
Shambip Conservation District Long Range Plan

2008-2013



Forward

The purpose of this document is to create and set forth long term goals necessary to address the need of natural resource conservation within the Shambip Conservation District.

Definition:

In Utah's Soil Conservation District Act of 1937, it is stated that Conservation Districts (CDs) are legal subdivisions of the state. The main duties of a conservation district are to improve soil and water resources within their district through conservation education, demonstrations and activities.

Each district in Utah is managed by a five-person board of locally elected supervisors, each serving a four-year term. The supervisors work with all individuals, groups and agencies interested in soil and water conservation, land use planning, watershed protection, flood prevention and other related interests and endeavors.

Shambip Conservation District holds regular monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of the month. The regular meetings are open to the public. A simple majority of supervisors present at a monthly meeting is required to do official business.

Purposes:

The general purposes of a CD in representing the citizens of the district are to:

- Focus attention on land, water and other natural resource problems
- Develop programs to solve these problems
- Enlist and coordinate help from all public and private sources that can contribute to accomplishing the district's goals

Duties:

As a political subdivision, a CD is given specific duties and powers. In line with their duties is the authority to make recommendations governing land use within the district. Those specific to soil conservation are:

- Provisions requiring the observance of particular methods of cultivation
- Provisions requiring specific crop programs and tillage practices
- Provision prohibiting the tillage of highly erosive areas where erosion may not be adequately controlled if cultivated
- Provisions requiring the construction of terraces, terrace outlets, check dams, dikes, ponds, and other structures

The district has also been mandated to do all other things necessary or convenient for the efficient and effective administration of the district.

Mission Statement

To promote and achieve conservation and sustainability of Utah's natural resources by bringing government and local agencies together with private interests to foster solutions and to provide financial and educational assistance to landowners and land users.

History of the Shambip Conservation District

The Shambip Soil Conservation District is a legal subdivision of the State of Utah .It is a Special Service District, organized on June 24, 1976 by consolidation of Center District (February 26, 1947) and Vernon District (October 3, 1941) under the provisions of the Utah Soil Conservation District Law (Utah Code- Special Districts- Title 17, Part 8). It is one of 38 such Districts covering the entire state.

General Information

Shambip CD includes the towns of Dugway, Ophir, Rush Valley, Vernon and Wendover City. As of 2000, the U.S. Census Bureau reported the following populations for these towns:

Population

Dugway	2,016
Ophir	23
Rush Valley	453
Vernon	236
Wendover City	1,537

Elevation

4,200 feet (edge of the Great Salt Lake)
11,031 feet (Deseret Peak) (resource assessment)

Geography

Covering vast amounts of the Great Salt Lake desert west of Salt Lake Valley, Tooele county is the second largest county in Utah and among the driest.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 7,287 square miles of which, 6,930 square miles of it is land and 357 square miles of it (4.90%) is water.

Climate

Climate varies dramatically by elevation. At the lower elevation precipitation ranges from 8-12 inches in the form of rain. Higher precipitations receive up to 24 inches in the form of snow. (resource assessment)

Natural Resource Concerns

Top five natural resource concerns within Tooele County

1. Rangeland Health
2. Water Quantity
3. Noxious and Invasive Species
4. Development
5. Water Quality

Goals

Conservation

Educate the public on the value and importance of effective conservation and natural resource management.

Plant and Animal

- 1. Pursue the active county-wide reduction of nonnative invasive plant and animal species that have a negative impact to agricultural operations and native plant and animal populations.**
 - a. Support the Tooele County Weed Board and Supervisor
 - b. Distribute noxious and invasive weed information
 - c. Monitor noxious and invasive weeds and report concerns to the weed board
 - d. Provide CD representation at the County Weed Board meetings
 - e. Keep up to date with USU Extension and County weed management recommendations
 - f. Work with, UDOT, the railroads and city and county officials to control weeds
 - g. Actively pursue grants for weed eradication and control through State programs.
- 2. Monitor grasshopper and crickets in the early spring and implement the necessary measures to prevent and outbreak.**

Soil

- 1. Work with farmers and other landowners to control erosion and manage nutrients and pesticides to maintain soil health and improve water quality.**
 - a. Help farmers develop and implement Soil Conservation and Water Quality Plans and Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans

- b. Assist landowners in finding technical assistance and administrative cost-share programs for the installation of BMPs
- 2. Improve and promote healthy rangelands**
 - a. Promote the Grazing Improvement Program
 - b. Work with USU Extension to monitor grazinglands
 - c. Partner on workshops and educational opportunities to encourage rangeland monitoring

Water Quantity and Quality

- 1. Protect, maintain & improve water resources throughout the County**
 - a. Improve the water quality of Tooele County and meet water quantity needs through conservation.
- 2. Cooperate and collaborate with the Water District to jointly implement projects**
- 3. Have a representative of the Shambip Board meet regularly with the water district.**

Air Quality

- 1. To help meet the requirements of state and federal environmental regulations while maintaining a viable agricultural industry in the State of Utah**
 - a. To promote the AFO program for projects that will assist achieving national air quality objectives in Utah.
 - b. Assist landowners in meeting best management practices such as residue management, cover crops, wind barriers and implementation of a prescribed burning management plans to reduce a farm's particulate matter emissions.

Wildlife

- 1. Support measures to protect a network of public and private open space to ensure the continued presence of wildlife in Tooele County.**
- 2. Utilize UACD wildlife specialist to promote best management of wildlife on agricultural lands**
- 3. Work to prevent the listing of wildlife on the endangered species list**
 - a. Provide representation at Sage Grouse Working Group Meetings

Public Awareness

Increase awareness of Conservation District programs and functions

Objectives and Action Items

- 1. Work with the community and other agencies to promote awareness of district services**
 - a. Host open-houses and workshops related to District and partner programs
 - b. Update local government and stakeholders on District activities and accomplishments through an annual report.
 - c. Utilize local media to publicize District activities by submitting articles or public service announcements.

Education

To develop, and/or collaborate on programs that inform and motivate land owners, farmers, ranchers, agencies, and general public about the importance of, and means for farmland protection, water resources management, habitat restoration, non-native invasive species management, and air quality improvement through publications, policy, workshops, school programs, presentations, and the internet.

Student Education

- 1. Work with local schools, churches and libraries to promote conservation awareness through educational contests, media, field days and celebrations.**
- 2. Provide environmental and agricultural educational opportunities or activities for students through district, UACD and partner sponsored farm field days, contests and camps.**
 - a. Assist Tooele County Envirothon Teams with registration fees.
 - b. Promote the UACD Auxiliary Scholarship in Tooele County Schools.
 - c. Support the annual Farm Field Day by manning a soils booth and donating educational materials to teachers.

Landowner Education

- 1. Make available periodic agricultural conservation-oriented articles, fact sheets, and other written materials and audiovisual presentations for use by District board members, partners and watershed groups to promote conservation of soil and water.**
- 2. Hold local workshops and site visits to demonstrate conservation issues and both agricultural best management practices**

Financial/Leadership

To develop funding sources to sustain and enhance conservation district programs.

Objectives and Action Items

- 1. Encourage all Board members to complete the District Official Accreditation program**
- 2. Work with other Districts throughout the State and with UACD to promote increased and reliable funding by the State Legislature.**
 - a. Educate State elected officials and encourage increased public funding of District staff and programs.
 - b. Provide annual reports to local governments and send invitations to district and UACD activities.
 - c. Create working relationships with local officials and State and Federal legislators.
- 3. Work closely with County governments to increase funding support from the local level.**
- 4. Identify additional sources of financial support for District services from public and private conservation groups.**
 - a. Obtain grants for special District programs, seminars and workshops as innovative ideas and opportunities are presented.

References

Agricultural Preservation, Problems and Alternatives: Wasatch Front Regional Council, May 1979,

National Agricultural Lands Study, The Protection of Farmlands: Department of the Interior, January, 1981; and,

Zoning to Preserve Agricultural Lands: University of Wisconsin-Madison, March 1980.