

QUINTA COUNTY *Connection*

Community Enhancement Grants

The Community Enhancement Grant program was created by the UCCD board to encourage projects throughout our county that promote our natural resources and provide beautification of public spaces. UCCD is now accepting applications for new projects! The grants can be awarded for up to \$5,000 per project with a 20% match required of the applicant. The match can be cash or in-kind.

There are so many possibilities for projects, but here are a few ideas to get the creative juices flowing: Interpretive signs in outdoor areas or along trails, creating gardens with native plants in public areas to help with water conservation and storm runoff, windbreaks or other tree plantings that improve the use of outdoor areas and/or wildlife habitat, public pollinator gardens to increase the presence of native pollinator species in our communities, tree and water-wise landscape plantings in public parks, libraries, church and cemetery plantings, scout projects and outdoor classrooms.

Do you have another idea? We'd love to hear it!

The grants are available to businesses, landowners, groups, schools, clubs, scouts and other civic organizations or entities that have an interest in conservation and improving our public spaces. Applications can be found on our website at www.uintacountycd.com and are due by April 8, 2024.

Below are some pictures of projects that were awarded grant funding in previous years.



Order Seedling Trees and Shrubs!

The Conservation Districts seedling tree and shrub sales are well underway. Order early for largest selection of species. We can help you with species selection and your planting plan. We are happy to come out on site to see what you've got, or you are welcome to stop in the office anytime! For the most current order form, visit our website at www.uintacountycd.com.

Order
Deadline:
April 18,
2024



Cover Crops for Long Term Sustainability

Submitted by Jeff Lewis, NRCS District Conservationist

COVER CROPS ARE AN INDISPENSABLE TOOL. They are planted to slow erosion, improve soil health, enhance water availability, smother weeds, help control pests and diseases, increase biodiversity, and bring a host of other benefits to your farm. Cover crops have also been shown to increase crop yields, break through a plow pan, add organic matter to the soil, prevent leaching of nutrients and attract pollinators. There is a growing body of evidence that shows cover crops improve resilience in the face of erratic and increasingly intensive rainfall, as well as under drought conditions. Cover crops help when it doesn't rain, they help when it rains, and they help when it pours!

COVER CROPS INCREASE YIELDS. Many research studies around the world demonstrate that cover crops can increase yield. The yield benefit is often apparent after just one year of using cover crops, and farmers will start to see other benefits, such as improved soil health, after several years of using them in crop rotation. This increase is especially true for years a drought occurs.

A PROFITABLE LONG-TERM INVESTMENT. Determining when cover crops pay for themselves is not as simple as comparing the added first-year costs with the return on the following crop. Cover crops should be viewed as a long-term investment that gradually improve farm management in multiple areas.

SELECTION AND MANAGEMENT. To select cover crops for your operation, first identify your primary objectives for adding them to your system. Do you want to add nitrogen (N) to your soil, increase soil organic matter, reduce erosion, provide weed control, manage nutrients, or conserve soil moisture? While all cover crops provide many benefits, some species, or "cocktails" (cover crop mixes) are better than others, depending on your specific objectives.

CROP ROTATIONS. One of the biggest challenges of cover cropping is to fit them into your current rotations, or to develop new rotations that take full advantage of their benefits.

SOIL AND FERTILITY MANAGEMENT. Cover crops maintain and improve soil fertility in a number of ways. Protection against soil loss from wind and water erosion is perhaps the most obvious soil benefit, but providing organic matter is a more long-term and equally important goal. Cover crops contribute indirectly to overall soil fertility and health by catching nutrients before they can leach out of the soil profile or, in the case of legumes, by adding N to the soil. Their roots can even help unlock some nutrients in the soil, converting them to more available forms. The amount and availability of nutrients from cover crops will vary widely depending on such factors as species, planting date, plant biomass and maturity at termination date, residual soil fertility, and temperature and rainfall conditions.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND WATER. Evidence is mounting that cover crops help stabilize yields and improve moisture availability in the face of increasingly erratic weather. Is it too wet in spring? Cover crops take up water (via evapotranspiration) and usually allow you onto the field earlier than if you did not have a cover crop growing. Alternatively, if facing drought or practicing dryland farming, cover crops still help boost yields while being very efficient with water use. If you use no-till, the cover crop mulch increases water infiltration and conserves moisture into the summer. Added carbon and root channels, in addition to increased soil pore space, help improve soil water holding capacity—in any tillage system.

CONCLUSION. Regardless of your objectives for growing cover crops, there are many viable and tested options available for you to try. Consult the many resources available, talk to other producers and start with small plots as you fine-tune your system.

Hey Fourth Graders, Teachers, & Parents!

Did you know that every fourth grader has the opportunity to visit any federally owned land or water recreation site, for free?

"The Every Kid Outdoor program mobilizes our next generation of stewards by introducing fourth graders to public lands in their backyards and beyond at an early age."

Passes are issued and valid between September 1 and August 31 of a student's fourth grade year.



Learn more at:
<https://everykidoutdoors.gov/>

WYOMING 2024 UTAH AG DAYS

JANUARY 31ST, 2024 • ROUNDHOUSE • EVANSTON, WY

We will be providing lunch, please RSVP by 1/24 at 307.783.0570

| FEATURED SPEAKERS | TRADESHOW BOOTHS |
|--|---|
| 9:00-10:30 WHIT STEWART UW SHEEP SPECIALIST UW SHEEP RESEARCH UPDATE | CHANCE MARSHALL UW EXTENSION EDUCATOR WYOMING RANCH CAMP & AI SCHOOL |
| 10:30-Noon MCKENSIE PHILLIPS UW ASSISTANT LECTURER LAMB CARCASS FABRICATION | BARTON STAM UW EXTENSION EDUCATOR RANGE MONITORING |
| Noon-1:30 LUNCH & TRADESHOW | BRIAN LEE UW RESEARCH SCIENTIST 2024 BEEF CATTLE OUTLOOK |
| 1:30-3:00 BURDETTE BARKER USU IRRIGATION SPECIALIST IRRIGATION STRATEGIES | RYAN LARSEN USU AG ECON AG ECONOMICS |
| 3:00-4:00 JOHN HEWLETT UW FARM & RANCH MANAGEMENT HOW TO MANAGE FINANCIAL RISK | CIRCLE B IRRIGATION WYOMING DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE |
| | UC CONSERVATION DISTRICT |
| | UC WEED & PEST |
| | A SHEEPHERDER'S STORY MARIE MCCLAREN |
| | UW GRADUATE STUDENTS |

FACILITATED BY UW EXTENSION AND USU EXTENSION

EXTENSION UtahStateUniversity | SARE | UNIVERSITY of WYOMING Extension

The University of Wyoming and Utah State University are equal opportunity/affirmative action institutions.

ANNUAL POSTER CONTEST

The theme for the 2024 Soil and Water Stewardship poster contest is:

"May the Forest Be With You, Always"

This theme underscores the critical interplay between soil and water conservation and the resilience of our forests. Forests play multifaceted roles in sustaining our planet, serving as sources of oxygen, carbon storage, and vibrant hubs of biodiversity. They function as steadfast protectors of soil and water resources, preventing erosion, purifying contaminants, and nurturing healthy watersheds.



Poster Contest Deadline:
May 1, 2024

Visit our website for more details:

www.uintacountycd.com

UINTA COUNTY Conservation District

P.O. Box 370, 204 East Sage Street
Lyman, WY 82937
(307) 288-0214

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

CHANGE OF SERVICE REQUESTED



2024
Redbooks
are in!



THE B.E.A.R. PROJECT PRESENTS
THE 3RD ANNUAL

WINTER FEST

FREE!

FEB 10TH 2024



BEAR RIVER PONDS AND PAVILION - EVANSTON, WYOMING
11:00AM - 5:00PM

-BEER PULL CROSS COUNTRY SKI RACES-
12PM - 4PM

-COWBOY CURLING-
SIGNUP DEADLINE/START 1PM

-YOUTH ACTIVITIES-
11AM-5PM

-SILENT AUCTION-
11AM-5PM

-FREE ICE SKATE AND XC SKI RENTALS-
ALL DAY AT THE REC CENTER (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)

FOOD, HOT COCOA, AND
COLD BEER FOR PURCHASE

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO GROWTH AND MAINTENANCE OF THE
BEAR RIVER GREENWAY
MUST BE 21+ AND SHOW ID TO PURCHASE ALCOHOL

Uinta County Conservation District Board of Supervisors

- Kelly Guild, Chairman
- Dennis Cornelison, Vice Chairman
- Spencer Eyre, Secretary/Treasurer
- Kevin Condos, Member
- Ty Lester, Member
- Carol Hamilton, Associate Supervisor

District Staff

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- Katie Lott, Education Coordinator
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307-288-0214

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Staff

- Jeff Lewis, District Conservationist
- Kevin Fackrell, Soil Conservation Technician

NRCS phone: (307) 787-3211
Office located in the Lyman Town Hall