

## Utah Partners for Conservation and Development Two Chiefs' Partnership Award Winner - 2007



Utah Partners for Conservation and Development (UtahPCD) is a statewide partnership composed of leaders from state and federal agencies, academia, and non-governmental organizations. UtahPCD identifies common watershed issues and works through local teams to find consensus driven solutions for conservation and economic growth.

The values of the UtahPCD include:

- Water quality and yield
- Wildlife and biological diversity
- Sustainable farms and ranches
- Quality of life
- Reduce ecological and economic impacts from wildfire
- Prevent the spread of invasive species.

Since 2005, Utah Partners have initiated 240 restoration projects on 150,000 acres throughout Utah. Projects include improvement of critical wildlife habitat, riparian restoration, and wildfire rehabilitation.

In recognition of the important conservation work taking place, the Utah Legislature in 2007, authorized \$6 million annually to assist in watershed restoration, quality growth, and rangeland improvement. The combination of state and federal appropriated dollars and NGO's contributions amounted to \$12.8 million committed to conservation efforts statewide in Utah.

This year, UtahPCD's rapid response to the State's historic wildfire season was possible because of in-place infrastructure and relationships. Joint UtahPCD efforts included immediate restoration and long-term rehabilitation planning, support to affected communities.



**Executive Leadership:**

Jack Troyer, Regional Forester, U.S. Forest Service, Intermountain Region

Sylvia Gillen, Utah State Conservationist, NRCS;

Rory Reynolds, Watershed Initiative Coordinator, State of Utah;

Mike Styler, Executive Director, Utah Department of Natural Resources;

Selma Sierra, Utah State Director, BLM;

Leonard Blackham, Commissioner, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food