



 Utah Association of
Conservation Districts

2011 POLICY POSITIONS

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...

Noxious Weed Control:

...that the UACD advocates more targeted approaches to weed control including:

- Prioritized treatment of novel introductions while they are small
- Prioritized treatment of particular areas where there is high risk of spread to new areas
- Selective treatment along transportation corridors, focused on noxious weeds of highest concern,
- Secure consistent and adequate funding to promote education and eradication of invasive species,

...that the UACD promote more vigilant stewardship of real estate development sites against noxious weed invasion and spread to surrounding areas,

...that the UACD and conservation districts advocate increased resources be made available for the purpose of controlling noxious weeds in counties and cooperative weed management areas,

...that UACD and conservation districts support county weed boards and their enforcement of compliance to control state and county noxious weeds. 2011

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

Support of Small Acreage Agricultural Operations:

...that UACD support reduced property tax consideration for productive small agricultural operations and;

...that UACD support the passage of legislation consistent with the Agriculture Sustainability Taskforce recommendations, provided the existing Greenbelt Law is not affected. 2011

Allowance of Wild and Domestic Horse Processing:

...the UACD advocate for national NACD policy that supports existing legislation and management provisions that allow the sale and/or processing of unwanted

animals as a resource for protein, food sources for humans and animal agriculture without the unnecessary restrictions by Congress or the U.S. administration or other agency of the federal government and the Utah Congressional Delegation. 2010

Wild Horse Management:

...the UACD advocate for national NACD policies that support existing legislation in the 1971 Wild and Free Roaming Horses and Burros Act that provides the BLM the ability to:

1. Maintain local population levels at or below herd objectives established for the Herd Management Area and Herd Areas through periodic gatherings and/or fertility control, and
2. Sell or dispose of unwanted and/or unadoptable horses without restrictions including humane euthanasia.
3. Compensate private landowners for range degradation caused from wild horses that occupy adjacent federal lands and
4. Prohibit extension of existing designated lands for wild horses.

...the UACD support efforts by the Secretary of the Interior to revise management guidelines for wild horse and burros, and encourage authorities of existing legislation.

...federal land management agencies should bear all costs of maintaining range improvements damaged by wild horses. 2010

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, 2011

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, 2011

Wildlife Management Policies Amendment:

...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, 2011

Streamlining of Cultural Resources Clearances:

...that UACD take action to make the cultural resources clearance process more efficient and less costly. 2005, 2008, 2011

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, 2011

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, 2011

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, 2011

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, 2011

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, 2011

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 "Range-

land 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, 2011

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, 2010

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, 2010

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, 2010

Land Resource Development

...that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts will seek as definitive ruling which will protect and adequately define these (2477) valid traditional rights-of-way over public lands. 2008, 2011

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, 2010

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, 2010

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, 2010

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 Conservation 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 wild-

life 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

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

WATER RESOURCES

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED REGARDING...

Recreational Use of Public Water on Private Property:

...the Utah Association of Conservation Districts supports (2010) H.B. 141 and opposes any legislation that would alter the ability for private land owners to conduct agricultural purposes on their land, including the inclusion of livestock; and UACD supports the protection of the water quality. 2011

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

Opposition to the Snake Valley Aquifer Proposed Draft Agreement:

...that the Utah Association of Conservation Districts 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

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

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 UPCD, and other programs such as GIP, 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 encouraging 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.

...that the Russian Olive, Tamarisk, Siberian Elm and Tree of Heaven be added to the County lists of noxious plants. 2008, 2011

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 and the CRBSCP/Basin States Control Program to maintain the 75% equivalent payment rates for landowners throughout the life of the program, and (3) utilize the local workgroups in making program rules and recommendations, (4) support system upgrades and replacement of systems that have completed their life expectancy. 2007, 2010

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

STRENGTHENING DISTRICTS/EDUCATION

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED REGARDING...

UACD Support of Education Programs:

...that the UACD will 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, 2011

USDA Funding for Conservation:

...that the United States Department of Agriculture and the NRCS comply with the Standard State Conservation Districts Law and that local Conservation Districts, be given responsibilities in administering and/or prioritizing funding for conservation projects through USDA. 2005, 2008, 2011

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

Conservation District Long-Range Plans:

...that the UACD encourage each district to: 1) complete or update resource assessments, 2) make a revision of their current long range plan, 3) include in the long range plan methods and goals for building the district's capacity to improve effectiveness and obtain funding, and, 4) distribute the resource assessment to appropriate partners. 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2010

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, 2010

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. 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.