

Francis, Ronald - Salt Lake City, UT

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UTAH SOIL SURVEY PARTNERS REVIEW ANNUAL PLANS

The Utah Soil Survey Partners met recently for their annual planning meeting to coordinate soil survey activities between conservation districts, the Utah Conservation Commission, Utah State University, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and NRCS. The National Cooperative Soil Survey encourages these state planning meetings to enhance the working relationships of the partners.

Items of discussion included:

- Coordination on soil surveys in Beaver, Duchesne, Kane and Sevier Counties and the Ute & Ouray Tribal lands.
- The need for an update of the Navajo Area Soil Survey in San Juan County.
- An update on the major effort of the National Park Service to more effectively manage NPS resources. A goal for the Utah parks is to have all the Ecological Site Descriptions completed including the State and Transition Model. As a result the NPS is funding the update of soil surveys in a number of Utah parks and monuments.
- Moving ahead on a proposal that federal agencies coordinate on the recruitment and training of student trainees. This would include providing students the opportunity to work with more than one agency while in the student employment status.
- Continued partnership efforts of the federal partners with Utah State University in testing digital mapping techniques and landscape modeling. The BLM currently is funding a project in Beaver County and the NRCS is funding a project in Arches National Park.
- Moving ahead on an effort to provide local governments with the maps and tools needed to address important farmlands in planning. This was initiated by NRCS State Conservationist Sylvia Gillen with the strong support of Jake Jacobson and Gordon Younker.



The accompanying photo shows meeting participants (left to right, front row) Howard Main, BIA; Patty Wright, BIA; Lisa Bryant, BLM; (back row) Preston Smith, BIA; Mike Domeier, NRCS State Soil Scientist; Jeff Bruggink, Forest Service; and Pete Biggam, Nat'l. Park Service. Members not present for photo were Jake Jacobson, Utah Soil

Conservation Commission, and UACD Exec. Director Gordon Younker.

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