

# Uinta County Connection

A publication by:  
Uinta County Conservation District

January 2006



*The Uinta County Conservation District  
and  
The Wyoming State Engineer's Office  
Invite you to attend a  
Water Management Seminar  
in Lyman on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006  
or  
in Evanston on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2006*

The agenda will cover topics on, water rights, water measurement, headgate and parshall flume maintenance, the new PAM product for sealing canals, Board of Control policies and procedures, the SEO website and water rights database, and local watershed planning efforts. There will also be presentations in Lyman specific to the Green River Basin, and in Evanston there will be presentations specific to the Bear River Basin.

You will be able to participate in discussions with Harry LaBonde, Assistant State Engineer, Jade Henderson, District 4 Superintendent, Chris Carlsen, District 4 Assistant Superintendent as well as representatives from your local Engineers office, the Uinta County Conservation District and a CANAL SEAL representative.

The Seminars will begin at 10:00 am and conclude at 2:00 pm. Lunch will be provided by the Uinta County Conservation District. The Seminars will be held in Lyman at the Lyman Town Hall and in Evanston at the County Library.

An RSVP is not mandatory, but would be greatly appreciated by February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006. For more information contact the Uinta County Conservation District at 787-3794 x4, the State Engineers office in Bridger Valley at 787-3729, or the State Engineers office in Evanston at 789-2720.

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☆☆ **The UCCD Board** ☆☆  
☆☆ **and Staff would like** ☆☆  
☆☆ **to thank Annette** ☆☆  
☆☆ **France for her hard** ☆☆  
☆☆ **work as the Educa-** ☆☆  
☆☆ **tion Coordinator.** ☆☆  
☆☆ **We wish her well in** ☆☆  
☆☆ **her new job!!** ☆☆  
☆☆ **THANKYOU!** ☆☆  
☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

# UCCD Conservation Assistance Program Offers three \$1000 Grants

Since 1948, the Uinta County Conservation District has been striving to provide leadership and education for the conservation of our natural resources. A key component to this effort is active participation with the citizens of Uinta County. To further demonstrate the Conservation District's dedication to wise stewardship, the Board of Supervisors is offering three \$1000 grants for conservation or natural resource related projects or materials. This unique opportunity is created for agencies, groups or individuals with the potential to do valuable environmental work to benefit their property and Uinta County. Projects may be done on public or private land, providing proper permission is submitted. Projects must benefit the community and the watershed and may include beautification for public enjoyment, water quality improvements, erosion control or be educationally related. Groups or individuals may apply. For example, if you were a scout looking for an eagle project you could use the money for materials to develop a wind

break near your neighborhood. As an individual, if you own a few acres and would like to plant vegetation around a pond for wildlife, this project would benefit the area and your neighborhood by bringing in water fowl and protecting the soil. If you are a teacher you could create an ecosystem for classroom use or purchase equipment needed to enrich student appreciation of the environment. You might be a member of a garden club that would like to create a Xeriscape or plant native grasses that benefit the soils in your area. There are endless possibilities. The mission of the Uinta County Conservation District is to provide all citizens of Uinta County with the information and education necessary to preserve and maintain the quality of our soil, water, wildlife habitat, forests and other related natural resources. Urban development has a profound influence on our soils, vegetation, streams, reservoirs and wetlands. We all are stewards of our natural resources and have the responsibility to manage them whenever and

wherever we can; we invite you to join us in this effort. Applications may be found at the Uinta County Conservation District in Lyman, at the County Libraries or at the County Extension Office. You may also email the Uinta County Conservation District's office at [patricia.watson@wy.nacdnet.net](mailto:patricia.watson@wy.nacdnet.net) for an electronic copy. If you have questions please call our office at 307-787-3794x4.

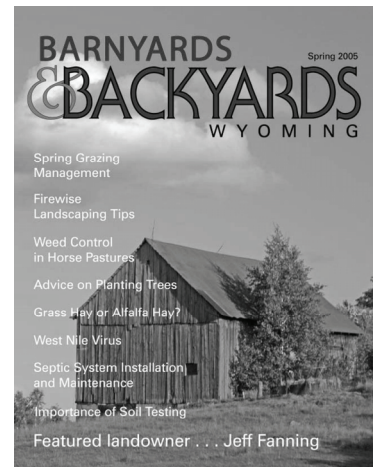


The Evanston Jaycees, recipient of one of the grants in 2005, improves the Wyoming State Hospital Cemetery located behind Walmart.

## Blacks Fork Smiths Fork Watershed Plan approved by WDEQ

After over a year of hard work and dedication, the Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Water Quality Steering Committee completed a watershed plan for the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers in September of 2005. The plan was then submitted to the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) for their approval which was obtained in November. The goal of the watershed plan is to maintain and where possible improve existing water quality while preserving economic stability and the customs and culture in the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers Watershed. This will be done through public education and awareness, and through implementing Best Management Practices aimed at improving water quality and the overall health of the watershed. The watershed plan sets forth goals specific to improving water quality that will be imple-

mented over the next 5 years. The Steering Committee and Conservation District are anxious to start implementing the goals outlined in the plan for 2006. Some of the goals outlined for January, February and March of 2006 include distributing educational materials that highlight Animal Feeding Operation improvements, providing information about backyard conservation for urban and rural residents, working with local landowners for a potential septic remediation cost share program, working with the Towns to provide recommendations for storm water runoff treatment, and providing other information about improving water quality through newspaper, newsletter and radio ads. For more information, please feel free to contact the Conservation District.



This is a quarterly publication of the Small Acreage Issue Team. It contains valuable information about water quality issues and land management responsibilities created by living on small acreages. Contact the Conservation District for a complimentary copy or visit [www.barnyardsandbackyards.com](http://www.barnyardsandbackyards.com) for a subscription.

# Getting Accurate Snowpack Data

**By: Adrian Hunolt; District Conservationist, NRCS**

Water supply forecasting activities are administered and conducted by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide irrigators and other water users in the West with factual and current estimates of annual water availability from high mountain snowpacks and relating the information to predicted stream flows.

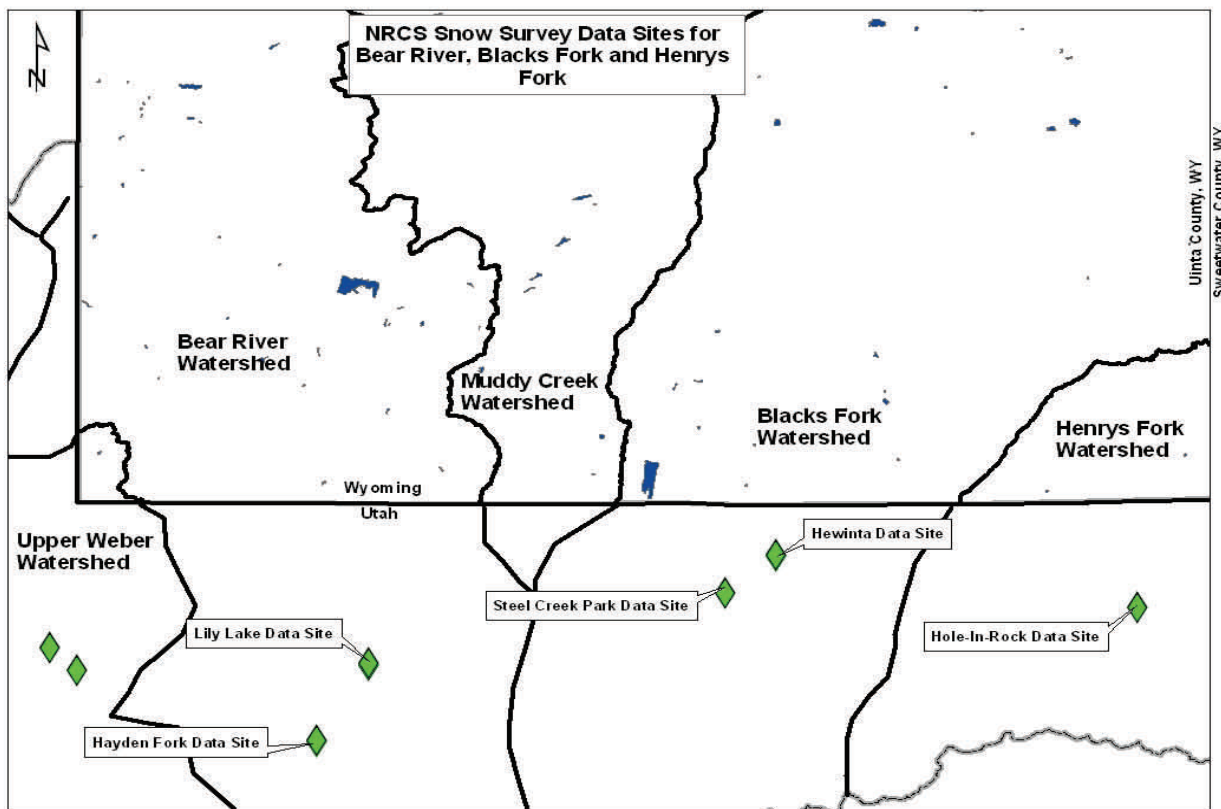
The NRCS has responsibility under the Snow Survey Program for making and coordinating snow surveys and preparing forecasts of seasonal water supplies in affected streams for purposes relating to available water supplies to agricultural, industrial, recreational, and urban area needs. The Snow Survey Program provides monthly data on precipitation, temperature, snow depth, snow water equivalent, stream flow, and stream flow forecasts from December through June annually.

Obtaining accurate and timely information on the extent and water content of the mountain snow pack requires specially trained people and unique equipment. The federal, state and private cooperative Snow Survey Program has met customer needs since the mid-1930s and continues to evolve in response to increasing demands of water users.

The beauty of snow is fascinating, and millions of Americans enjoy the snow-covered landscape as a playground. However, beyond its aesthetic and recreational appeal, snow plays a vital role in our lives as a primary source of the water supply in Uinta County. Successful water management begins with an adequate knowledge of the primary source of water – snow.

## **SNOTEL Data**

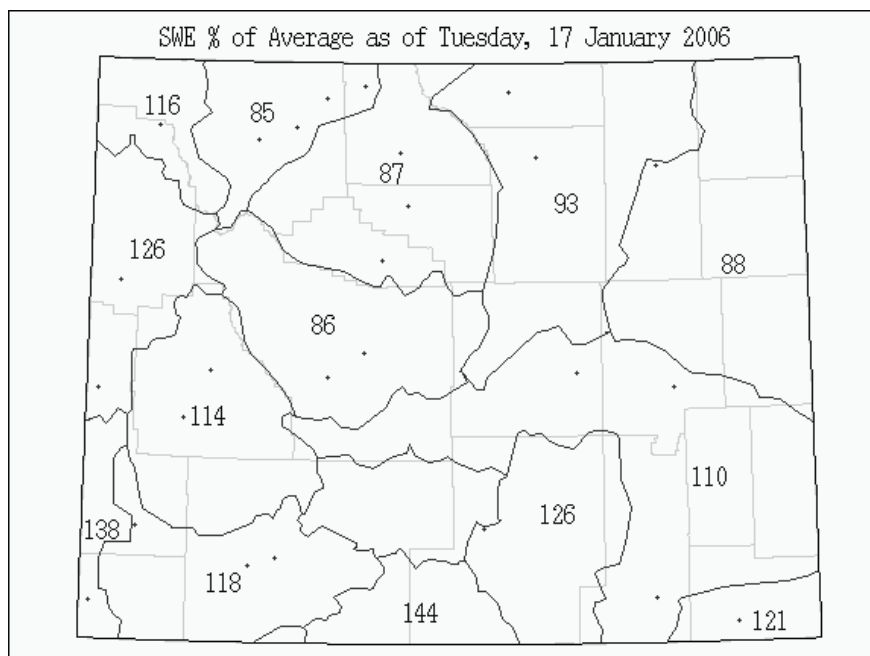
SNOWpack TELEmetry, or SNOTEL data is transmitted by radio signals to receiving stations. This network transmits snow, precipitation and temperature data to a central computer facility in Portland, Oregon. Once the data is in Portland, the Centralized Forecasting System (CFS) analyzes it and generates stream flow forecasts as well as tabular data summaries. SNOTEL sites are scattered throughout the Uinta Mountains and the data gathered by these sites is updated every Monday morning and can be accessed online at: <http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/wrds/nrcs/nrcs.html>



Continued on page 4.

## Getting Accurate Snowpack Data continued

Maps such as the one below are often published in newspapers or other media but should be read with caution because all of the data for the entire river basin is averaged together to produce the number in the display. For example, this map shows the Snow Water Equivalent Percent of Average to be 118% for the Lower Green River Basin but this includes snowpack data from the Hams Fork, Blacks Fork, Muddy Creek and Albert Creek Drainages.



If an irrigator in the Bridger Valley wanted an accurate measure of the Snow Water Equivalent Percent of Average for just the Blacks Fork Watershed he should go online and check the SNOTEL data for the Hewinta and Steel Creek Park Data Sites or contact the NRCS office.

Based on Mountain Data from NRCS SNOTEL Sites  
As of TUESDAY: JANUARY 17 , 2006

Data Site Name	ELEV. (Ft)	SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT			TOTAL PRECIPITATION		
		Current	Average	% Avg	Current	Average	% Avg
HEWINTA	9500	6.2	5.4	115	9.3	8.2	113
STEEL CREEK PARK	10100	9.0	8.0	112	10.4	8.9	117

It appears that the Basin Wide average is pretty close to the Blacks Fork average this week but these numbers can vary because storms do not evenly distribute moisture across an entire river basin.

If you would like more information about NRCS Snow Survey activities go to the Wyoming NRCS homepage at <http://www.wy.nrcs.usda.gov/> or contact the local office in Lyman at 787-3211 or by email at [adrian.hunolt@wy.usda.gov](mailto:adrian.hunolt@wy.usda.gov).

# Implementation of the Upper Bear River Watershed Plan Underway

The Upper Bear River Watershed Management Plan was completed in October of 2005 by the Upper Bear River Water Quality Steering Committee with the goal of beginning implementation of the plan in January 2006. Well, January is here and we are committed to completing all of the action items set forth in the plan for 2006 as the year progresses. The purpose of the Watershed Plan is to improve and maintain water quality in the Bear River by identifying potential issues and mitigating impairment sources to a realistic and achievable level. This will be accomplished through public education, public awareness and the implementation of Best Management Prac-

tices (BMP) where feasible. All of the activities will be done on a voluntary basis to improve water quality. Some of the goals we will be working on for January, February and March of 2006 include providing a list of local sites for proper disposal or recycling of waste, distributing backyard conservation brochures for urban and rural residents, offering a Conservation Assistance grant to provide cost share for resource conservation projects, hosting a water management workshop to increase the awareness of opportunities available to increase irrigation efficiencies, and advertising the availability of cost share programs available for BMP's that will im-

prove water quality and the overall health of the watershed.

Any activities or opportunities aimed at accomplishing the goals of the watershed plan will be announced to the public through newspapers, newsletters and other avenues of public advertising. For more information, feel free to contact the Conservation District at any time.

**Watch for more information about a Small Acreage Workshop planned for March 2006 in the Town of Bear River!**

## Recycling and Proper Disposal of Waste

*One of the concerns of the Upper Bear River Steering Committee is pollutants such as sediment, road salt, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides accumulating on land surfaces and being flushed directly into surface waters through storm sewers. They are also concerned that storm sewers are being used as an improper means of discarding waste. Therefore, the committee decided that providing a list of local sites for proper disposal or recycling of waste in Uinta County would give citizens several alternatives to properly dispose of waste rather than putting it somewhere that would threaten the quality of the water in the Bear River. The following is a list of local sites for the proper disposing of waste:*

### Local Sites for Proper Disposal or Recycling of Waste

Bridger Valley Landfill	4461 Hwy. 412	782-3556
Evanston Landfill	3132 County Rd. 108	799-5360
Peak Recycling(Don Nichols)	Hwy 412	787-3432 (only ferrous & non-ferrous metal)
Uinta Recycling Inc.	100 China Mary Rd(Across from Old Mill Restaurant in Evanston)	789-5878 Takes cardboard, paper, glass, & appliances
Gary's Trash Service	786-2584	
Wyoming Waste Systems	1-800-479-9173	
Big-Pee Sanitation	782-6203 ( porta-potty rental, septic tank pumping, potable water, trash baskets)	
Rocket-Sanitation	6022 N. Hwy 89	789-9202 (porta-potty rentals, septic tank pumping, commercial & private)

May 13, 2006

Evanston will host a hazardous waste pick-up at the Fairgrounds. Pesticide, herbicide, insecticide, cleaning solution's, paint, & batteries can be disposed of at this time. For information on this collection contact:

Rex Fruits @ 783-0311

## Uinta County Conservation District

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P.O. Box 370  
Lyman, WY 82937

Phone: 307-787-3794 x4  
Fax: 307-787-3810  
Email: [kerri.sabey@wy.nacdnet.net](mailto:kerri.sabey@wy.nacdnet.net)  
[patricia.watson@wy.nacdnet.net](mailto:patricia.watson@wy.nacdnet.net)

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### *Uinta County Conservation District*

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Pat Watson-Bookkeeper/Office Assistant

#### *USDA-NRCS STAFF*

Adrian Hunolt-District Conservationist  
Kevin Fackrell-Soil Conservation Tech.

#### *FARM SERVICE AGENCY STAFF*

Karey Clark-County Executive Director  
Donella Froese-Program Technician

## Seedling Tree Orders for Spring 2006 Delivery Due by April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006

There is still time to place your orders for seedling trees and shrubs from the Uinta County Conservation District. We recommend getting your order in as soon as possible, as some species have sold out already. Updated order forms are available from the Conservation District Office located on the second floor of the Lyman Town Hall or the Cooperative Extension Service office in Evanston.

If you would like assistance with the design, species selection, spacing or any other technical aspect of your planting, please contact the Conservation District at 787-3794 or by email at [kerri.sabey@wy.nacdnet.net](mailto:kerri.sabey@wy.nacdnet.net).