

PANORAMALAND RC&D

Panoramaland RC&D
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RC&D Coordinator:
James Huggard

**Summary of FY 2009
Finances**

Assets as of October 1st 2008
\$14,508.69

Total Income for FY 2009
\$92,826.59

Total Expenses for FY 2009
\$77,933.86

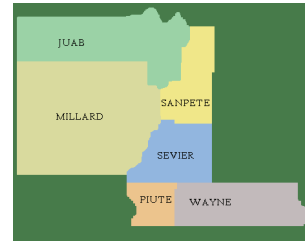
Assets as of September 30, 2009
\$29,401.42

The Panoramaland Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area was formed in February 1993. The Panoramaland RC&D Area is located in the center of the state of Utah and serves six counties, Juab, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier and Wayne.

Current Panoramaland RC&D Board

Don Falvey - Chair
Boyd Howarth - Vice Chair
Kay Monroe - Treasurer
Walter Saunders - Secretary

Marsha Chappell Lee Freeman Elissa Stevens
Randy McKnight Mike Roberts Dale Roper
Gurn Brown



PARTNERS:

Natural Resources Conservation Service, Color County RC&D, Utah State University Extension, Farm Bureau, Iron County Home Builders Association, Environmental Defense Fund, Utah State Department of Wildlife Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Six County AOG, State of Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Utah Forestry Fire and State Lands, South-Central CWMA, Millard CWMA, Sanpitch CWMA, Bicknell Town, and UACD.

◆ **Recognition at the National Association of RC&D Councils Conference**

The Panoramaland RC&D was asked to participate in a poster session at the National Association of RC&D Council's National Conference in Albuquerque New Mexico June 14th-17th. The poster covered the cooperative

work the Panoramaland RC&D has been doing with the Safe Harbor Program and the Utah Prairie Dog Habitat Credits Exchange Program.



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NOVEMBER 1, 2009

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

PANORAMALAND RC&D 2009 Highlights

The Panoramaland RC&D had a very active year in 2009. At the first of the year our new RC&D Coordinator James Huggard joined us. He worked previously at the NRCS State Office in Salt Lake City.

This year we completed and started a variety of projects related to our mission.

Our primary focus has been on the Utah Prairie Dog, a species listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened. We are currently administering the Utah Prairie Dog Habitat Credits Exchange Program. We have also

received a permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to administer Safe Harbor Agreements.

We also worked with the city of Bicknell to complete a research project related to the Utah Prairie Dog. A fence and vegetative barrier were created to prevent the prairie dogs from entering the Bicknell City Cemetery. So far the fence and vegetative barrier have proved successful.

This year our contract employee Clair Baldwin has worked hard to make the Safe Harbor Program a success and set the ground work for

the new Utah Prairie Dog Habitat Exchange Program (UPDHCEP). Clair has decided to retire for the third time and will be greatly missed around the office. We are encouraged, though, to have a new contract coordinator for the UPDHCEP and Safe Harbor Program, Erica Wightman.

We have also been working to acquire computers and funding for an American Indian Education Youth resources Center/Computer Lab. This has been in Partnership with the Six County AOG, USU Extension, and NRCS.

CURRENT ACTIVE PROJECTS:

- ◆ Utah Prairie Dog Habitat Credits Exchange Program
- ◆ Safe Harbor Program
- ◆ American Indian Education Youth Resources Center/Computer Lab
- ◆ Bio Diesel and Omega 3 Oil Press
- ◆ Cooperative Weed Management Area Projects
- ◆ Recycling Project

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Panoramaland RC&D Vision and Mission

Vision

The Panoramaland RC&D will be a creative and successful organization of community partnerships that heighten the vision, values and heritage of South Central Utah

Mission

The Mission of the Panoramaland RC&D is to enable the people of South Central Utah to plan, develop and improve their social, economic and environmental conditions



Current and Active Panoramaland RC&D Projects

◆ Utah Prairie Dog Habitat Credits Exchange Program

Current mitigation systems for endangered species are extremely limited in their ability to contribute to species recovery and to encourage and involve participation of individual agricultural producers. With the majority of endangered species habitat on private lands, it is essential to develop and implement programs that involve the active participation of private landowners in order to achieve species recovery.

The purpose of this program is to encourage and facilitate agricultural producer and developer participation in recovery of the Utah Prairie Dog (UPD) through the implementation of newly created habitat exchange program for this species.



Development of Prairie Dog Habitat in Southern Utah.

The new program will be known as the Utah Prairie Dog Habitat Credits Exchange Program (UPDHCEP). This innovative market-based recovery credits system will provide a mechanism by which those in need of credits to offset habitat degradation (for example, developers) will fund habitat restoration, enhancement and maintenance projects on private agricultural lands. The project will take place within the full range of the UPD in Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, Piute, Sevier and Wayne counties in South-Central Utah.

◆ Safe Harbor Program

“With the majority of endangered species habitat on private lands, it is essential to develop and implement programs that involve the active participation of private landowners in order to achieve species recovery”

In September of 2006, a Memorandum of Understanding was developed and signed by USU Cooperative Extension Service, Utah Department of Natural Resources, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah Farm Bureau Federation, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Defense, Panoramaland Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc., and Color County Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.. This MOU set in motion the terms and conditions of a cooperative effort to work together in promoting recovery efforts associated with the Utah Prairie Dog and indicated that one of the most important cooperative functions would be the implementation and establishment of a Safe Harbor Program. The MOU; (1) outlined roles and relationships of the respective partners, (2) provided for the development of a programmatic umbrella Safe Harbor agreement which would streamline the assistance of the Safe Harbor program in delegating authority to the Panoramaland RC&D to enter into Safe Harbor Agreements with participating private land owners, (3) set in motion the cost-shared restoration and habitat recovery efforts on the cooperators private land through the NRCS administered Farm Bill programs to protect habitat. In February of 2007, through

a cooperative agreement with NRCS (Agreement # 68-8D43-6-23,) the Panoramaland RC&D hired a program administrator to promote the program. In May of 2007, a draft “Programmatic Safe Harbor Agreement” was prepared and submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In August of 2009 the permit for the RC&D to enter into these agreements was issued by the U.S. Fish and wildlife Service.

Clair Baldwin and a Landowner



Clair Baldwin and a Landowner

◆ American Indian Education Youth Resources Center/Computer Lab

This project will assist the Native American youth in Sevier County with computer access and needs. The space for the lab

is being provided by Sevier County and USU Extension. Both Sevier County and USU Extension are partners in this effort. Currently

the RC&D is working with NRCS to provide used computers for this project. We are looking for grants to fund support for the center.

◆ Bio Diesel and Omega 3 Oil Press

In 2007 the Panoramaland RC&D secured a Resource Conservation and Development Grant with NRCS for the Central Utah Bio Diesel Project conducted by USU extension. This project introduced many producers to the idea of Bio Diesel and oil press-

ing. The oil press that was used for this project was limited in the amount of oil it could press and was time consuming. Because of the increased interest in Bio Diesel and now Omega 3 oils for human consumption there is a

need for a more efficient press. We are currently working with USU extension to find funding for a more efficient oil press.

◆ Cooperative Weed Management Area Projects

The Panoramaland RC&D continues to work with the South Central, Sanpitch, and Millard Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA). Some of the projects that we have worked on this year are the Weed Bounty Booth at the ATV Jamboree and

serving as a fiscal agent for a GIP grant for the Cove Fort/Dog Valley project.

The Millard County CWMA applied for and received a GIP grant with assistance from the Panoramaland RC&D. This grant will be used to treat

Scotch Thistle on private land and public land with grazing allotments. The area where this treatment is going to take place was burned during the Milford Flat fire in the fall of 2007. The result of this fire promoted the growth of Scotch Thistle.

◆ Recycling Project

We have been working with Wayne County on a recycling project. Elissa Stevens, RC&D Council Member, has been working with Wayne County Commissioners on our behalf. Council member Elissa Stevens, and committee members Mary Frear, and Carole Falvey have agreed to serve on a recycling committee we established.

One of the concerns with recycling here in the six county area is that the facilities accepting recycled material are either in Salt Lake City or the St. George area, transportation of the material will be an issue. Also collection and collection bins need to be addressed by the committee.

This project stands to benefit the local communities and the environment.



“THIS PROJECT WAS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF PARTNERS WORKING TOGETHER.”

Completed Projects in 2009

• Bicknell Cemetery Project

This project is a good example of partners working together. The Utah Prairie Dog had been moving onto the cemetery grounds, a situation that really needed to be addressed. Clair Baldwin and board member Marsha Chappell coordinated a solution. They worked with the city of Bicknell and the Boy Scouts to construct a wire mesh boundary fence and plant a vegetation barrier. This fence and barrier were constructed to exclude the Utah Prairie Dog from the cemetery. This was done under a research permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Their efforts are working.



Boy Scouts attaching mesh wire.

• Natural Resources Festival 2009

The RC&D assisted in hosting and sponsoring a booth at the annual three day Natural Resources Festival in Richfield, Utah. The Festival is attended by local school kids on the first two days and the general public on the third day. They range from elementary to high school levels. The booth highlighted the RC&D Program along with the Prairie Dog Programs we are working on.



Gurn Brown at the Natural Resources Festival.

• Weed Bounty Booth

A Weed Bounty Booth was set up by the South Central CWMA at the ATV Jamboree in Richfield Utah. The booth was used to inform and educate ATV riders about noxious weeds and environmental concerns associated with these weeds and how they are spread. There was also a bounty on weeds offered for riders who would locate weeds on or adjacent to Forest Service land and mark them with GPS Coordinates.



Weed Bounty Booth at the ATV Jamboree in Richfield