

# UACD



 Utah Association of  
Conservation Districts

## 2009 POLICY POSITIONS

[www.uacd.org](http://www.uacd.org)

## UTAH ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS SINCE 1948

The Utah Association of Conservation Districts (UACD) is the state voice for Utah conservation districts (State Code Title 17D Chapter 3). The 38 districts use a voluntary, incentive-based approach to protect soil, water, and other natural resources.

UACD is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation with the principal purpose of educating and supporting the work of 190 local elected supervisors and their staff. Generally the association and districts' administrative and professional staff are colocated with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service at field offices throughout Utah and include resource coordinators, conservation planners, an engineer, and information and education specialists.

UACD supports the work of the districts by:

- Representing their interests and initiatives with state and federal agencies, the Utah Legislature and the U.S. Congress;
- Providing services to and assisting in the education of supervisors;
- Promoting conservation and the wise use and management of Utah's natural resources;
- Helping secure technical, financial, educational and scientific resources needed to assess and address local resource needs;
- Facilitating the coordination of conservation work on both private and public lands;
- Encouraging cooperation among districts and public and private conservation agencies and groups; and
- Providing a structure whereby district officials can communicate with one another, combine resources, develop policy and take action.

The districts are trusted by private property owners and are uniquely positioned to deliver technical and financial assistance available from various state and federal programs and agencies. UACD is the local side of the federal/state/local conservation partnership (Utah Partners for Conservation & Development or UtahPCD), a partnership committed to providing conservation solutions.

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# LAND USE

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED REGARDING...

## **Sustainable Agricultural Land Conservation Easements:**

...that the UACD support the use of greenbelt rollback taxes for protection of important agriculture land provided that county tax bases are not reduced.

...that the UACD encourage and assist member districts, identify important and strategic agriculture lands for the purpose of voluntary conservation easements, participate as members of and/or with county government to develop tools for rating and prioritizing lands for this purpose. 2009

## **Mitigation of Invasive Species [War on Cheatgrass]:**

...the Utah Association of Conservation Districts supports the Utah Conservation Commission as the state entity for coordinating this program and with other state and federal agencies, soliciting participation, evaluating and ranking, approval of applications, and monitoring and evaluating projects. Further UACD will encourage Utah's conservation districts to identify projects at the local level and will assist the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, develop project proposals and implement projects. 2008

## **Wildfire Prevention on Public Lands:**

...the Utah Association of Conservation Districts supports:

- increased funding for wildfire prevention, management and restoration of our public forests and rangelands.
- improved agency rules that expedites environmental clearance.
- legislation that expedites analysis required by the National Environmental Policy Act.
- Best management practices that include prescribed grazing and/or prescribed burning. 2008

## **Wildlife Management Policies Amendment:**

...that we seek the enactment of legislation or administrative directive which will:

1. Require wildlife management agencies to pay total actual damages resulting from depredation by wildlife caused by their wildlife management actions as appraised by a third-party qualified, licensed appraiser and require said payments be made in a timely manner.
2. Require that wildlife management agencies adhere to a designated allotment management plan, particularly as they relate to numbers for use of the resource by wildlife species, and not submit to public pressures for increased numbers of wildlife.
3. Require that wildlife management agencies consider an allotment of zero animals in areas where the resident herd is causing significant monetary and physical damage to local land owners and businesses.

4. Require that when trespass by wildlife on private property is reported, the agency managing such wildlife take steps immediately to remove such wildlife from the private property and arrange for payment of total actual damages as stated above.
5. Require notification in person by wildlife management agencies to private landowners before any action is taken.
6. Involve landowners in the decisions of what actions are to be taken to remediate the problems, and that property owners should have the final say in actions taken on their land. 2008

### **Reducing Green Belt Acreage Requirements:**

...that UACD request the state legislature to restructure the greenbelt law in such a way that is less restrictive to participate. Examples of this are:

- Reduce the initial number of contiguous acres required to participate from 5 down to 2; or
- Eliminate the requirement that the first 5 acres be contiguous and allow those 5 acres to be from different locations. 2008

### **Streamlining of Cultural Resources Clearances:**

...that UACD take action to make the cultural resources clearance process more efficient and less costly by considering the following actions:

1. Sponsor a meeting of State Historical Preservation Office, affected agencies, and other stakeholders to begin discussions of how to comply with the law in the best-organized and cost-efficient manner possible. An important objective of these discussions would be to standardize procedures among agencies.
2. Encourage the hiring and sharing of more archaeologists or other trained professionals to speed up the process. The money saved by reducing the need to use expensive consultants would more than pay for the additional salaries.
3. Consider approaching the legislature for changes in existing laws if State laws are more restrictive or impractical than Federal laws.
4. Re-evaluate to include exempt undertakings such as range seedings on abandoned cropland and/or previously surveyed range seedings and repairing or replacing fences. 2005, 2008

### **Increased Federal and State Funding for Pest Control:**

...that the Conservation Districts and the Utah Association of Conservation Districts support efforts to have the Utah Legislature and the U.S. Congress allocate regular, adequate funding for insect control on Utah's public and private lands. 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008

**Local Coordination of Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Habitat Authorization Program:**

...that (1) the Conservation Districts will work with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in the development and coordination of all habitat projects under the Habitat Authorization Program located in the respective CD’s geographical area, prior to committing funds, that (2) local UDWR officials will be invited to meet with the corresponding CD board periodically to discuss program goals and objectives used in determining project priorities and accomplishments, and (3) that the Zone Coordinator contact the local UDWR office to establish working arrangements. 1996, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008

**Land Resource and Development (RS 2477):**

...UACD will seek a definitive ruling which will protect and adequately define these (RS 2477) valid traditional rights-of-ways over public lands. 1996, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008

**Endangered Species Act:**

...that UACD should support efforts that would declare that when private land-owners are deprived of the desired use of their property under the provisions of this act, that it would constitute a “taking,” and that the owner of such property be adequately compensated for such “taking.” 1996, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008

**Local Input on Public Land Issue:**

...that UACD supports the requirement that adequate and ongoing communication between Congress and/or federal agencies and local conservation districts take place when any public land issues are involved before any final decisions are made that will adversely affect the quality of life for those constituents which the conservation districts represent. 1996, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008

**Fiscal Responsibility Attached to Litigation and Appeals Brought Against Resource Management Decisions, Practices and Projects on Public Lands:**

...UACD recommends that the National Association of Conservation Districts use its influence whereby laws may be enacted that require plaintiffs and appellants to be financially responsible for all legal fees, and for the associated environmental and societal costs resulting from the inordinate delay or stoppage of prudent resource management decisions, practices, projects, or actions. 1996, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008

**Maintain Current Formula for Determining Grazing Prices on Public Lands:**

...that UACD use its influence to insure that any increase in grazing fees be used to improve the range resource; and

...that UACD engage in efforts to educate the public regarding the positive aspects of grazing on public lands.

...that UACD continues to support the grazing fee on public lands based upon the formula mandated in the Public Rangeland Improvement Act (PRIA) of 1978.

...that UACD further strongly oppose the proposed administrative rules which have been published by the Department of Interior in their publication “Rangeland 94 Reform” or any other publication in or out of the Federal Register, or which would dramatically increase fees on public lands and create severe economic hardship on many livestock operations in the West. 1996, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008

### **Utah Partners for Conservation and Development Shrub Steppe Restoration Initiative:**

... that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts support efforts to prevent the listing of the Sage Grouse as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act by providing staff support for the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development Watershed Restoration Initiative and by assisting local sage grouse working groups efforts to restore habitat. 2004, 2007

### **Encouragement of Tax and Energy Incentives for On-Farm Methane Generation:**

... that UACD encourage lawmakers, agencies, and utility companies to offer tax and other incentives to encourage technology that produces methane by using bacteria to digest manure in order to generate electricity. (Green power, purchase of methane-generated power at market rates, carbon credits, etc.) 2004, 2007

### **Support of RS 2477 to Maintain Local Control Granting Right-of-Way Across Public Lands:**

... UACD supports RS 2477 and other rights of way across public lands. 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007

### **Archaeology Studies on Utah State Owned Lands:**

...that the UACD opposes the leaseholder being held financially responsible for archeological studies on Utah State owned lands;

...that the State of Utah bear the cost of needed studies. 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007

### **Proper Use and Management of Riparian Areas:**

...that we urge riparian area management programs use the Coordinated Resource Management Plan (CRMP) in developing and implementing resource management plans. 1990, 1993, 1995, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007

### **Utah Grazinglands Network (UGN) Coalition Support:**

...that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts (UACD) continue its support of Utah's Grazing Network Initiative (UGN). 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007

### **Grazing and/or Agriculture Practices as Management Tools for Lands Acquired for Habitat Protection:**

...that UACD work with the State Legislature, National Congress, Utah Partners for Conservation and Development, private organizations, the Utah Grazing Improvement Program Board, and others to educate national leaders on the benefits of livestock grazing and farming to maintain critical habitats and increase forage and water production. 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007

### **Noxious Weed Control:**

... that the UACD supports the prudent use of chemical and biological weed control agents on federal, state, county, city, and private lands, and,

... that the UACD supports the continued control of noxious weeds on federal, state, county, city and private lands in accordance with the Utah State Noxious Weed Law and wise and prudent practices and appropriate application rates. 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009

### **Wilderness Management:**

...that UACD oppose the concept of wilderness management on non-wilderness lands and areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC) and strongly urge federal land management agencies to not adopt such management practices, and to maintain multiple use status. 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009

### **Conservation Tree Planting Program:**

...that the UACD supports the continuation of a conservation tree planting program for Utah by:

1. Memorandums of Understanding between UACD, USCC, UFFSL, NRCS and other interested organizations facilitating tree sales and planting programs by individual CDs.
2. Developing a cooperative effort of tree planting services between private land owners and CDs, with state and federal programs. 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009

### **Whole Farm Conservation Planning**

...that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts support:

1. Resource Management System Planning (RMS) with increased emphasis on Whole Farm Conservation Planning,
2. Local work groups as identified in the Farm Bill, be led by the local Con-

ervation District Boards and that they meet regularly to update and review goals and objectives,

3. NRCS Resource Management System plans (RMS) be approved by respective Conservation Districts,
4. NRCS planning be based on Whole Farm Conservation Planning objectives, identifying all resource concerns rather than single resource issues, NRCS place more emphasis on the role and responsibility of the elected Conservation District Board members, coordinating all conservation efforts within their jurisdiction set forth by definition in state law. 2006, 2009

### **City and County Planning Commission Involvement:**

... that the CD supervisors and UACD staff actively solicit representation and involvement on City and County Planning Commissions, and that UACD continue to update and distribute information for CD distribution to Planning and County Commissions.

... that the CD Boards offer assistance and expertise in urban development. 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009

### **Wildlife Management Policies:**

... that we seek the enactment of legislation or administrative directive which will:

1. Require wildlife management agencies to pay total actual damages resulting from depredation by wildlife caused by their wildlife management actions.
2. Require that wildlife management agencies adhere to a designated allotment management plan, particularly as they relate to numbers for use of the resource by wildlife species, and not submit to public pressures for increased numbers of wildlife.
3. Require that when trespass by wildlife on private property is reported, the agency managing such wildlife take steps immediately to remove such wildlife from the private property and arrange for payment of damages.
4. Require notification in person by wildlife management agencies to private landowners before any action is taken.
5. Involve landowners in the decisions of what actions are to be taken to remediate the problems, and that property owners should have the final say in actions taken on their land. 2006

# WATER RESOURCES

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED REGARDING...

## **Zebra (*Dreissena bugensis*) and Quagga (*Dreissena polymorpha*) mussel**

...that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts support the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) and its partners in working diligently to keep Zebra and Quagga mussels from spreading further into Utah's waters, even to the point of closing streams, lakes and reservoirs to boating and other activities deemed contributing to the spread of these invasive species;

...that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts support efforts to control Zebra and Quagga mussels in lakes where they already exist. 2009

## **Irrigation/Drainage Company Technical Assistance**

...that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts, with member districts, continue and expand technical assistance to private irrigation companies as time and financial resources are appropriated for this purpose. 2009

## **Opposition to the Snake Valley Aquifer Proposed Draft Agreement**

...that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts (UACD) is adamantly opposed to the proposed draft agreement and the proposed Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) pipeline project. The UACD encourages the State of Utah to include in the final agreement stronger measures with respect to mitigation, agricultural interests, social and economic impacts, as well as environmental protection measures to better protect the resources and citizens of the State of Utah. 2009

## **Legalizing the Use of Rain Water Collection for Irrigation:**

... that UACD request the state legislature to enact legislation that allows the use of rain water collection for irrigation. 2008

## **Tamarisk and Woody Invasive Species Removal and Revegetation in Riparian and Other Areas:**

...that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts support research, monitoring and removal of woody invasives and revegetation where necessary by encouraging Utah Partners for Conservation and Development, its partnering agencies, and other programs such as Grazing Improvement Program, in funding tamarisk and other invasive species removal and revegetation projects, especially those projects with active and coordinated monitoring efforts designed to evaluate success and inform future management practices, providing technical assistance and direction to private land owners seeking to do this work encour-

aging the Utah Dept of Agriculture and Food to prohibit the sale of Russian olive, tamarisk, Siberian elm, tree of heaven and other invasive tree species in the state. 2008

**Continued support for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program's (CRBSCP) 2.5% "earmark" as a National Priority:**

... that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts (1) encourage the continued earmark funding and support for the Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program, (2) encourage NRCS to maintain the 75% cost-share rates throughout the life of the program, and (3) utilize the local workgroups in making program rules and recommendations. 2007

**Due Process Requirement for Relinquishing Water Rights:**

...that no government agency, be it Federal, State or Local, shall demand that water right holders relinquish water or water rights, for any purpose, without due process and fair market value compensation. 2003, 2006, 2009

**Support for the Central Utah Project:**

...UACD supports the completion of the Central Utah Project Completion Act. 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009

## EDUCATION

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED REGARDING...

**UACD Support of Education Programs:**

...that UACD will provide teachers with information and knowledge about Ag-in-the-classroom, envirothon, and other conservation education programs.

...that UACD will support Agriculture-In-The-Classroom, Envirothon, and other conservation education programs by requesting each of Utah's 38 conservation districts to contribute a minimum of \$100 each year to be used for these purposes.

...that the UACD Education Committee develop an education budget for the expenditure of funds so received under this resolution; that the UACD executive vice president will see to their appropriate disbursement; and that the UACD Board of Directors shall have oversight responsibility for the budget and the Education Committee will receive an annual report at the annual business session. 1966, 1999, 2002, 2005, 2008

**Soil and Water Stewardship Activity at Zone Meetings:**

...that the NACD annual theme materials on Soil/Water Stewardship be encouraged to be part of the UACD Zone Meetings. 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007

### **Statewide Envirothon Competition:**

...that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts sponsor, as well as provide staff and financial assistance of a minimum of \$2,000 annually to a Utah Envirothon competition. Partnerships with both private and public entities will also be actively pursued.

...that local Conservation Districts encourage and provide resources to local high schools to participate in the Utah Envirothon. 1997, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009

## **STRENGTHENING DISTRICTS**

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED REGARDING...

### **USDA Funding for Conservation:**

- UACD encourages the Utah Conservation Districts to convene the USDA local workgroups, to identify local resource concerns and priorities for the purpose of providing input on local resource concerns and priorities to the NRCS State Technical Committee and other funding agencies.
- UACD works in support of the Utah Conservation Commission for representing the State of Utah in providing input for state level resource concerns and priorities. 2005, 2008

### **New Funding/Appropriations for Conservation District Technical Assistance:**

...that the 38 Conservation Districts in Utah update the Resource Assessment and CD long-range plans for their respective counties to fully take advantage of proposed new program funding under the 2002 Farm Bill, and meet with their respective NRCS area and district conservationists and State legislators to brief them on local conservation needs, existing staff and funding levels, and any additional staff and funding, needed to satisfy the future workload.

...that UACD assist the districts with obtaining funding that may become available under the technical provider provisions of the 2002 Farm Bill and recruit and employ related staff. In addition, when the revenues of the State of Utah increase, then seek to restore previously cut funding and/or obtain new funds for conservation districts to be able to maintain and build upon existing staff levels, only as sufficient to achieve the needs documented by the districts. 2002, 2005, 2008

### **Communication and Education:**

...by this convention, that we request the officers of UACD to prepare and send to the districts within this state, the minutes and actions of the Board of Direc-

tors convened in regular or special meeting, in order that the elected supervisors may fully support the actions of the Directors of the Association. 2007

**CD Long-Range Plans:**

...that the UACD encourage each district to: 1) make a revision of their current long range plan, 2) include in the long range plan methods and goals for building the district's capacity to improve effectiveness and obtain funding, and, 3) distribute these plans to appropriate partners. 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007

**Support of Agriculture Protection Area Law:**

...that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts oppose any legislation that would weaken the Agriculture Protection Area law and work with other organizations and legislators to maintain the integrity and strength of the law. 2001, 2004, 2007

**Supervisor Expense Reimbursement Account (SERA):**

... that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts work with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food to obtain increased funding to adequately fund an updated SERA policy and increased participation and training. 2006, 2009

# UACD RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

Association policy is the result of a formal resolution process that culminates in the adoption of final policy statements at the business meeting at the annual UACD convention.

## I. RESOLUTION ORIGINATION

A. Standard resolutions may be introduced to the full assembly at the annual business meeting in the following four ways when provided to the Resolutions Committee Chair six weeks prior to the date of the annual business meeting:

1. From a Utah CD when approved by the district board.
2. From a zone or Zone Executive Committee (ZEC) when approved by the districts in the zone or their assigned members of the ZEC.
3. From the UACD Board of Directors or Executive Committee when approved by the officers.
4. From an Association standing committee meeting when approved by the districts attending.

B. An emergency resolution may be introduced which deals with important and pressing issues that have arisen after the deadline for of a standard resolution. Emergency resolutions are exempt from the six week prior requirement and district level distribution, as required in II-B below, as long as it:

1. Receives a 2/3 majority approval vote of the UACD Board of Directors or the full assembly,
2. Is labeled as “Emergency Resolution” during the annual meeting committee, and floor action.

## II. RESOLUTION PREPARATION FOR ANNUAL MEETING ACTION BY RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE

A. The Resolutions Committee shall be made up of the full Board of Directors. A Resolutions Committee chair will be designated by the Board.

B. Resolutions originating from I-A above method will be circulated by the Resolutions Committee staff to all districts for review and study at least four weeks in advance of the annual meeting.

C. Compilation of resolutions for annual meeting committee and floor action.

1. The Resolutions Committee staff will check through all resolutions for grammar and form.
2. Each resolution will be given a reference number.

### **III. RESOLUTION ACTION AT THE ANNUAL MEETING**

- A. Resolutions will be assigned to a standing committee by the Resolutions Committee Chair to be considered at their committee meeting held during the annual meeting.
- B. Sponsors of a resolution are expected to be present at the standing committee session in which their resolution is to be brought up for discussion and action. If not present it is the decision of the committee to consider or not consider the resolution.
- C. All resolutions going to the full assembly following standing committee action, must have secured a recommendation from the assigned standing committee before full association floor action can be taken.
- D. The Resolutions Committee Chair or other officer designated by the President will bring all resolutions to the floor of the meeting.
- E. For resolutions not recommended for adoption by a standing committee the title and action of standing committee will be read to the full assembly. A vote of the full assembly is required to ratify the committee's action or, if not ratified, the resolution is then treated as any other recommended resolution brought before the assembly.
- F. Calling for a vote on the resolutions.
  - 1. If the Standing Committee or full assembly action recommends the resolution, the chair will read the resolution and/or show so that it can be read by the full assembly and then move for its adoption.
- G. Acceptance of a resolution requires a simple majority of the voting delegates in attendance at the annual meeting.

### **IV. UACD POLICY FOLLOW-UP ACTION**

- A. All resolutions adopted at the annual meeting become policy of the UACD.
  - 1. Each policy statement has a three-year life.
  - 2. At the end of three years, the policy is again reviewed by the original Standing Committee (or by another committee, if original committee not longer exists).
  - 3. The policy is either extended for another three years, is amended, or is retired.
- B. Each policy statement will be assigned to a specific standing committee or to the Board of Directors. It will be placed in the policy book under the assignee's title.
- C. Needed follow-up activities will be the responsibilities of the assigned Standing Committee or board members as assigned.
- D. At each annual meeting, an action progress report will be given in the Standing Committee by a representative of the assigned party.