

Francis, Ronald - Salt Lake City, UT

Subject: 9-26-08 eBlast from NRCS



September 26, 2008

TWO RC&D COUNCILS WORK TO RECOVER THE UTAH PRAIRIE DOG


The Panoramaland RC&D and the Color Country RC&D are working together with other key partners to develop the Utah Prairie Dog Habitat Exchange---a recovery credit system for the endangered species. Initial funding for the project was provided by NRCS and the group is currently in the process of obtaining money and a new contract for Clair Baldwin to



continue his work as project coordinator. The accompanying photo shows Baldwin working with a landowner. The program will work with landowners and land developers to try to protect habitat while allowing growth and development in the Southern; Utah counties where the Utah Prairie Dog exists. They are partnering with NRCS, Environmental Defense, Farm Bureau, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Division of Natural Resource Endangered Species Mitigation Fund, and county and local government officials to continue the work of three different but related efforts---the safe harbor agreement, the recovery credit system, and the recovery implementation program.

The Recovery Credit System is to provide a way by which those in need of credits to off set habitat degradation (for example, developers). This will fund habitat restoration, enhancement, and maintenance projects on private agriculture lands and it will take place in Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, Piute, Sevier, and Wayne Counties. They recently purchased laptop computers to aid in this effort.

(Editors note: this is the fifth in a week-long series honoring RC&D councils during RC&D Week)

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