

Subject: 6-25-12 eBlast from Utah NRCS



June 25, 2012

SUMMIT COUNTY EWP PROJECT MARKS COMPLETION; NEW EWP STAFFER ANNOUNCED

The Summit County Council and NRCS conducted a tour last week and announced the completion of a \$3.3 million Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) project in Summit County. Over the past year several sites damaged from the spring floods of 2010 and 2011 have been restored to protect life and property from future flooding. A \$2.5 million federal EWP grant along with \$800,000 in local funding and in-kind work from Summit County made it possible to protect 25 sites from future flooding as well as debris removal and re-vegetation throughout the Weber River and Chalk Creek corridors. It's estimated the project will provide \$5 million in public benefits by reducing damages from future flooding occurrences.

NRCS State Conservationist Dave Brown and Summit County Public Works Director Kevin Callahan commented on the success of the project in Oakley before leaving on a tour of three nearby completion sites with County Council and other community officials. Brown took the opportunity to introduce a new member of the state NRCS staff who was hired to help coordinate the EWP workload across the state. In the accompanying photo, Brown (right) is shown visiting with new EWP coordinator Dave Birdsall at one of the EWP completion sites on the Weber River.

Dave Birdsall began work June 18th as a resource conservationist with assigned responsibility to

assist with overall coordination of EWP projects across the state, under the direction of State Engineer Bronson Smart. He will work closely with engineering, contracting, resources, and sponsoring county staff to make sure EWP work is completed in a timely and professional way.

Before joining us in Utah, he was a resource manager in Florida for a large water management district. Prior to that he has worked with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection as a regional biologist and as a wildlife biologist in the Dominican Republic with the U.S. Peace Corps. He received a bachelor's degree in



Zoology and Botany from the University of Western Australia. Birdsall is located in the Salt Lake State Office and can be reached by phone at 801-524-4583.

Periodic news reports from NRCS Utah



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