

Creating More Meaningful Local Partnerships

NASCA Field Staff Sharing Session

August 30-September 2, 2010

Durango, Colorado

Presented by Roger Barton, Resource Coordinator

Utah Association of Conservation Districts





- } A resource assessment provides a comprehensive evaluation of the conditions of the area's natural resources and becomes the platform for making decisions about local conservation priorities and policies



- } Farm Bill:
- } Title 440 (Programs)
- } Part 500 – Locally Led Conservation

- } Local Work Groups, under the direction of conservation districts, are to “gather input from a broad range of agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals... who have an interest in natural resource conditions and needs of the local area (county).



- } The Local Work Group is to:
 - ? Develop a Resource (Needs) Assessment
 - ? Assess natural resource conservation needs
 - ? Develop an action plan (5 years)
 - ? Implement an action plan
 - ? Evaluation of results

- ? Assessments are currently on a county wide basis. May go to watershed basis in the future which is more in line with many conservation districts.



- } Community stakeholders are best suited to identify and resolve local natural resources problems.
- } Community stakeholders are key to successfully managing and protecting their natural resources
- } Challenges neighbors (urban and rural) to work together to address local resource needs.



- } Goal is to improve or enhance the natural resources of each county
- } LWGs & Conservation Districts – use in developing long range plans, annual plans of work
- } Utah Department of Agriculture and Food – will use to develop a statewide Resource Assessment and to assist in developing policy
- } NRCS – for priority/local funding
- } Other agencies – in developing their area-wide plans



- } Directed by: Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
- } Assisted by: Conservation Districts/Local Work Groups
- } Two "pilot" counties: Rich and San Juan are to have assessments completed by November 2010.
- } All counties completed by fall of 2011.
- } Develop plans that will be useful to the districts; local, county, state and federal gov.



- } Districts, agencies, community leaders, etc. will identify priority resource concerns.
- } District will expand on those concerns
- } Zone and Districts – put information together for review.
- } Agencies, community leaders, etc will review document
- } Submit final Resource Assessment








- } Hold stakeholder meetings
- } Identify “priority concerns” – 5
- } Expand on these concerns:
 - ? why is it a concern
 - ? where is the concern
 - ? recommended actions to address each concern



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} Introduction

? Background · Public Outreach

} County Overview

} Priority Resources and Concerns

} Basic Resources

? Soil · Water · Air · Plants · Animals · Humans

} Bibliography

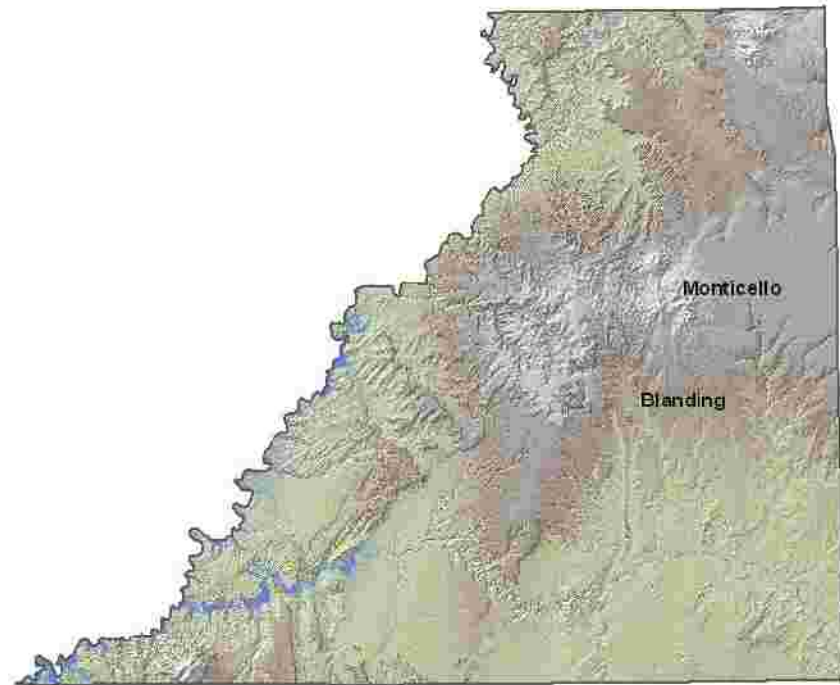
} Appendices



San Juan County Resource Assessment

Conserving Natural Resources For Our Future

August 2010
San Juan Conservation District



- } The San Juan Conservation District considers soils with slopes of 0%-8% and at least 30 inches in depth to be a priority concern. This resource is a concern because the identified soils are the most productive in the county and have the most potential to be productive for crops, forest and rangeland plants. These soils also have the most potential to have vegetative cover to reduce erosion.
- } Soil quality is defined as the capacity of a specific kind of soil to function, within natural or managed ecosystem boundaries, to sustain plant and animal productivity, maintain or enhance water and air quality, and support human health and habitation (Karlen et al. 1997).



} **Factors affecting soils and soil health**

? The San Juan Conservation District has identified several factors having an effect on soil and soil health. They are:

- Sheet and rill erosion by water (rainfall, snowfall and applied irrigation) can impact soil health by removing top soil from productive land; ...

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} **Recommendations to improve soil and soil health**

- ? improve forest health by using prescribed fire to avoid catastrophic fire, encourage aspen regeneration; management of bark beetle impacts and removal of standing dead trees; ...



