

# Great Salt Lake Resource Conservation and Development Council Area Plan

January 1, 2010 – December 31, 2014



With Assistance From:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

6782 South 1300 East  
Cottonwood Heights, UT 84121

And Cooperating Federal, State and local governments and other groups

Prepared under authority of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture under the  
Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, Public Law 97-98, 16 U.S.C. 3451-3461 as amended  
by Public Law 101-624, section 1452

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4/27/10*

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## **INTRODUCTION**

This five-year Area Plan is the guiding document for the Great Salt Lake Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, Inc. It identifies needs/opportunities and goals/objectives which will lead the Council in its work. The Great Salt Lake RC&D Council, Inc. is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization that addresses natural resource conservation and community development issues in Davis, Morgan, Salt Lake, Tooele, and Weber counties and on the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation.

This document is the long-range plan for the Great Salt Lake Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council Inc. It was developed by soliciting public input through a survey of nearly 1,000 citizens in the five county area served by the Great Salt Lake RC&D. In addition to the survey results, phone interviews were conducted, and local Council members were provided guidance on the development of this plan. The counties served by this Area Plan include the following: Tooele, Salt Lake, Davis, Weber, and Morgan.

Congress passed the Food and Agricultural Act of 1962, which authorized Resource Conservation and Development areas. The purpose of the act was to expand opportunities for conservation districts, local units of governments, and individuals to improve their communities in multi-county areas. This included assistance in enhancing the economic, environmental and social well being of the RC&D Areas. Currently, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service administers the Federal RC&D Program. This document serves as an agreement between NRCS and the Great Salt Lake Resource Conservation and Development Council Inc.



## **ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW**

**Vision:** *The Great Salt Lake RC&D will promote conservation, development and stewardship of natural and human resources; promote sustainable economies; and enhance the quality of life.*

**Mission:** *Promote partnerships that improve and protect communities and the environment.*

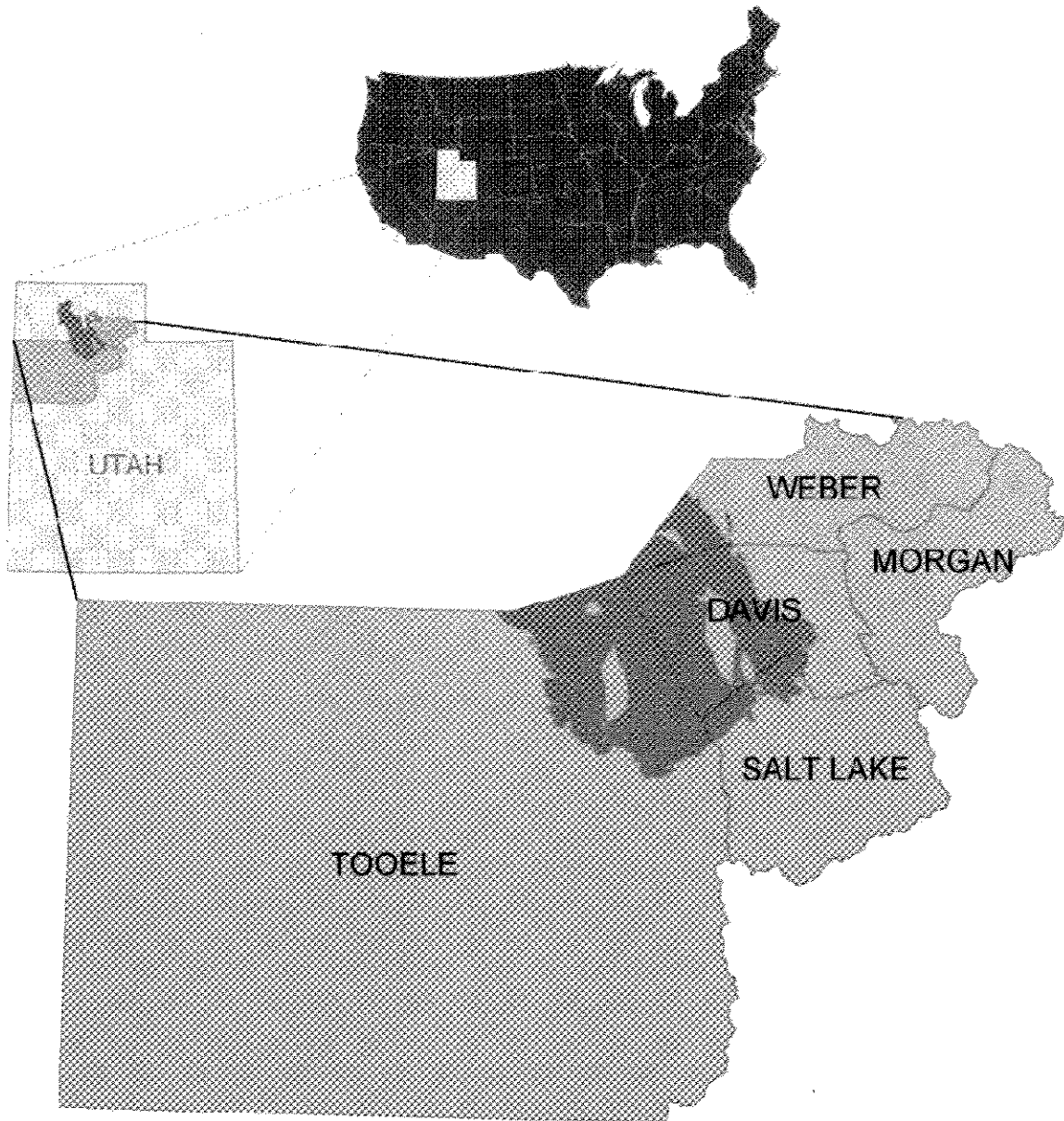
### **Background and the Council Structure**

The RC&D Council in this area was initially named the Wasatch Front RC&D Council (dba Bonneville RC&D) and was incorporated in 1994. The sponsors included: Tooele, Salt Lake, Weber, Davis, and Morgan counties; the cities of: Grantsville, Tooele, Wendover, Bluffdale, Riverton, South Jordan, West Jordan, Salt Lake, Farmington, Layton, Ogden, Fruitdale, Sandy, and Morgan; as well as Goshute Tribe, Salt Lake Community Council, and the Soil Conservation Districts of: Shambip, Grantsville, Salt Lake, Weber, Davis, and Morgan. This organization enjoyed several years of growth and success. However, due to financial challenges in 2001, the Bonneville RC&D ceased operations. Subsequently, an application to rename the area to the Great Salt Lake RC&D was submitted to the Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture and approved on February 24, 2004. The Great Salt Lake RC&D was incorporated on July 11, 2003. On February 2,

2004 the IRS issued a letter of determination recognizing the Great Salt Lake RC&D as a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization.

**Overview of the Area**

The Great Salt Lake RC&D Area is located in northern Utah and is home to a majority of Utah's population and commerce. The area includes Tooele, Salt Lake, Davis, Weber and Morgan counties, as well as the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation. The Wasatch Front runs through many of these counties. The area is approximately 9,154 square miles. The largest cities include: Tooele, Salt Lake City, Layton, Ogden, and Morgan for their respective counties.



## Demographics

Davis, Morgan, Salt Lake, Tooele, and Weber counties represent the vast majority of Utah's population, employment and income. In 2002, these five counties contributed 1,434,830 or sixty-one percent of Utah's population of 2,338,761 inhabitants.

**Table 1. Last five year population estimates for the Great Salt Lake RC&D Area (2004-2008)**

Year	Davis	Salt Lake	Weber	Tooele	Morgan	TOTAL
2008	301,915	1,030,519	224,536	58,214	9,645	1,624,829
2007	296,029	1,018,904	220,781	56,536	9,265	1,601,515
2006	286,547	996,374	215,870	54,375	8,888	1,562,054
2005	278,278	978,285	213,684	52,133	8,516	1,530,896
2004	268,916	955,166	209,547	50,075	8,249	1,491,953

<http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/countyhistdata.do>

**Table 2. Population by race for the Great Salt Lake RC&D Area for 2008**

U.S. Bureau of Census,

	Davis	Salt Lake	Weber	Tooele	Morgan	TOTAL
White persons, percent, 2008 (a)	94.10%	90.80%	94.30%	93.80%	98.30%	94.26%
Black persons, percent, 2008 (a)	1.40%	1.80%	1.70%	1.70%	0.10%	1.34%
American Indian and Alaska Native persons, percent, 2008 (a)	0.60%	1.10%	1.00%	1.60%	0.20%	0.90%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, percent, 2008 (a)	1.70%	3.10%	1.40%	0.90%	0.30%	1.48%
Persons reporting two or more races, percent, 2008	0.40%	1.40%	0.20%	0.40%	0.00%	0.48%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin, percent, 2008 (b)	1.70%	1.90%	1.50%	1.60%	1.20%	1.58%
White persons not Hispanic, percent, 2008	7.60%	16.30%	15.90%	10.10%	2.20%	10.42%
	87.10%	75.60%	79.30%	84.50%	96.30%	84.56%

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/49/49011.html>

**Table 3. Population by race for the Great Salt Lake RC&D Area for 2008**

U.S. Bureau of Census, <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/49/49011.html>

	Davis	Salt Lake	Weber	Tooele	Morgan	TOTAL
Persons under 18 years old, percent, 2008	32.50%	29.50%	29.80%	33.60%	28.90%	30.86%
Persons 65 years old and over, percent, 2008	7.90%	8.70%	10.20%	7.20%	8.70%	8.54%
Female persons, percent, 2008	49.50%	49.10%	49.30%	50.30%	49.40%	49.52%
Foreign born persons, percent, 2000	3.60%	10.40%	6.40%	3.70%	2.70%	5.36%
Language other than English spoken at home, pct age 5+, 2000	7.60%	16.20%	12.60%	8.50%	5.10%	10.00%
High school graduates, percent of persons age 25+, 2000	92.20%	86.80%	85.00%	85.60%	92.60%	88.44%
Bachelor's degree or higher, pct of persons age 25+, 2000	28.80%	27.40%	19.90%	15.90%	23.30%	23.06%
Persons with a disability, age 5+, 2000	26,939	131,045	29,551	5,340	777	193,652
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16+, 2000	22	22.5	21.6	32.1	26.3	24.98
Housing units, 2007	92,388	352,152	81,746	18,251	2,816	547,353
Homeownership rate, 2000	77.50%	69.00%	74.90%	78.40%	88.30%	77.62%
Households, 2000	71,201	295,141	65,698	12,677	2,046	89,353
Persons per household, 2000	3.31	3.00	2.95	3.11	3.48	3.17
Median household income, 2007	\$65,767	\$56,378.00	\$52,275.00	\$63,632.00	\$68,174.00	\$61,245.20
Per capita money income, 1999	\$19,506	\$20,190.00	\$18,246.00	\$16,321.00	\$17,684.00	\$18,389.40

Persons below poverty, percent, 2007	6.30%	0.09	0.105	0.069	0.042	0.073
Private nonfarm establishments with paid employees, 2006	6,063	29,319	5,040	686	228	41,336
Private nonfarm employment, 2006	75,056	503,611	71,122	10,254	1,331	661,374
Non-employer establishments, 2006	19,013	69,930	11,772	2,658	724	104,097
Total number of firms, 2002	19,576	80,650	13,826	2,458	718	117,228
Hispanic-owned firms, percent, 2002	1.80%	3.50%	2.30%	F	F	2.53%
Women-owned firms, percent, 2002	27.80%	24.20%	26.70%	28.60%	S	26.83%
Building permits, 2008	963	3,597	962	239	55	1,163
Federal spending, 2007 (\$1000)	\$3,828,281	\$5,512,667	\$1,456,569	\$512,544	\$35,612	\$11,345,673
Land area, 2000 (square miles)	304	737	576	6,930	609	1,831
Persons per square mile, 2000	786	1219	341.2	5.9	11.7	472.8

### Natural Resources

The five counties vary greatly from the arid West Desert to the mountain tops along the Wasatch Range. Precipitation varies from 4.7 inches in the western part of Tooele County to 55 inches in Alta. The elevation ranges from approximately 4,200 to over 11,000 feet above sea level. The majority of the population lives along the Wasatch Front which is located along the north to south running mountain range. Two major rivers traverse the area: the Jordan River that flows south to north connecting Utah Lake and the Great Salt Lake and the Weber River that drains into the Great Salt Lake from the east. The Great Salt Lake itself is a terminal lake that provides economically viable salts and minerals. The Great Salt Lake (GSL) provides a vast majority of wetland habitat in Utah with about 475,000 acres of wetland. The Lake plays an important role for wildlife habitat, especially for birds and plays an important part in the Pacific Flyway. The GSL supports millions of birds and has several Waterfowl Management Areas, as well as duck hunting clubs. The GSL is a significant part of the northern Utah landscape covering approximately 2,122 square miles with over 2 million acre feet of water flowing in from the Bear, Weber and Jordan Rivers annually. Water storage reservoirs are used for human, agricultural, and industrial purposes. The area has seven ski resorts that attract enthusiasts from around the globe. The Wasatch-Cache-Uintah National Forest also provides copious recreation opportunities for hikers, bikers, equestrians, as well as other motorized and non-motorized activities. The western portion of the area also provides recreation opportunities on BLM administered public land.

Although little oil is produced in the GSL RC&D Area, all five Utah refineries are located in the Salt Lake City area and are small compared to those located in California and Texas but typical of the Intermountain West. Approximately, 158,000 barrels/day are produced.

**Table 4. Percentage of land ownership for the Great Salt Lake RC&D area.**

Utah State University Extension County Agriculture Profiles.

Land Owned/Covered	Davis	Morgan	Salt Lake	Tooele	Weber
Federal	11	4	20	78	15

State	12	3	2	6	10
Private	25	92	73	11	63
Water Covered	52	1	5	4	12
Native American	0	0	0	1	0

### Agriculture

The magnitude and rate of development in this area has been a chronic threat to the long term viability of the agriculture sector. Small farms have had success selling produce at farmers markets, roadside stands and most recently offering Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs. Although these small scale operations may not be viable in the wholesale market, they have proven to be sustainable in these retail markets.

The majority of the agriculture production is in Alfalfa hay and other hay. Other grains also play role in the agriculture sector in the Great Salt Lake RC&D area as described in the table below. The number of frost free days range from 72 in Iapah to 189 in Wendover, both in Tooele County.

**Table 5. Major crops and livestock production in Great Salt Lake RC&D area for 2004.**

<b>Harvested Acres</b>	<b>Davis</b>	<b>Morgan</b>	<b>Salt Lake</b>	<b>Tooele</b>	<b>Weber</b>
Alfalfa Hay	7,000	8,500	3,500	11,000	18,000
Other Hay	1,500	2,500	1,000	3,500	3,000
Barley	800	1,500	500	900	1,200
Oats		200			200
Corn Silage	900				3,600
Corn Grain	1,000				1,100
Wheat	3,800				1,600
<b>Livestock (head)</b>					
All Cattle & Calves	9,000	8,000	10,000	28,000	24,000
Beef Cows	5,000	3,000	4,500	16,500	7,500
Dairy Cows	500	900			4,500
Sheep & Lambs	800	9,000	1,400	5,300	

Utah State University Extension Service. County Agriculture Profiles.

[http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/AG\\_Econ\\_county-2005-09.pdf](http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/AG_Econ_county-2005-09.pdf)

[http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/AG\\_Econ\\_county-2005-21.pdf](http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/AG_Econ_county-2005-21.pdf)

[http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/AG\\_Econ\\_county-2005-32.pdf](http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/AG_Econ_county-2005-32.pdf)

[http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/AG\\_Econ\\_county-2005-18.pdf](http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/AG_Econ_county-2005-18.pdf)

[http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/AG\\_Econ\\_county-2005-26.pdf](http://extension.usu.edu/files/publications/publication/AG_Econ_county-2005-26.pdf)

### Socio-Economic Information

In 2002, the area had 765,167 people in the civilian labor force or 65% of the State's total. These five counties have unemployment rates that are generally higher than the State's average of 6.1% for 2002. Total nonagricultural payroll wages for the five counties totaled \$23.2 billion in 2001, which was 71.4% of the State's total. This area contains the majority of ethnic groups in Utah's otherwise homogenous population.

**Table 6. Labor force, unemployment rate, employment by sector and wages for**

2006.

<http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi/pubs/em/annualreport/06annual/>

	Davis	Salt Lake	Tooele	Morgan	Weber
Labor Force	138,773	532,283	25,888	3,895	110,296
Employed	134,783	517,060	25,055	3,779	106,644
Unemployed	3,990	15,223	833	116	3,652
Unemployment Rate	2.9	2.9	3.2	3.0	3.3
Total Personal Income (\$ Millions)	8,495	34,619.50	1,244.60	220	6,222.80
Per Capita Income	30,455	34,951	23,734	27,438	28,697
Total Non-agriculture jobs	100,540	579,780	14,755	1,869	93,032
Mining	145	2,203	15	4	120
Construction	9,447	39,697	758	394	6,547
Manufacturing	10,632	53,385	1,488	198	11,781
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	19,458	120,294	2,964	407	16,597
Information	903	18,423	221	3	1,427
Financial Activities	4,078	47,299	332	63	4,489
Professional & Business Svcs	10,535	93,999	2,285	141	10,380
Education & Health Svcs	9,004	54,973	927	63	11,028
Leisure & Hospitality	8,949	46,135	1,332	159	7,845
Other Services	3,051	18,140	300	42	2,767
Government	24,338	85,232	4,133	395	20,051

## **RESOURCE NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Public Participation Activities in the Development of the Plan**

Since early 2009, the Great Salt Lake RC&D has performed an extensive outreach effort, including: visiting numerous technical advisory groups; sending out letters to solicit input from a variety of groups such as the Utah Partners for Conservation; attending Conservation District meetings, issuing press releases to newspapers in the area; notifying partner organizations who put the area planning effort in their newsletters; attending public events; participating in Earth Day activities; educating the public at local food seminars; distributing Area Plan information at farmers markets; and partnering with a variety of organizations in the five counties. In addition, the GSL RC&D requested feedback from municipalities and other partners for “shovel-ready” projects which elicited almost 30 detailed proposals for various tangible developments in the five counties the Council serves.

The effectiveness of these efforts has been greatly facilitated by using an online surveying instrument, Survey Monkey. In addition, those participants that provided contact information were given an incentive for their input, a Chico re-usable packable nylon bag that promotes one of the RC&D’s programs: CSA Utah. These bags retailed

for almost \$5 each and were highly desirable by all demographic segments that the Council contacted. 376 individual responses were received that have helped the Council gain a better understanding of what the local community members feel the priorities are.

**Summary of Finding by RC&D Program Elements:**

The GSL RC&D Council used the highest ranked responses under the four statutory and other elements. Of those that completed the survey: 54% were female, 46% were male; 3.2 % were 18 to 24 years old, 26.7% were 25 to 38 years old, 31.1% were 39 to 50 years old, 29.3% were 51 to 65 years old, and 9.6% were over 65 years old; 3.8% were Hispanic, 0.9% were Asian, 0.3% were Black, 2.0% were American Indian/Alaska Native, 88.7% were White, and 4.3% were Two or More ethnicities.

<p><b>Statutory Element 1:</b>  <u>Land Conservation</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support local farms</li> <li>• Protect, manage and educate the public about the Great Salt Lake</li> <li>• Promote Community Supported Agriculture: CSA Utah</li> <li>• Support native habitat</li> <li>• Increase urban green space</li> <li>• Facilitate beginning farmer program</li> </ul>
<p><b>Statutory Element 2:</b>  <u>Water Management</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate public about water conservation</li> <li>• Improve drinking water and watershed quality</li> <li>• Improve Wetland habitat</li> <li>• Educate public about aquatic invasive species</li> </ul>
<p><b>Statutory Element 3:</b>  <u>Community Development</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote benefits of buy local first</li> <li>• Create more farmers markets</li> <li>• Encourage recycling and composting programs</li> <li>• Promote energy conservation and efficiency</li> <li>• Improve opportunities for renewable energy</li> <li>• Improve and build trails</li> </ul>
<p><b>Statutory Element 4:</b>  <u>Land Management</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect farmland</li> <li>• Protect open space</li> <li>• Improve air quality</li> <li>• Improved and protect fisheries and wildlife habitat</li> <li>• Control invasive weeds</li> </ul>

**Goals and Objectives & Strategies**

**1. Land Conservation (LC) Statutory Element:**

LC Goal 1: Partner with a minimum of 50 individuals and organizations to implement conservation on public and private lands in the GSL RC&D area by 2014.

*A. Objective: Coordinate with six Conservation Districts in Zone 2 and 44 other like-minded partners to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of resource management on lands in the GSL RC&D area by 2014.*

Strategies:

- Promote five outreach efforts concerning whole farm planning and incorporating the NRCS Conservation Planning process over the next five years that will increase the sustainability of local agriculture.
- Provide outreach materials at five events in partnership with Utah Open Lands, NRCS, and the American Farmland Trust to educate local farmers about Farm Bill programs and other opportunities that provide incentives to start or continue farming by 2014.
- Identify and assist at least 20 farms, nonprofit organizations, agencies, local agencies and others in funding at least \$20,000 for specialty farm equipment, such as vegetable washer, cider press, and cultivators to increase their sustainability by 2014.
- Provide leadership with partners such as Utah State University, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food and Utah Association of Conservation District and others to plan and implement a beginning farmer program and recruit 30 young and/or beginning farmers by 2014.

*B. Objective: Double the number of farmers from 10 to 20 and consumers from approximately 3,000 to 6,000 participating in CSA Utah by 2014.*

Strategies:

- Conduct five CSA open houses to educate farmers and consumers about the benefits and challenges associated with community supported agriculture by 2014. These will provide opportunities to encourage both parties about the importance of supporting local farming along the Wasatch Front.
- Revise the CSA Utah webpage to allow for e-commerce and other technology by 2011.
- Secure an additional \$50,000 in funding to assure that CSA Utah continues through 2014.
- Provide access to local CSAs by 100 low-income individuals by identifying financial and other incentives before 2013.
- Collaborate with partners to encourage at least 5 farmers and 50 consumers of diverse ethnicity to participate in local CSAs by 2012.
- Inform traditional and non-traditional audiences about CSA Utah through print media, radio interviews, public service announcements, underwriting, advertising and other methods at least five times through 2014.
- Strategize with Utah Food Council to plan, fund and implement a Farm to School program in the GSL RC&D Area by 2011.

**LC Goal 2:** Partner with advocacy, management, and educational organizations to promote, manage, and educate the public about the Great Salt Lake and its environs.

*A. Objective: Build the capacity of partners, such as the Friends of the Great Salt Lake (FOGSL) by providing facilitation and coordination services.*

Strategies:

- Facilitate at least one meeting of the FOGSL each year by 2014.
- Educate the public about the work of the FOGSL, especially the quarterly publication, The Lake Effect four times a year through 2011.

*B. Objective: Participate in five open houses and other forums involving new management strategies on the Great Salt Lake, such as the changes to mineral management and wildlife habitat management.*

Strategies:

- Participate in five workshops and seminars about Great Salt Lake management issues and encourage collaborative solutions to controversial issues by 2014.

**LC Goal 3:** Partner with like-minded organizations, such as UACD, the Legacy Parkway, The Nature Conservancy and others to conserve, enhance and restore 1,000 acres of native habitat.

*A. Objective: Educate land managers about Farm Bill programs.*

Strategies:

- Facilitate 10 workshops and seminars about Farm Bill Programs with NRCS and sister agency staff by 2014, including Grill Your Conservation District meetings.

**LC Goal 4:** Communicate and partner with policy makers and others as well as provide technical assistance to implement projects that conserve, enhance, and restore urban green space in the GSL RC&D area.

*A. Objective: Educate land managers about Farm Bill and other funding opportunities to implement green space projects.*

Strategies:

- Research and fund five green space projects in partnership with motivated organizations and municipalities in the GSL RC&D area by 2014.
- Identify evolving urban forestry needs and assure adequate management resources are in place, such as retaining qualified urban forester in Salt Lake County area by 2014.

## **2. Water Management (WM) Statutory Element:**

**WM Goal 1:** Partner with individuals and organizations to continue to educate the public about the importance of water management in the arid intermountain west, especially along the rapidly developing Wasatch Front through 2014.

*A. Objective: Cooperate with the six Conservation Districts, two water conservancy districts, three municipalities and organizations to participate in five water education activities by 2014.*

Strategies:

- Strategize with partners to fund and implement two new demonstration gardens or expansions of existing gardens.
- Participate in one water fair in GSL RC&D area annually through 2014.
- Educate the public about these efforts at 10 farmer markets, local work group meetings, Earth Day and other events through 2014.

*B. Objective: Participate in watershed planning efforts for the Weber, Jordan and Great Salt Lake drainages by 2014.*

Strategies:

- Educate 10 partners about the NRCS Small Watershed Program (PL 566) by 2014.
- Identify community watershed needs and secure funding for three watershed projects by 2014.
- Partner with Utah Dept of Wildlife Resources and other partners to educate at least 1,000 members of the public about aquatic invasive species by 2014.
- Revise existing PL 566 projects in the GSL RC&D Area, including Utaba in Weber County and Vernon in Tooele County, and fund and implement recommendations by 2014.

*C. Objective: Conserve, enhance and restore 300 acres of wetland and riparian habitat by 2014.*

Strategies:

- Educate 10 partners about the NRCS Wetland Reserve Program by 2014.
- Facilitate and implement at least three riparian projects by 2013.
- Identify and treat at least 100 acres that are infested by Purple Loosestrife by 2012.

*D. Objective: Research, promote and fund three innovative ideas for water management by 2014.*

Strategies:

- Collaborate with three policymakers about the opportunities and challenges associated with active and passive water harvesting by 2013.
- Identify one pilot project to incorporate water harvesting by 2014.
- Contact community leaders and distribute educational materials and provide technical assistance for three rural communities about unpressurized water systems or dry hydrants by 2013.

### **3. Community Development (CD) Statutory Element:**

**CD Goal 1:** Build the capacity of 20 businesses and organizations in the GSL RC&D area by 2014.

*A. Objective: Identify twenty new entities that have development needs in the GSL RC&D area by 2014.*

Strategies:

- Partner with Buy Local First and Utah's Own to build the capacity of 10 local businesses and organizations, especially in the agriculture and natural resource sectors through 2014.
- Distribute at least 1,000 Buy Local First directories to the public at community events by 2014.
- Partner with the Wasatch Food Cooperative to implement their Mission and Vision as well as identify funding opportunities, such as Community Food Program and provide technical assistance to build the capacity of the effort by 2012.
- Identify and implement five strategies of the Confederated Tribe of the Goshute Reservation and the Skull Valley Band resource, community development or culture committees, such as constructing a convenience store or gas station or building the capacity of guide and guest services by 2014.
- Communicate with communities and organizations, such as the Indian Walk-In Center and Wasatch Community Gardens that are interested in creating at least five new farmers markets and provide technical assistance using AMS Farmers Market Promotion Program grants to implement their plans by 2014.
- Identify communities that are interested in creating new community gardens and assist at least 10 in locating plots and funding their efforts annually by 2014.
- Identify and partner with organizations to find employment opportunities and self sufficiency skills for populations at risk, such as the Utah Refugee Employment Center and employ at least 20 refugees by 2013.

*B. Objective: Identify trail needs in the GSL RC&D area by 2014.*

Strategies:

- Partner with the Bonneville Shoreline Coalition, Parley's Rails and Trails, Wasatch Loop, Blueprint Jordan, Tooele County Trails and other individuals, organizations or municipalities to connect a trail segment to other trail systems by 2014.
- Assist partners to maintain, restore, or construct up to ten miles of trails by 2013.

*C. Objective: Address community land fill capacity issues by encouraging composting and recycling in the GSL RC&D area by 2014.*

Strategies:

- Research and cooperate with municipalities and organizations, such as Wasatch Community Gardens to make composting equipment, such as self-contained tumblers, and training available to 300 residential and five commercial users through 2014.
- Research and cooperate with five municipalities or organizations to make recycling equipment and training available to residential and commercial users through 2014.

*D. Objective: Target agriculture, residential and commercial audiences to improve energy conservation and efficiency as well as increase the opportunities for renewable energy in the GSL RC&D area by 2014.*

Strategies:

- Partner with agencies (Utah Dept of Agriculture and Food and Utah Governor’s Energy Advisor), organizations, private companies, such as Ensave, Inc. and other qualified Technical Service Providers to perform farm energy audits on at least 50 farms in Utah through 2014.
- Identify two funding sources such as Farm Bill programs, Conservation Innovation Grants and other federal, state and private resources to implement the audits and implement recommendations by 2014.
- Strategize with progressive institutions and municipalities, such as Weber State University and the towns of Alta and Salt Lake City to identify opportunities to fund and implement two energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.
- Explore programs and funding opportunities with agencies and organizations, such as Utah Clean Energy and Utah State Energy Program to implement three renewable energy projects by 2014.

#### **4. Land Management (LM) Statutory Element:**

**LM Goal 1:** Protect 700 acres of farmland and open space in the Great Salt Lake RC&D area by 2014.

*A. Objective: Strategize with partners such as Salt Lake County, Utah Association of Conservation Districts, American Farmland Trust, and Trust for Public Lands to protect at least 700 acres farmland and open space in the GSL RC&D area by 2014.*

Strategies:

- Identify ten parcels owned or managed by partners that can be used for various farming operations, including: bio-fuel production, community gardens, CSAs, and small organic farms by 2012.
- Conserve, enhance and restore at least 200 acres of farmland in the Great Salt Lake RC&D area by 2014.
- Partner with Envision Utah and other partners on Blueprint Jordan and the Cottonwood Canyons initiatives to preserve at least 500 acres of open space by 2014.

**LM Goal 2:** Educate the public about the importance of air quality and increase it by ten percent by 2014.

*A. Objective: Strategize with the Wasatch Front Regional Council, Utah Clean Cities, Utah Moms for Clean Air, Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Utah Transit Authority and others to improve air quality by 2014.*

Strategies:

- Educate at least 1,000 members of the public about the importance of clean air and how it affects their health and the environment at 20 community events by 2014.
- Distribute at least 3,000 “Turn the Key, Be Idle Free” stickers by 2014.
- Participate in five transportation planning open houses to provide input and feedback for transportation needs and how it affects air quality in the Great Salt Lake RC&D area by 2014.
- Provide three innovative ideas to Superfund site issues such as U.S. Magnesium in Tooele County and expedite treatment solutions by 2014.

**LM Goal 3:** Improve and protect fisheries and wildlife habitat in the Great Salt Lake RC&D area by 2014.

*A. Objective: Strategize with the Utah Department of Natural Resources, BLM, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Kennecott Land Management, and other partners to improve and protect 200 acres of fisheries and wildlife habitat in the Great Salt Lake RC&D area by 2014.*

Strategies:

- Educate at least 1,000 members of the public about the importance of identifying, controlling and restoring areas infested with weeds at 5 community events in the Great Salt Lake RC&D area by 2014.
- Identify areas of importance and sources to fund implementation efforts to preserve and restore at least 1,000 acres of land that would protect fisheries and wildlife habitat in the Great Salt Lake RC&D area by 2014.
- Coordinate with Local Work Groups such as the West Desert and Morgan-Summit Adaptive Resource Management groups to provide technical assistance for three critical wildlife concerns such as Sage Grouse and other sensitive, threatened and endangered species by 2014.
- Educate GSL RC&D members and partners about Farm Bill programs administered by the NRCS and other sister agencies, especially: Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI), Emergency Watershed Program (EWP) and Agriculture Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) and facilitate 10 related projects by 2014.

- Explore possibilities of participating with Department of Interior Regional Climate Change Response Centers and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives to sponsor one joint project addressing impacts to wildlife habitat within the GSL RC&D area by 2014.

**LM Goal 4:** Educate the public about the threat of noxious weeds as well as identify and control weeds in the GSL RC&C Area by 2014.

*A. Objective: Strategize with the Bonneville Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA), South Shore CWMA and the Weber Basin CWMA to educate 1,000 members of the public about noxious and invasive weeds, identify areas of infestation, control 9,000 acres of noxious and invasive weeds and restore areas of infestation after treatment by 2014.*

Strategies:

- Educate at least 1,000 members of the public about the importance of identifying, controlling and restoring areas infested with weeds at 5 community events in the Great Salt Lake RC&D area by 2014.
- Identify, treat, and restore at least 3,000 acres in each of the CWMAs for a total of 9,000 acres by 2014.
- Create five displays and print 5,000 copies of outreach materials to share with the public by 2014.

## **5. Other Goals:**

**Goal 1.** Improve the Great Salt Lake RC&D's economic viability through fund raising efforts that generate the capital needed to implement the objectives in this Area Plan and also provide administrative support through 2014.

*A. Objective: Attain fiscal stability with adequate controls to assure availability of general operating funds on an ongoing basis, and develop working relationships with area and regional foundations and other sources of funding for project related opportunities through 2014.*

Strategies:

- Engage in revenue-producing activities to provide at least a half-time administrative assistant by 2014.

**Goal 2.** Assure the Great Salt Lake RC&D implements projects that support the Utah NRCS Business Plan and National NRCS Strategic Plan as well as the National Association of RC&Ds (NARCD).

*A. Objective: Provide tangible benefits to the Utah and National NRCS as a whole and the RC&D Program in particular as well as NARCD.*

Strategies:

- Implement 15 projects related to the RC&D elements (Land Conservation, Water Management, Community Development, and Land Management) by 2014.

## **Current and Potential Partnerships with USDA and Others**

Actions necessary to complete the strategies outlined in this 5-year strategic plan will require that Great Salt Lake RC&D utilize existing partnerships and, in some cases, develop new partnerships. Potential partners to implement this plan are listed in Table 7.

Table 7. Potential Partners needed to implement this Area Plan.

<b>USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service</b>	<b>USDA – Rural Development</b>
<b>USDA – Forest Service</b>	<b>USDA – Farm Service Agency</b>
<b>USDI – Bureau of Land Management</b>	<b>USDI – Bureau of Reclamation</b>
<b>Cooperative Weed Management Areas</b>	<b>Environmental Protection Agency</b>
<b>USU Extension Service</b>	<b>Utah Department of Agriculture &amp; Food</b>
<b>Utah Department of Environmental Quality</b>	<b>Utah Department of Natural Resources</b>
<b>Friends of the Great Salt Lake</b>	<b>Utah Department of Transportation</b>
<b>Water Conservancy Districts</b>	<b>Water Providers</b>
<b>USDI – Fish and Wildlife Service</b>	<b>Utah Food Council</b>
<b>The Nature Conservancy, Legacy Parkway</b>	<b>Wasatch Front Regional Council</b>
<b>Booneville Cooperative Weed Management Area</b>	<b>Conservation Districts and Utah Association of Conservation Districts</b>
<b>South Shore Cooperative Weed Management Area</b>	<b>Utah Open Lands</b>
<b>Weber Basin Cooperative Weed Management Area</b>	<b>American Farmland Trust</b>
<b>National Fish and Wildlife Foundation</b>	<b>USDA-Agriculture Marketing Service</b>
<b>Buy Local First</b>	<b>Wasatch Community Gardens</b>
<b>Indian Walk In Center</b>	<b>Wasatch Food Cooperative</b>
<b>Utah Refugee Employment Center</b>	<b>Utah Clean Energy</b>
<b>Utah Clean Cities</b>	<b>Utah Transit Authority</b>
<b>Kennecott Land Management</b>	<b>Ducks Unlimited</b>

## Linkages to the NRCS Strategic Plan

The RC&D Program was assigned to the US Department of Agriculture by Congress when it was created. The Secretary of USDA has delegated the program to NRCS for administration. NRCS mission goals compare to RC&D legislative program elements as follows:

<b>RC&amp;D Legislative Program Element</b>	<b>NRCS Mission Goals</b>
<b>Land Management</b>	Adequate Energy Supply Working Farm and Ranch Lands Healthy plant and Animal Communities
<b>Water Management</b>	Clean and Abundant Water
<b>Community Development</b>	Working Farm and Ranch Lands Clean and Abundant Water
<b>Land Conservation</b>	High Quality, Productive Soils, Working Farm & Ranch Lands, Healthy Plant & Animal Communities, Clean and Abundant Water

**SIGNATURE PAGE WITH COMPLIANCE STATEMENTS AND SIGNATURES**

The Great Salt Lake RC&D Council, Inc. agrees that the RC&D program will be conducted in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions as contained in Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259) and other nondiscrimination statutes; namely, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and in accordance with the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7CFR-15, Subparts A&B) which provide that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, age, gender, religion, marital status or handicap/disability be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial (or technical) assistance from the U.S Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.

The Great Salt Lake RC&D Council, Inc. agrees that the signing of this document constitutes agreement to comply with federal laws concerning restriction on lobbying, a drug-free workplace, and responsibilities for nonprocurement, suspension, disbarment and state review.

The Great Salt Lake RC&D Council, Inc. hereby adopts this RC&D Area Plan and agrees to effectively use the assistance provided by the United States Department of Agriculture to realize its goals and objectives outlined herein.

Great Salt Lake RC&D Council, Inc.

By: Therese Meyer Date: 11/19/2009  
(Therese Meyer, Chair)

Attest: Dave Brown  
(Dave Brown, Second Vice Chair)

This action authorized at an official meeting of the Great Salt Lake RC&D Council, Inc. on November 19, 2009.

US Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service

The State Conservationist hereby acknowledges the attached Area Plan of the Great Salt Lake RC&D as meeting the requirements under Public Law 97-98 to receive assistance from USDA.

Acknowledged by: Sylvia A. Jellen Date: 4/27/2010  
(State Conservationist)

