

Uinta County Connection

**Uinta County
Conservation District
Board of Supervisors**

**Shaun Sims
Kelly Guild
Spencer Eyre
Dennis Cornelison
Kevin Condos**

Bring the Out-of-Doors to the Classroom!

The Uinta County Conservation District will be hosting an Outdoor Classroom Workshop on August 14th and 15th, 2007. This workshop is available to all educators and substitutes, and upon completion, certified teachers will be eligible for one professional development credit.

Enjoy two days in the out-of-doors with presenters from Wyoming Stream Team, U.W. Cooperative Extension Service, Wyoming Forestry Division and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Topics include a hands-on stream bank stabilization project, plant anatomy and identification, rangeland monitoring, grazing management, forest ecology, navigation/orienting and a macroinvertebrate study. The cost is free and lunch is provided, so grab your boots and come along for two fun filled days of learning in the outdoors!

Contact the Uinta County Conservation District for more information and to register by Friday, August 10th, 2007 at 787-3794 ext. 4 or visit our website at www.uintacountycd.com.



Teachers participate in a water quality study during the 2006 Outdoor Classroom Workshop!

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Summer Sun

By: Tina Wojtaszek



Okay, okay already! We all know the risks of being out in the sun too long—sunburn, skin damage, even the possibility of cancer. But it is summer time, and doesn't it feel good to have those warm rays dancing across your face? When I worked at a retirement home, I once found my favorite elderly friend sitting outside, sunning her liver spotted, pale skin. She waved to me happily, and I knew her doctor had advised that she avoid the sun, but I tell you she was in a better mood than I had seen her in weeks! And after her 90 years of life, who was I to interfere with that? We all need to take precautions, we have been preached to by doctors and the media to no end—wear long sleeves, hats, sunscreen, protect your eyes with sunglasses, avoid going out in the middle of the day—but let's also remember that a little sun now and again not only gives our bodies a boost of much needed vitamin D, but also enhances our disposition! Studies show exposure to sunlight stimulates the production of chemicals called tryptamines which cause mood enhancement in the brain. Looks like John Denver knew a thing or two when he sang, "sunshine on my shoulder makes me happy!" So take the advice of those medical professionals who really know best, and guard your self from over exposure, but go ahead and go barefoot now and then! If you live through 90 years of summer fun, I promise not to ask you if you put your sunscreen on.

Thanks Tina!!

UCCD Board and staff want to thank Tina for her work as the education coordinator over the last year! We also want to wish her and her husband the best as they welcome a new baby boy into their home this fall.

Congratulations!!

Summer Recreation

Summer is in full swing and for most of us, that means spending as much time as we can in the great outdoors. Whether we are camping, fishing, hiking, boating or 4-wheeling, just getting out in the sun and fresh air is a welcomed treat after a Wyoming winter. No matter the activity, it is always important to remember to respect our natural resources, after all, they are what makes the outdoors so inviting.

With the water quality issues our county is facing, it's even more important to minimize any activity that may negatively impact surface waters. Specifically activities that could increase the amount of sediment and e.coli bacteria in the streams. Some precautions we can all take include staying on existing trails, playing only in areas that are open to your type of recreation, avoiding sensitive areas such as the green lush areas right next to the stream, and only crossing streams in the area where the road or trail intersects the stream. Be sure to take out anything you take in, and if you have a camper or RV, be sure to properly dispose of the waste water.

If we all recreate responsibly, our land and water will be healthy for us to use now and in the future!

Trees & Drought; how to care for your trees in a dry season

Taken from the Colorado State Cooperative Extension website: coopext.colostate.edu/4dmg/trees/caring.htm

It looks as if we are going to have yet another dry summer in Uinta County. Growing crops and trees here is hard enough during a "wet" season, let alone in a drought. The following are some tips on watering your trees in the most efficient way possible.

First of all, it's important to recognize what a tree in "drought stress" looks like. Symptoms of drought injury to trees can be sudden or may take up to two years to be revealed. Drought injury symptoms on tree leaves include wilting, curling at the edges and yellowing. Leaves may develop scorch, brown outside edges or browning between veins. Evergreen needles may turn yellow, red or purple. They may also turn brown at the tips of the needles and browning may progress through the needle towards the twig. In continued drought, leaves may be smaller than normal, drop prematurely or remain attached to the tree even though brown. Often times, drought stress may not kill a tree outright, but set it up for more serious secondary insect and disease infestations in following years.

To make the most of what little water you have for your tree, here are some tips on *where* to water your tree.

Deep watering to a depth of 12 inches below the soil surface is recommended. Saturate the soil around the tree within the "dripline" (the outer edges of the trees branches) to disperse water down toward the roots. For evergreens, water 3-5 feet beyond the dripline on all sides of the tree. Water slowly, dispersing the flow of water to get the water deep down to the trees roots. Watering for short periods of time only encourages shallow rooting which can lead to more drought damage. Don't dig holes in the ground in an effort to water deeply, this dries out roots even more. Overhead spraying of tree leaves is inefficient and should be avoided during drought conditions, keep the water at ground level.

The amount of water a tree needs depends on the tree size. *A general rule of thumb is to use approximately 10 gallons of water per inch of trunk diameter for each watering.* Measure trunk diameter at knee height. *General Formula: Tree Diameter x 5 minutes = Total Watering Time.* Example: When you hand water using a hose at medium pressure, it will take approximately 5 minutes to produce 10 gallons of water. If you have a 4" diameter tree, it should receive 40 gallons of water. 4 inches x 5 minutes = 20 minutes of Total Watering Time.

During drought, trees must be given top watering priority over your lawn. Lawns can be replaced in a matter of months whereas a 20 year old tree will take 20 years to replace, especially in WYOMING!

Haycock Family Enjoys Grant From UCCD



Every year, the Conservation District offers three \$1,000 grants to small groups or individuals whose projects have the potential to enhance our environment and preserve our natural resources. Traci and Jason Haycock, along with their three kids, Raegan, Hadley and Cooper, received a grant this year to install a windbreak for their new home. They were ecstatic to say the least when they received the grant and get even more excited when they see how well their seedling trees are doing. "We are so happy! We love our trees and feel so grateful for the opportunity the Conservation District has given us to create a windbreak!"

From the beginning, Traci and Jason wanted this to be a family project, one that would teach their kids the importance of hard work, and they also wanted them to be able to see the results of their efforts. "Each member of our family has helped in the process and each has felt the sore, tired muscles at the end of the day, but we love looking out our window and seeing the green leaves emerging on our growing trees."

The Haycocks recently moved in to a newly built home and needed a way to slow the wind and stop the soil erosion that was occurring on the ground left bare from the recent construction. When the Haycocks first heard about the grant from the District, they felt it would be a great opportunity to get started. However, they really weren't sure where to start when it came to designing an effective windbreak. This is where the Conservation District offered some technical assistance to help them get started. "Kerri Sabey was instrumental in helping us to better understand how to make our 200' windbreak effective and then make some decisions on tree type and quantity. "

The Haycocks windbreak consists of three rows, a shrub row, an evergreen row and a deciduous tree row. The shrubs and deciduous trees were purchased from the District through the seedling tree program and the evergreen trees were purchased through another nursery in 1 gallon containers. The first row, on the windward side, is planted with New Mexico Privet. "This shrub, spaced 3 feet apart, took a little while to show any growth but has really taken off." The middle row is planted with 1 gallon size Colorado Blue Spruce, spaced 10 feet apart. The third row is planted with Green Ash trees. "It seemed that these bareroot trees got leaves over night, which was so exciting. However, a couple of weeks later, frost turned our excitement into disappointment when we lost all of those leaves. Now, a month later our green leaves have returned and we are able to see daily growth. Our neighbors continually comment on the fact that "our sticks now look like bushes!"

The Haycocks did an excellent job of preparing the site prior to planting the trees and have done everything possible to make sure the trees are happy during this critical time of establishment. They purchased weedbarrier from the district to stop any competition from weeds and grasses and even more critical, installed a drip system to make sure the seedlings are getting the water they need to establish their root systems. "Each tree has two 1-gallon per hour drippers and the shrubs have a single dripper. The drip system has proven to be efficient because there is very little evaporation as the water drips straight into the soil and allows a slow consistent watering which soaks into the soil instead of creating a runoff."

"This experience has been rewarding and satisfying. We are so appreciative of the grant that has made our windbreak possible. Now if only our little trees make it through the winter!"

Applications for the Conservation Assistance Grant can be picked up from the Conservation District office or downloaded from our website. Applications can be submitted throughout the year, however the grants are only awarded in March of each year. Start thinking about a project for 2008! Contact the Conservation District if you have any questions.

Sign Up for 2008 Conservation Programs Now

Submitted by Jeff Lewis, NRCS

“This will allow producers more time and flexibility to ensure all resource concerns are integrated into their individual conservation program contracts.”

Agricultural producers may submit applications for fiscal year 2008 conservation programs funds to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offices through Oct. 1, 2007. Private landowners may sign-up for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP).

“We are announcing a sign-up period earlier this year,” said Xavier Montoya, NRCS State Conservationist. “This will allow producers more time and flexibility to ensure all resource concerns are integrated into their individual conservation program contracts.”

Applications on file that were not selected for contracts in 2007 may be carried-over. Applicants should contact the local office if they wish to maintain or change their application.

The programs are available on a continuous sign-up basis, and applications received after Oct. 1, will be deferred and held for consideration at a future date as funding becomes available.

These conservation programs were authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill and are administered by the NRCS. They offer financial and technical assistance for a variety of conservation practices available to private land managers who wish to voluntarily participate.



Sedges have edges and rushes are round —

The Uinta County Conservation District hosted the Wyoming Rangeland Management School 301 on June 13 and 14, 2007. This was a two day course with both classroom and field instruction. The Wyoming Section of the Society for Range Management provided knowledgeable and engaging speakers from around the State.

During the field instruction, each participant had the opportunity to put their skills to the test with plant identification. Markers were set-up at eleven different species, and the participants went through each marker, noting what they thought that species was and if the species was a grass, grass like, forbs or woody plant. Dan Rogers, University of Wyoming and Karen Clause, NRCS, provided defining features for each species and discussed the various species and its' significance within ecological sites, including response to grazing.

As part of the classroom instruction, Dr. Mike Smith, Department of Renewable Resources, College of Agriculture, University of Wyoming, provided information on prescribed fire, why burn, potential affect, developing and implementing a burn plan and drought management; Eric Peterson, U.W. Cooperative Extension Service, provided information on invasive species identification, mapping, treatment, monitoring and tools to aid in monitoring;

Dr. Jim Waggoner, Department of Renewable Resources, College of Agriculture, University of Wyoming, discussed low stress animal handling, matching the animal to the resource, nutrient quality of range forage and how to implement this information.



During the field instruction, Dr. Dan Rogers, Department of Renewable Resources, College of Agriculture, University of Wyoming, shared information and hands on instruction of plant identification, site selection and key areas; Karen Clause, NRCS, provided information on ecological sites; Eric Peterson, U.W. Cooperative Extension Service, discussed rangeland monitoring methods and demonstrated monitoring tools and methods.

The days were bursting, the people were amazing and the location was captivating -- By: Dannette Edelmayer

The Wyoming Game and Fish hosted Wild about O.R.E.O. educator's camp at the Whiskey Mountain Wildlife Conservation Camp, located near Trail Lake, approximately ten miles southeast of Dubois, Wyoming. The camp was a week long, with seventeen participants and eighteen instructors and guest speakers.

Both formal and non-formal educators gathered to expand their knowledge and outdoor skills related to conservation education, while spending the week within a breathtaking backdrop. Activities ranged from geo-caching, nature photography, canoeing, shooting sports, to fly tying. Discussion topics included sage grouse, sensitive species, oil and gas development to "Ethi-Reasoning".

We took flight and bird hurdled, cooked peach cobbler in box ovens, made tree cookies of our own life, played water molecules in the water cycle and had the rare opportunity to observe a Pileated Woodpecker. Each instructor was engaging, friendly and informative. They provided methods to introduce conservation education and outdoor recreation into existing curriculums, while meeting the National standards. The jammed packed schedule kept us hopping from one activity to the next, but to say the least my week was truly adventurous. As the week slipped by, I left camp excited to share these new ideas and activities with the youth of Uinta County.

Regardless of your outdoor experience or existing expertise, O.R.E.O. allowed for the exploration of a broad range of outdoor and classroom activities. It was a pleasure to represent Uinta County Conservation District as a participant at O.R.E.O. I recommend this camp to all educators looking for new and innovative ways to bring the outdoors to the classroom.

UCCD in the Classroom



As a part of Soil and Water Stewardship Week, UCCD Education Coordinators Dannette and Tina visited the third graders at Clark Elementary on three separate occasions. We became wise about water as we learned about the water cycle, environmental impacts of pollution on local watersheds, how water moves underground, and finally we made a rainstorm in the classroom with a rain stick craft. We also acted out soil types and did an experiment with water absorption through sand, silt, and clay. Lastly, Dannette showed the group how the sun and wind can be put to work! We made milk carton wind turbines, heated rocks in solar houses and watched a solar panel produce enough electricity to spin a fan.

Shortly after school was out, we went back to summer school. Both Education Coordinators spent a day with Lyman Middle School students showing them what we do both in the office and the field. We spent a great deal of the day learning methods for measuring water quality and got our feet wet in a local stream! Next, we made plaster of Paris animal tracks with Urie Elementary Students while learning about adaptations of animals' feet. Tina returned later to show students how to keep our waters clean and healthy using the Enviroscape, an interactive model of a watershed and town. We look forward to visiting many more classrooms in the future, and welcome all home-schoolers to contact us for available activities as well!

Uinta County Conservation District

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Lyman, WY 82937

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**Uinta County
Fair 2007**

Don't forget to visit
the Conservation
Districts booth at the
Uinta County Fair
July 31st through
August 4th! We'll
have a lot of great
information and
prizes for everyone!

Uinta County Conservation District

P.O. Box 370
100 East Sage Street
Lyman, WY 2937
Phone: 307-787-3794 x4
Fax: 307-787-3810

Website: www.uintacountycd.com

UCCD Staff

Kerri Sabey, District Manager
kerri.sabey@wy.nacdnet.net
Dannette Edelmayer, Education Coordinator
dannette.edelmayer@wy.nacdnet.net
Pat Watson, Administrative Assistant
patricia.watson@wy.nacdnet.net

NRCS Personnel

Jeff Lewis, District Conservationist