

JANUARY 2012

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:



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Conservation Easements THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY

What is a "Conservation Easement"? As a private landowner, is this something that would benefit me? How do I get the information I need, to make an informed decision?

The UINTA COUNTY CITIZENS COALITION for Sound Resource Use in cooperation with the UINTA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT and the UINTA COUNTY FARM BUREAU will be sponsoring a seminar to inform the citizens of Uinta County regarding the advantages and disadvantages of "Conservation Easements".

This seminar will feature Harriet M. Hageman of Hageman and Brighton, Attorneys at Law, Cheyenne, Wyoming and will be held on **Tuesday, January 17th, 2012 in the Lyman, Wyoming Town Hall Court Room.** The seminar will begin at 7:00 pm.

The general public is encouraged to attend to learn more about conservation easements, and what they mean for the future of Wyoming, ranching, livestock production, and mineral development. This seminar is free to the public. For more information call 307-786-2995 or 307-747-8223.

UCCD Welcomes New Education Coordinator

Hello! I am excited to be able to work with Kerri Sabey. But most of all I am so excited to meet and visit with all of you! Just a little about me. I am Briar Harris. I grew up in Beaver, UT the oldest of 5 girls raised by the most wonderful parents Brian and Sharolyn Hanley. I married Shaun Harris and we lived in Minersville, UT for the first few years of our marriage. After having our first two daughters my husband got a job at Bridger Valley Electric and we moved to Lyman. (I swore I would never live in cold, windy Wyoming. But I wouldn't change it for anything.) We now have four children Rachelle 15, Shaunte' 14, Madison 10, and Jason 4.



We love it here and love raising our children in the Bridger Valley. As a family we love the outdoors and being together. Our kids love to rodeo, so horses are a big part of our life. But we also enjoy camping, hunting, four wheeling, etc. and following our kids in all their activities.

As the Education Coordinator I will be looking for ways that I can help you learn more about the things that are important to you. We will continue the Adopt a Rancher program that has been a huge success and hope to expand into more classrooms. We will be continuing to hold classes and workshops so if there are any special topics that you would like to know more about please let me know.

Sage Grouse and Reflective Markers



“By placing reflective markers on the top wire of a fence line, mortality from collision with the fence was reduced by nearly 70%”

Open range and sagebrush with livestock, sage-grouse and antelope are all things one can associate Wyoming with. In the spring of 2010, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) determined that listing the greater sage-grouse as an endangered species is warranted but precluded by higher priority listing actions. Wyoming is one of the few states where the population of sage-grouse is stable. Subsequently with Wyoming’s large tracts of sagebrush and large populations of sage-grouse, we are in the spotlight and taking a leading role in managing and maintaining sagebrush communities and sage-grouse populations across the state. Prior to, and since the decision by the FWS, there has been many studies and research focusing on the health of the bird. The FWS’s decision was based on extensive research and looked at the historic and current range of the greater sage-grouse that includes eleven western states and Canada. Wyoming is fortunate, if you will, to have many miles of uninterrupted sagebrush and one of the healthiest sage-grouse populations in the nation. With that, the state and federal agencies responsible for the management of the sage-grouse need the help of the landowners to effectively advance sage-grouse populations and avoid listing the bird as an endangered species.

There are many explanations as to why the sage-grouse populations have decreased over the past decades, including predation and habitat fragmentation. Habitat fragmentation was cited by the FWS as one of the biggest threats to the Greater Sage Grouse. It has long been thought, and often argued, that another source of sage-grouse mortality is fences. Recently there have been several studies conducted looking at fence collision and sage-grouse mortality. One study was conducted in Wyoming along the Sweetwater and Sublette county lines where they counted fence strikes or collisions of sage-grouse before and after marking sections of the fence with small reflective markers. A similar study was conducted in Idaho and found similar results. By placing reflective markers on the top wire of a fence line, mortality from collision with the fence was reduced by nearly 70% in both studies compared to the control with no markers. With that said, no one is recommending that every mile of fence be marked, instead, mark certain fences that are prone to strikes.

Fences prone to sage-grouse collisions include fences constructed with steel t-posts, those near sage-grouse lekking areas, fences that border riparian areas and fences that bisect winter concentration areas. Both studies noted that topographic relief decreased fence mortality. The Uinta County Conservation District and the NRCS are committed to maintaining Wyoming’s healthy sage-grouse population and will help landowners identify problem fences and assist with acquiring reflective markers at no cost to interested landowners. If you have any questions or are interested in the reflective markers give us a call or stop by the office.



Welcome Baby Hadden!

On December 6th, 2011, Oakley and Amber Ingersoll welcomed new baby boy Hadden Oakley into the world. Hadden weighed in at a healthy 8 pounds and was 20.5 inches long. Congratulations!

EARLY CHILDHOOD

EDUCATOR WORKSHOP

January 28, 2012

Mountain View
Elementary

Multi-purpose room
8:00 am—4:00 pm

PTSB or STARS
Credit Included

WYOMING
STARS
SUPPORTING THE STATE'S EDUCATION

The cost is \$10
Includes course materials & lunch
PRE REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Questions? Call (307) 747-8224
or 747-8223



Project Learning Tree® is the environmental education program of the American Forest Foundation and sponsored in Wyoming by Wyoming PLT.



PLT's Early Childhood guide integrates nature-based exploration, art, literature, math, music and movement, and outdoor play into early childhood education programs. The guide contains activities that encourage young children to explore the senses, the seasons, and neighborhood trees. The activities highlight the importance of kinetic learning and engagement by incorporating music and movement using an accompanying music CD. PLT's Environmental Experiences for Early Childhood encourages children to explore, discover, and communicate in expressive ways, and provides an introduction to environmental education at a key developmental period in children's lives.



Project WILD is sponsored in Wyoming by the Wyoming Game & Fish Department.

Growing Up WILD is an early childhood education program that builds on children's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Through a wide range of activities and experiences, Growing Up WILD provides an early foundation for developing positive impressions about the natural world and lifelong social and academic skills.



*This workshop is hosted by the Uinta County Conservation District
www.uintacountycd.com — (307) 747-8224 or 747-8223*

Educators, Parents, and Caregivers: Please join us for a day of fun and learning. At this workshop you will receive both of the activity manuals listed above along with all the training and experience to use these materials to enhance your experiences with your children. Your choice of (.5) PTSB or STARS credit. Lunch and refreshments provided.

Name: _____ Are You: ___ an educator ___ a caregiver ___ a parent
What ages are the children you work with? _____

Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED by 1/26/12

Please send registration form & \$10.00 fee to:

(write check to) WYPLT

Mail to: [UCCD c/o Educator Workshop](mailto:UCCD@uintacountycd.com)

P.O. Box 370, 100 E. Sage, Lyman, WY 82937

Questions, please call (307) 747-8224

Uinta County Well Represented at State Convention

The Uinta County Conservation District (UCCD) recently attended the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts (WACD) annual convention held in Lander, Wyoming. The 2011 convention was combined with the Wyoming Society for Range Management and brought together a number of professionals from the Ag and Natural Resource industries. Several locals from Uinta County received awards and were recognized for their outstanding work and partnerships with the Uinta County Conservation District. Gage Neilson and Braxton Sabey from Urie Elementary won top honors for the poster contest in their age divisions. They were both able to attend the awards luncheon in Lander to be recognized for their achievements and have their picture taken with the President of WACD, Mr. Shaun Sims from Evanston. The theme for the poster contest was "Forests for People, More Than You Can Imagine." Both boys received \$100 and their posters will be sent on to compete in the National Association of Conservation Districts poster contest.

Carol Hamilton, a local producer, was selected as the "Cooperator of the Year" for her outstanding service and dedication to the agriculture industry and her involvement with many of the conservation districts programs. Carol and her family have been instrumental in the success of the districts Adopt-a-Rancher program and teaching our younger generations about the importance of agriculture and allowing them to experience life on a ranch. Carol also serves as an Associate Supervisor on the UCCD Board of Supervisors.

The Conservation District was also presented with the "Outstanding Annual Report" award from the Wyoming Department of Agriculture. The Annual Report is a summary of the Districts activities and accomplishments over the past year. It provides the reader with a basic understanding of the scope, direction and purpose of conservation districts. The report is available on UCCDs website at www.uintacountycd.com.

Congratulations to all of the award winners and thank you for your efforts and dedication to the stewardship of our natural resources!



Gage Neilson with President Sims



Braxton Sabey with
President Sims



Carol Hamilton, Cooperator of the
Year, with President Sims

For the latest precipitation statistics, visit any
of the following websites:

<http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/wrds/nrcs/nrcs.html>

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

<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/snotel/Utah/utah.html>

<http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/snow/data/current.html>

Conservation Assistance Grants, apply now!



Before and after pictures of a Project that was completed by a youth group at the Uinta County Youth Camp after receiving one of the \$1,000 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 our natural resources and may include beautification for public enjoyment, water quality improvements, erosion control, wildlife habitat improvement, tree plantings, scout projects, recycling programs, 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

**Applications for
the Conservation
Assistance
Grants are due
by March 12,
2012.**

in Evanston or you may download the application from our website at www.uintacountycd.com. If you have questions please call Kerri at 747-8223 or email at ksabey@bvea.net. **Applications are due March 12, 2012.**

Time to Order Your Seedling Trees



**Seedling Order
Deadline
April 5, 2012**

Even though it only January, now is the time to start thinking about that spring tree planting. UCCD is currently taking tree orders and would like to encourage everyone to order early.

New this year, the bareroot seedlings will come in bundles of 25 to allow you to add more variety to your plantings. But, before you order, here are a few things you need to consider:

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

In addition to these things, it is helpful to know how many trees and of what species you will need to meet the goal of your planting. These can all be addressed in a planting plan that is done before you order. If you need help with a planting design, give us a call and we can help! Order forms are available at the office, on our website at www.uintacountycd.com, and at the UW Cooperative Extension in Evanston.

Uinta County Conservation District

P.O. Box 370, 100 East Sage Street
Lyman, WY 82937
(307) 747-UCCD (8223)

PRSRT STD
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Lyman, WY
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CHANGE OF SERVICE REQUESTED



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

DISTRICT STAFF

Kerri Sabey
District Manager
(307) 747-8223
Email: ksabey@bvea.net

Briar Harris
Education Coordinator
(307) 747-8224
Email:

Oakley Ingersoll
Range Specialist
(307) 747-8225
Email: oingersoll@bvea.net

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Staff

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

Hey Kids!

The theme for the 2012 Soil and Water Stewardship Poster Contest is "Soil to Spoon". So put your thinking caps on and start those creative juices flowing to come up with some great ideas about how you can trace the food you eat back to the soil it came from! Watch for more details about the poster contest in the coming weeks.

