

# UTAH CONSERVATION DISTRICTS 2024



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

## UACD

Utah Association of  
Conservation Districts

Inside: 2024 updates and highlights  
from each of Utah's 38 local  
Conservation Districts



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

© Utah Department of Agriculture & Food 2024.  
Not Labeled for sale.



# CONTENTS

## 03

### Utah Local Conservation Districts

#### 05 Zone 1

Blacksmith Fork  
North Cache  
Northern Utah  
Rich  
West Box Elder

#### 06 Zone 2

Davis  
Kamas  
Morgan  
Summit  
Weber

#### 07 Zone 3

Alpine  
Grantsville  
Salt Lake County  
Shambip  
Timp/Nebo  
Wasatch

#### 08 Zone 4

Delta  
Fremont River  
Juab  
Millard County  
Piute County  
Sanpete County  
Sevier County

#### 10 Zone 5

Beaver  
Canyonlands  
Dixie  
E&I  
Kane County  
Twin M  
Upper Sevier

#### 11 Zone 6

Duchesne  
Uintah County  
Daggett

#### 12 Zone 7

Grand  
Green River  
Price River  
San Rafael  
San Juan





# UTAH

## LOCAL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

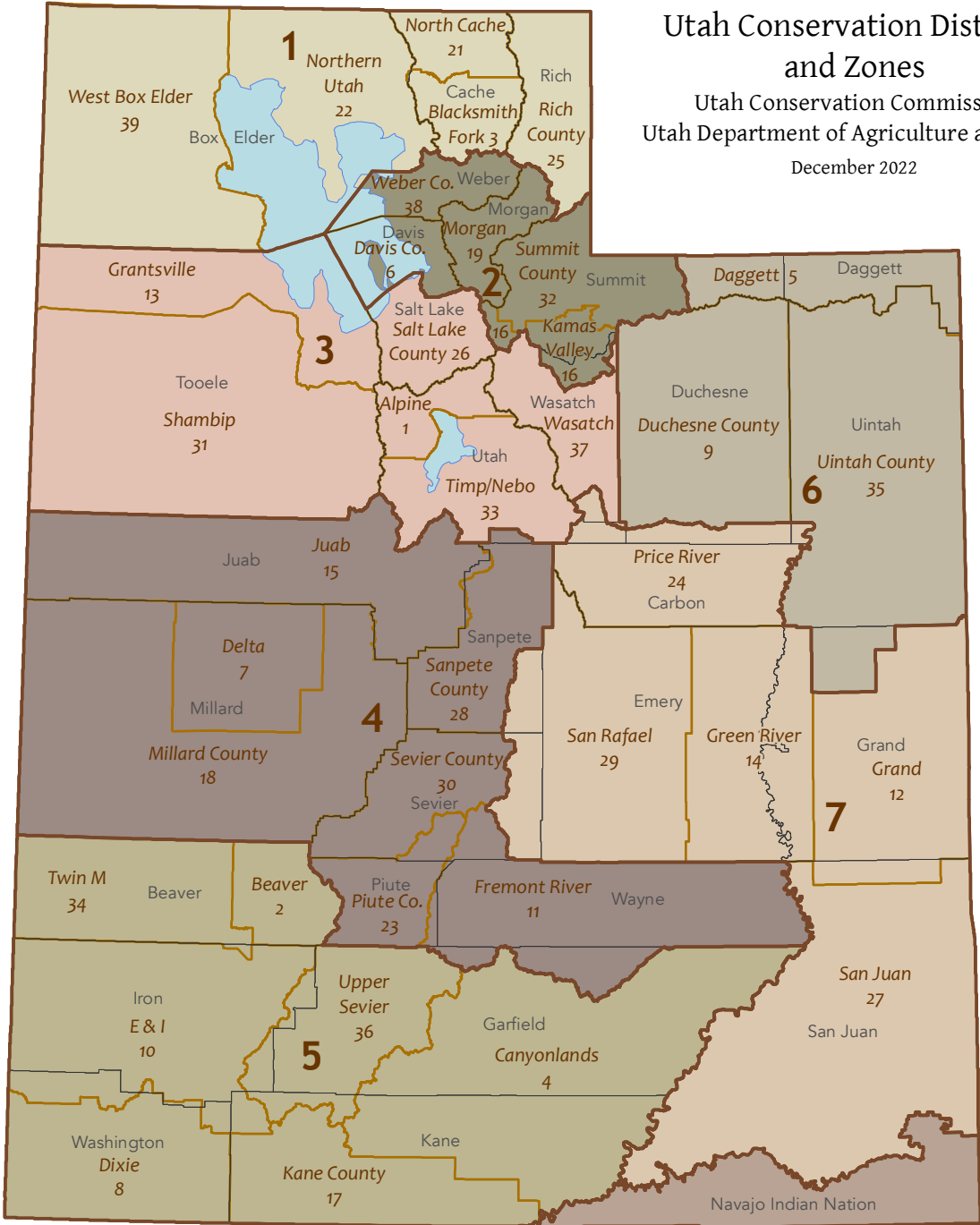
### What is a local conservation district?

A conservation district is a legal subdivision of the state of Utah governed by a board of five supervisors appointed from within the district. Its boundaries are based on watershed or county lines.

The conservation movement grew out of the “Dust Bowl” days in the early 1930s, when soil erosion created an unprecedented ecological disaster. President Franklin D. Roosevelt recommended that all states pass legislation allowing the creation of conservation districts. Utah passed the state’s Soil Conservation District Law in March 1937.

Today, Utah has 38 conservation districts, divided into seven zones. Each district board holds regular, open meetings to direct the district’s business.

A conservation district supervisor is responsible for local soil and water conservation programs, just as elected county officials are responsible for county services and school district boards are responsible for education.



Utah Conservation Districts and Zones  
Utah Conservation Commission  
Utah Department of Agriculture and Food  
December 2022

- Legend
- Conservation District Boundary, Number, and Name (#20 not assigned)
  - Zone Boundary and Number
  - County Boundary and Name

Conservation District and Zone data provided by Utah Conservation Commission. Boundaries digitized from legal descriptions by UDAF GIS staff.





Left & below: the Cache Refugee Garden. Right: water restoration project in Zone 1 districts.



Left: one of the Zone 1 outreach events from 2024.



# ZONE 1

## Blacksmith Fork, North Cache, Northern Utah, Rich, & West Box Elder Districts

The Districts in Zone 1 have been very busy! They hosted 55 different outreach events that were attended by over 8,000 partners and agricultural producers. The purpose of these events was to educate agricultural producers about the programs that are available to them to utilize conservation projects on their operations.

The Districts worked with landowners to treat 2,700 acres for weeds throughout their counties. They have also done extensive water quality work within their districts, completing 10 projects, including soil health projects, riparian improvements, and irrigation improvements. They have led the

way for water optimization, funding 82 water optimization projects, the highest number of water optimization grants among all zones.

Blacksmith Fork Conservation District obtained the Equity in Conservation Outreach Cooperative Grant to help develop and build 3 local community gardens in Cache County. A particular highlight is the Cache Valley Refugee Garden, which is a garden that employs and supplies over 40 refugee families, along with many more immigrant families and veterans. With this grant, the garden was able to expand and build garden boxes and accessible garden beds that m.b provide many families with a place to garden and grow their own produce.

Zone 2 Conservation Districts have been actively working to promote sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship. One of their notable achievements was the acquisition of four no-till drills, which they made available to local farmers. These drills help reduce soil erosion and improve soil health.

To foster collaboration and knowledge sharing, the districts hosted the Utah Conservation Commission tour, attracting 60 producers from Conservation Districts across the state. Participants had the opportunity to learn about NRCS programs, water optimization techniques, urban agriculture practices, and innovative farming methods.

To protect wildlife and reduce grazing pressure, Zone 2 implemented a pioneering virtual fencing project in the Provo River watershed. This initiative involved three producers and 474 cattle collars, allowing

for more precise grazing management and habitat conservation.

The districts played a crucial role in addressing invasive species. Morgan County organized a Dyer's Woad outreach event, distributing 548 bags of materials to help residents eradicate Dyer's Woad.

Furthermore, Zone 2 reached out to elementary schools, hosting farm field days to educate young people about agriculture and its importance. They also held other outreach events that included Watershed planning and Grill your District Dinners. These outreach efforts resulted in close to 2,600 attendees, including both children and adults. Weber and Davis County also made significant strides in invasive species control, securing an ISM grant to treat phragmites and yellow star-thistle. Contractors hired for this project dedicated 750 hours to eradicating these harmful plants during the fiscal year.

## Davis, Kamas, Morgan, Summit, & Weber Districts

# ZONE 2



Above: Morgan County Dyer's Woad outreach event. Left: implemented cattle collar for the virtual fencing project.



The Districts in Zone 3 had a very productive year, receiving 26 new grants totaling \$1,224,177. The grants will address a variety of resource concerns including the treatment of invasive weeds, improvement of riparian habitat, water conservation, and wildland fire suppression. The Districts also hosted 16 outreach events throughout the zone, educating more than 9,700 people about conservation and how they can be good stewards of the land. One example was an event where the Alpine Conservation District worked with the city to host a dinner where the attendees were able to bring up resource concerns in the area. They discussed funding opportunities available to address those issues.

The Salt Lake Conservation District has been working with small farm producers in their district area. They hosted two separate dinners



Above: Zone 3 community outreach events in 2024.

# ZONE 3

**Alpine, Grantsville, Salt Lake County, Shambip, Timp/Nebo, & Wasatch Districts**



Above: Construction on the 10,000 gallon water tanks in Shambip District.v

to educate interested individuals on the funding available that they can use to help improve their operations. The interest in these workshops was impressive, with both dinners filling up quickly.

The Shambip Conservation District, in partnership with Tooele County and the Rush Valley Water Conservancy District, completed two 10,000 gallon water tanks, totalling 20,000 gallon capacity, for fire control in the Loftgreen. These water tanks enable local firefighters to have access to water when the need for fire control arises. These are a huge benefit to residents of the community and add a layer of protection from both wildfires and house fires. The tanks in Loftgreen are the fourth set to be completed by the District. (cont.)

(cont.) The Timp/Nebo Conservation District was able to secure two pieces of equipment. With a federal ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) grant, the District obtained a no-till drill which has already been put to use planting more than 300 acres in Utah County. The Soil Health Equipment Grant allowed Timp/Nebo and the Spanish Fork Grazing Company to purchase a Skid Steer with a brush mowing attachment. This will be used on canal banks, fencelines, and rangeland to reduce greasewood and decadent sagebrush.



Equipment purchased by the Timp/Nebo Conservation District.



We have seen many great accomplishments in Zone 4 this past year! Some of the main resource concerns in the zone include crop loss from gophers, and gopher management, Soil Health, Irrigation Water Management, and the removal of noxious Russian Olive and Tamarisk trees.

The districts held a Zone 4 tree sale, where over 3,750 trees were sold. These trees are used for private yards, habitat improvement, and the reduction of soil loss throughout the zone. In addition to this, the Sanpete and Fremont Conservation Districts held Soil Health Workshops, where they invited producers to learn about the importance of soil health, and what they can do on their operations to improve their soil health.



Above: Zone 4 workshop events in 2024.

# ZONE 4

**Delta, Fremont River, Juab, Millard County, Piute County, Sanpete County, & Sevier County Districts**





The Districts in Zone 5 did an amazing job reaching out to agricultural producers in 2024. In total, 42 outreach events were held. These events included watershed tours, barbecues, soil health events, and farm field days, where they taught elementary school kids about the importance of agriculture and conservation. In total 3,450 people were reached in rural Utah because of these efforts.

Every District in the zone received a Soil Health Equipment Grant to purchase soil health equipment that will be leased out to landowners that are interested in trying soil health practices on their operations. The E&I District also helped 49 producers obtain bait for grasshoppers in an attempt to reduce grasshopper damage to their crops. This was very important this year due to the high number of grasshoppers across the state. Four of the seven districts help extensively with the county weed control, with activities like a white top spray day done by the Canyonlands Conservation District.



Above: Grasshopper abatement in E&I District.  
Below: No-till drills purchased by Zone 5 districts.



**Beaver, Canyonlands, Dixie, E&I, Kane County, Twin M, & Upper Sevier Districts**

# ZONE 5



Above: Proposed Veyo irrigation project.  
Right: Canyonlands District's 2024 white-top spray day.

The Dixie Conservation District assisted the Veyo Irrigation Company in developing and securing a large-scale water optimization grant to improve their water delivery system and to optimize their irrigation water for local landowners.







Above: Ashley Creek Watershed.  
Left: Duchesne irrigation diversion project.  
Below: Noxious weed treatment in Daggett County.

# ZONE 6

## Duchesne, Uintah County, & Daggett Districts

One of the projects that the Duchesne Conservation District worked on in 2024 was for the Independent Ditch Company. The project included new headgates, a water measuring structure, it provided irrigation for over 700 acres of land.

Daggett Conservation District continued to support the efforts to control noxious weeds in the county, treating approximately 600 acres. This includes county roads, private and county property. The conservation district works closely with the County Weed Department. The district also provides cost share assistance to landowners by paying 50% of the chemical to treat noxious weeds.



Uintah Conservation District has been working with the Forest Service, NRCS, Forestry Fire and State Lands and local landowners to develop a fuels reduction plan for fire prevention and control to protect the watershed. This project received funding from the joint chiefs initiative for about \$1.5 million. Uintah Conservation District put on outreach events, including dinners and workshops, to promote the program with landowners.

In FY-2024 the San Rafael Conservation District, in coordination with the NRCS and Muddy Creek Irrigation Company, were able to complete a \$10.5 million project that converted 27,180 feet of open canal to a piped pressurized system. This project will help water conservation throughout the watershed.

The San Juan District was able to work in partnership with the Utah Division of Water Quality and Environmental Protection Agency to implement rangeland management projects, which included the drilling of 14 wells to help distribute livestock upon the landscape, taking grazing pressure off of riparian areas.

All of the districts within the zone have been actively involved in the management of invasive weeds in their counties. In FY-2024 they managed two weed management grants, and received an additional six grants to assist with weed management in their counties. In addition to all the project's work, the districts have been heavily involved with

outreach events for agricultural producers. They hosted 13 events, particularly farm field days where they educated kids about agriculture and the importance of agriculture in Utah. Other events included crop schools and soil health days.

San Juan livestock watering system.



## Grand, Green River, Price River, San Rafael, & San Juan Districts

# ZONE 7



Left top: Muddy Creek irrigation project.  
Left bottom: Invasive species mitigation project in Zone 7.  
Below: Zone 7 Erosion Trailer at a Zone 7 field day.







# Partners in conservation.

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) and the Utah Association of Conservation Districts (UACD) work closely to promote conservation projects and resources across the state.

UDAF and UACD share equipment, partner on field days & educational events, and maintain close staff relationships so that the network of Utahns who want to preserve our natural resources can grow. The partnership between UDAF and UACD enables many of the projects done by the districts each year, and gives farmers access to invaluable resources.

To learn more about Utah local conservation districts, UDAF conservation activities, or to contact your local district, visit:

**[ag.utah.gov/conservation-division](http://ag.utah.gov/conservation-division)**  
**[uacd.org](http://uacd.org)**