



The Lake Effect

Great Salt Lake
Resource Conservation
and Development
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Rooted in Our Past,
Reaching into the
Future!

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.GREATSALTLAKERCD.ORG

The Great Salt Lake RC&D Council is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

The Council's Newest Member: Jerry Caldwell



The Great Salt Lake RC&D Council is happy to introduce its newest member, Jerry Caldwell. Jerry has worked for Toole County Weeds for eight years. He is married and has two children, one grandchild and a spoiled dog. His hobbies include woodworking, working on cars, gardening, working in his wife's greenhouse, and spending time at their family cabin.

Interested in getting The Lake Effect online?

Check us out at:

[www.greatsaltlakercd.org/
news-rcd.html](http://www.greatsaltlakercd.org/news-rcd.html)

You can review the archives or if you'd like to conserve resources and have the latest newsletter link emailed to you, send a note to jeff.williams@ut.usda.gov and let him know!

Conservation Partnership Initiative Grant Finished

The Deep Creek Watershed Sensitive Species Assessment has been completed and a final report was released in August 2007. The assessment was done through a Conservation Partnership Initiative (CPI) grant awarded to the Great Salt Lake RC&D Council in 2004. A study was made of at-risk fish and wildlife in this area on the Utah/Nevada border.

The assessment, done in partnership with Brigham Young University, Utah State University, and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, studied the presence, habitat, and movement of the Greater Sage-grouse, Pygmy Rabbit, Columbia

Spotted Frog, and Least Chub. The goal of the assessment was to understand the needs and quality of the current populations in order to facilitate best management practices in the area.

Two distinct populations of Greater Sage-grouse were documented in Toole and Juab counties. One of the populations is non-migratory while the second migrates between higher elevation breeding and nesting areas and lower elevation winter sites. Recommendations for Greater sage-grouse conservation include sensitivity to nesting areas, and intensive rehabilitation following wildfires to these areas.

Surveys determined that Pygmy Rabbits favor habitat sites with dense, mature sagebrush. In the areas with the inactive burrow sites, it was found that greasewood had overtaken the sagebrush leaving habitat unsuitable for the rabbit populations. In order to preserve Pygmy Rabbit

A pygmy rabbit photographed by a camera on a motion sensor.



The Ibapah valley

populations, habitat restoration, fencing and conservation easements need to be considered.

The Columbia Spotted Frog populations were healthy in the Ibapah Valley with the frogs preferring natural water sources to artificial ones. Conservation suggestions include preserving current habitats and modifying grazing practices during tadpole season.

Speaking with long-time residents and past scientists indicate that Least Chub have never been found in the Deep Creek Watershed. Accordingly, recommendations to "reintroduce" the chub have been deemed unnecessary.

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Three Species Added to Noxious Weed List

In early August, the Salt Lake County Council declared garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), dalmation toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*), and myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*) as noxious weeds. These three non-native species are very invasive which need concentrated control efforts to protect native species and minimize impacts to local ecosystems and reduce herbicide costs.

Though garlic mustard has only been found in three locations to this

point, it has the potential to become a big problem in local canyons. The weed thrives in shady understory environments and the county hopes that early control efforts will lead to eradication before the mustard becomes a big problem.

Dalmation toadflax may never be totally eradicated from Salt Lake County, but efforts at control could limit its spread. It is a drought tolerant weed that grows in disturbed soil and resembles snapdragon.

The classification of myrtle spurge as a noxious weed is considered extremely important because it is still being sold in nurseries as a groundcover and as a rock-garden plant. However, it has spread outside of landscaped yards and is efficient competitor with native species. Now that myrtle spurge is classified as a noxious weed, it is illegal to sell. Educating the public about these newly listed weeds will help protect the local environment.

Utah Individual Development Accounts Network

The Utah Individual Development Account Network is an organization dedicated to helping low and moderate income Utahans build assets and improve money management skills leading to economic stability. The Network, consisting of members from non-profit, government, financial, private, and business organizations, provides the organization, financial means, and expertise to administrate Individual Development Accounts (IDA) in Utah.

IDA's are savings accounts, with a matching funds program, which teach participants to manage their money

and eventually purchase an asset. Assets are defined as a home, small business, or education. In addition to savings matching, participants are required to attend personal finance training to lead them to long-term financial independence and stability. The overall goal of the program is to strengthen the Utah economy and build a community of hardworking, stable, and productive individuals.

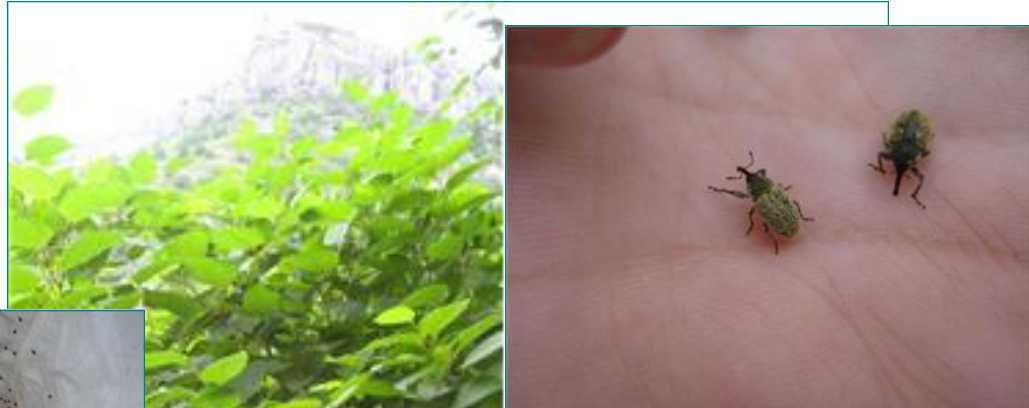
A bill that has been introduced in Congress would amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act to include a similar pro-

gram for beginning farmers and ranchers. Land and equipment prices often prohibit young people from starting a farm or ranch and as a result we stand to lose food production capability as current farmers retire and no one takes their place. The proposed bill would allow beginning farmers and ranchers to save money, have the funds matched, and use the money towards real assets such as land and equipment. The bill, sponsored by South Dakota representative Stephanie Herseth Sandlin, is currently in review by the House Agriculture Committee. The GSL RC&D along with others hope that this bill is passed.

Weber County Biocontrol Tour

Right: Japanese Knotweed

Below: The root feeding leaf beetle used as a control for Leafy Spurge.



A biocontrol tour was held in Ogden Canyon by the Weber Basin CWMA. A number of noxious weeds and their biological controls were discussed.

Right: Three tour participants investigate Musk Thistle seed heads.



Top: The Yellow Star Thistle Hairy Weevil is used to control the Yellow Star Thistle.

Just Above: The Canada Thistle can be controlled using the stem mining beetle.

Utah Botanical Center a Beautiful Outdoor Classroom

The Utah Botanical Center (UBC) is already more than just a place to view beautiful plants. It is a 100 acre garden/classroom/fishery/laboratory and green space surrounded by rapidly expanding urbanization.

The center's mission is "...to guide the conservation and wise use of plant, water and energy resources through research-based educational experiences, demonstrations and technologies." UBC Associate Director Dave Anderson puts it even more succinctly, "We are interested

in adjusting people's ethical foundations and helping them understand where we live and be proud of it."

The UBC is a project of Utah State University, the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station and Utah State Extension and is being developed with a mix of state, federal, corporate and private funding.

The UBC's site, and especially its landmark ponds along the east side of I-15 in Kaysville, are a small but important part of the Great Salt Lake ecosystem and is part of the Utah Wetland Interpretive Network. It is home to the Extension Master Gardener program and a new Master Naturalist course, the Utah House (a resource-efficient demonstration house), a variety of gardening classes, spring and



A crane in the wetlands area of the Botanical Center.



The Utah Botanical Center

fall sales of water-wise landscape plants, and USU's off-campus horticulture degree courses.

Among the UBC's most popular activities are field trips for school children, with activities tied to the state science core curriculum for each grade level. Last year alone, more than 4,000 children participated. For more information please visit the UBC website: www.utahbotanicalcenter.org

Three Grant Proposals Funded



The dispersal of biological control agents in Weber County.

be funded in FY 2007.

The bio-control collection equipment proposal would allow for the purchase of equipment to trap and transport insects effective in the control of noxious weeds, such as Tamarisk, Leafy Spurge, Field Bindweed, Dalmatian Toadflax, and Knapweed. This project would be done in coordination with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) using approved bio-control insects to efficiently control these weeds before they do greater damage to our natural resources.

Approval of the native willow and cottonwood restoration project, in partnership with local Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA's), would allow for the purchase of a water-jet stinger. This tool is used to plant willow and cottonwood poles and would provide local conservation groups and landowners to more efficiently restore riparian areas that have become degraded or after invasive species have been controlled. The stinger uses a jet of highly pressurized water to bore a hole in which the pole can be placed. The water used benefits the newly planted tree by providing moisture and as the water

leaves, the soil settles firmly around the pole, eliminating air pockets and increasing the percentage of rooting success. Plans are already being made to restore the willow and cottonwood forests around the Great Salt Lake, Weber, and Jordan watersheds.

The Toole County Weed Board's weed control and restoration project, begun in 2005, has been successful and this grant proposes the continuation and expansion of the project. The proposal includes the purchase of herbicide for weeds that have proved difficult to control by other means and the inclusion of the Lake Point area, the Ibapah valley, and the Vernon area for weed control and restoration. As with the other grant proposals, any funds obtained would be matched by volunteer



The water-jet stinger will facilitate the planting of wetland plants.