

Francis, Ronald - Salt Lake City, UT

Subject: eBlast from NRCS



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## NRCS UTAH LAUNCHES PHOTO ARCHIVE PROJECT

"What ever happened to those old photos?" That's a question the Utah NRCS leadership hopes will be better answered over the next 2-3 years as they launch a NRCS photo archive project that will collect historical photographs and create a statewide digital archive. The



project is under the direction of the Public Affairs Office with guidance from an advisory team made up of Cindy Burton, Mike Domeier, Shane Green, and Ron Francis. STEP Student David Park ([david.park@ut.usda.gov](mailto:david.park@ut.usda.gov)), a history major from the Salt Lake Community College (seen in the accompanying photo), has been hired in the state office to collect and catalog the type of photos established under guidelines from the advisory group. He will be making appointments to visit each NRCS and District office in the state to identify, collect, scan and determine the final disposition of photos deemed appropriate and beneficial to the mission of the agency. With

agreement from each office, certain original photos may be placed in a climate-controlled repository with a university or organization.

Emphasis will be given to photos that show conservation practices in the same categories that currently exist in the online NRCS Photo Gallery, that offer an opportunity to take repeat photos (showing change over time), or that contain strong historical interest relating to the agency mission. While the main focus will be on photos, significant historical documents may also be recorded as time permits. Plans are to place some searchable historical photos, such as key repeat photos, on the Utah NRCS Web site. Other photos will be stored in both jpg and tiff files on various media, such as CD and external hard drives, which may be accessed by NRCS and district employees.



It is hoped this project will also provide guidelines for file-naming and cataloging current photos that can be shared with employees and the public on a searchable database.

"Photographs have always been a powerful tool in our agency to communicate the value of conservation," said Public Affairs Specialist Ron Francis

The accompanying 1938 photo taken near Moab shows contour furrow seeding by means of a Roto Power duster--- note the sagebrush branch being dragged to cover the seed.

## Periodic news reports from NRCS Utah

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