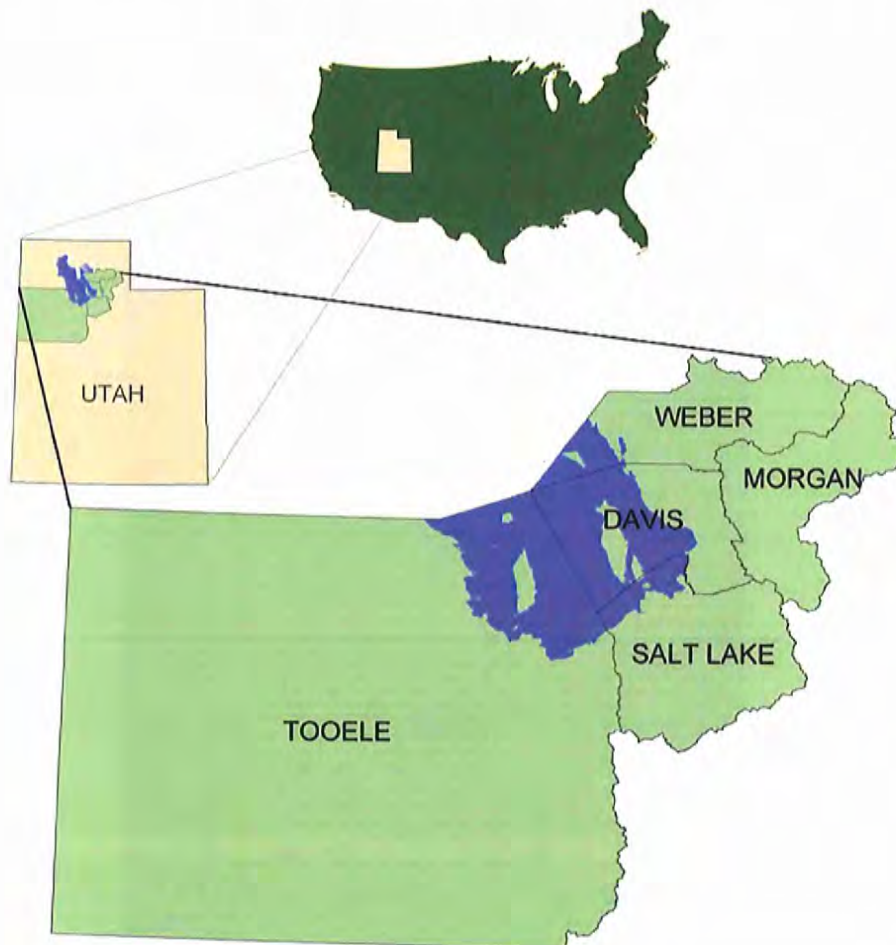




**Great Salt Lake  
Resource Conservation and Development  
(RC&D) Council Inc.  
2010 Annual Report**

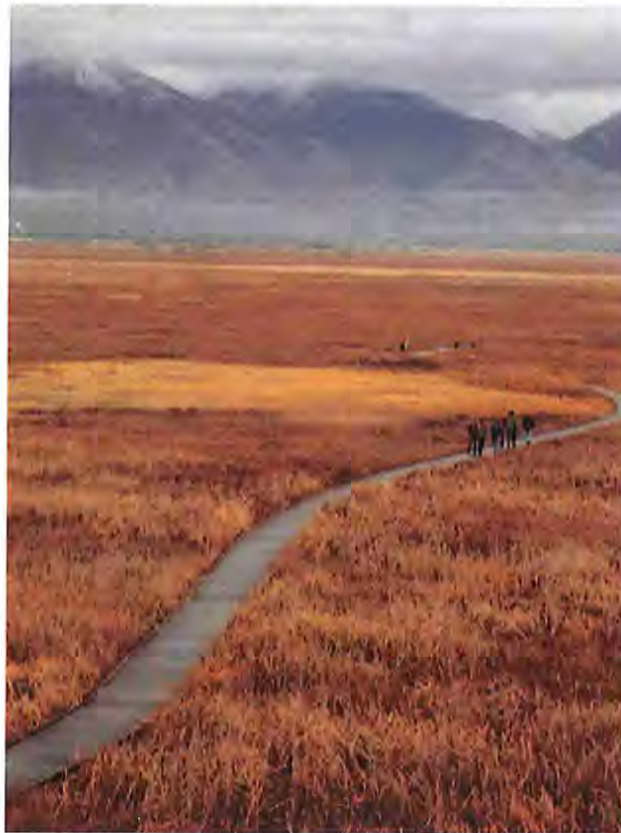


**The Great Salt Lake RC&D Council is a locally led 501(c)3 nonprofit organization serving Tooele, Salt Lake, Davis, Weber, and Morgan counties that connects resources with needs and opportunities.**

The Great Salt Lake Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. works with individuals, municipalities, agencies, businesses, and philanthropic organizations to address issues and challenges facing Tooele, Salt Lake, Davis, Weber and Morgan counties in Utah. This area comprises a majority of the Wasatch Front with a population of over 1.6 million residents in 2008 and covers an area of 9,156 square miles. Tooele and Morgan counties can be characterized as more geographically expansive but experiencing both positive and negative impacts from development pressure. Salt Lake, Davis, and Weber counties are, in general, more densely populated. It serves as a major transportation hub for the Intermountain West with the Salt Lake City International Airport, extensive rail service, light rail (TRAX), cross roads for east/west and north/south Interstates (I-15, I-80, and I-84), serves as a major location of commerce, and home to universities, world class skiing, arts and cultural events.

**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.



The Great Salt Lake RC&D Council, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Provider

## Highlights of Annual Report, 2010

2010 was an active year for the Great Salt Lake RC&D Council. Like many nonprofit organizations, the GSL RC&D faces economic uncertainty that will require creative collaborations and a reassessment of priorities and available funding. This was a year of exciting new challenges and opportunities as well as changes. The GSL RC&D celebrated their *seventh anniversary* in July. The GSL RC&D to be part of the National Association of RC&Ds' Circle of Diamonds which shows the Council's honesty, integrity and strong commitment to the RC&D mission.

### High Tunnel Initiative



The Great Salt Lake RC&D Council in partnership with the NRCS provided cost share program for high tunnels, or hoop houses, along the Wasatch Front. Agricultural producers applied to receive financial and technical assistance to help NRCS test the conservation benefits and effects of high tunnels in practical, real-world situations. USDA announced the pilot project under the *Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food* initiative. The high tunnel pilot study helps determine possible conservation benefits. High tunnels improve plant, water and soil quality, as well as pest and nutrient management. High tunnels can lengthen the timeframe for local marketing of produce, which increases sustainability while lowering energy and transportation inputs. In arid climates, high tunnels may slow evaporation and decrease irrigation water use. An extended growing season and steady income may offer advantages to small, limited resource, and organic farmers. They can also assist producers transitioning to specialty crops.

Eleven contracts were awarded in Utah, ten of which came from the Great Salt Lake RC&D area with a combined value of almost \$80,000.



## Great Salt Lake Community Garden Network



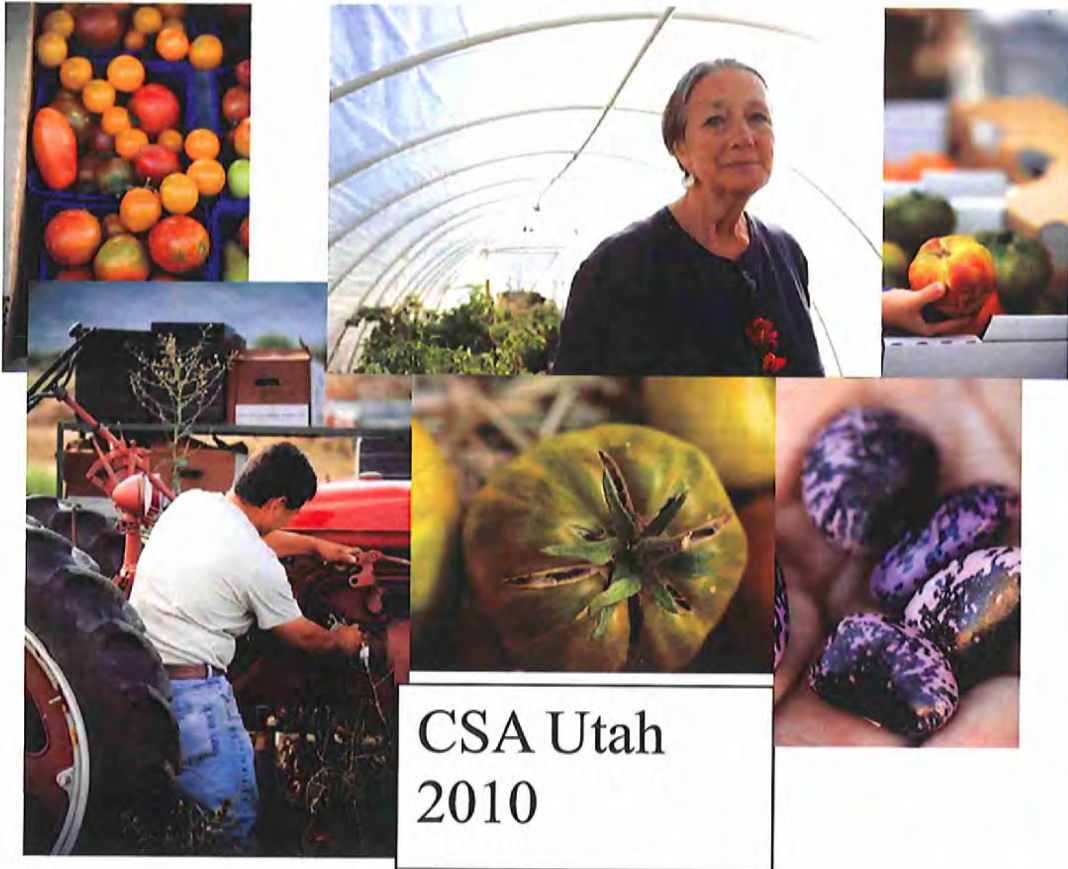
The GSL RC&D in cooperation with Wasatch Community Gardens has initiated a joint effort to build the capacity of community gardening along the Wasatch Front. Goals include providing more opportunities for residents to produce their own food and make local produce available to paying and non-paying customers, promoting healthful eating habits and provide exercise that is important for a healthy lifestyle, local food education and production will decrease food insecurity and provide incentives to protect important open space and soils as well as welcome food production into the communities, provide education and resources to ensure the long-term success of a network of sustainable locally-led community gardens, promote additional partnerships to leverage funding support, volunteer and local refugee initiatives. Beneficiaries of this project will encourage active participants to learn how to successfully plant, nurture, and harvest food from their own gardens, the general public by consuming locally grown wholesome food, and special emphasis is directed toward young gardeners from low income communities.

The GSL RC&D continued their work in *Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)* in 2010 with public outreach events, education, and capacity building of farms along throughout Utah. The CSA Utah program continues to grow and blossom. This year was especially fruitful with a well attended open house in February at Squatters in downtown Salt Lake City with the State Directors from both USDA Farm Service Agency and Rural Development in Utah sharing their perspective and plans for the future. Both old and new farmers explored the possibilities of the CSA model for their operations this year. The GSL RC&D has exhausted the funds from the Agriculture Marketing Service, Farmers Market Promotion Program in 2010 and has begun to search for new funding possibilities. Of particular interest was the partnership between CSA Utah and USU Extension to hold field workshops for Integrated Pest Management at two different CSA farms along the Wasatch Front. Several farmers became learned how to identify plant diseases and signs of pest, how to holistically treat or minimize the effects, and how to proactively manage their soils to avoid the same problems in the future. CSA Utah was created from these funds which facilitated the annual CSA open house with farmers and consumers. Outreach efforts to educate the public about community supported agriculture were held at farmers market, PSAs aired on KUER, KRCL, KCPW, and KPCW and other media outlets; the CSA logo has continued to readily identify the program with the Council's work in urban agriculture. The CSA Utah website has been updated and redesigned to effectively communicate to the general public and farmers alike about the rapidly evolving landscape in Utah. Twitter and other social networking tools have been implemented to make the work of CSA Utah and the GSL RC&D known to a diverse audience. Three CSA farms were visited by about 25 people including staff from USDA. This highly anticipated field trip highlighted Bell Organics, East Farms, and Zoe's Garden.





CSA Utah purchased advertising in newspapers along the Wasatch Front including a local Hispanic newspaper and Edible Wasatch. Further, advertising space was contracted with the ReDirect Guide, Buy Local First directory, Catalyst, City Weekly, and Q Salt Lake. Other funds were used to partially reimburse farmers who purchased CSA-related equipment that contributed to building the capacity of their CSA operation. In addition, CSA Utah facilitated the production of CSA photos and videos that were posted on the CSA Utah website to educate the public about CSA in Utah. In addition, CSA shareholders had an opportunity to participate in a CSA cooking class sponsored by local farms and the Viking Cooking School. The GSL RC&D has also been active in Farm to School discussions, farming conference at Thanksgiving Point in June, the Salt Lake City Food Policy Task Force and the Utah Fruit and Vegetable Growers seminar in March.



CSA Utah  
2010

The Great Salt Lake RC&D also assisted with facilitation of Conservation District Resource Assessment efforts in Tooele and Weber County that brought together CDs in Zone 2 to explore the ever changing world of resource concerns and opportunities along the Wasatch Front. The GSL RC&D also had representation for the March visit from USDA Undersecretary Merrigan to discuss the “Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food”.

The Council has continued its tradition of playing an active role in diverse partnerships to promote sustainable economies including recent efforts to facilitate and fund a pavilion for the community of Ibapah in western Tooele County. In addition, the Council has spearheaded proposals for funding a community kitchen feasibility study to assist novice entrepreneurs that do not have the resources to buy their own commercial kitchen facilities to create local food products. The GSL RC&D has provided technical assistance to small farmers to apply for producer grants from Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education at Utah State University that will complement and expand their farm business. The Council has provided technical assistance with the Salt Lake County Urban Farming Technical Advisory committee commercial farm, small farm, and community garden applicant selection process and participated in a local tour of potential county properties. In addition, the GSL RC&D has collaborated with Utah State University and several other partners to build the capacity of existing beginning farmer programs to assure that a new generation of agriculture producers will be sustainable and provide inspiration to others interested in pursuing this career and lifestyle. Discussions with a private greenhouse operator on the Great Salt Lake and Bear River Refuge staff has led to collaborative efforts to use invasive non-native Phragmites as a fuel to meet the energy intensive needs of their nursery. The Council also provided the leadership skills to assist the NRCS with establishing an urban farming subcommittee for the Utah State Technical Advisory Committee which met in the fall and provided input to local natural resource leaders. A series of loop mountain bike trails in the Murray on the Jordan River Parkway has been completed by a collaborative effort with a local bicycle advocate, which provides another component for recreationists. Work continues with three different Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA) including the Bonneville, South Shore and Weber River CWMA's.

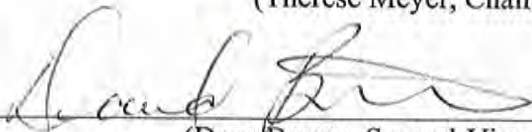
The Great Salt Lake RC&D Council, Inc. hereby adopts this RC&D Annual Report and agrees to effectively use the assistance provided by the United States Department of Agriculture to realize its goals and objectives outlined herein.

Great Salt Lake RC&D Council, Inc.

This Annual Report adopted at an official meeting of the Great Salt Lake RC&D Council, Inc. on January 20, 2011.

By:  Date: 1/20/2011

(Therese Meyer, Chair)

Attest:  1/20/2011  
(Dave Brown, Second-Vice Chair)

**For more information, please contact us at:**

Great Salt Lake Resource  
Conservation & Development, Inc.  
125 South State Street, Ste 4010  
Salt Lake City, UT 84138  
(801)524-4254  
[www.greatsaltlakercd.org](http://www.greatsaltlakercd.org)

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