

UINTA COUNTY *Connection*

Giant Rubber Water Tanks Available

Giant Rubber Water Tanks originated in the creative mind of a frustrated Wyoming rancher in the early 1980's. Gerald Mahoney wrestled with the replacement costs and untimely demise of many traditional water troughs on his ranch. On the lookout for a more suitable alternative, he took a coal mine tour and was impressed with the large truck tires he saw being used there. He began to see that if one could remove a sidewall from the used tire that they would have a virtually indestructible water trough. Working in conjunction with the mine, he acquired one large scrap tire and then spent many hard days and restless nights trying to find a way to remove the top. His efforts paid off and he built a machine that could efficiently cut the tire. He cut tires for his own use and made note of their durability and freeze resistance. Soon neighbors were asking him to cut some for them as well. The business functioned under the ranch enterprises as a part-time venture until 2002 when Pat and Beth Reilly purchased the business from Gerald (Dad) and incorporated.

Giant Rubber Water Tanks, Inc. continues to be a family owned and operated business and has grown to include 140 dealers in the United States.

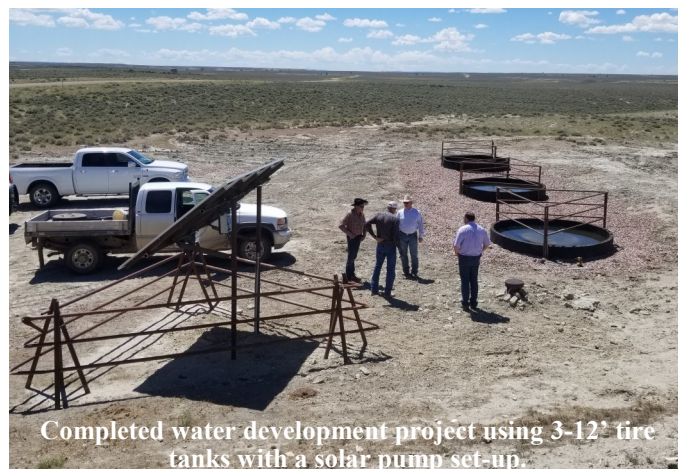
It is their mission and goal to provide an easy to manage, government approved, environmentally friendly tire disposal system for mines, and at the same time provide a cost effective and indestructible water trough alternative for customers. This is accomplished in an ethical and friendly manner. Giant Rubber Water Tanks, Inc. is a reputable and reliable company.

The Uinta County Conservation District is just one of the 140 dealers across the United States. Our goals are similar to those of Giant Rubber Water Tanks, Inc, in that we want to provide cost effective and reliable alternatives to local ranchers that will improve their operations. The Uinta County Conservation District established a relationship with Giant Rubber Water Tanks, Inc. several years ago to provide another water trough option for local ranchers.

UCCD currently has 12' and 8' diameter tire tanks available for purchase. The 12' tanks hold 1300-1400 gallons of water while the 8' tanks hold about 500 gallons. The durability of tire tanks results in significant time and replacement cost savings for you. Tire tanks are a durable and beneficial tool used to provide water in areas

where it isn't readily available to livestock or wildlife. The tanks are also approved to use in NRCS programs and other water development projects available through UCCD.

For more information,
Please call UCCD at
307-288-0214.



Completed water development project using 3-12' tire tanks with a solar pump set-up.



STREAM RESTORATION WORK CONTINUES ON THE BEAR RIVER

The Bear River begins in the high Uinta Mountains then flows through Wyoming, Idaho and Utah, making five state line crossings before flowing into the Great Salt Lake. At roughly 500 miles long, the Bear River is the longest river in North America that does not flow into the ocean. The Bear River provides multiple uses including agriculture, irrigation, municipal and industrial uses, power generation, recreation and habitat for fish and wildlife. Each of these uses comes with its own unique challenges and impacts on water resources within the Bear River Watershed.

Instream channel and bank erosion were identified as significant sources of total sediment load to the river when it was listed as impaired due to excess sediment in 2002. Some of the river's instability is intensified by irrigation push-up dams which are points of diversion where water levels are raised by gravel-cobble dams that are annually maintained with heavy equipment. The annual washout and construction of these push-up dams directly introduces sediment into the river, and because sediment does not generally pass through the push-up dams, they actually promote stream instability that extends beyond the impact of the immediate dam location. In order to address these issues, reduce stream instability and the amount of sediment entering the river, UCCD has partnered with landowners, private organizations and other agencies to improve the Bear River through stream restoration projects.

Since 2018, six large projects have been designed and constructed on the Bear River based on 4 primary natural resource goals:

1. Improved stream stability through reduced bedload
2. Improved water quality through reduced total suspended solids
3. Improved fish habitat
4. Improved fish passage

Irrigation diversion reconstruction and stream restoration based on natural channel design principles *directly* address the two main sources of sediment in the river and meet all four of the natural resource goals. Another very important aspect of these projects is to demonstrate that all of these goals can be met while still providing irrigation water, the lifeblood of the area's agriculture.

The most recent stream restoration project was completed just north of the City of Evanston on a 2,020-foot stretch of the Bear River. This was the first phase of a two-phase project. The project included replacing an irrigation diversion concrete rubble push-up dam with a 2.3% slope, 100-foot-long rock-ramp composed of 6 boulder-constructed riffles and enhancement of the channel through deepening existing pools. Downstream of this reach an additional 3 boulder-constructed riffles were built and a low bench of transplanted willows was established on a bank that was already armored with broken concrete. These before and after pictures clearly demonstrate the benefit of replacing a push-up dam with a more permanent rock structure designed to deliver the same irrigation water at all times of the year without the landowner needing to go in with heavy equipment to push-up the concrete and rubble dam.

Phase 2 of this project will involve restoration of another 4,100 feet of river using toe-wood and other proven stream restoration techniques. This phase is expected to be completed by the end of 2025. Once this phase is done, it will connect with the upstream end of an earlier project and will make 4 miles of contiguous river restoration on the Bear River!

Stream restoration projects are no small undertaking and are very expensive. These projects would not be possible without the cooperation of private landowners and funding from multiple partners including:

- Western Native Trout Initiative
- National Association of Conservation Districts
 - Uinta County Conservation District
 - US Fish and Wildlife Services
 - Trout Unlimited
 - Wyoming Game and Fish



Diversion dam before construction



Rock-ramp that was used to replace the push-up dam after construction

Clark Elementary students educated at Uinta County Youth Camp



Clark Elementary School science teacher, Josh Cox, undertook a huge project when he decided to organize a local weeklong outdoor science field trip for the fifth-grade students. Forty students and numerous teachers spent five days and four nights at the Uinta County Youth Camp in September. Each day, students rotated through stations learning about Wyoming wildlife, forestry, natural resources, conservation, and much more!

The Conservation District was able to support this field trip by teaching a full-day station about macroinvertebrates and water quality, an important conservation topic in Uinta County. Students performed an experiment to measure the quality of the water in the youth camp pond by collecting benthic macroinvertebrate specimens and identifying them using dichotomous keys.

The UCCD Board of Supervisors and staff is extremely excited to see the use of local facilities and experts to educate the students of our county! We applaud the Clark Elementary teachers and staff for their hard work in making this happen.

UCCD works with teachers in all three Uinta County school districts on a regular basis to provide indoor and outdoor, hands-on educational activities and field trips to give students an awareness of conservation, agriculture, and stewardship.

For more information about our education program, visit our website at: www.uintacountycd.com.



SEEDLING TREES AVAILABLE FROM UCCD

If you are looking for an affordable way to get some trees and shrubs growing on your property, consider ordering seedlings from the Conservation District. We offer a variety of species including shrubs, deciduous trees and evergreens, all of which are suited to grow in our climate. However, you must still take into consideration the soil type and water availability in your planting area. Although the species we offer do well in our climate, one species may not tolerate salty soils where another one will, or one may do well in wet areas, where another one likes to be dry. These are a few things to consider when developing your planting plan and ordering your seedlings. If you need help determining your soil type and what kinds of seedlings would do best in your particular planting area, contact the Conservation District. We are happy to help you figure out the best planting design and the best seedlings for you.

UCCD has started taking orders and will continue taking them through April of 2025. Some species sell out very quick, so get your order in early. The order forms are available on our website at www.uintacountycd.com. You can also stop by our office in Lyman to pick one up. We also offer weed barrier, polymer, diatomaceous earth and tree protectors which are included on the order form. If you have a specific species of tree in mind but don't see it on the order form, please give us a call and we will see what we can do to help you!

Seedlings are available in **bareroot bundles of 25 per species** or **10 cubic inch tubes** in lots of 25 per species



BAREROOT BUNDLES OF 25



**10 CUBIC INCH
CHOKECHERRY
ONECANOPY**



**10 CUBIC INCH
PONDEROSA PINE
ONECANOPY**

JEFF LEWIS, NRCS DC RETIRES

I'll Be Seeing You Down the Road

By Jeff Lewis, District Conservationist, NRCS

Uinta County Producers,

The time has come for me to move on from NRCS. I have decided to retire, and August 30th will be my last day as the District Conservationist for Uinta County.

I came to Uinta County in July of 1997 as a Civil Engineering Technician and am leaving as the District Conservationist. The past 27 years have been enjoyable. I have met some great people and have enjoyed working on all the projects we have installed on the ground.

I have seen many changes on the land over the years and I know the work we did was beneficial. One way of knowing projects are successful, is other people follow suit. Also, seeing new hay yards being built is another sign. It was always a great feeling seeing the successes of putting conservation on the ground.

NRCS has changed quite a bit since the first day I started in May of 1988. We barely had any money at that time, we had one cost-share program, and our time was spent doing what we call, technical assistance. We were as busy if not busier than without all the cost share programs as we are now. We went from having a very small program budget to a budget of hundreds of millions of dollars for all the different programs we currently administer. I went from being a field person, to sitting for days behind a computer generating contracts. I much rather be out in the field!

We all had to adjust to the new NRCS and at times, we struggled, but we made it through all the changes. Sometimes change is hard, but for the most part, change is a positive thing.

I don't know who will replace me or exactly when a replacement will be in the Lyman Field Office. Hiring has become an issue. We don't get the people wanting to go to work for us, like we did when I first started. That is one change that hasn't been positive.

It's been an enjoyable experience and I'm glad that you invited me on your land and accepted my ideas and made them successful. That is the true sense of conservation.

I'll still be around Wyoming after I retire. I have a lot of things I want to do and I'm sure our paths will cross. You all take care and keep putting conservation on the ground.

Jeff

NRCS is currently in the process of hiring staff for the Uinta County NRCS office.

In the meantime, you can contact Courtney Thomas, Soil Conservationist, out of the Sweetwater County office to help you with all of your project and application needs. Courtney is willing and eager to help our local producers!

You can contact her at 307-212-3335, Courtney.thomas@usda.gov.

Funding Available in the Upper Colorado River Basin

UCCD continues to work with the Wyoming Water Development Office (WWDO) and NRCS to enhance water management in the Upper Colorado River Basin, including the Blacks Fork drainage, to increase irrigation efficiency, improve crop conditions, and benefit the local economy. Recently, funding was secured through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and producers and water users in the Upper Colorado River are encouraged to learn more about the opportunities that are available through this program. The goal of the RCPP program is to provide drought resiliency through improved water-use efficiency, decreased system water losses, and improved water management. Stop by or give any of us a call to find out more!

Contact Kerri at the UCCD office at 307-288-0214, Courtney Thomas with NRCS at 307-212-3335, or Sarah Bargsten with WWDO at 307-777-7626.



WYOMING NATURAL RESOURCE FOUNDATION



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STIHL Backpack Blower



Thank You Brown Company!

2024 Polaris Ranger 570SP

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or \$100 for 6 tickets**

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\$20/ticket (-) Credit Card Fees

\$100/6 tickets (-) Credit Card

Fees

Support natural resource conservation with your tax-deductible donation. Your donation supports Foundation projects including stream and river restoration, forest health and tree planting, water quality and watershed protection, educational programs and more!

Tickets are available now! Stop by the Uinta County Conservation District to get yours today! You can help get conservation on the ground and maybe even win a cool prize!

Uinta County Conservation District

P.O. Box 370, 204 East Sage Street
Lyman, WY 82937
(307) 288-0214

CHANGE OF SERVICE REQUESTED



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2025 "Redbooks"

*will be here soon!
Stop by or give us a call in the next
couple of weeks to receive yours!*



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Kerri Sabey
District Manager

Email: ksabey.uccd@gmail.com

Katie Lott
Education Coordinator

Email: klott.uccd@gmail.com

ANNUAL BRIDGER LAKE FIELD TRIP

It was another perfect fall day for the annual Bridger Lake Field Trip for the Lyman Intermediate School 5th grade students. Fifty-six students spent the day rotating through these learning stations:

Coniferous Forests – Three U.S. Forest Service employees discussed the characteristics of coniferous trees/forests. They learned how to distinguish a lodgepole pine from other coniferous tree species. Students took an educational bike ride around the campground to observe the forest and enjoy the fresh mountain air.

Ecosystem Engineers – Caleb Browning, U.S. Forest Service Wildlife Biologist, taught the students about beavers and their importance as skilled engineers and keystone species in wetland habitats. Students observed beaver dams, a beaver lodge and a beaver skull. Some students were lucky enough to see a real beaver swimming in the lake. Did you know beavers don't like to hear the sound of running water?

Predator/Prey – Students learned about predator/prey interactions between Wyoming wildlife species



as they played a game of 'Quick Frozen Critters' and discussed Wyoming mammals with Wyoming Game and Fish Education Specialist, Regina Dickson. Many of these 10- and 11-year-olds are excited to hunt deer next year!

Macroinvertebrates – LIS teacher Cody Eardley discussed the importance of benthic macroinvertebrate species as an indicator of water quality. The students collected macroinvertebrate specimens among the rocks and moss on the edge of Bridger Lake. The students used magnifying glasses and field guides to identify their specimens. A fish was reeled in and gutted to show the students which of the macroinvertebrate species the fish ate for breakfast.

