Utah Water Quality Task Force Meeting Minutes

January 7th, 2016 1:00pm-4:00am Utah Division of Water Quality 195 N. 1950 W. Salt Lake City, Utah

Name	Representing		
Jim Bowcutt	DEQ/DWQ		
Alan Clark	DNR		
Erica Gaddis	DEQ/DWQ		
Ben Holcomb	DEQ/DWQ		
Bart Powaukee	Ute Tribe		
Carl Adams	DEQ/DWQ		
Rhonda Miller	USU Extension		
Martin Esplin	UDAF		
Diane Menuz	UGS		
Ellen Bailey	USU		
Tracie Kirkham	Salt Lake City		
Nathan Daugs	UDAF		
Scott Daly	DEQ/DWQ		
Bill Zanotti	UDFFSL		
Jay Olsen	UDAF		
Craig Walker	UDWR		
Mark Quilter	UDAF		
John Saunders	UDAF		
Chris Kane	UACD		
Dave Brown	NRCS		
Craig Miller	Water Resources		
Amy Dickey	DEQ/DWQ		
Sandy Wingert	DEQ/DWQ		
Hilary Arens	DEQ/DWQ		
Chris Haiglit	Salt Lake County		
Andy Pappas	UDAF		
David Dodds	UDAF		
Mark Muir	USFS		
Norm Evenstad	NRCS		

Erica Gaddis (DEQ/DWQ)- Welcome and Introductions

Jim Bowcutt- (DEQ/DWQ)-Division of Water Quality's NPS Grant Program (see presentation)

- The Division of Water Quality uses a targeted basin approach where it puts the majority of its funding in a smaller area in hopes that it will make it easier to see environmental impacts from the projects installed.
- The Sevier and Cedar-Beaver Watershed Management Units are the targeted basins for 2016.
- In FY-2016 \$1,391,000 in section 319 funds will be administered by DWQ. Of this \$580,458 will be used for project implementation.
- The Water Quality Board will also continue to provide up to \$1,000,000 to be used for NPS related projects in 2016.
- The application period for NPS projects is March 1st through May 20th this year. Grant awards will be announces by June 10th.

<u>R.J. Spencer (UDAF)</u>-UDAF Grant Programs (See presentation)

- ARDL Loans are for on-farm projects. There is a 4% origination fee and a 3% interest rate on these loans.
- There is \$1.8 million available for ISM grants, a program that helps with invasive plant species. The cap is \$150,000 per project. County weed boards make up the majority of grant applicants.
- There is \$1.4 million available for Grazing Improvement Program projects annually. Currently the majority of these grants are with private landowners and permit holders, not state or federal agencies.
- Applications for grants from the Salinity Offset Program are made through the local conservation Districts. This is funding provided to UDAF through negotiated payments made by permitted dischargers to DEQ. There is currently not an annual application period. UDAF receives approximately \$300,000 a year, and \$1.3 million will be allocated this fall. Projects are put on the ground where there is a lower cost per ton of salinity controlled. It must also be spent in the same basin as the permittee that paid the offset cost. Projects are selected by a subcommittee consisting of DEQ, UDAF, and Water Resources.
- Politically it may be difficult to give priority to projects located on impaired waterbodies.
- Many projects have been funded on Muddy Creek.

Norm Evenstad (NRCS)- NRCS Water Quality Programs (See attached handout)

- Originally the plan was to have the NWQI watersheds to follow DEQ's targeted basin approach. However, the NRCS has decided that it is best if funding is left in a watershed until all the available work has been completed instead of moving it every year.
- Work will continue to occur in the Wallsburg Watershed in 2016, as well as one HUC 12 watershed in the Upper Sevier.
- NWQI funding is divided up 3 ways between the 3 selected NWQI watersheds. This equates to \$111,000 per watershed in 2016. If a watershed cannot use all the funding allocated to it, it can be moved to another watershed.
- Strategic funding proposals allow agencies to apply for funding for targeted resource concerns. It can address any natural resource concerns anddoes not have to be water quality related.
- NWQI funding can address any WQ impairment. It just has to be caused by agricultural sources.

Alan Clark (DNR)- Utah Watershed Initiative Program (See attached presentation)

- WRI is partnership driven. The only staff paid with WRI funding is Alan.
- WRI has completed 170 projects around the state and the preference is to work in "landscape scale" areas.
- An example of WRI funding at work is the seed warehouse in Ephraim.
- All partners are welcome to attend the WRI project ranking groups located around the state. If the local watershed coordinators are currently not attending the area workgroup meetings, they should be.
- A new ranking criteria has been developed for FY-2016
- WRI funding does not help with the development of any type of management plans. Instead, the funding is used to implement management plans that other agencies have developed.

Open Discussion (Erica Gaddis DEQ)

Improve Collaboration between agencies- Planning and implementation

• Improve communication within agencies

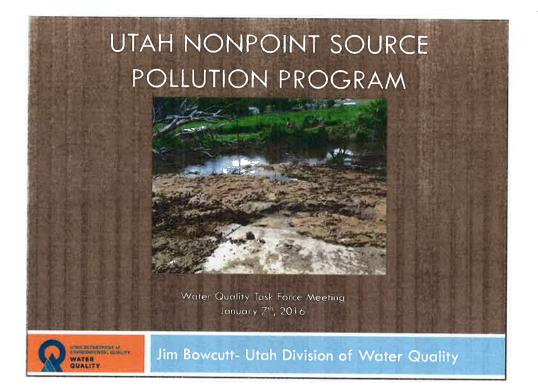
- Bring drinking water providers to the table (Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District, Cache Valley, etc.)
- Use CRMP: watershed planning to bring people together
- Utah Partners for Conservation and Development has good representation to prioritize CRMs

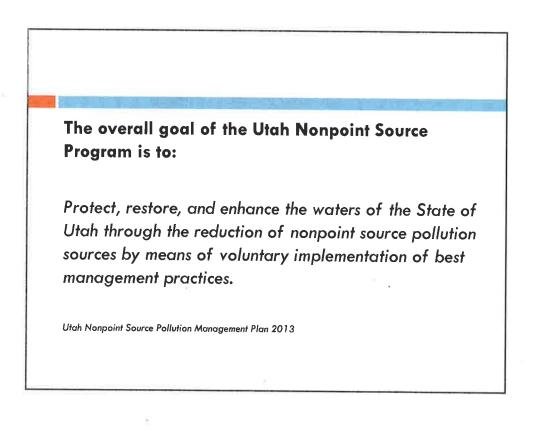
How to make \$\$ go further?

- Protect \$\$ through documenting success
- Publicize Annual Reports
- Continue to pool federal and state funds to maximize benefit.
- State contracting more efficient than federal/private
- Local stakeholders understand funding mechanisms
- Open communication and focus on the local planning level.

Other Items of Business

- Comments on the new website that is being developed by USU need to be submitted soon.
- The annual coordination meeting will be held on March 2nd at the Division of Water Quality office.
- The next task force meeting will be held on April 6th.





The Nonpoint Source Pollution Program

Since 1990, Section 319 funds in the State of Utah have been directed to over 225 locally sponsored projects promoting voluntary NPS pollution control.

In addition to 319 funding the State of Utah has also allocated an additional \$1,000,000 per year towards NPS related projects since 2010.

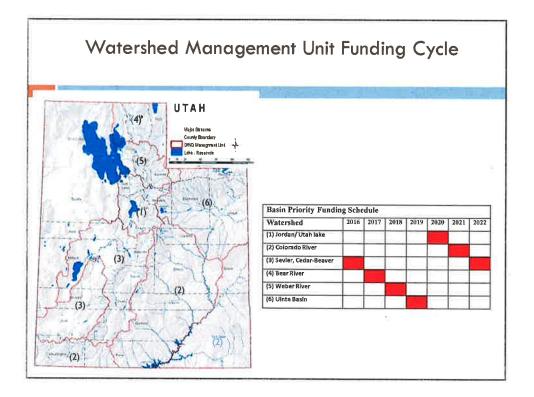


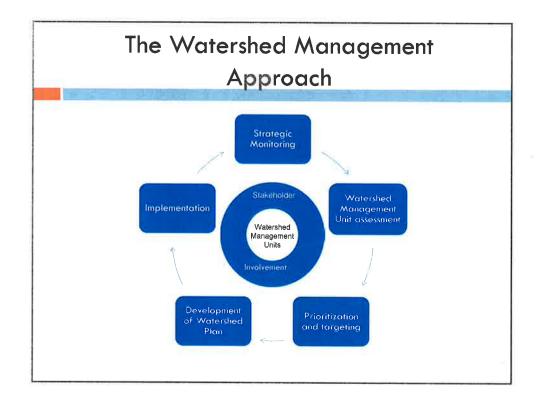
In the past, NPS projects were implemented all around the state every year. (Shotgun Approach)



Since 2011 the state has been using a targeted basin approach to reduce NPS Pollution.

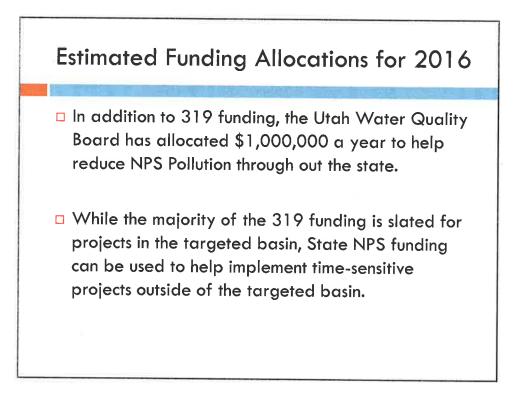






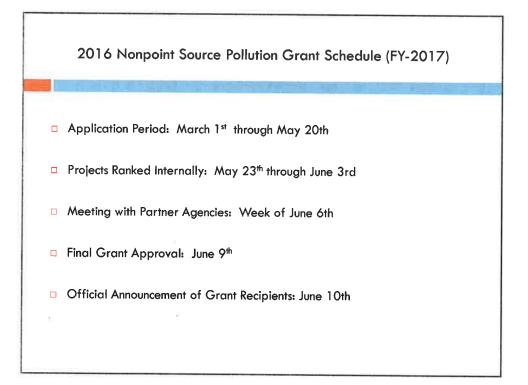


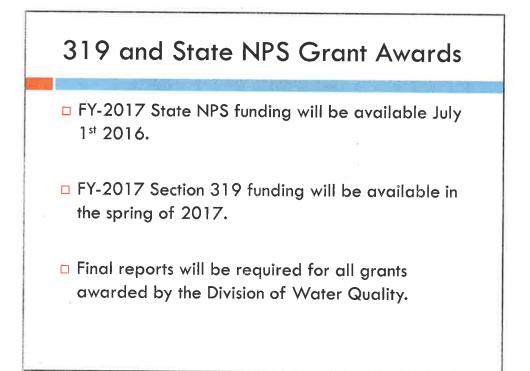
- In FY-2016 Utah anticipates receiving \$1,391,000 in Section 319 funding. We expect a similar amount in FY-2017.
- Of this total, \$440,542 is allocated for DWQ Watershed Protection staff for monitoring, coordination, TMDL development and watershed planning and implementation.
- Another \$370,000 will be allocated to support critical local watershed coordinator positions.
- The remaining \$580,458 will be used as cost share on NPS project implementation.

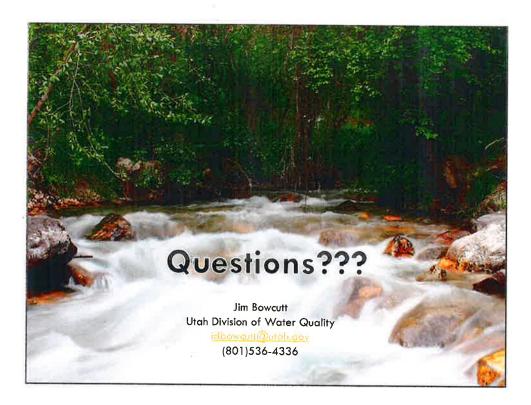




- The Division of Water Quality will accept NPS Grant Applications beginning March 1st through May 20th.
- On a typical year the Division of Water Quality receives around 60-80 proposals totaling over \$4,000,000.







UDAF Loans and Grants

JANUARY 7, 2016

ARDL Loans

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

- Agriculture Resource Development Loans
- "On Farm" projects, 4% interest on all loans
- All loans start at the local Conservation District level. Must be approved by local CD supervisors, then is passed to ARDL program.
- May work in conjunction with grants and other funding for projects
- Forms available online at uacd.org/programs/ardl.html

ISM Grants

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

UTAH DEPAREMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

- Applications Due September 1st, 2016 Rriding@Utah.gov
- Award notification November 1, 2016
- January 1, 2017 –start date for contract lasting 1 calendar year
- \$1.8 Million available
- Trying to put emphasis on new invaders in the state
- IA category special emphasis funding those weeds
- Cap on large scale \$150,000 Cap on small scale \$20,000



- Grazing Improvement Program
- Producers meet with local GIP coordinator
- Create project plan
- Applications Due December 31 to Troy Forest tforest@Utah.gov
- Ranked by committee on April 15th
- Only contract with producer or permit holder, not with any agency
- \$1.4 Million available

Coalmine Offset

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

FOA (Funding Opportunity Announcement) sent out

- Must be tied to Salinity project
- Anywhere in the Colorado basin
- Priority will be given to the watershed where the funds are given
- Project costs vary according to project dollars requested
- Amounts vary in each location according
- Applications send to Mark Quilter mquilter@Utah.gov

Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Project: Basin States Fund

- Projects are selected by and from NRCS and Bureau of Reclamation
- Funds are sent to UDAF for administration
- Wildlife & Habitat Enhancements project funds are available
- Send applications to Mark Quilter mquilter@Utah.gov
- Can be partnered with other project dollars (ISM, GIP, WRI)



UTAH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Fiscal Year 2015 – NPS Report Summary (Draft) USDA-NRCS

1) USDA - Natural Resource Conservation Service

NRCS employees work in partnership with land users to conserve natural resource on private lands. These employees are distributed among 26 field offices and 2 area offices that cover the state of Utah. The individual field offices are managed by District Conservationists who may cover multiple offices. NRCS employees along with Utah Association of Conservation District (UACD) employees report progress on activities in the USDA-NRCS performance results system, which is the basis for the following information.

Financial and technical assistance was provided to land owners, sponsors & managers in Utah during FY2015 through the various USDA-NRCS programs. There were no identified Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMPs) written or applied in FY2015.

Non-Point Source/Water Quality related practices: The results shown in the table below are for all conservation practices planned and applied during fiscal year 2015. A number of the practices listed have direct & indirect water quality benefits, that as a whole, can show overall positive benefits for surface and ground water quality.

This information was generated on January 6, 2016.

Note: Only the practices that had data reported are shown here. PRS report # 2.22.

Utah FY2015 Summary – Conservation Practices (Practice #)	Planned (acres)	Applied (acres)	Planned Count	Applied Count
Access Road (560) (ft)		1,253		1
Agricultural Energy Management Plan, Landscape - Written (124) (no)		22		22
Agricultural Energy Management Plan - Written (128) (no)	11	2	11	2
Agricultural Energy Management Plan, Headquarters - Written (122) (no)		6		6
Agricultural Secondary Containment Facility (710) (no)		1		1
Biological suppression and other non-chemical techniques to manage brush, weeds and invasive species (WQL01) (ac)		208		4
Brush Management (314) (ac)	10,192	10,657	109	116
Building Envelope Improvement (672) (no)	1		1	
Channel Bed Stabilization (584) (ft)	520	1,106	10	22
Conservation Cover (327) (ac)	38	1,227	10	24
Conservation Crop Rotation (328) (ac)		464	30	17
Cover Crop (340) (ac)	325	520	3	15
Critical Area Planting (342) (ac)	18	2	4	2
Dike (356) (ft)	461		1	
Diversion (362) (ft)		6,642		29
Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces (373) (sq ft)		181,700		5
Farmstead Energy Improvement (374) (no)	2	3	2	3
Fence (382) (ft)	216,057	242,146	112	99
Filter Strip (393) (ac)		1		1
Firebreak (394) (ft)		12,822		5
Forage and Biomass Planting (512) (ac)	321	288	19	22
Forage Harvest Management (511) (ac)	287	1,370	7	32
Forest Management Plan - Written (106) (no)	1	3	1	3
Forest Stand Improvement (666) (ac)	12	126	8	8

Grade Stabilization Structure (410) (no)	4		4	
Grazing management to improve wildlife habitat (ANM09) (ac)		4,928		
Harvest hay in a manner that allows wildlife to flush and escape (ANM10) (ac)		2,506		
Hedgerow Planting (422) (ft)	350		1	
Herbaceous Weed Control (315) (ac)	4,906	5,249	68	
Integrated Pest Management (IPM) (595) (ac)	940	7,326	92	
Irrigation Ditch Lining (428) (ft)	20,024	23,938	18	-
Irrigation Land Leveling (464) (ac)	492	456	27	
Irrigation Pipeline (430) (ft)	259,299	291,395	250	
Irrigation Reservoir (436) (ac-ft)	7	26	6	
Irrigation system automation (WQT01) (ac)		1,911		
Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441) (ac)	84	54	21	
Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface (443) (ac)	185	38	21	
Irrigation Water Conveyance (430) (ft)		2,003		
Irrigation Water Management (449) (ac)	3,092	13,916	161	,
Irrigation Water Management Plan - Written (118) (no)		16		
Lighting System Improvement (670) (no)	1	1	1	
Livestock Pipeline (516) (ft)	209,909	209,949	74	
Monitor key grazing areas to improve grazing management (PLT02) (ac)		13,988		-
Monitoring nutritional status of livestock using the NUTBAL PRO System (ANM17) (ac)		123		
Mulching (484) (ac)	2	346	1	
Nutrient Management (590) (ac)	952	5,898	68	2
Obstruction Removal (500) (ac)		1		
Open Channel (582) (ft)		6,201		
Pollinator Habitat Plan - Written (146) (no)	2		2	
Pond (378) (no)	3	2	3	
Pond Sealing or Lining, Bentonite Sealant (521C) (no)	1	36	1	
Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Clay Treatment (521D) (no)	1		1	
Pond Sealing or Lining, Flexible Membrane (521A) (no)	3	2	3	
Pond Sealing or Lining, Soil Dispersant (521B) (no)		1		
Prairie Restoration for Grazing and Wildlife Habitat (ANM21) (ac)		8		
Prescribed Grazing (528) (ac)	226,638	145,635	178	3
Provide Livestock Protection Away from Sensitive Areas (WQL23) (ac)		100		
Pumping Plant (533) (no)	71	70	72	
Range Planting (550) (ac)	6,195	7,852	65	
Recycle 100% of farm lubricants (ENR04) (no)		20		
Reduce the concentration of nutrients on livestock farms (WQL15) (ac)		108		
Regional weather networks for irrigation scheduling (WQT04) (ac)		108		
Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till (329) (ac)		9,942		1
Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (345) (ac)	65	411	1	1
Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats (643) (ac)			1	
		3		
Retrofit watering facility for wildlife escape and enhanced access for bats and bird species (ANM38) (no)	9		9	

Riparian Forest Buffer (391) (ac)	2	1	9	4
Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390) (ac)	5		5	
Roof Runoff Structure (558) (no)		1		1
Rotation of supplement and feeding areas (WQL03) (ac)	58,350	13,868	460	108
Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops (798) (sq ft)	48,771	46,643	26	27
Spring Development (574) (no)	3	5	3	5
Sprinkler System (442) (ac)	4,363	6,054	214	350
Stream Crossing (578) (no)	12	4	12	4
Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (395) (ac)	4	3	6	1
Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580) (ft)	14,520	10,732	86	39
Structure for Water Control (587) (no)	99	178	96	164
Structures for Wildlife (649) (no)	22,975	4	55	4
Terrace (600) (ft)	40,711	38,388	20	7
Trails and Walkways (575) (ft)	20		1	
Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) (ac)	5	35	10	15
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490) (ac)	1	1	1	2
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) (ac)	29,011	26,423	84	46
Use deep rooted crops to breakup soil compaction (SQL05) (ac)		121		1
Use drift reducing nozzles, low pressures, lower boom height and adjuvants to reduce pesticide drift (AIR04) (ac)		2,251		31
Variable speed motor-drive systems (ENR13) (no)	1		1	
Waste Facility Closure (360) (no)		1		1
Waste Separation Facility (632) (no)		1		1
Waste Storage Facility (313) (no)	3	18	3	18
Waste Transfer (634) (no)	4	5	4	5
Waste Treatment Lagoon (359) (no)	1		1	
Water and Sediment Control Basin (638) (no)		2		2
Water Well (642) (no)	8	2	8	2
Watering Facility (614) (no)	108	109	108	84
Well Decommissioning (351) (no)	1		1	
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380) (ft)	4,090	3,720	8	2
Woody Residue Treatment (384) (ac)	6,022	7,236	34	40

Report Purpose: Information in this report shows the planning and implementation accomplishments for all conservation. Report selection criteria include location, time period, plan/applied, CNMP, land use, and agency.

Data Source: All data is from the National Conservation Planning Database.

Practice Type: Selections are provided for practices that are planned, and for practices that are applied. Default is for practices applied.

CNMP: Selections are available for all plans, for practices included in a plan identified as a CNMP, and for practices in plans not identified as CNMP's. Default is for all plans.

Land Use: Selections are provided for official NRCS land use categories. Land use is a term used by NRCS to identify the intent of the client with regard to the purpose to which a land unit is to be put.

Agency: The unit of government or organization credited with achieving the recorded performance. Choices include NRCS, Conservation District, RC&D Council, State Agency, and Other, as well as Joint Partnership. Joint partnership represents that progress that is achieved by two or more of the affiliations jointly.

Uses: This report can be used to determine broad distribution trends in service provided to customers by the conservation partnership.

Cautions: This report does not show sufficient detail to enable evaluation of site-specific conditions (e.g., privately-owned farms and ranches) and is intended to reflect general trends.

Data Quality and Validation: Data contained within this report are continually undergoing review and validation and are subject to change without notification.

Information: This report was generated on January 6, 2016.

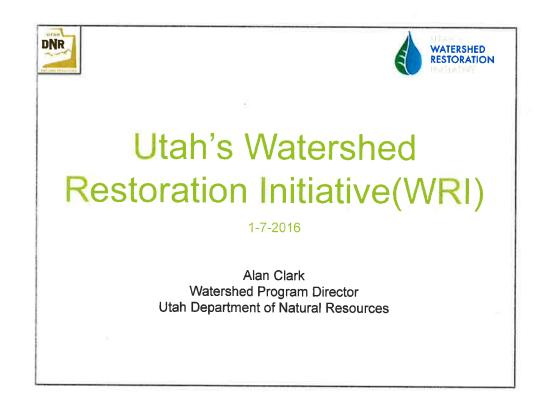
NRCS Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) 2015: \$ 248,000 Used in FY2015

The NRCS National Water Quality Initiative (WQI) establishes priority watersheds nationwide to help farmers, ranchers and forest landowners improve water quality and aquatic habitats in impaired streams. NRCS offers producers an opportunity to implement conservation and management practices through a systems approach to control and trap nutrient and manure runoff. Qualified producers can receive assistance for installing conservation practices such as cover crops and filter strips.

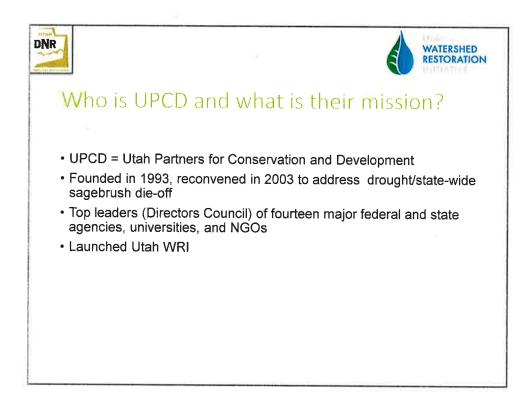
In 2015 the Utah Division of Water Quality recommended that projects in the Hillsdale (160300010307) and Tebbs Hollow (160300010506) watersheds, located on the Upper Sevier River, should be funded using NWQI funds. While there is a high demand for funding in these watersheds, and a large amount of interest with the landowners in the area, it was determined that the possibility of restoring the Upper Sevier River is not very likely. Other funds went to the Lower Main Creek watershed (HUC #160202030404) in Utah County.

Partners sometimes offer financial assistance in addition to NRCS programs. Practices planned with WQI assistance may include: Waste Storage Facility, Pond Sealing/Lining, Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility, Waste Transfer, Pumping Plant, Fence, Irrigation System, Sprinkler, Pumping Plant, Structure for Water Control, Irrigation Pipeline, Forage and Biomass Planting, Obstruction Removal, Nutrient Management, Irrigation Water Management, Riparian Herbaceous Cover, etc.

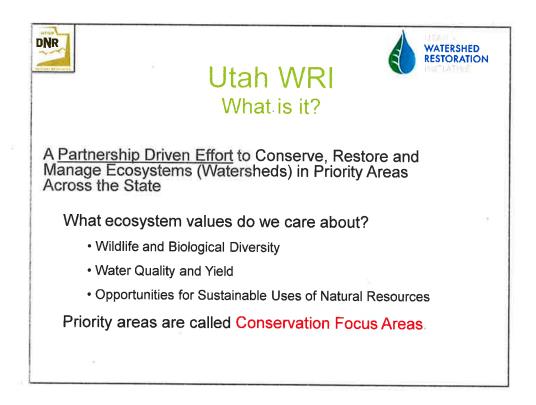
NRCS will continue to coordinate with local and state agencies, conservation districts, nongovernmental organizations and others to implement this initiative. This strategic approach will leverage funds and provide streamlined assistance to help individual agricultural producers take needed actions to reduce the flow of sediment, nutrients and other runoff into impaired waterways.

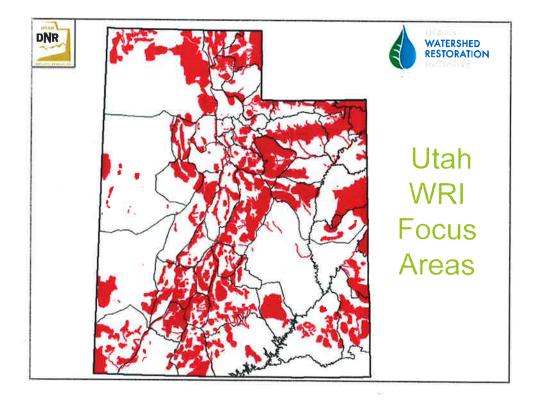




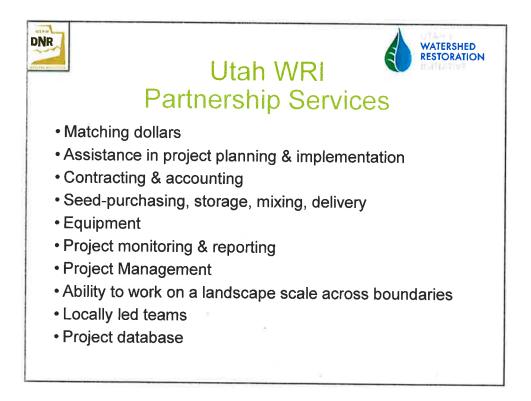


DNR		¢	WATERSHED RESTORATION		
	UPCD Partners	Include			
 Utah Dept. of Natural Resources US Bureau of Land Management Utah State University Extension Service USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Utah Association of Conservation Districts US Fish & Wildlife Service US Farm Services Agency Utah Dept. of Agriculture & Food US Forest Service Utah Dept. of Environmental Quality Utah RC&D Councils Association US Bureau of Reclamation US Park Service Utah School & Institutional Trust Lands 					











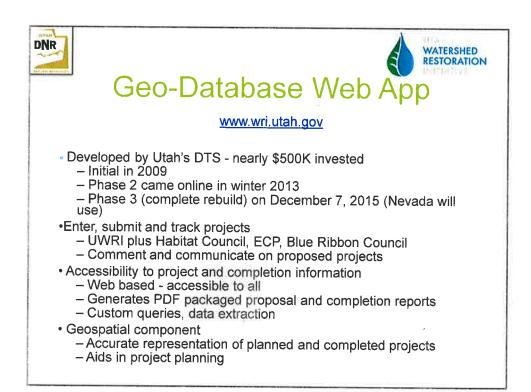


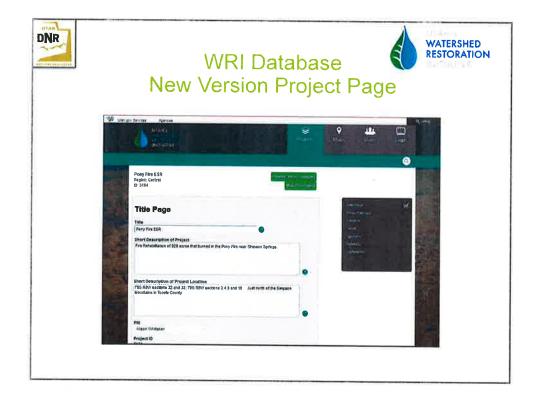


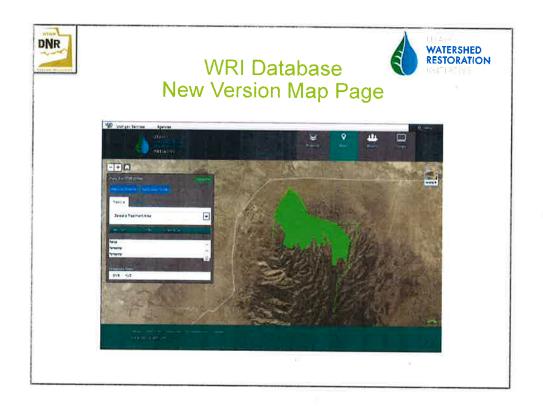


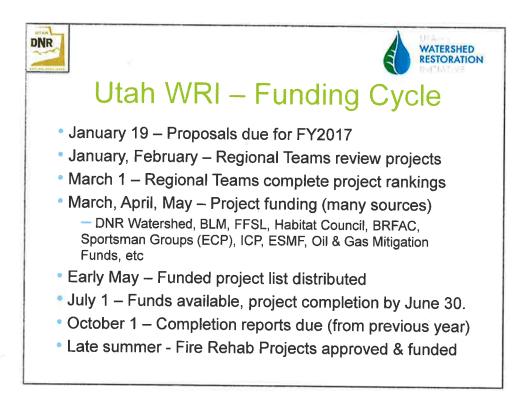


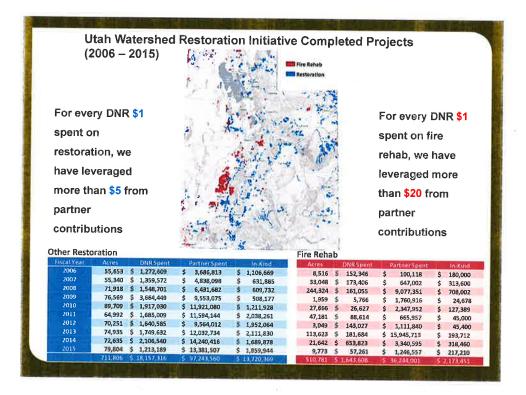


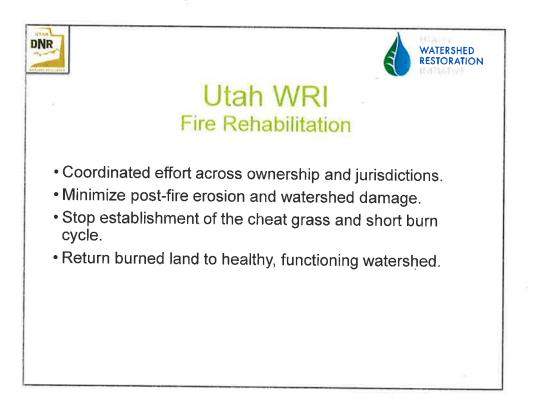


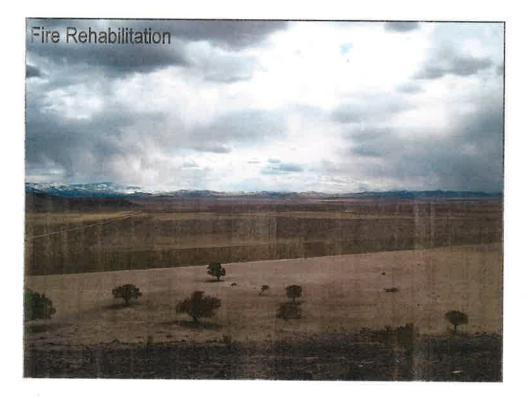








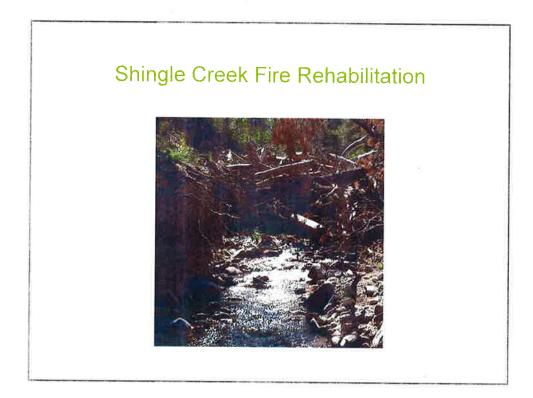




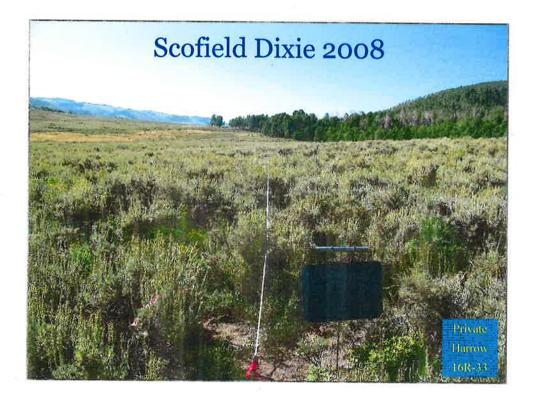




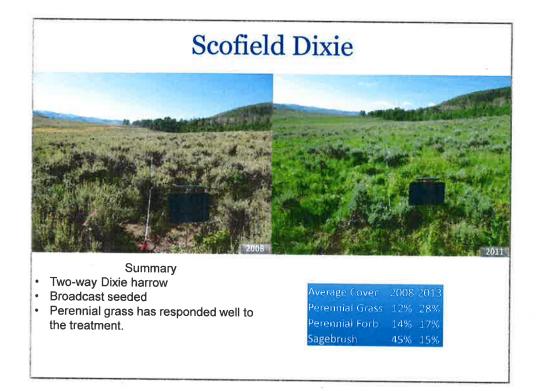






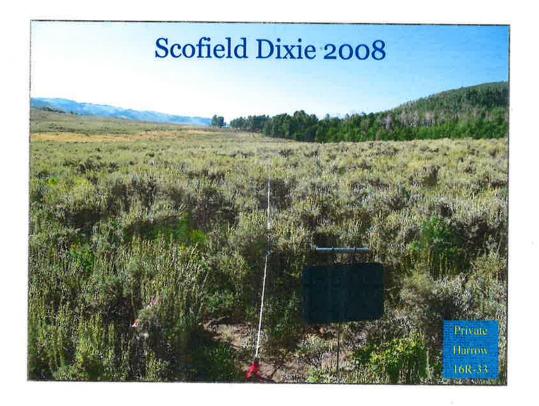




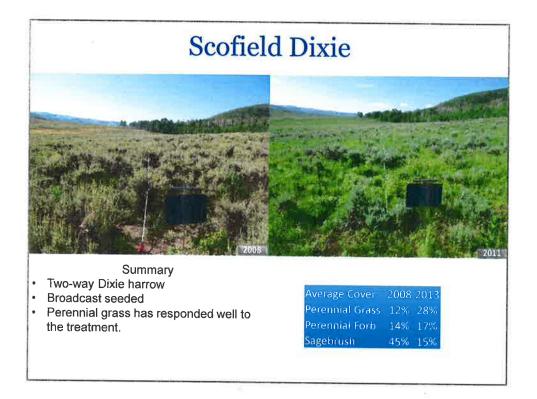




















<section-header>FundamentaSummaryAerially seeded, sagebrush aerially
seededSagebrush has increased on the siteHerbaceous understory has increased
substantially on the site





