



FACT SHEET

UPDHCE Program and Resource Conservation and Development Councils (RC&D)



What is an RC&D? The RC&D Councils are non-profit entities of local individuals working with local governments, councils and organizations to develop **and implement solutions to regional problems & economies**.

What is the RC&D Mission? Develop opportunities that will help sustain rural communities, local economies, natural resources and improve the well-being of their local service area.

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/rcd/pdf_files/RCDbrochure_July2010.pdf

What is the Utah Prairie Dog Habitat Credits Exchange Program (UPDHCEP)? This RC&D program has been created to **provide an avenue for development of private land in Utah prairie dog (UPD) habitat** while preserving other important UPD habitat on private lands. Actions **contribute to recovery & delisting species** from protection under the endangered species act. (This is currently a Pilot Program.)

What is the UPDHCEP Mission?

- 1) Actions contribute to recovery and **DELISTing** of the Species from ESA protection;
- 2) Provide an avenue for **DEVELOPMENT through Habitat CREDITS** to offset impact to species;
- 3) Compensate those willing to provide conservation actions, "Sell Credits to RC&D";

Who Administers the Program? The Program is administered by Color Country RC&D, headquartered in Cedar City, and partner council Panoramaland RC&D, headquartered in Richfield. The RC&D's are non-profit entities.

Who Supports/Advises the Program? Partner's & Advisory Panel include: U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR), Utah Division of Natural Resources (UDNR), ESMF-Endangered Species Mitigation Fund, Utah Farm Bureau Federation (UFBF); Utah State University Cooperative Extension (USU), Fabian and Clendenin Law Firm, UPDRIP-Utah Prairie Dog Recovery Implementation Program, , Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), National Home Builders Association, Utah Trust Lands-SITLA, Private Land Owners of Southern Utah and Iron County.

What Role does the RC&D Play? The RC&D Councils will act as brokers for these transactions, will hold the easements, will coordinate UPDHCEP management & facilitate cohesion between partners & regulatory agencies.

What Role do Partner's Play? Program Partner's act as an oversight committee, to advise, direct program objectives and administration; provide professional, industry and technical support; assist to market & disseminate the program to credit buyers and private land owners in occupied UPD habitat.

How is the Program Funded? Funding partner organizations: USDA/NRCS, EDF & UDNR/ESMF. The Program has received one year of funding and is designed to be self-funding. Advisory Panel provides "In-Kind" support.

Will the Program Receive Continued Funding? No, the Program is intended to be self sufficient funded through credit sales. Funds will be kept for program operation to acquire additional credits.

What are Credit BENEFITS to DEVELOPERS? Buy Credits Now, Develop Anytime! Remove UPD encumbrances on private land occupied with UPDs in **PERPETUITY**; Speed funding & permitting time; Reduce conflicts between developers, municipalities & the USFWS; Provide permitted "clearance" for development in PERPETUITY; Remove min/max time restrictions; NO 30/60/90 Day Rule; No "continued development" requirements; **Improve land values by removing UPD restrictions.**