

## **UPD Press Conference**

### **RC&D Presents: Utah Prairie Dog Habitat Credits Exchange**

Monday, January 9, 2012

Heritage Center, Festival Hall: Room #7

105 N. 100 E. Cedar City, UT 84720

The Panoramaland Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) is pleased to announce the development of the Utah Prairie Dog Habitat Credits Exchange Program (UPDHCEP) and the establishment of a Utah prairie dog habitat credit bank which allows developers and private landowners to purchase habitat credits, permitting development or sale of lands encumbered by the Utah prairie dog, a species listed as Threatened under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act. The UPDHCEP is one facet of a multi-pronged effort working towards habitat and species conservation and future delisting of the Utah prairie dog.

#### **Presenters:**

Don Falvey, Chair of the Panoramaland RC&D Council

Reed Erickson, Iron County

Mark Peterson, Utah Farm Bureau Federation

Erica Wightman, UPDHCEP Program Manager, Panoramaland RC&D Council

A representative from the United States Fish and Wildlife, Nathan Brown, and Utah Department of Natural Resources/ Department of Wildlife Resources, Blaine Cox, will also be in attendance and available to respond to questions.

The event is expected to last approximately 1/2 hour. A light lunch will be served following the event catered by The Garden House of Cedar City.

#### **Presenters Biographical Sketch**

##### **Donald A. Falvey**

##### **Chairman**

##### **Panoramaland RC&D Council, Inc.**

**435/896-3069, panoramalandrcd@hotmail.com**

Don became a part of the RC&D in 2006 after a 33-year career in the National Park Service. He spent nine years in Utah as the Park Superintendent at Zion National Park. He brings a wealth of experience to the RC&D which includes a technical background in natural resources, project development, annual and long range planning, and project administration experience. Don holds a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology, and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Denver.

**Reed Erickson**  
**Planner / Special Services Coordinator at Iron County, Utah**  
**435/865-5374, reed@ironcounty.net**

**Mark M. Petersen**  
**Environmental Issue Specialist**  
**Utah Farm Bureau Federation**  
**801/233-3014, petersenmm@comcast.net**

Mark graduated from Utah State University in 1967 with degrees in Range Management and Watershed Science. His experience includes working as the foreman of the family farm; two years of research at Utah State University and thirty two years with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. Currently he is serving as the Environmental Issues Specialist for the Utah Farm Bureau Federation, with responsibilities in clean water, air quality, and the management of sensitive species.

**Erica Wightman**  
**Program Coordinator**  
**Utah Prairie Dog Habitat Credits Exchange**  
**435/979-1984, updhceprogram@hotmail.com**

Erica graduated from Utah Valley University with a Bachelor's degree in Business Management in 1996. Prior to coming to work for the RC&D in 2009 her experience included working as office manager of an aerospace composites manufacturer, accountant for CentraCom Interactive, and committee member and Utah County Chapter Chair for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. She has been an extremely capable coordinator working to develop the program, working with landowners, drafting documents, coordinating administration between the multiple agencies and is dedicated to implementing the program.