

## What is a Conservation District?

**Conservation districts** are local units of government established under state law to carry out natural resource management programs at the local level by providing technical assistance and tools to manage and protect land and water resources in U.S. states and insular areas. There are more than 3,000 conservation districts in the United States. In Wyoming, there are 34 conservation districts in 23 counties.

Conservation districts may go by different names such as Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Soil Conservation Districts, Resource Conservation Districts, or other similar names. However, they all share a single mission: to coordinate assistance from all available sources; public and private, local, state and federal, to develop locally-driven solutions to natural resource concerns.

## History of Conservation Districts

During the Dust Bowl of the 1930's, it became clear that there was a need to conserve natural resources, specifically soil. Intensive efforts were made by state and local governments to develop adequate programs for soil conservation. However, those agencies often ended up competing with each other and local leadership was needed to coordinate their efforts as well as tie them into local conditions and priorities. In March of 1941, State Legislature passed an act to establish conservation districts in Wyoming. As subdivisions of the State of Wyoming, conservation districts were to direct programs that protected local, renewable natural resources.

### Our Roots

The Uinta County Conservation District was organized on June 4, 1948, as the Bridger Valley Soil and Water Conservation District, in accordance with Wyoming State Law. The original District included only the eastern portion of Uinta County, however, several landowners petitioned and were included in the District. The District now includes and services all of Uinta County and the name of the District was changed to the Uinta County Conservation District in 1993.

The Uinta County Conservation District is responsible for directing conservation programs that aim to conserve the soil, water and vegetative resources within our county. This is accomplished through Conservation programs that promote sustainable use of our natural resources. Success and advances in conservation in Uinta County is due to the stewardship of the local landowners and concerned citizens of the county. Funding for programs is received through a mill levy that was passed during general election in 1988. UCCD also receives grant funding through other local, state and federal agencies to get projects on the ground.

### LAND USE PLANNING CONTINUED

- Continue participation as a Cooperating Agency during federal land planning processes to represent the interests of the local landowners and land users..
- Maintain a working relationship with Uinta County Weed and Pest to distribute information on noxious weeds in Uinta County and assist with weed management efforts
- Work with the County Commissioners and County Planner to review statutes for subdivision reviews and provide valuable information regarding the soil, water and other natural resource concerns for each proposed subdivision
- Offer basic soil testing and other soil information including maps and lab information
- Organize a healthy soil workshop and present range monitoring values and concepts at the workshop
- Assist both large and small landowners with their resource questions and provide science based solutions for the sustainability of the natural resource
- Assist and educate large and small landowners in developing grazing plans and the benefits of proper grazing management
- Educate landowners on the cost share programs that the district offers as well as the many other programs and resources available through other agencies
- Maintain and develop working relationships with federal, state, and county government agencies responsible for natural resource management
- Keep landowners informed on natural resource developments that affect the producers of Uinta County
- Work with landowners to develop conservation plans that addresses their resource concerns and improvement opportunities
- Work with private landowners to complete range monitoring and conservation planning on private land
- Assist private landowners with resource concerns using data from trail cameras where appropriate
- Provide rubber tire water tanks to allow producers to provide water for livestock and wildlife in remote areas







### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

**GOAL:** Provide information, technical and financial assistance for natural resource related projects that aim to improve natural resource stewardship in Uinta County.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Continue participation as a stakeholder in the Wyoming Collaborative for Healthy Soils and work to engage landowners in the effort to improve and maintain healthy soil across the state
- Work with landowners through UCCDs Natural Resource Projects cost share program to partially fund and complete projects that benefit our natural resources.
- Complete request to begin construction on 2 small water projects funded by the Wyoming Water Development Commissions small water program
- Complete construction of 3 small water projects approved through the Wyoming Water Development small water program
- Promote District cost share programs and encourage more participation
- Promote the Wyoming Water Development Commissions Small Water Program and assist landowners through the application and construction process
- Continue UCCDs Cooperative Agreement with Partners for Fish and Wildlife to provide landowners with technical and financial assistance for habitat and conservation projects.
- Provide assistance to local entities and organizations on community enhancement and urban conservation programs
- Promote and assist residents with future Community Enhancement Grants
- Continue to actively participate on the B.E.A.R. Project Board and support the activities and improvements of the Bear River Greenway
- Hold a well water Testing Day for Uinta County residents
- Develop disaster programs as needed to provide producers with technical and financial assistance in a timely manner.

### LAND USE PLANNING

**GOAL:** Improve livestock production, wildlife habitat, recreation and watershed protection while improving and maintaining productivity on rangelands and pasturelands in Uinta County.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Work with and assist BLM and USDA Forest Service with range assessments on grazing allotments
- Offer seeding alternatives that can be used in conjunction with range treatments for various soils and management objectives to increase vegetative cover
- Continue to review and provide recommendations on subdivision reviews as required by the state

### Mission: To be a leader in natural resource

conservation by providing resources, education, technical assistance and information for the development and improvement of our natural resources, to promote and protect agriculture, protect the tax base and promote the health, welfare and safety of Uinta County residents.

## Get to know us

The Uinta County Conservation District is governed by a five member Board of Supervisors. Three supervisors are rural, one is urban and one is designated as atlarge. They are elected by the residents of Uinta County during the general election. Supervisors may come from many different occupations, but must reside within the boundaries of Uinta County and must be residents of Wyoming. Supervisors are unpaid, elected volunteers who attend monthly board meetings and are actively involved in overseeing the activities of the conservation district. Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month and are open to the public.

Associate Supervisors are also an important part of the District. They are citizens interested in the important role of conservation districts and volunteer their time to attend meetings and provide valuable input, however, they are non-voting members.



Kelly Guild Chairman (rural)



Dennis Cornelison Vice Chairman (rural)



Spencer Eyre
Secretary/Treasurer (rural)



Kevin Condos Member (at-large)



Carol Hamilton
Associate Board Member



Ty Lester Member (Urban)

# Administration

The UCCD staff oversees the day-to-day operations of the conservation district. They administer conservation programs and provide technical assistance and other services as directed by the Board of Supervisors. Mill levy funding as well as funding from other local, state and federal agencies is administered through the UCCD office. Natural resource education is a key component of UCCDs mission. Through successful outreach efforts, the conservation district can work with land users to provide effective resource management.

- Monthly Board of Supervisors Meetings
- Annual Budget Hearing
- Completed compliance requirements for the Wyoming Department of Ag
- Local Work Group Meeting
- Coalition of Local Governments meetings
- Attended Area V meeting
- Attended the Wyoming Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting
- Completed Annual Report and Plan of Work
- Updated the Long Range Plan through the public comment process
- Water Quality Training
- IT training to understand correct use of office equipment
- Administration of 319, NACD Tech, WWNRT, WG&F, Small Water and other grants
- Participated in many webinars to increase knowledge of Natural Resources, to improve as employees and learn ways to better serve the public



Grant Redden
Natural Resource Specialist
gredden.uccd@gmail.com

Katie Lott
Education Coordinator
klott.uccd@gmail.com

Kerri Sabey District Manager ksabey.uccd@gmail.com

### WATER QUALITY CONTINUED

- Work with Partners for Fish & Wildlife and other partners to continue Bear River restoration work to replace push up dams and provide streambank stabilization.
- Complete grant tracking, reporting and other administrative tasks for all sources of funding to complete stream restoration projects
- Search out and apply for additional grant monies to assist with stream work in Uinta County.
- Complete quarterly and final reporting requirements for the NACD Technical grant
- Provide the public with educational materials, tours, workshops and activities to increase awareness of water quality
- Continue providing water quality improvement programs, such as Septic System Remediation,
   Livestock and other Pastured Animals program, Irrigation Water Management and others

### **PARTNERSHIPS**

**GOAL:** Develop and maintain partnerships with local, state and federal agencies to encourage multiple-use of our natural resources.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Build lasting relationships with local landowners and citizens of Uinta County to further education and conservation work that will benefit local resources
- Work with the USDA Forest Service and Wyoming State Forestry on projects that will improve forest health
- Host a Community Leader event to foster partnerships with our community leaders and keep them informed of current activities and resource concerns
- Stay abreast of federal land planning projects, rule changes and proposed decisions that affect our local constituents
- Coordinate with NRCS, BLM, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Wyoming Department of Ag, Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, and Wyoming Game and Fish to work with landowners and complete sound conservation practices and range monitoring
- Continue participation as cooperating agency in state and federal land planning processes and proposed decisions
- Continue to assist the Coalition of Local Governments with administration of FNRPA funds received through the state
- Work with other organizations and businesses to provide valuable education through workshops and meetings that will benefit UC residents

### TREE PROGRAM

**GOAL:** Offer low-cost seedling trees and shrubs, supplies and technical assistance and information to Uinta County Citizens to encourage the establishment of conservation tree plantings such as windbreaks, living snow fences, shelterbelts, erosion control, wildlife habitat, and more.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Hold an annual seedling tree and shrub sale from October through April, providing seedling trees and shrubs and planting materials to Uinta County residents
- Work to provide an online tool for tree information specific to Uinta County that will help residents decide on what species to plant where and how to care for and maintain tree plantings
- Review and update the Windbreak Cost Share Program criteria to allow more opportunities for landowners to participate in the program
- Work with Evanston Parks and Rec to plan and coordinate Arbor Day
- Provide tree supplies such as tree protectors, weedbarrier and polymer to assist with tree plantings.
- Provide technical assistance for tree plantings that includes assistance with design, species selection, planting and maintenance
- Host a tree workshop to educate residents about hazardous tree removal, pruning, proper tree
  planting and maintenance
- Participate in Arbor Day and provide a seedling tree for participating students in Uinta County
- Provide outreach materials and offer hands-on assistance with local schools and youth organizations about the importance of trees
- Maintain a professional working relationship with Wyoming State Forestry Division and the U.S.
   Forest Service

### WATER QUALITY

**GOAL:** Work to maintain and improve the quality of water in Uinta County through education, technical assistance and promotion of Best Management Practices.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

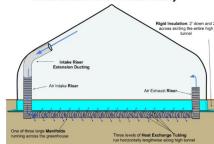
- Review and follow the Sampling and Analysis Plans for the Blacks Fork/Smiths Fork and the Bear River
- Maintain working relationships with landowners who provide access for water quality monitoring
- Organize water quality data that was collected in 2022 into useable spreadsheets and charts
- Continue to collect water quality data on Uinta County rivers to measure water quality trends over time
- Work with landowners on future stream restoration projects and practices that improve water quality
- Work to secure funding that can be used to offset the costs of implementing Best Management Practices

# Community Enhancement Grants

The purpose of the **Community Enhancement Grant Program** is to encourage natural resource projects that benefit the public. The program provides funding for smaller conservation projects that enhance the community. Grants are available to groups and other organizations for amounts up to \$5,000. This year UCCD awarded 3 grants for the following projects.

- \$5,000-Evanston FFA- "Earth Battery Greenhouse"- Project is located on Red Devil Ranch where students will build a greenhouse that will use heat stored by pumping hot air into the ground during the day, then circulating that heat through the greenhouse at night. The students will do all of the planning, design, preparation and construction under the supervision of the FFA Advisor.
- \$5,000- "Preserving Uinta County's Vision", recipient: Uinta Eye and Vision. Improve the space next to the office building with trees, shrubs, groundcover to create a peaceful, natural area for people to enjoy and wander through. The project will improve aesthetics, reduce soil erosion on the steep slope and pre-

vent more weed growth.



**Cross Section of a Climate Battery** 



# Outdoor Education Grants

The **Outdoor Education Grant Program** is designed to get kids outside where they can participate in hands-on learning that focuses on natural resources and agriculture. The grant can be applied for any time throughout the year for any amount up to \$1,000. Schools and youth organizations throughout Uinta County are eligible to apply. The grants can be used for things such as camp expenses or fees, lodging, meals, student transportation and educational materials.

# Community Outreach

- Produced 4, "Uinta County Connection" newsletters which were distributed to over 600 households and placed at area businesses
- Updated and improved existing website with more detailed information and interactive forms and videos
- Organized a garden tour of Good to Grow Farms in Evanston
- Hosted a tour of Bear River Projects with the Bear River Water Quality Task Force, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust and interested public
- Provided a educational booth at the Wyoming-Utah Ag Days held in Evanston
- Sponsor of Weekly Market Report, Centsible Nutrition and 4H radio program on KNYN 99.1 and KADQ 98.3
- Attended monthly B.E.A.R. Board meetings
- Offered Barnyards and Backyards, Plants with Altitude, Rangeland plants, Redbooks and other publications to the public
- Partnered with Benedicts, a local grocery store, to provide re-useable grocery totes at minimal cost to customers
- Member of Greater Bridger Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Member of Evanston Chamber of Commerce
- Held annual Community Leaders Dinner
- Partnered with Uinta County Weed & Pest and Bear River Co-op to host "Keeping Your Fields in Production" workshop with attendees
- Held annual Well Water Testing Day in June with 26 participants
- Participate as a member of the Sustainable Ecosystems Working Group

• Participate as a committee member of the Wyoming Collaborative for Healthy Soils (WCHS)



# WYOMING COLLABORATIVE FOR HEALTHY SOILS

PO Box 370 204 East Sage Street Lyman, WY 82937 Phone: 787-3070

www.uintacountycd.com

Find us on Facebook @UintaCountyCD

### **PUBLIC AWARENESS** CONTINUED

- Post flyers of events at local businesses and announce programs and events in local newspapers, Facebook, UCCDs website and through email blasts
- Promote the district website through radio advertising during local sports activities.
- Keep local educators up to date with activities and events via in-school flyers, emails, and mailings
- Work with local grocery stores to provide shoppers with low cost, reusable grocery totes that include UCCDs contact information and website printed on them
- Work with local radio stations to sponsor the Northern Ag Network by advertising UCCD programs and upcoming events

### **OUTREACH / ACTIVITIES**

**GOAL:** To educate the public, of all ages, to create a strong knowledge and understanding of natural resource stewardship and the importance of agriculture.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Work with LIS 5th Grade teachers to plan, organize and participate in an Outdoor Field Trip for students in early October at Bridger Lake
- Continue the Adopt A Rancher program in Bridger Valley and Evanston Schools
- Plan bi-annual Ag Expo for all Uinta County 3rd and 4th grade students
- Promote the Outdoor Education Grant to schools and other organizations in Uinta County
- Actively promote world, national and regional activities such as National Soil and Water Stewardship week, World Water Monitoring Day, Wyoming Agricultural in the Classroom, Earth Day, and Arbor Day
- Create outdoor activities for youth that relate to natural resources, agriculture and create an awareness of conservation.
- Plan informational tours, public workshops and display boards that address current resource concerns
- Continue to offer and promote the Community Enhancement Grant program
- Maintain an informational and interactive website specific to the District's goals, programs, workshops, and other activities
- Promote Wyoming Ag in the Classroom to area schools, home school students, and scout groups
- Work with Wyoming State Forestry to host tree care workshops throughout the year
- Organize and host a Healthy Soil Workshop
- Host an informational meeting about the Colorado River Compact
- Develop a composting program and offer composters at a reasonable price to homeowners
- Host an outdoor teacher workshop to provide local and statewide teachers with UW and PTSB credits with courses geared toward Natural Resources and Agriculture
- Host an Aging Irrigation Infrastructure meeting with the Wyoming Water Development Office

### **ADMINISTRATION**

**GOAL:** To be accountable for all public funds and ensure all District programs are carried out in a responsible manner.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Hold monthly Board of Supervisor meetings and encourage the public to attend
- Develop and maintain an accurate and legal District budget
- Provide the Board of Supervisors with accurate financial information so they can make appropriate decisions
- Follow Procurement Rule procedures, all pubic comment and adoption procedures
- Comply with Chapter 1, Wyoming Conservation Districts Financial Policies in order to receive state funding
- Complete all required state and federal reports in a timely manner
- Provide opportunities for professional development of staff and board members
- Attend meetings and trainings to increase knowledge of natural resources and to stay informed
  of local, state and national conservation issues
- Complete and distribute an Annual Report and Plan of Work
- Attend Area V meeting and WACD convention
- Participate in CPA audit and provide the necessary documentation for the accountants
- Participate in cyber security for public entities and other IT trainings to make sure district information is safe and secure

### **PUBLIC AWARENESS**

GOAL: To promote community awareness of conservation district activities and programs.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Participate in tours of the Bear River to showcase projects that have been done to improve fish
  passage, water quality and streambank stabilization.
- Participate in the Annual Wyoming Weed and Pest Conference
- Organize annual dinner for elected officials and community leaders to educate them about UCCD programs and opportunities.
- Produce a quality newsletter to be distributed quarterly to Uinta County residents
- Distribute newsletter to local dentist offices, health care offices, banks and other businesses to be available for viewing in waiting rooms.
- Maintain participation at community events and public functions
- Find new ways to promote the district website via advertising, Instagram and Facebook

# Projects & Partners

- Assisted with two canal repairs, a pastureland grass seeding project, and two grazing projects using electric fence through UCCD's cost share programs \$30543.04 UCCD, \$31910.04 landowners
- Administered 3 Bear River Stream Restoration Projects that each included 4-5 different funding sources including Wyoming DEQ 319 funds, US Fish and Wildlife Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust, Wyoming Game and Fish, Western Native Trout, and Trout Unlimited
- Maintained cooperative agreement with Partners for Fish and Wildlife to complete projects on the Bear River that benefit habitat, stream restoration, fish passage and other important resources
- Closed out four grants from the Wyoming Wildlife & Natural Resource Trust after completing the construction of the Bear River Stream Restoration work
- Applied for and received funding for one small water project funded through the Wyoming Water Development Commission
- Applied for and received an NACD Technical Assistance Grant in the amount of \$62,600 to help with the cost of engineering for the Bear River Restoration Projects and the small water project
- Completed draft final reports for Phases 1, 2 and 3 of the Bear River Restoration Projects for the WDEQ 319 grant funding Received funding from WG&F for the Bear River Restoration Projects-\$80,000
- Completed the administration and reporting requirements for an NACD Technical Assistance Grant to help with the cost of engineering for projects on the Bear River, Henry's Fork and small water projects
- Administering Federal Natural Resource Policy Account funds for the Coalition of Local Governments that were awarded to allow involvement in federal land use planning processes that affect natural resources locally and statewide.







# Water Program

- All employees assist with water monitoring throughout the year and must maintain their certification
- Katie successfully completed a one-day water quality certification training in Saratoga, WY in July 2021
- Completed E.coli sampling on 7 Blacks Fork Sites, 5 Smiths Fork sites and 1 site on Threemile Creek; 13 total sites, 3 times from May-September
- Collected e.coli, field parameters and discharge at the lowest site on the Blacks Fork every other week from May-September
- Collected lab chemistry samples on all 13 sites once in September 2021 and May 2022
- Completed chemistry sampling on 6 sites on the Bear River, one on Sulphur Creek and one on Yellow Creek in September 2021 and June 2022.
- Entered all data collected into spreadsheets for use in reports as needed
- Attended bid-walks, tours and construction meetings on the Bear River Restoration projects
- Assisted with survey work on future Bear River Restoration Projects
- Met with landowners about future projects
- Attended a 3-day Watershed Conference in Riverton to learn more about how we can improve our watersheds

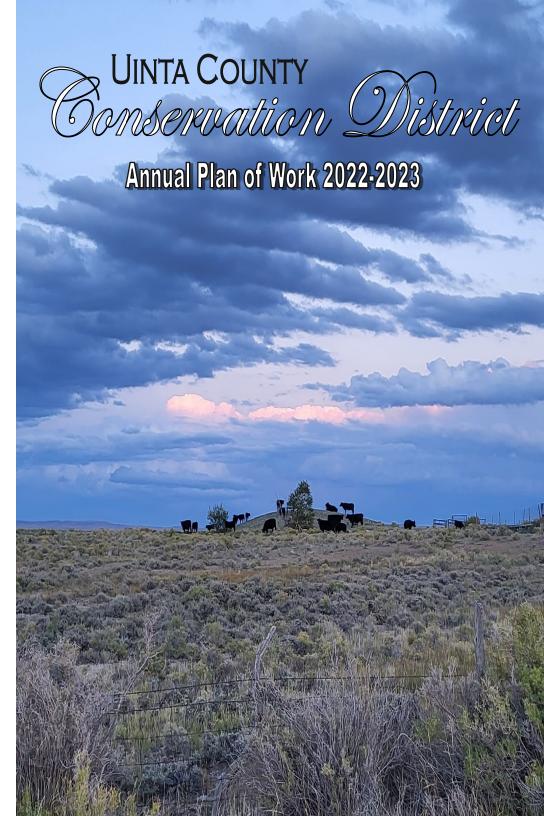
Provided the following cost share programs to address water quality:

- Septic System Remediation Program
- Livestock & Other Pastured Animals Program
- Irrigation Management
- Water Development









### **FISCAL YEAR 2021–2022**

FISCAL YEAR 2021-	2022	
Beginning Balance (cash on hand July 1, 2020)	\$	76,354
Savings and Investments Account	\$	365,968
General Fund CD Balance	\$	0
Total Income		
Mill Levy	\$	221,027
State & Federal Grants	\$	869,930
Operating Revenue / Interest	\$	18,838
Total Income	\$	1,109,795
Expenses		
Administration	\$	85,029
Operations	\$	1,095,031
Indirect Costs	\$	59,017
Capital Outlay	\$	4,667
Total Expenses	\$	1,243,744
FISCAL YEAR 2022-	-2023	
Beginning Balance (cash on hand July 1, 2022)	\$	59,558
Savings and Investments Account	\$	266,773
General Fund CD Balance	\$	0
Total Anticipated Income		
Mill Levy	\$	225,000
State & Federal Grants	\$	493,441
Operating Revenue / Interest	\$	20,150
Total Anticipated Income	\$	738,591
Anticipated Expenses		
Administration	\$	132,319
Operations	\$	766,321
Indirect Costs	\$	62,811
Capital Outlay	\$	12,000
Total Anticipated Expenses	\$	973,451

# Range Program

- Provided garden and lawn soil testing
- Provided 7 subdivision reviews
- Sampled and obtained test results on pasture soils for producers.
- Sampled moisture, salinity, and pH to assess lawn conditions.
- Worked with BLM, Forest Service and permittees on federal land range monitoring
- Produced GIS monitoring maps for field work
- Provided rubber tire tanks for producers to aid in grazing distribution of both livestock and wildlife
- Provided technical assistance with soil information and maps, soil testing, plant identification, grazing management, and range monitoring
- Monitored wildlife and livestock impact on upland vegetation and water quality through use of a trail camera survey





# Education Program

- Soil & Water Stewardship Week Annual Poster Contest was held for all of Uinta County school-aged students.
- *Owl Pellets, Weather*, and *Insect* hands-on lessons and activities were taught to 76 pre-school students at the Blue School in Mountain View.
- *Trees & Birds* hands-on lesson/activity was presented to 13 pre-school students/parents at the Mountain View library story time.
- Our Lakes & Rivers hands-on lesson/activity was presented to 73 pre-school through elementary age students/parents for Lyman Library summer reading program.
- Hibernation, Hairy Caterpillars, Outdoor Fire Safety, EnviroScape Model of Pollution, and Bees hands-on lessons and activities were taught to 48 Urie Elementary kindergarten students.
- Spooky Spiders & Wacky Webs, Weather, Plants We Eat, and Plant to Product hands-on lessons and activities were taught to 51 Urie Elementary first grade students.
- *Wyoming Habitat* hands-on lesson/activity was presented to 18 Uinta Meadows Elementary first grade students.
- *Owl Pellets* and *EnviroScape Model of Pollution* hands-on lessons and activities were taught to 54 Urie Elementary second grade students.
- Continued *Adopt-A-Rancher Program* for 3rd grade students at Urie Elementary, Mountain View Elementary, Clark Elementary and North Evanston Elementary. Meet the Rancher Day Field Trips were organized at the ranches for the 200 third graders 25 teachers/adult chaperones.
- *Food Web, Weather, Wyoming Habitats*, and *Arbor Day* hands-on lessons and activities were taught to 64 Urie Elementary fourth grade students.
- Annual Bridger Lake Field Trip was hosted in partnership with the US Forest Service and LIS Teachers for 55 Lyman Intermediate school fifth grade students.
- Soil Test Kits were utilized by 16 Lyman High school Ag students.
- *Bees, Spiders, Weather, Caterpillars, Fire Safety,* and *Beef Bingo* teaching boxes were utilized by homeschool groups. The educational information in each box reached 15 students (ages 2 -17 years) and 4 adults.
- Christmas Tree species,
  Animal Tracks, and Tree Rings
  educational displays were each
  placed in Mountain View and
  Lyman Libraries for a month
  reaching many students and
  adults.
- Local/Native Edible Plants
   educational flyers were
   prepared for and distributed at a
   church group activity for adult
   women.



# Seedling Tree Program

- Took orders for seedling trees from October through May
- Sold close to 1000 seedling trees and shrubs
- Provided design and other technical assistance for 3 windbreaks and other conservation plantings
- Provided weed barrier, polymer and tree protectors to aid in plantings
- Provided diatomaceous earth as a natural bug repellent
- Worked with local residents to address tree concerns including wind and snow damage, aphids, wet wood and identifying and treating other tree diseases
- Put articles in local newspapers to encourage participation in seedling tree program
- Provided information on how to plant and care for seedling trees
- Provided seedlings for Evanstons Arbor Day Celebration to 40 students at Clark Elementary





