work

There are many conservation programs available locally that you may or may not know about. Here is a list of current programs that are currently funding or upcoming: **ARDL** – a conservation loan program available throughout the year. A great resource for low interest loans to fund a project, or supplement



a grant. **EQIP** – available grants to help install or implement conservation. Signups for 2016 will end in October.

Administered by NRCS. **CRP** – Conservation Reserve Program encourages farmers to convert erodible cropland to vegetative cover. Administered by FSA. - There are many other programs available. Check our website for programs.

UTAH CONSERVATION DISTRICT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

With the reorganization of UACD employees moving to Utah State employees, there was some confusion as to where the employees would fall under the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF).

All employees attended a training and meetings so they may better understand UDAF and the organization:

UDAF is divided into 9 divisions:

Administrative Services – This division insures the financial resources are handled appropriately. Agriculture Commissioner & supporting staff fall under this category.

Animal Industry Division – Protects domestic livestock, poultry, and fish populations. They handle livestock inspections, meat inspections, labs, aquaculture, brand inspections, and domestic elk farms.

Communications Division – Increase public awareness and support for farming and the UDAF

Laboratory Services Division – Lab testing for feed, fertilizer, meat, dairy, pesticide, and consumer complaints

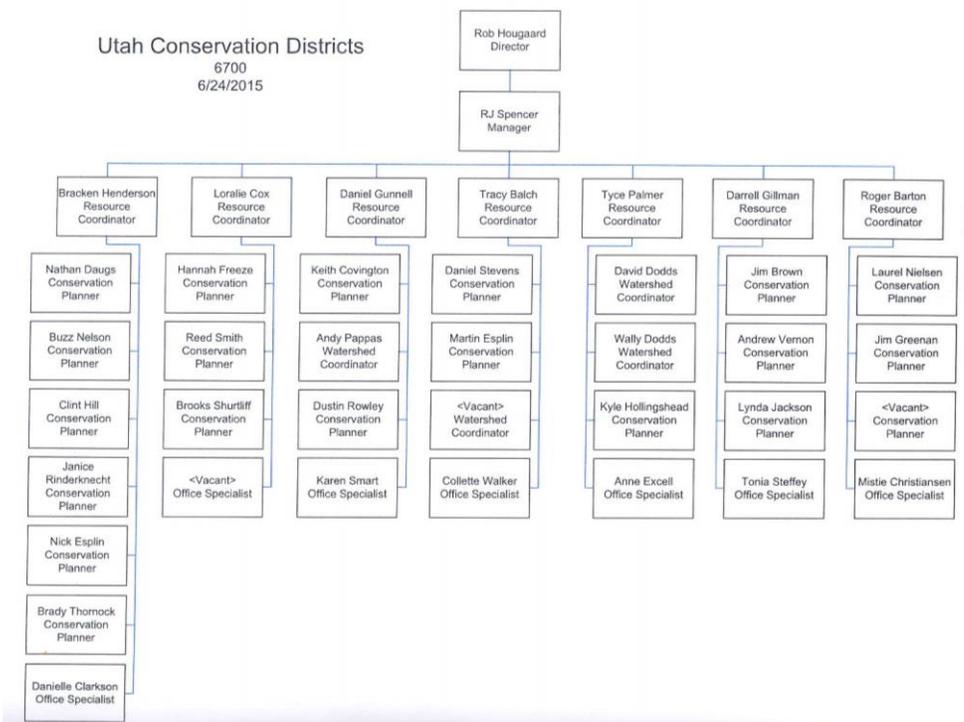
Marketing and Economic Development – Raise public awareness, and assist in marketing of local and domestic products.

Plant Industry and Conservation Division – They are responsible for ensuring consumers of disease free and pest free plants, grains, seeds, and properly labeled agricultural commodities.

Regulatory Services Division – Regulatory oversight of products in the areas of food, weights and measures, dairy and bedding, upholstered furniture, and quilted clothing.

Utah Conservation Commission – This is where UACD employees have moved to. They develop and implement programs to protect, conserve, utilize, and develop the soil, water and related natural resources.

Wildlife Services – Maintain healthy populations of wildlife and concurrently sustain productive agriculture.



This chart of Utah Conservation Districts breaks down the employees that are now under UDAF Conservation Commission – the transfer of these employees did not change their purpose and role in their community, but will give them more resources, technical assistance, and opportunities for conservation.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT 2015 ELECTIONS - ZONE 4

The following area Supervisors terms are up in 2015:

Delta CD

- Chance Lyman
- Kevin Knight
- Brandon Anderson

Fremont River CD

- Dean Chappell
- Richard Fillmore
- Doug Pace

Juab CD

- Tom Goble
- Marty Palmer
- Gordon Young

Millard CD

- Randy Coats
- Doyal Mitchell
- Leo Stott

Piute CD

- Deven Gass
- Joel Johnson
- George Allen

Sanpete CD

- Scott Mower
- Earl Bailey
- Jarvis Sorenson

Sevier CD

- Mike Roberts
- Daryl Noyes
- Mike Mills

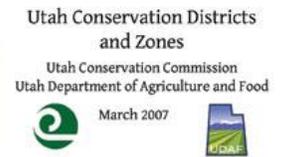
These supervisors may be re-elected, or at least 1 alternate will run for each position.

If you have anyone who wishes to register to vote in the Supervisor Election, they can now register on line at

<http://webapp.ag.utah.gov/CDElection/>

Or visit the Utah Department of Agriculture website at: www.ag.utah.gov and click the Conservation link.

If you or someone you know has an interest in resource conservation, and would like to join the board, now is the time to submit your name to become one of our elected Supervisors. This position is very rewarding, and the benefit you can have on your community is invaluable.



Map Scale 1:2,851,200 (1 inch = 45 miles)

Legend

	Conservation District Boundary, Number, and Name (#20 not assigned)
	Zone Boundary and Number
	County Boundary and Name



Conservation District and Zone data provided by Utah Conservation Commission. Boundaries digitized from legal descriptions by UDAF GIS staff. Additional copies of this map are available at: <http://ag.utah.gov/UtahCDMap.pdf>

Contact Us

Utah Conservation District Zone 4

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Supervisors Job Description

(Ask local CD officials for specifics, or attend one of our monthly meetings)

1. Know the land, water, and related natural resource base of the district - their condition, needs, problems, and potential.
2. Learn the duties, needs, and programs of the CD.
3. Attend and participate in CD Board meetings, usually held monthly.
4. Represent the interests of private land manager's on soil, water, and related natural resource conservation issues with other conservation entities and the electorate.
5. Fulfill assignments given by the CD Board, which might include district leadership positions, committee activities, or special assignments.
6. Help identify CD program plans and ask others to assist.

There are so many opportunities to learn, grow, and understand the local resources and concerns. Even if you choose not to become a Supervisor, you can still get involved in local conservation efforts. Contact your local conservation district office, or an area Supervisor to find out more.

NEWSWORTHY

Sage Grouse - Sage Grouse continues to be a hot topic in the news. Dozens of lengthy environmental plans, and millions of dollars have been enacted in the recent years to save the Sage Grouse populations throughout the west. The greater sage-grouse is in trouble not just here but all over its range, which covers 165 million acres in 11 western states and two Canadian provinces. Once numbering in the millions, the bird has lost nearly half its sagebrush habitat to development—to farms and ranches, to oil and gas operations, to spreading cities, and lately to wind farms.

Since 2010, the threat of an endangered species listing has galvanized efforts to conserve the sagebrush steppe, bringing together federal and state agencies, private landowners and industry leaders, and conservation groups. Western governors have argued that it is up to the states to determine how to protect the birds. Wyoming, which has nearly 39 percent of the entire sage-grouse population, was the first to adopt a conservation plan that protects “core areas” of habitat. Other states have followed.

The ongoing population decline documented in the Pew study suggests the critics have a case. “A lot of money is being spent to try and do things that would improve habitat for sage-grouse—people are really trying to make an effort to reverse the continual decline,” says Edward Garton. “But unfortunately there is not much evidence that we are being successful. In spite of all that great effort,” he says, the sage-grouse “is just as likely to go extinct as it was, if not more so.”

Ground Squirrel – A new problem is multiplying in Central Utah. The Townsend Ground Squirrel has moved east from Nevada and is currently settling in Utah's farms. These invasive rodents infest alfalfa fields, and destroy entire crops.

Why are we seeing such an increase? Due to the drought, these squirrels that usually live on rangelands have moved to plush alfalfa fields. The other issue is the evolution of irrigation; when flood irrigating was the primary method, the ground squirrel population was regulated with the water flooding out many burrows, and removing the rodents.

Beaver county is leading new efforts in controlling the ground squirrel. Their bait application requires a multi-stage effort where the first application is rolled out, then follow up in a few days with grain bait. The application is most effective in early spring, before alfalfa has started, so the squirrels will eat the bait, rather than alfalfa. The best advice: monitor now for signs of ground squirrels, to avoid a devastating season next year.

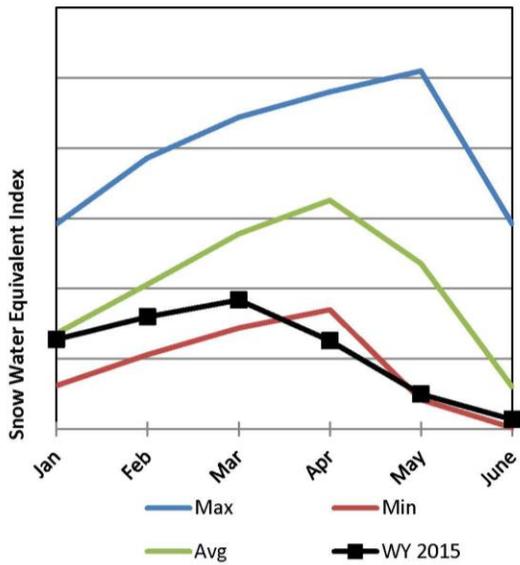
WATER AND SNOWPACK REPORT – AS OF JUNE 2015

Statewide Utah

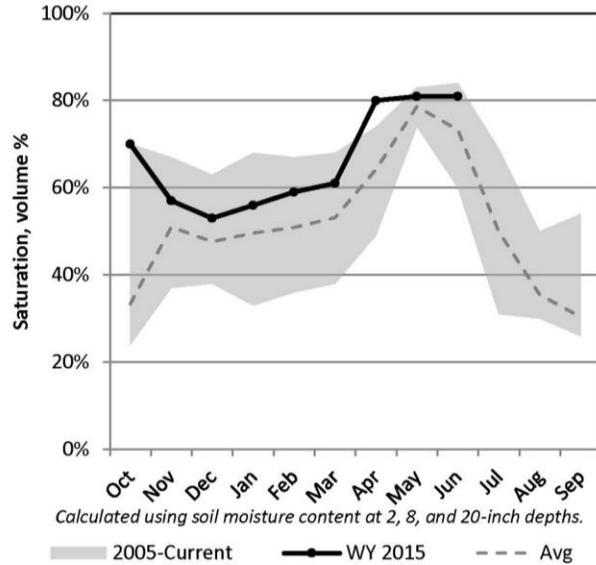
6/1/2015

Snowpack in Utah is much below normal at 51% of normal, compared to 43% last year. Precipitation in May was much above average at 209%, which brings the seasonal accumulation (Oct-May) to 79% of average. Soil moisture is at 81% compared to 69% last year. Reservoir storage is at 67% of capacity, compared to 69% last year. Forecast streamflow volumes range from 14% to 91% of average.

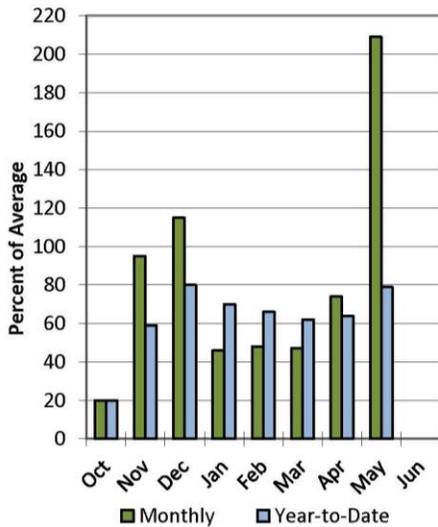
Snowpack



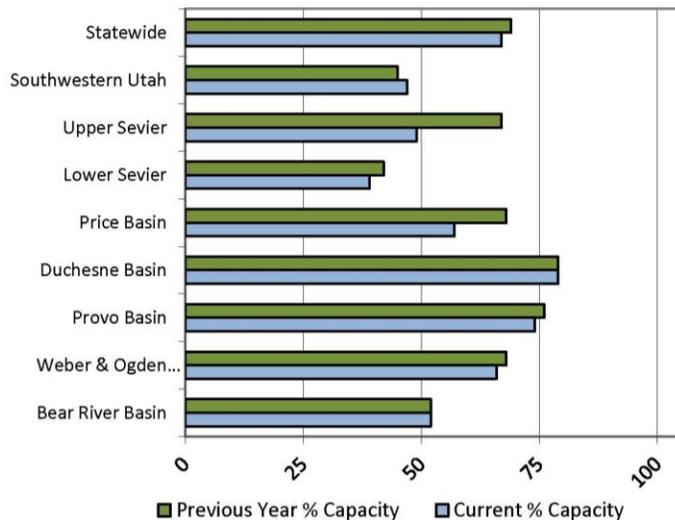
Soil Moisture



Precipitation



Reservoir Storage



Information courtesy of NRCS – Visit www.nrcs.gov for current water information.

EVENTS

Zone 4 Conservation Districts will be participating at their local county fairs. See fair schedule below:

Piute County Fair – August 1st

Sevier County Fair – August 5th thru 8th

Juab County Fair – August 4th thru 8th

Millard County Fair – August 5th thru 8th

Wayne County Fair – August 15th

Sanpete County Fair – August 21st thru 29th

With the overlap in fairs, we may not be able to attend all days. Check with the Zone office for a schedule. Also, check our website for other upcoming events.

UTAH CONSERVATION DISTRICT ZONE 4

www.utahconservationdistrictzone4.com

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[Recipient Name]

[Street Address]

[City, ST ZIP Code]