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From: Francis, Ronald - Salt Lake City, UT
Sent: Thursday, February 08, 2007 11:30 AM
Subject: 2-8-07 eBlast from NRCS



February 8, 2007

INTERIOR GIVES UTAH \$2 MILLION FOR HEALTHY LANDS INITIATIVE

Utah Governor Jon Huntsman held a news conference on Wednesday with Interior Assistant Secretary Stephen Allred, who announced that \$2 million of the \$22 million budgeted for the Department of Interior's Healthy Lands Initiative will go to cooperative conservation work in Utah. These funds from the President's FY 2008 budget will expand federal, state and local conservation efforts to help restore western land that hosts world-class wildlife habitat and energy resources and provides major economic benefits to local communities.



Governor Huntsman lauded the contribution and noted current Utah legislative efforts to reinvest state money in land conservation and watershed improvements. He praised the work of the Utah Partners for Conservation and Development (UPCD) for their leadership and noted that they are an emerging model, if not "the" model in the west for effective cooperative conservation work. The accompanying news conference photo shows (left to right) Governor Huntsman, Assistant Secretary Allred, and NRCS State

Conservationist Sylvia Gillen, past chair of the UPCD.

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