

Uinta County Connection

Uinta County Conservation District

UCCD to Host Wyoming Rangeland Management School 501

Wyoming rangelands provide many resources including forage, oil, gas, coal and open space. They also contain most of the watershed for the water used in Wyoming and the water that flows into surrounding states. With these resources comes many uses including grazing, recreation, hay production, mining and home sites. Too much demand on one range use can create conflict and jeopardize the productivity of fragile range sites. Consequently, members of the Wyoming Section, Society for Range Management are committed to providing scientifically sound and practical management of Wyoming's rangeland resources and uses.

In order to provide information about practical management to those who use Wyoming's rangelands, the Wyoming Rangeland Management School Team has developed four Rangeland Management Schools

that can be taught in areas of Wyoming that have an interest and are willing to host a school. The Uinta County Conservation District (UCCD) is committed to providing rangeland management information to the users of our rangeland and has offered to host Rangeland Management School 501 on February 17th and 18th at the Lyman Town Hall.

The main focus of the 501 school is to provide range livestock producers the tools they need to develop affective grazing management plans. This school is a two day, classroom school with presentations on the uses of prescribed fire, invasive weeds, sustainable ranching, riparian and watershed functions, stream improvements, wildlife and livestock interactions and habitat needs, methods to improve livestock distribution, and a discussion on the "State and Transition" ecological model and how to use it

to manage grazing to achieve landscape objectives including benefits to wildlife. The final session of this school will be devoted to providing participants the information and methods they need to effectively develop grazing management plans.

The registration deadline for the school is February 13th and includes a \$20 registration fee. However, the Uinta County Conservation District is offering an "early bird" special, and anyone who registers by Feb 2nd and completes the course will receive their \$20 back, and get to attend the school for free! UCCD will also be providing lunch both days. Mark your calendars and plan to attend this 2-day course full of information that is sure to help you improve your grazing management. If you have questions or would like to register, please call UCCD at 787-3794x4 or visit our website at www.uintacountycd.com.

WHEN AND WHERE:

February 17 & 18, 2009
Lyman, Town Hall
Lyman Wyoming

REGISTRATION:

\$20 Includes
Course Curriculum
Notebook and handouts

Registration Deadline
02/13/09

LUNCH provided by UCCD

PRESENTED BY:

Wyoming Section Society
for Range Management

HOSTED BY:

Uinta County
Conservation District

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Kerri Sabey
(307) 787-3794 ext 4
or email:
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EARLY BIRD SPECIAL Register by February 2, 2009 and complete the course—you will receive your registration fee back.

Conservation Assistance Grants Available Through UCCD

The Uinta County Conservation District is once again offering 3, \$1,000 grants for conservation and natural resource related projects and educational materials. UCCD created this grant program to get projects on the ground that benefit our natural resources and our communities. 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, wildlife habitat improvement, or be educationally related including the purchase of educational materials. Groups or individuals may apply. The possibilities are endless! If you have a project in mind, but aren't sure if it will qualify for the grant program, give us a call and we can visit about it.

We invite you to help us improve and enhance our communities while benefiting our natural landscape. Apply today! Applications are available at the Uinta County Conservation District office in Lyman, at the County Libraries or at the County Extension Office. You may also download the application from our website at www.uintacountycd.com or send us an email for an electronic copy. If you have questions please call Kerri or Danette at 307-787-3794x4. Applications are due March 16th, 2009.

Educator Workshop A Success!

UCCD along with educator's from here to Star Valley joined together to discover the adventures of Project WET, WILD and Learning Tree. Facilitators' Evert and Tammy Brown, from Casper College, and Lucy Wold from the Wyoming Game and Fish, filled our three days with jam packed learning and fun! The participants discovered Quick-Frozen Critters, Macroinvertebrate Mayhem, Raining Cats and Dogs and many more of the exciting activities from each of the curricula. Project WET, WILD and Learning Tree are award winning resource and environmental education curricula. If you would like to find out more about these workshops, give us a call and we will put you in touch with the program facilitators.



— COMMENTS FROM THE PARTICIPANTS —

"The information and materials will be extremely valuable to me as a classroom teacher!"

"It was an amazing learning experience."

"Thanks so much. I hope to continue to have these opportunities to attend."



Upcoming Tree Workshop

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our Tree Workshop on March 10th, 2009. We are still working out the details, but look for hands on pruning demonstrations, tips on how to properly plant a tree, common insects and diseases of trees in our area and how to manage them, and information about species selection and how to pick the right tree for the right spot. More information will be available soon. Please visit our website at www.uintacountycd.com or give us a call to find out more!

Upcoming Events to Celebrate

NATIONAL AG WEEK—March 15—21, 2009: Educate students about understanding how food, fiber and renewable resource products are produced

EARTH DAY—April 22, 2009: Earth Day celebrations are a great way to share information about our natural resources with your students.

ARBOR DAY—April 27, 2009: UCCD can celebrate Arbor Day with your classroom. If you would like us to celebrate with your classroom, give us a call early to schedule a date.

NATIONAL STEWARDSHIP WEEK—April 26-May 3, 2009: Educating youth ensures that the next generation will be wise stewards of America's natural resources.

If you would like UCCD to help with an upcoming activity, please give us a call at (307) 787-3794, ext. 4.

Wildlife Escape Ramps Available

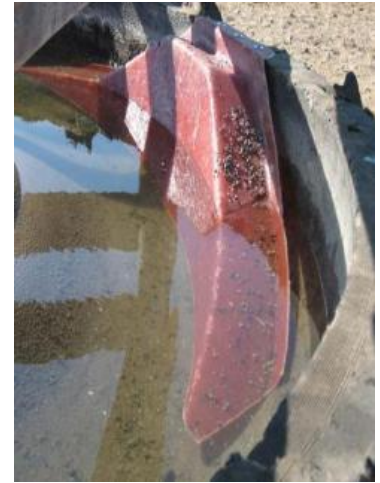
Stock Water Wildlife Escape Ramps are still available to producers in Uinta County. The ramps will help prevent birds and other wildlife from drowning in stock water tanks. The ramps are being provided **free of charge** to Uinta County producers for installation in their existing watering facilities on private, state or federal owned land.

Installation costs (hardware and labor) are the producers contributions to the project.

This project was made possible by the coordination of Lisa Shaw with the Niobrara Conservation District and the following groups who provided funding: Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resources Trust, Wyoming Private Grazing

Lands Team, local Sage Grouse Working Groups, and Water for Wildlife.

If you are interested, please give Kerri Sabey a call at (307) 787-3794 ext 4, or Jeff Lewis at (307) 787-3211.



Fiberglass ramp



Metal ramp

NRCS 2009 EQIP Sign-up

Once again, it is the time of year to think about installing conservation practices for 2009.

2008 was a good year in Uinta County as many contracts were completed.

For those of you that still have items to install, make sure you work diligently on getting them installed this summer. Doing modifications due to the lack of having time is no longer a valid reason. You are expected to keep on schedule and complete the contract in a timely matter.

The batching period for the 2009 EQIP sign-up is February 6, 2009. This means if you are considering potential cost share for a conservation practice, your EQIP application needs to be in prior to or on Febru-

ary 6th. Applications received after February 6th will not be considered for 2009 funding.

There have been some changes dealing with EQIP. You need to stop in at the local NRCS and find out if the changes will be affecting your potential project.

If you have not updated your records with FSA, please do so as soon as possible. Current records are a very important part of the eligibility process. Also, if you are a producer that has never been involved with a cost share program and do not have any records on file with FSA, you will need to stop in and talk to FSA so you can be considered an eligible producer. Do not wait until the last minute to update your records or to get into the system if you have never partici-

pated before.

It cannot be stressed enough the importance of having current farm records for eligibility for the EQIP program.

Also, if you are considering putting in a center pivot or any other type of improved irrigation system, you need to start now by contacting an irrigation dealer and getting a bid. Prices of pivots and irrigation pipe have increased dramatically over the past two or three years. Getting a bid will take a lot of the guess work out of knowing what it will cost you for out of pocket expenses.

*Article Submitted by Jeff Lewis,
NRCS, District Conservationist*

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WEBSITE: www.uintacountycd.com
(307) 787-3794 ext 4



The National Stewardship Week Poster Contest is coming again this spring! Be watching for details and join in the fun! **DIG IT!** The **Secrets of Soil**, is your HINT to this years poster contest, so put on your creative cap and *get ready—get set—DIG IT!*

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Staff

- ▶ Jeff Lewis, District Conservationist
- ▶ Kevin Fackrell, Soil Conservation Technician
- ▶ NRCS phone: (307) 787-3211

Seedling Tree Order Deadline
April 15, 2009

