

**Great Salt Lake Resource Conservation and
Development Council Area Plan
5 Year Strategic Plan**

August 1, 2004 – December 31, 2009

With Assistance From:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

1030 West 5370 South
Murray, Utah 84123

And Cooperating Federal, State and local governments and other groups

Prepared under authority of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture under the
Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, Public Law 97-98, 16 U.S.C. 3451-3461 as amended
by Public Law 101-624, section 1452

This five-year Area Plan is the guiding document for the Great Salt Lake Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, Inc. It identifies needs/opportunities and goals/objectives which will lead the Council in its work. The Great Salt Lake RC&D Council, Inc., is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit organization that addresses natural resource conservation and development issues in Davis, Morgan, Salt Lake, Tooele, and Weber counties and on the Skull Valley and Goshute Indian Reservations in Utah.

VISION: *The Great Salt Lake RC&D will promote conservation, development and stewardship of natural and human resources; promote sustainable economies; and enhance the quality of life.*

MISSION: *Promote partnerships that improve and protect communities and the environment.*

Become a community fixture that connects resources with needs and opportunities.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Davis, Morgan, Salt Lake, Tooele, and Weber counties represent the vast majority of Utah's population, employment and income. In 2002, these five counties contributed 1,434,830 or sixty-one percent of Utah's population of 2,338,761 inhabitants. These counties have 765,167 people in the civilian labor force or 65% of the State's total. These five counties have unemployment rates that are generally higher than the State's average of 6.1% for 2002. Total nonagricultural payroll wages for the five counties totaled \$23.2 billion in 2001, which was 71.4% of the State's total. This area contains the majority of ethnic groups in Utah's otherwise homogenous population.

The following description of needs and opportunities are not in order of importance or prioritized.

NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The Great Salt Lake RC&D performed an extensive outreach effort over the last twelve months, which included visiting numerous technical advisory groups, sending out letters to solicit input from Utah Partners for Conservation, attending Soil Conservation District meetings, attending Council of Government (COG) meetings, taking out paid advertisements in local newspapers, doing radio interviews, participating in trails, watershed, and weed planning efforts, attending public events, distributing information at farmers markets, and partnering with a variety of organizations in the five counties.

Element: Water Management

Need: There is a continuing need to coordinate water quality and quantity efforts within the Weber River, Jordan River, Great Basin and Great Salt Lake watersheds. A six year drought in Utah has brought water use and conservation to the forefront.

Opportunity: NRCS, Soil Conservation Districts, water conservancy districts, municipalities, school districts and other personnel could be partners with the

RC&D in these efforts, including participation on the Jordan River Natural Areas Forum (JRNAF) and the Weber Watershed Plan. In addition, educational opportunities concerning water conservation may be addressed through demonstration projects with residential and commercial cisterns and rain barrels, as well as grey water re-use; landscaping utilizing native and drought tolerant plants, water efficient irrigation system design/installation/maintenance; storm water mitigation; and created wetlands. In turn, there is an opportunity to balance these issues with water recreational considerations, such as kayaking, tubing and canoeing and the interface of these activities with wildlife habitat and recreational fishing.

Element: Land Conservation

Need: There is a need to demonstrate economical and ecologically sound methods of utilizing animal wastes within the five counties.

Opportunity: The RC&D should participate with NRCS and others in developing demonstration projects, including drum composters and methane breeders.

Need: Many portions of the area are experiencing severe erosion from loss of native vegetation from drought and fires over the last several years. Invasive species and lack of native species seed has made this situation an even greater challenge.

Opportunity: Creating and working with partnerships to facilitate the creation or expansion of native seed banks in the Great Salt Lake RC&D area would help to restore and improve natural ecosystems and potentially reduce soil erosion.

Element: Community Development

Need: There is a need to assure human safety and property protection against wildfire at wildland-urban interfaces throughout the area.

Opportunity: The RC&D can participate in obtaining national fire funds through the state of Utah in order to educate and protect residents in high-risk areas. The RC&D can provide support in obtaining funding to secure fire control equipment as well. Dry hydrants, which have been implemented around various parts of the country, are one example of what may serve as a resource for emergency fire control.

Need: There is a need for increased control of wildfires as housing developments and recreational home sites spread into rural areas and foothills throughout the area.

Opportunity: There are a variety of federal and state grants available to communities to create and implement fire plans. GIS resources can be applied to assess pre-fire hazards in Salt Lake County, as well as to create and implement an emergency data program.

Need: There is an increasing interest from citizens to make their communities more livable, to increase the qualitative parameters rather than just the

quantitative elements of society. Examples include the visual impacts of development, what type of energy is used in everyday life, sustainable building materials, and helping to assimilate non-native English speakers into the community.

Opportunity: Many communities have taken proactive steps to increase the quality of life, including the use of efficient and sustainable building materials and techniques, such as green materials and conservation practices. Energy companies have implemented alternative renewable energy such as solar, wind and geothermal that may mitigate the area's dependency on fossil fuels. There are opportunities to reduce the impacts of littering by analyzing and implementing a container deposit that would encourage recycling and discourage littering. In addition, visual resource management has moved to the forefront of many communities' agendas including billboard regulations. Further, facilitating the teaching of English as a second language could help non-native speakers acclimate to life in Utah and increase their ability to gain meaningful work in the area.

Need: The Goshute Reservation and the Ibapah valley is one of the most isolated locations in the five counties. Consequently, citizens face obstacles to almost every aspect of life, including employment, access to goods and services, transportation, healthcare, and education.

Opportunity: There are resources available to help these residents with these issues, including grants, volunteer efforts, and public outreach.

Need: Preservation and promotion of historic tourism, especially the Pony Express, Overland Stage, and Lincoln Highway.

Opportunity: Partner with new and existing interest groups to publicize historic attractions in the area; assist in obtaining funds and volunteer efforts to maintain and improve sites and facilities.

Element: Land Management

Need: Restore, improve and preserve the health of the Great Salt Lake ecosystem and its associated communities.

Opportunity: The Great Salt Lake RC&D can play an important partnering role in monitoring and assessing the impacts from selenium levels and other pollutants in and around the Great Salt Lake. In addition, the depletion of Sage Grouse habitat due to drought and other factors over the last several years is an area in which the Great Salt Lake RC&D could be active. The Utah Partners for Conservation and Development is currently pursuing a strategy for helping restore this ecosystem.

Need: There is a continuing need for noxious weed controls throughout the RC&D area. Targeted species include: Dyer's Woad, Knapweed, Yellow Top, and Yellow Star Thistle.

Opportunity: There is an opportunity to create new partnerships between successful control efforts within the area and those with a need. For example,

Coordinated Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) that cross political boundaries maximize the management goals of invasive species.

Need: There is a need for trails along the Wasatch Front.

Opportunity: Currently, there are various groups addressing a wide variety of trail issues in the five counties. These include: Tooele County in association with the Bureau of Land Management; Weber Pathways; Ogden Valley Pathways; Provo-Jordan River Parkway; Bonneville Shoreline Trail Coalition and Parley's Rails, Trail, and Tunnels, which connects two major trails systems together. Facilitating and coordinating these entities and their efforts would help each meet their goals and objectives.

Need: Lands served by the Great Salt Lake RC&D have been and will continue to be under intense development pressure, changing the predominant use from agriculture to residential and commercial. Farm preservation and farmer recruitment is needed to ensure that productive farmlands are preserved in a strategic manner. Many areas within the GSL RC&D purview are attractive to residents and visitors because of their natural beauty and rural character. Careful consideration through the use of information sharing, visioning, and long range planning should be implemented before these lands are allowed to be developed.

Opportunity: Farm Transfer Programs around the country have helped match new or young farmers with retiring farmers, who are interested in keeping their operations active farms rather than sold off for development purposes. Local opportunities could include such farms as White Orchard and the Bingham Fort Farm.

Opportunity: There are several tools available to encourage farm preservation. By giving farmers more control over commodity prices and obtaining closer-to-retail value for their products, farm viability would improve. Examples include Community Supported Agriculture, Farmers' Markets, Food Co-ops, and even community gardens. There are also programs available to farmers and ranchers to help facilitate the preservation of farmland.

Outreach:

Need: Besides the numerous traditional methods and tools for communication, partner with local media to create a TV or radio journal about the five county area character, history and people, such as Rural Free Delivery, a Rural Development sponsored TV show.

Opportunity: Participate to a greater extent in existing opportunities and programs, such as RadioActive on KRCL.

Environmental Education:

Need: There is a need to educate the general public and school-aged children in particular about their environment, especially in their local communities.

Opportunity: There are opportunities to educate the public about resource issues concerning the environment, including the Jordan River, the Great Salt Lake, and Weber watersheds, agriculture, small pasture management and wetland interpretive facilities.

Creating and Maintaining Meaningful Partnerships:

Need: There is a need to make efficient use of limited financial and technical resources through establishing and maintaining a strong network of vital partnerships between and among individuals, organizations, businesses, agencies, and municipalities.

Opportunity: There are many opportunities to work with established and traditional partnerships, as well as to explore new affiliations with other individuals, organizations, and agencies. These have created an atmosphere of cooperation and coordination that will bring together technical expertise, community needs, and resources to address the variety of needs and opportunities within the five counties. The Council will continue such activities in the years to come.

Obtaining Fiscal Resources to Get It Done:

Need: Addressing the needs and opportunities above will require resources to implement.

Opportunity: Sell goods and services, such as rain barrels and composters. In addition, propagate and sell a variety of Cottam's Oaks, as is already under way with the Bear River RC&D in Logan. Many RC&D Councils around the country serve as the fiscal agent for a variety of grants and loans within their areas and charge an administrative fee. Encourage sponsorships and dues from members and the community at large; illustrate the benefits of becoming a sponsor or member.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Council adopts the following goals and objectives, based on the most recent (2004) needs assessment conducted within the five county RC&D area. These objectives constitute the strategic plan and focus for the Council's effort during the next five years, or until this Area Plan is revised.

Goal 1. Assist other organizations and groups to fulfill objectives that are consistent with the GSL RC&D Mission and Vision.

Objective: Assess needs and opportunities within the GSL RC&D area and facilitate the completion of specific projects that address them.

Strategy: Participate on Bonneville Shoreline Trail Coalition, Parley's Rails, Trails, and Tunnels, Jordan River trail, Weber and Ogden River water recreation groups, and other committees and provide assistance on an "as needed" basis.

Goal 2. Promote surface and groundwater protection efforts.

Objective: Participate in advisory groups that focus on water quality and quantity issues in the GSL RC&D area, including the Jordan River Natural Areas Forum, Weber Watershed Committee, and others.

Strategy: Assist communities, agencies, organizations, river keepers, and lake keepers in restoration, preservation, education, recreation, management, and volunteer cleanup efforts.

Goal 3. Promote the improvement of natural ecosystems, wildlife habitat, local agriculture production and rangeland health.

Objective: Facilitate the expansion and creation of existing groups and resources addressing threats to these objectives by filling facilitation and leadership roles, such as fiscal agent and fundraising capacities.

Strategy: Create new and expand existing CSA operations and Coordinated Weed Management Areas (CWMA) using fiscal and technical resources. Also, participate in Utah Sagebrush-Steppe and Sage Grouse initiative.

Goal 4. Make the RC&D program available to under-served communities.

Objective: Ensure that the five counties served, and the political subdivisions and volunteer organizations therein, are aware of the GSL RC&D and of the ways in which it can assist them to fulfill their needs.

Strategy: Use existing members and regular solicitation efforts to increase membership and active participation in the RC&D from as broad a cross section of the area served as possible.

Goal 5. Ensure that at-risk communities are aware of resources and education to create defensible space and ways they can mitigate wildfire threats to property and life.

Objective: Provide “survivable space” determination information to residents threatened by potential wildfires.

Strategy: Work with the state division of forestry and federal agencies to help local (particularly rural governments) to establish good development guides.

Goal 6. Increase the effectiveness of the Great Salt Lake RC&D Council, Coordinator and Administrative Assistant by participation in State, Regional and National meetings and training.

Objective: Become a functioning, contributing member of the RC&D network at all levels.

Strategy: Train and educate Council members, the Coordinator, and the Administrative Assistant in the ways and means of successful RC&D Councils; adopt proven techniques of other Councils; attend, host, and actively participate in inter-Council meetings and other activities.

Goal 7. Improve the Great Salt Lake RC&D’s economic viability through fund raising efforts that generate the capital needed to implement the objectives in this Area Plan.

Objective: Attain fiscal stability with adequate controls to assure availability of general operating funds on an ongoing basis, and develop working relationships with area and regional foundations and other sources of funding for project-related opportunities.

Strategy: Secure the services of knowledgeable, experienced accountants and auditors; increase membership; engage in revenue-producing activities; contact area and regional foundations to apprise them of the existence and mission of the RC&D in order to gain their ongoing trust and support.

Conservation means development as much as it does protection. I recognize the right and duty of this generation to develop and use the natural resources of our land; but I do not recognize the right to waste them, or to rob, by wasteful use, the generations that come after us."

Teddy Roosevelt, "The New Nationalism" speech, Osawatomie, Kansas, August 31, 1910

Signature Page

The Great Salt Lake RC&D Council, Inc. agrees that the RC&D program will be conducted in compliance with the nondiscrimination provisions as contained in Title VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended, the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 (Public Law 100-259) and other nondiscrimination statutes; namely, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 and in accordance with the regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture (7CFR-15, Subparts A&B) which provide that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, national origin, age, gender, religion, marital status or handicap/disability be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial (or technical) assistance from the U.S Department of Agriculture or any agency thereof.

The Great Salt Lake RC&D Council, Inc. agrees that the signing of this document constitutes agreement to comply with federal laws concerning restriction on lobbying, a drug-free workplace, and responsibilities for nonprocurement, suspension, disbarment and state review.

The Great Salt Lake RC&D Council, Inc. hereby adopts this RC&D Area Plan and agrees to effectively use the assistance provided by the United States Department of Agriculture to realize its goals and objectives outlined herein.

Great Salt Lake RC&D Council, Inc.

By: _____ Date: _____
(Frank Cumberland, Chair)

Attest: _____
(Avis Light, Second Vice Chair)

This action authorized at an official meeting of the Great Salt Lake RC&D Council, Inc. on July 21, 2004.

US Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service

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The State Conservationist hereby acknowledges the attached Area Plan of the Great Salt Lake RC&D as meeting the requirements under Public Law 97-98 to receive assistance from USDA.

Acknowledged by: _____ Date: _____
(State Conservationist)

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