

Bear River RC&D

2008

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ANNUAL REPORT

Inside this issue:

<i>Walter Cottam's Oaks</i>	2
<i>Utah Weed Supervisors</i>	2
<i>Utah and Idaho CWMA</i>	2
<i>Hazardous Fuels Removal</i>	3
<i>Arbor Day</i>	3
<i>Council Members</i>	3
<i>Summary of Finances</i>	4

Bear River RC&D Wilderness Youth Camp

For over 20 years, the Bear River RC&D has held a Special Use Permit with the United States Forest Service to maintain and rent a three acre wooded campground located at the summit of Emigration Canyon on the Caribou-Targhee National Forest in Franklin County, Idaho. Located in dense timber (Subalpine Fir, Lodgepole Pine and Englemann Spruce), the camp offers a sizable amphitheater and A-frame building for group activities, as well as 22 individual camp sites.

Numerous improvements have been planned with Dennis Duehran, Montpelier District Ranger, and several have been implemented at the Camp this past year, including the refurbishment of the kiosk (to withstand winter snow accumulations), venting to the outhouses, and the building of a locking access gate and sign. The gate has actually been an unexpected source of advertisement for the camp by directing various visitors to the camp to call the number given on the sign next to the gate. Previously, local residents went through the camp area and apparently did not realize that the camp was available for rent.

An improvement in progress consists of a timber sale through the USFS to Hull Tree Care to make the Camp wildfire resistant. The removal of the timber will also improve the health of the remaining trees, making them much more resistant to



New sign and gate at the Youth Camp

insect, fungus and mistletoe damage, which is common in the unthinned portions of the surrounding forest.

The timber is expected to be removed in the fall of 2009.

Income generated by Camp users in 2008 was in the amount of \$1,904. from over 300 users.

Technical Service Provider – Cache and Box Elder Counties

A bid contract for \$67,094 was awarded to the Bear River RC&D to continue providing staffing for conservation planning activities the Logan and Tremonton NRCS Field Offices in 2008.

Payroll and other financial matters regarding the three TSP

employees (considered to be RC&D employees) were handled by the RC&D Office Manager, Cami King.

This program may or may not continue to be funded in 2009.





One of Cottam's oak hybrids. Fairmont Park, Salt Lake City, Utah



Walter Cottam's Oaks

Walter Cottam was a professor of botany at the University of Utah during the 1950s into the 1970's. He and his associates discovered a naturally occurring hybrid (many more were later found along the Wasatch Front) between the Gambel's oak – commonly found in the foothills of the Salt Lake and Utah Valleys – and the evergreen oak now found only in the St. George area. The presence of this hybrid along the Wasatch Front is evidence of a hotter and drier climate throughout the western

United States several thousand years ago when the St. George evergreen oak migrated north in response to the warmer climates where it crossed with Gambel's oak. When the climate became similar to that of today, the St. George oak disappeared leaving only the Gambel's and the cold tolerant hybrid. This discovery inspired Dr. Cottam to create numerous other hybrid oak crosses, which he planted out in a small orchard, which still exists on the U of U campus.

The Bear River RC&D has collected acorns from the original crosses made by Dr. Cottam, which have been grown out and given away as an outreach tool to interested individuals, groups, and units of government.

In 2008, the RC&D gave out 55 oaks, nine of which are planted on the LDS Hospital grounds in Salt Lake City.

Utah Weed Supervisors Association

For the past several years, the Bear River RC&D has been providing fiscal and contractual services for the Utah Weed Supervisors Association. This year UWSA secured funding from the Forest Service and APHIS for weed control. Thirteen Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA) in Utah applied and will potentially benefit from these two funding sources. In 2008, the RC&D administered \$49,270 for the Utah Weed Supervisors Association.

Utah-Idaho Cooperative Weed Management Area

The Utah-Idaho CWMA consists of 6.5 million acres in Bannock, Franklin and Oneida counties in southeastern Idaho and Cache and Box Elder counties in northern Utah. Prior to 1977, there was no cooperative effort to control noxious and invasive weeds between the states. This cooperative is an ongoing project between 15 land management and county entities in Utah and Idaho, with the Bear River RC&D acting as fiscal agent and supplying grant writing and other services as well.

to help with some of the logistical problems the CWMA members were experiencing.

In 2008, the following acres of noxious/invasive weeds were treated with funds disbursed from the RC&D: 4,145 acres in Box Elder County, 1,000 acres in Cache County, 4,875 acres in Bannock County, 4,500 acres in Oneida County and 4,200 acres in Franklin County (total for Utah: 5,145 acres and 13,575 acres in southeastern Idaho).

In 2008, a sub office of the Bear River RC&D was created at Preston, Idaho, which was done

Total funds disbursed by the RC&D to the Utah-Idaho CWMA in 2008 was \$205,391.



Hazardous Fuels Removal – Cub River, Franklin County, Idaho

Hazardous fuels removal projects in Franklin County included a Garlon 4 spray treatment of the Bigtooth Maple stumps cut last year, in order to prevent resprouting. This treatment was performed by Hull Tree Care of Preston, at a cost of \$2,132 to treat over 5,000 feet of Cub River Sub-division access road. This treatment utilized all the funds from the original \$27,000 grant received from Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) two years ago.

The Bear River RC&D applied for and received notice from IDL that funding to remove fuels from 1 mile of private land bordering the Caribou-Targhee National Forest near the Cub River, was granted (\$12,600). This work can begin as soon as weather permits.

Grant funding was also applied for to complete one mile of hazardous fuels removal from the private/USFS boundary near Maple Creek (\$19,400),

and a \$54,600 request to protect the receiving station on top of Translator Mountain from wildfire. If funded, these two projects will continue the RC&D's fuels removal work into 2010.



Bigtooth Maple stump after spraying with Garlon 4.

Arbor Day Celebration – City of Soda Springs, Caribou County, Idaho



Each year, since 2001, the RC&D has participated in the Arbor Day Celebration at Soda Springs which has qualified as a Tree Cities USA member. This recognition is sponsored by Gerry Bates, Idaho Community Forester, and Idaho Department of Lands. Indeed, Soda Springs has a beautiful urban forest, which adds enormously (if not mostly) to the charm of the city, not to mention the

comfort of its residents.

In order to qualify for a Tree Cities USA designation, the city must have a tree committee, must have a city tree care ordinance, must celebrate Arbor Day, and must spend at least \$2.00 per capita on city tree care. In 2008, Soda Springs spent \$10,710 on tree care – for a population of 3,381 residents.



Celebrating Arbor Day
May 9, 2008

Current officers and members of the Bear River RC&D

- Lloyd Rasmussen, Chair, Caribou County Commissioner
- M. Lynn Lemon, Secretary/Treasurer, Cache County Executive
- Jay Hardy, Vice-Chair, Box Elder County Commissioner
- Montain Kunz, Vice-Chair, Bear Lake County Commissioner
- Bill Cox, Vice-Chair, Rich County Commissioner
- Scott Workman, Vice-Chair, Franklin County Commissioner
- Larry Etherington, Vice-Chair, Oneida County Commissioner

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Mission: *The mission of the Bear River RC&D Council, Inc., is to develop local solutions to sustain and improve communities through partnership building and conservation of natural and human resources.*



Vision: *The Bear River RC&D Council, Inc., will be a recognized leader in the promotion of conservation, development and utilization of natural and human resources to improve the local economy and to enhance the quality of life in all the communities of the Bear River RC&D area.*

Designated October 15, 1966, the Bear River RC&D Council, Inc, is a locally led 501(c)(3) not for profit organization that addresses natural resource conservation and development issues in Oneida, Caribou, Franklin and Bear Lake counties in Southeastern Idaho and Box Elder, Cache, and Rich counties in Northern Utah. The RC&D area represents most of the Bear River Basin – 12,519 square miles (8,012,160 acres).

Summary of 2008 Finances (unaudited)

Assets as of January 1, 2008	\$138,757
Total Income for 2008	\$329,906
Total Expenses for 2008	\$348,933
Assets as of December 31, 2008	\$119,730

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