





## Time to Talk Trees...



The temperature is dropping and the leaves are changing, this can only mean two things; it's hunting season *and* it's time to start ordering trees. If you're tired of the constant wind, noisy road or noisy neighbors, we have a solution for you.....TREES! Trees can be used in a number of ways to benefit you and your property. If planted and cared for correctly, they can be used as windbreaks, snow fences, noise and visual barriers, backyard habitat, streambank stabilizers, and shade. If you're thinking about planting some trees this spring, now is the time to start preparing. There are several questions to ask before ordering or planting any trees. These include:

- What do you want to accomplish with your planting?
- Where will the planting go?
- What type of soil is in the area?
- How will you water your planting?
- How will you protect your planting from weather, insects, rodents, livestock and/or wildlife?
- Are there any utilities in the area?

By looking at these things ahead of time, you will be able to choose trees that can tolerate the conditions specific to the planting site and ultimately increase the survival and vigor of your planting.

Fall is also the perfect time to start preparation of the planting site. The purpose of fall site preparation is to remove competitive vegetation from the planting area. Existing plants compete with the seedlings for light, water and many of the nutrients in the soil. Heavy competition from weeds, grasses and existing woody cover will choke your planting out in a hurry. Site preparation can be done using mechanical methods such as rototilling, fall-plowing and/or discing, or chemical methods by using selective herbicides. Doing site prep in the fall also allows the disturbed area to collect moisture from precipitation that falls during the winter and early spring.

If you need assistance in planning a windbreak or other type of tree planting, please call our office. We are willing to visit with you in the office or meet you at the planting site and provide technical assistance where needed.

**Included in this newsletter is the 2007 seedling tree order form. Order forms are due in April, 2007, however, there are certain species that sell out quick, so get your orders in early! If you have questions, or would like help designing your planting, please call Kerri at 307-787-3794 x4.**

## Windbreak Cost Share Program Available

To assist landowners with the cost of installing quality windbreaks, the Uinta County Conservation District has developed a Windbreak Cost Share Program. Through this program, the Conservation District can pay up to 50% of the cost of installing a windbreak on projects that meet the minimum requirements. To be eligible to participate, you must own at least 3 acres of land where the planting is to be established and the planting site must be

in Uinta County. A more detailed description of the program guidelines and conditions are available from the Conservation District.

To improve the survival and vigor of your newly planted trees and shrubs, proper site preparation must take place the year before you plant, which is why now is the time to start thinking about that spring planting. Preliminary groundwork reduces competition from other vegetation such as

weeds and grasses, conserves soil moisture and makes planting in the spring a lot easier.

You may design your own windbreak plan or contact the Conservation District for technical assistance. If you are interested in participating or learning more about the windbreak program, please contact the Conservation District at 787-3794 x4 or by email at [kerri.sabey@wy.nacdnet.net](mailto:kerri.sabey@wy.nacdnet.net).



**The Fall 2006 issue of the Barnyards & Backyards publication is now available. Stop by the District office for a complimentary copy. If you like it, you can get a yearly subscription for only \$6.00!**

**This publication is perfect for the small acreage landowner, new landowner, or backyard enthusiast.**

**You can also visit their website at [barnyardstobackyards.com](http://barnyardstobackyards.com).**

## **2007 EQIP CHANGES**

By Jeff Lewis, NRCS District Conservationist

Another year has almost passed and once again the time is upon us for another EQIP sign-up. Traditionally, NRCS has handled the sign-up and application process through one-on-one meetings with producers that are interested in signing up as well as mailing applications. This year the EQIP sign-up is going to be handled a little differently. Although the sign up will more than likely be the same as it has been in the past, the ranking process is going to be different. This year the ranking will be done online instead of a paper copy that has

been used in the past. The one big difference this year is that all of your farm records need to be up-to-date. If they are not, the ranking process will stop and it will not be allowed to continue until the records are updated.

It is very important that if you are thinking about signing up for the 2007 EQIP program that you have your entire farm records updated. This means if you have bought or sold land, changed leases, etc. and have not notified the Farm Service Agency (FSA), you need to get that done in the near future.

Again, if your farm records are not current, the ranking process will not be completed and your application will not be processed.

Currently all of the updates to the ranking worksheets have been turned in to the data entry people and it will be a couple of weeks before we can start the online ranking process. I want to encourage all producers that are contemplating signing up for cost-share to come in to the office and get the paperwork started. Please stop in the NRCS office in the Lyman Town Hall or call 787-3211.



**Contact Jeff Lewis  
about the NRCS EQIP  
signups at 787-3211**

## **Deadline Nears for 2007 EQIP Sign-up**

Uinta County – Agricultural producers may submit applications for fiscal year 2007 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offices through Dec. 1, 2006.

Program participation, which is voluntary, offers financial and technical assistance to install or implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land. Examples of how EQIP may be used to conserve natural resources include installing water quality improvements, such as livestock waste management systems; enhancing grazing lands management through fencing and permanent water developments; and increasing water conservation by improving the efficiency of irrigation systems. Authorized by the 2002 Farm Bill and administered by the NRCS, the EQIP promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals.

“EQIP has a lot of flexibility and has been a tool used by many Wyoming producers who are doing an outstanding job of getting conservation on the ground,” said Adolfo Perez, NRCS state conservationist. “If you have a resource concern on your place or a conservation project in mind, this program may offer just the assistance you need. I encourage you to look into it and, if it will work for you, submit your application before Dec. 1.”

EQIP offers a grazing lands initiative (GLI) to help producers develop sound grazing plans that enhance current management systems on range and pasture lands and mitigate the impacts of drought.

The grazing lands initiative also includes a Wildfire Recovery component to defer grazing for participants with acres that burned during the 2006 wild fires. Priority will go to applicants who want to defer grazing for the next growing season and implement an improved prescribed grazing plan for the two years following the deferment. The first year payment of \$10 per acre on private land that burned can offset costs incurred for replacing fence, renting additional pasture, or other activities.

A forestry initiative is available under EQIP for privately owned forest land. Funding is targeted to projects that address forest stand improvement projects such as thinning, fire mitigation through fuel reduction, and aspen regeneration. NRCS and the Wyoming State Forestry are working together on this initiative.

EQIP is available on a continuous sign-up basis and applications received after Dec. 1, will be deferred and held for consideration at a future date as funding becomes available. Applications on file that were not selected for contracts in 2006 were deferred for consideration in this funding cycle. Applicants should contact the local office if they wish to maintain or change their application.

Landowners interested in wildlife or wetland projects are encouraged to apply now for Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) and Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) assistance to allow for on-site evaluations this fall. Applications will be accepted until Feb. 1. Applications are available at Lyman Townhall, 100 East Sage, Lyman, WY. For more information go to <http://www.wy.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/index.html>.

## The Burren, Ireland

By Pat Watson

In August my husband and I had a wonderful trip to Ireland. We visited many ancient, historical, cultural, and beautiful sites. One of our visits was to the Burren, meaning “a stony place”. This limestone desert is part of Northern County Clare and is distinctive because it is an ecological marvel of sedimentary rock layered in horizontal beds; expanses of limestone hillsides molded by glaciers and erosion.

At one time the Burren was a fertile and productive place, but human habitation in the past stripped the land of its woods and soil. It is said of the Burren that there “is not water enough to drown a man, wood enough to hang him, nor earth enough to bury him”. Amazing as it may seem, the Burren provides rich natural grazing for cattle, sheep and goats. In the winter the Atlantic climate encourages almost continuous grass-growth in tufts of earth of two or three foot squares that lie in the sheltered fissures and hollows in the limestone.

There is also a lot of ancient history of Ireland in the Burren with Megalithic tombs, Celtic crosses, and many (more than sixty) wedge tombs.

Within a few miles we would travel from rugged coastline to smooth pastureland, to towering mountains to gloomy peat bogs. You don't go very fast because of winding, narrow roads, but we always saw a touch of home when we met wandering sheep, cows and farmers driving their tractors everywhere; even thru the cities. It really is a magical place to visit. We enjoyed our trip very much and hope to go again.



## Education activities

By Tina Price, Education Coordinator



*Tina helping scouts earn their Environmental Badge.*

UCCD was thrilled to celebrate Fire Prevention Week with the Uinta County Library in Lyman on October 5th. We read books on fire safety for local children and did a craft to demonstrate how Smokey Bear keeps a safe campfire.

We also helped a group of Boy Scouts earn their environmental badge in early October. We worked with hands on experiments to discover how difficult it is to clean up an oil spill, how worms react to light and dark, what it takes to make an ecosystem, and identified the biodiversity of a plot of land. We are always willing to work with Scouts, so if you know of any who are working on a badge in the sciences, let us know!

UCCD is working on classroom ideas for 2006 and plans to distribute these lists to schools and libraries soon. We realize there may be many home schoolers in this area as well, so if you would like a list of our activities, or are wondering if we could do an activity with your home schooler, let us know!

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## Watershed Planning....

Do you like to hunt, fish, ride  
and have fun outdoors?

Help to ensure a great time by protecting our natural areas while you play! Excess sediment in the water can reduce fish populations and affect local wildlife, and careless OHV driving can harm young trees... **you can help by:**

- \* staying on previously made trails with your bikes, four wheelers, and other OHV's
- \* crossing water only in designated areas
- \* avoiding spin outs that tear up soil
- \* Staying in deep snow while snowmobiling



Help the Uinta County  
Conservation District keep  
outdoor recreation fun and  
enjoyable for everyone!

## Upper Bear River Watershed Plan

Each year, an insert called the "Southwest Wyoming Outdoors Edition" is put in the newspapers in Uinta County. In an effort to educate outdoor enthusiasts about protecting our natural resources, and ultimately water quality, UCCD placed an ad similar to the one on the left in the outdoor edition.

One of the concerns identified by the Upper Bear River Water Quality Steering Committee as a potential contributor of sediment, is the increasing amount of recreation and off road vehicle use. This ad was created with the hopes of building an awareness about our natural resources and the importance of protecting them.

### Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Watershed Plan: Septic System Remediation/Animal Feeding Operation Cost Share Programs

With the listing of the Blacks Fork and Smiths Fork Rivers as impaired due to e.coli bacteria, UCCD and the Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork Steering Committee are working to improve the water quality through the implementation of the watershed plan that was completed late in 2005. One of the goals of the plan is to offer financial assistance to homeowners whose septic systems may be contaminating surface water within the watershed. The program helps with the remediation of failing systems.

In July, UCCD selected 12 septic projects that qualified for the cost share program. To date, 3 of those projects have been completed, the others are currently under construction. Some of the projects will be funded using Clean Water Act Section 319 grant monies, the others will be funded by UCCD.

The Conservation District Board of Supervisors realizes the importance of clean water and the potential health risk of e.coli contamination. That is why they have allotted funding in the Districts budget specifically for septic system remediation. The cost share program is available to anyone who feels their system may be inadequate and potentially contaminating surface water. Program applications are available at the District office and will continue to be until funding is expended.

This program is an opportunity to voluntarily get your septic system up to code with monetary assistance. If you are issued a notice of violation by WDEQ, you will no longer be eligible to apply for cost-share funds, but will still be required to remove the source of impairment at your own expense. Please contact the Conservation District for more information about this program.

### Animal Feeding Operation Cost Share Program

Another possible source of e.coli contamination is livestock corrals or working facilities with the potential to discharge waste into any surface or ground water supply. Facilities that have direct and continuous access to surface water, or that have a slope resulting in runoff to surface water, are at the highest risk for contamination and therefore, regulation. *Continued on page 6.*

**Uinta County Conservation District**

P.O. Box 370  
100 East Sage Street  
Lyman, WY 82937

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**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Animal Feeding Operation Cost Share Program**

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To avoid regulatory action by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ), UCCD is offering cost share assistance to assist landowners who have facilities located near surface water with revamping the current operation or relocating it. This program is also part of the watershed plan that was completed by the steering committee.

UCCD has selected 3 projects that met the cost share program criteria. One of those projects has been completed, one is currently under construction and the other will be completed in the spring of 2007. This cost share program is available until all funding is expended. If you would like more information about the program please contact the District office.



**Seedling Tree  
Order Form  
Inside!**

**Uinta County Conservation District**

**P.O. Box 370, 100 East Sage Street, Lyman, WY 82937**

307-787-3794 x4 E-mail: [kerri.sabey@wy.nacdnet.net](mailto:kerri.sabey@wy.nacdnet.net); [tina.price@wy.nacdnet.net](mailto:tina.price@wy.nacdnet.net)

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