



Panoramaland RC&D

Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.

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HELPING CENTRAL UTAH LANDOWNERS LIVING WITH UTAH PRAIRIE DOG

RICHFIELD, Utah—A Central Utah non-profit organization has scheduled a field trip for farmers and ranchers to help them achieve their land management objectives in harmony with the Utah Prairie Dog. Field trip attendees will meet at Ruby's Inn, September 6, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. The trip will conclude at 4:00 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Panoramaland Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council, in cooperation with the Color Country RC&D Council.

Central Utah is the only location where this threatened species is found, and over 70% of them live on private lands. The organizers of the field trip hope to show how these prairie dogs can be compatible with farming and ranching operations. Attendees will visit two Utah prairie dog sites and learn about options for land management. Financial and technical assistance is available to help landowners put into practice some of the methods discussed during the field trip, to improve productivity while protecting the prairie dog habitat.

An agreement protecting landowner's property rights is also available to farmers and ranchers. Called "Safe Harbor," the agreement ensures that use of their land will not be jeopardized should the prairie dog population increase as a result of the landowner's management.

Private landowner effort may influence whether or not the Utah prairie dog is removed from the Threatened and Endangered Species list. But state and federal agencies need to hear about the particular challenges facing central Utah landowners with prairie dog habitat on their lands. Guest speakers and a complimentary Dutch oven lunch for all attendees will provide opportunities for information sharing. RSVP is appreciated. Please call (435) 896-8965, ext. 101 to RSVP, or to request more information.

Special note: Media are invited to attend the field day.