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UTAH PRAIRIE DOG FIELD DAY A SUCCESS

The Panoramaland RC&D Council coordinated a successful field day on September 6 that brought together more than 50 farmers, ranchers, community leaders, news media and representatives from federal, state and non-profit organizations working to rehabilitate the Utah Prairie Dog, which is currently listed as threatened on the endangered species list. Local landowners in the seven-county habitat area, including owners of Ruby's Inn, expressed interest in learning more about Safe Harbor Agreements that give them more flexibility in dealing with prairie dogs on private lands. The participants first met at Ruby's Inn near Bryce Canyon National Park where they learned about the new agreements, they then traveled to



Allen Henrie's ranch near Panquitch Lake, where they observed progress on the first Safe Harbor Agreement in Utah.

Following three years of fencing and land treatment on a large range area, the Utah Prairie Dog will be reintroduced next year to see how the improved habitat fares for the species. In return, the agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service allows Henrie to control other farm land with the assurance from no additional restrictions.

The Deseret Morning News ran a news article on Sept 7 that may be viewed online at <http://deseretnews.com/article/1,5143,695208001,00.html>. The Salt Lake Tribune covered the event in the Sunday, September 9, edition at: http://www.sltrib.com/news/ci_6842603.

There are nine organizations that are partners on this recovery project. They are NRCS, Environmental Defense, DWR, USFWS, Utah Farm Bureau, USU Extension, Utah DNR, and both the Color Country and Panoramaland RC&D Councils. The accompanying photo shows (left to right) Panoramaland RC&D Coordinator Linda Lind, visiting at the Henrie Ranch plot with Elise Boeke, wildlife biologist with the USFWS; Ted Toombs, ecologist with Environmental Defense in Boulder, Colorado; and Mark Peterson, environmental issues specialist with the Utah Farm Bureau.

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