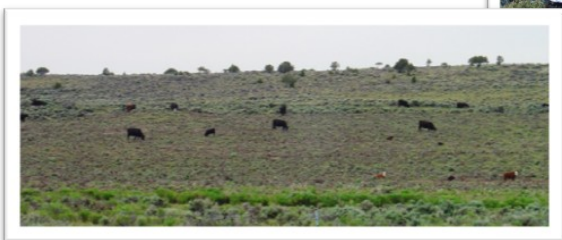


# QUINTA COUNTY Connection

## Inside Issue

Ruby Pipeline Progress  
WACD president, congrats Shaun!  
Conservation Assistance Grants  
Winter Tree Care Tips



## FOUR PART SERIES

# Range Management Workshop

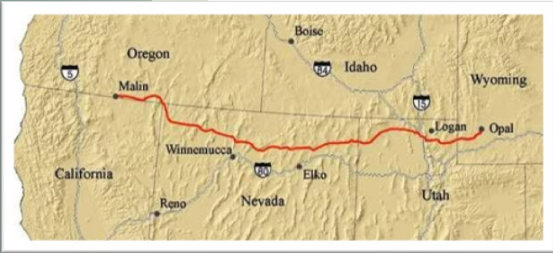
This winter, the Uinta County Conservation District will be holding a series of Range Management Workshops focused on helping landowners and producers with identifying resource concerns and answering any questions that they may have about the resource or their operation. There will be experts from across the state providing insight on different management strategies that provide the landowner or manager with the opportunities to improve the natural resource and increase the operations profitability. The workshops will have three or more presenters per session and refreshments and door prizes will be provided. There are four workshops scheduled starting in January and ending in June with a fun field day tying everything together.

All workshops will be from 1 to 4 in the afternoon and will be held at the Lyman Town Hall. The first workshop is scheduled for January 12<sup>th</sup> with presenters talking about range monitoring, what the Uinta County Conservation District can do to help landowners, the basics of Ranch Conservation Plans, and how to control Invasive and Noxious Weeds. Eric Peterson with the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension will present on range monitoring. Eric's presentation will answer the questions why monitor, what are the benefits of monitoring for managers, and how much time is needed to incorporate monitoring into an operation. Oakley Ingersoll, the new range specialist with the district, will talk about what services he and the district can provide to landowners in the county and how people can get involved. He will also present material outlining a ranch conservation plan, what a ranch plan consists of, and what a ranch plan can do for managers now and in the future. Chris Aimone with the Uinta County Weed and Pest will talk on how to control noxious and invasive weeds. Chris will discuss weed identification and go into details about how different weeds grow, their morphology, and how the chemicals work to control different communities of weeds. Chris will also provide insight on the biological control of weeds and how people can get involved to control weeds on their land.

The workshops are open to anyone, the district and their staff look forward to seeing you there! Please feel free to ask any question that you may have. Workshop details continued on page three—give us a call at (307) 747-UCCD (8223) to register by January 10, 2011.

# Ruby Pipeline Progress

As the national demand for Wyoming's natural resources continues to grow, exporting of these resources becomes a necessity and a continual challenge. The Ruby Pipeline is a natural gas transmission line traveling approximately 680 miles beginning at the Opal hub in Wyoming and terminating near Malin, Oregon. The 42 inch pipeline has an initial design capacity of up to 1.5 billion cubic feet per day and will traverse portions of four states including Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and Oregon. Pipeline construction received final approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on July 30, 2010 with construction beginning on July 31, 2010.



The pipeline is estimated to be in service sometime in the spring of 2011 providing natural gas to areas of the West coast including California. El Paso Corporation, the parent company of Ruby Pipeline L.L.C., owns North America's largest interstate natural gas pipeline system and is one of North America's largest independent natural gas producers.

From the start, the Ruby Pipeline project has not been without the interest from many environmental groups opposing the construction for varying reasons. The first controversial proposal came when Western Watersheds Project and the Oregon Natural Desert Association promised El Paso Corp. that they would not initiate legal action concerning environmental issues secondary to the disturbance of the pipeline installation. In return, the two organizations received money for conservation funds that would aid in their mission to retire federal grazing permits. Total funding donated to the two environmental groups by El Paso Corp. totaled \$22 million with the money distributed into two separate trusts that would be managed by a representative of the given environmental group, an El Paso official and a third member drawn from elsewhere. El Paso Corp. intentions were to find a new way for environmental groups and energy producers to compromise with the hopes of saving the company money by avoiding legal disputes. El Paso Corp.'s compromise has since backfired and now they can only sit back and watch as pending lawsuits and litigations against the federal agencies stack up.

The majority of litigation opposed to the pipeline construction is concerning the approval of the BLM's right-of-way stating damages to endangered fish and cultural resources for example. Litigation started shortly after the FERC approval of the project when the Center for Biological Diversity began suing over the BLM's approved right-of-way stating the pipeline's crossing over rivers would lead to additional threats for already endangered fish. Further, an injunction was filed in August by the Center for Biological Diversity to have construction stopped while the case works its way through court, but the motion was denied in early September. Presently, southwest Wyoming's Coalition of Local Governments has filed litigation over the BLM's approval of the right-of-way, stating the BLM has failed to follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and did not properly address or analyze environmental and social impacts that will come from retirement of grazing permits. The Coalition of Local Governments includes Uinta, Lincoln, Sweetwater and Sublette counties. Currently, nine other counties from Utah and Nevada have joined forces and have formed the Pipeline Coalition that is negotiating with El Paso Corp. to retract its agreement with Western Watersheds and Oregon Natural Desert Association. Native American Tribes are also suing the federal government over the pipeline right-of-way stating that alternative routes would protect their cultural resources. Agencies in litigation over the Ruby Pipeline Project include the BLM, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Fish and Wildlife Service. Alternative routes proposed by many groups follow existing utility corridors and Interstate 80 that would increase the overall pipeline distance by 65 miles in some cases. Currently, there are at least six groups with pending litigation against the federal government and the Ruby Pipeline Project that will need to be resolved before the project can be completed.

### *Ruby Pipeline Progress continued:*

As litigation continues to pile up and court settlements take place, ranchers and landowners also speak a voice. The difficult predicament arose when ranchers and landowners granted El Paso Corp. permission for the pipeline to travel through private ground without the knowledge that El Paso Corp. would then be providing funding to two environmental groups whose sole purpose lies in retiring federal grazing permits, something that could prove to be very detrimental. The Public Land Council, which represents livestock producers, approached El Paso Corp. and expressed their opposition to the settlement of the conservation funds and the detriment that many livestock producers would face as a result. In turn, El Paso Corp. offered an endowment worth \$15 million over 10 years intended to promote grazing and the livestock industry. Money from the endowment can be used for projects that include scientific research, education, range monitoring, installment of range improvements, fire restoration, and media and community outreach. The money from the endowment cannot be used for litigation purposes.

In the end, El Paso Corp. successfully provided funds for two very different agendas, one aimed at removing public land grazing and the other aimed to promote public land grazing. The drama has not yet reached its climax as the Pipeline Coalition, Western Watersheds, Oregon Natural Desert Association, and the Public Land Council all try to reach an agreement with El Paso Corp. Ironically, this all began with El Paso Corp. trying to settle a dispute before one ever began by trying to pay off environmental groups with the goal in mind to avoid the very confrontation that the corporation currently faces.

All litigation aside, the project brings in jobs and money for the states and counties. El Paso estimates the construction of Ruby Pipeline will employ some 5,000 workers with a total payroll at peak construction of up to \$4 million per day. The pipeline will pay approximately \$280 million in property taxes along the ten county route during its first 10 years of operation, according to El Paso spokesman Richard Wheatley. Construction on the pipeline is currently happening at seven stages along the 680 mile long project. Work on the pipeline is currently underway south of Kemmerer where a large holding facility stands. Trucks then haul the pipes to location where heavy machinery and welders are utilized to install the pipeline. Barring no other major setbacks and the process remains on schedule, employees are working six days a week until the project's completion.

## Range Monitoring Workshop *continued from cover page*

- January 12, 2011:** **Why Range Monitoring** — Eric Peterson, U.W. Cooperative Extension  
**Uinta County Conservation Districts Monitoring Goals** — Oakley Ingersoll, UCCD Range Specialist  
**Invasive Species** — Chris Aimone, Uinta County Weed and Pest  
1:00—4:00p.m. Lyman Town Hall [Register by January 10](#)
- February 15, 2011:** **Plant Identification** — Karen Clause, Natural Resource Conservation Service  
**Vegetation Treatments** — Oakley Ingersoll, UCCD Range Specialist  
**Riparian Management** — Eric Peterson, U.W. Cooperative Extension  
1:00—4:00p.m. Lyman Town Hall [Register by February 11](#)
- March 2, 2011:** **Water Development** — Demont Grandy, Natural Resource Conservation Service  
**Grazing Management** — Professor Michael A. Smith, U.W. Rangeland Management. Extension Specialist  
**Livestock Herding** — Dr. James Waggoner, Assoc. Professor, U.W. Rangeland Ecology Extension Spec.  
**Endangered Species, Sage Grouse** — Bryan Christensen, Natural Resource Conservation Service  
1:00—4:00p.m. Lyman Town Hall [Register by February 28](#)
- June 29, 2011:** **The basics of range monitoring, field study** — Oakley Ingersoll, UCCD Range Specialist  
**Hands-on backpack sprayer demo** — Chris Aimone, Uinta County Weed & Pest  
**Possible Lawson aerator demo**  
This class will take place in the field, location to be determined.  
10:00—3:00p.m. Lunch will be provided on this day. [Register by June 27](#)

## SHAUN SIMS—New President, Vice President of the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts Elected.

CHEYENNE — Providing leadership for the natural resource conservation efforts of Wyoming's 34 local conservation districts will be the charge for Shaun Sims, Evanston, and Jack Berger, Saratoga.

Sims and Berger were elected as President and Vice President of the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts during the Associations' annual meeting in November.

"I am very honored and humbled to be elected by my peers in the Conservation Districts" said Sims, a fifth generation cattle and sheep rancher from Evanston.

Sims has served on the Uinta County Conservation District board of supervisors since 2001 and currently is the Chair.

"I look forward to representing Wyoming's districts on issues affecting them and their constituencies at the state, regional and national level.

Sims added that maintaining and growing the district water quality and watershed

programs, helping to grow the districts' role in range monitoring programs, and congressional



Vice President Jack Berger, left; and president Shaun Sims.  
COURTESY PHOTO/Leather N Lace Photography

communications on areas where Farm Bill conservation programs could be improved, are some of his top priority issues.

"The districts are progressive in Wyoming and are always looking to ensure they are delivering the right services

and assistance to their local landowners and communities. I am proud to be a part of that" said Sims.

Sims replaces Ralph Brokaw of McFadden as President. Sims will also serve as the Wyoming delegate to the National Associations' Board of Directors.

Berger is a Saratoga-Encampment-Rawlins Conservation District board member, serving since 2004.

Berger is also active in the Wyoming Stock Growers Association and served on the south central Sage Grouse working group.

Berger and his family run a cow/calf operation in the Saratoga area.

"I look forward to serving on the leadership team with Shaun Sims," said Berger. "I believe the work the conservation districts do in this state is integral to maintaining locally driven natural resource management solutions while maintaining locally driven natural resource management solutions while maintaining productive working lands."

*Article taken from the Wyoming Association of Conservation*



## Looking For Precipitation Statistics?

Visit the Wyoming Snotel Site at:

<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/snotel/Wyoming/wyoming.html>

## Conservation Assistance Grants

The Uinta County Conservation District is 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, the UW Cooperative Extension Office in Evanston or you may download the application from our website at [www.uintacountycd.com](http://www.uintacountycd.com). If you have questions please call Kerri at 747-8223 or email at [ksabey@bvea.net](mailto:ksabey@bvea.net). **Applications are due March 14, 2011.**

## Winter Tree Care Tips for Homeowners

It doesn't seem to matter how long I've lived in Wyoming, that first blast of frigid air along with those icy cold winds is always a shock to my system. I'm just glad I can go inside out of the cold and warm up in a nice cozy blanket. However, that's not the case for our trees and shrubs. They have to endure the exposure to these tough conditions, so it's our job to help them through it the best we can. Here are a few tips from the International Society of Arboriculture about taking care of your trees in the winter.

1. Put composted organic mulch under your tree in the fall or early winter to help retain water and reduce temperature extremes. A thin layer of mulch will act like a blanket and give the tree's roots a little extra winter protection.

2. Give your trees a drink. Winter droughts require watering as much as summer droughts. If temperatures permit, an occasional watering during the winter on young trees can be a life saver. But be sure to water only when soil and trees are cool but not frozen.

3. Prune your trees. Winter is actually one of the best times to prune because it is easier to see the structure of trees without their leaves. But limit pruning to deadwood and poorly placed branches in order to save as many living branches as possible.

4. Prevent mechanical injuries. Branch breakage or splitting can be caused by ice and snow accumulation, or chewing and rubbing by animals. Prevent problems from occurring on young trees by wrapping the base of trees in a hard, plastic guard or a metal hardware cloth. Wrapping trees with burlap or plastic cloth also can prevent temperature damage. Just remember to remove the wraps and guards in the spring to prevent damage when the tree begins to grow.



The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) is a nonprofit organization supporting tree care research around the world. For more information visit [www.isa-arbor.com](http://www.isa-arbor.com).

***Don't forget to place your seedling tree order soon!*** Order forms are available at our office on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Lyman Town Hall, our website [www.uintacountycd.com](http://www.uintacountycd.com), or at the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Office in Evanston. **Place your order early for best selection!**

Plant some Trees!  
This is getting  
serious!



**UINTA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

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

PRSRT STD  
AUTO  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Lyman, WY  
Permit No. 11

**CHANGE OF SERVICE REQUESTED**

**— Attend a Board Meeting —**

Meetings are scheduled for the third Thursday of each month  
Give us a call for more details! (307) 747-8223

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**Caden Sweep & Davie Jo Schultz**

Caden and Davie Jo participated in the district sponsored poster contest, "Healthy Habits = Healthy Habits", this past spring; where both participants placed first in their divisions—advancing to the state level contest, where they again placed first. The posters will now travel to Nashville, to compete in the national level contest this coming February. Excellent job Caden and Davie Jo, and we wish you luck in February!!



**Uinta County Conservation District  
Board of Supervisors**

- Shaun Sims, Chairman
- Kelly Guild, Vice-Chairman
- Spencer Eyre, Secretary / Treasurer
- Kevin Condos, Member
- Dennis Cornelison, Member
- Carol Hamilton, Associate Member

**Uinta County Conservation District  
District Staff**

- Kerri Sabey, District Manager  
(307) 747-UCCD (8223)  
Email: ksabey@bvea.net
- Dannette Edelmayer, Education Coordinator  
(307) 747-8224  
Email: dedelmayer@bvea.net
- Oakley Ingersoll, Range Specialist  
(307) 231-1717  
Oakley\_ing@yahoo.com

**Natural Resource Conservation Service  
(NRCS) Staff**

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