

## Utah State University Natural Resources Extension Programs

Utah State University's Extension specialists, educators and county agents cover a wide range of natural resource issues of critical importance to citizens in the state and the region.

We greatly expand our reach by working closely with state agencies, federal agencies (USFS, BLM, NRCS, EPA, BOR and more), conservation districts, municipalities, commodity groups, and non-profit organizations. We also are well integrated across campus, working with other faculty in many disciplines.

### Issues of importance in Utah and the Intermountain West:

- *Public land management:* Multiple use issues are fundamentally important and include finding common ground for protecting grazing, fire management, watershed protection and restoration, protecting and restoring wildlife, protecting and conserving water quantity and quality, and managing recreational uses on public lands.
- *Private lands:* We identify and educate producers about effective agricultural practices that protect and sustain natural resources. Urbanization and sprawl create new concerns about protecting open space and agricultural lands, urban/wildland interface issues, and the growth of "ranchettes" whose owners often do not have traditional connections to the land.
- *Growth:* Shifts in land uses and water demands, an extremely urban state, urban-wildland interface issues, and planning issues all are critical factors we deal with through our educational programs.
- *Sustainability:* We help develop strategies and public-will to protect our resources over the long-term and protect the life styles unique to this part of the West. Understanding impacts of drought and climate change on our western landscapes also are important.

**Utah State University's Current Natural Resource programs cover:**

- *Forestry:* Urban forestry issues, including appropriate landscaping choices that are waterwise and firewise, work with forestry products industry, best management practices on public lands to protect water, forestry health issues at a watershed scale.
- *Wildlife:* Sage Grouse, Prairie Dog and other habitat restoration, community based decision making to find common ground between different user groups, predator control.
- *Range:* Grazing Initiative Program for fully integrated management of private lands that have multiple benefits, improved grazing and fire management on rangelands to increase yield, protect soils and water.
- *Water quality and quantity:* Watershed restoration, effective monitoring to understand impacts, curriculum development and training, animal waste management, impacts of urbanization, water re-use.
- *Tourism and recreation:* Training future managers of park lands, managing these industries in a way that protects park lands and open lands.
- *Sustainability and energy conservation:* A new position in sustainability with a focus on energy conservation and water conservation.