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STATE CONSERVATIONIST HIGHLIGHTS NEW STRATEGIC PLAN

The new NRCS Strategic Plan for 2005-2010 sets the overall direction for this agency and will help us determine our conservation priorities and goals here in Utah. I hope each of you will take the time to read, ponder, and discuss this new plan. We will soon send a printed copy to each office, but it is now available online at

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/about/strategicplan/index.html>.



This plan will guide NRCS in implementing key overarching strategies, managing agency business lines, meeting customer needs, and developing and strengthening capacity to achieve our mission goals. In addition to our foundation goals of working for productive soils, clean water, and a healthy plant and animal communities, we now have three new venture goals: clean air, an adequate energy supply, and working farm and ranchlands. These new goals will require us to stretch ourselves and discover together ways our agency and our partners can provide leadership in these critical resource issues for Utah. For example, the fragmentation of farmland along the Wasatch Front is one of the most critical issues now facing our natural resource managers. We will need the help

of each of you to help tackle these new challenges.

I look forward to talking with each of you about this new strategic plan as we meet at various locations over the next few months.

-- Sylvia Gillen

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