I must say that I thoroughly enjoyed my first year as Director of the Western Rural Development Center. We have accomplished much, and we look forward to doing even more in the coming years to address the needs and concerns of the rural west. We have continued to move forward with a number of our important existing projects including the Community-Business Matching model and the publication of Rural Connections and we have embarked on several exciting new endeavors.

During the fall of 2008, 18 Population Briefs were published which explore demographic trends in the 13 western states and provide regional data on other important issues. Very shortly we will release county-level data on all 435 western counties. These county sheets will provide significant information from a variety of sources that will be available to everyone with a single click of the mouse.

Two Degrees Northwest, which works to provide business opportunities and training to rural artisans, is gaining momentum in its region of north central Idaho and eastern Washington. This project is spearheaded by Extension Specialists in Idaho and is focused on organizing local artisans to strengthen their visibility and enhance local tourism and economic development.

Perhaps our most significant effort this past year was to conduct a series of strategic rural development roundtables. These roundtables were made possible by a generous grant from the Farm Foundation. Between January and September of 2009, a roundtable was held in each of the 13 western states. In total, over 200 participants were involved including representatives of rural communities, the land-grant universities, non-profits, private businesses, tribal associations and state and federal agencies. The goal of these roundtables was to listen and learn which issues are of greatest concern to rural communities and their residents. The discussions were stimulating and it was interesting to discover that the issues and concerns in all of the states were very similar. We plan to use the results of these roundtables to develop a five-year strategic plan for the center that will be unveiled in 2010.

This past year has been rewarding and busy and this next year promises to be even more so as the Center embarks on exciting new projects with its current and new partners. In cooperation with the other Regional Rural Development Centers, the WRDC will receive grant money from both USDA Rural Development and FEMA to conduct important work on building community capacity for sustainable economic development and disaster preparedness. This project will focus on developing emergency plans for underserved rural communities. Also new this year is the creation of a multistate, multidisciplinary organization called CREW (Consortium for Renewable Energy in the West). The WRDC along with its regional land-grant partners played an instrumental role in launching this collaboration which will serve to advance research on renewable and alternative energy, to promote energy efficiency and conservation, and to enhance the quality of life in the west by creating energy related jobs and economic opportunities.

I personally wish to express my appreciation to the very talented and professional staff that I have the privilege of working alongside each day. I also appreciate the insights and wisdom of our Board of Directors. We at the WRDC are greatly looking forward to working with our partners during the coming year as we continue to address the issues and concerns of the rural west with the goal of enhancing and improving the quality of life in our rural communities.

Wishing you success,

Don E. Albrecht
Director
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TO ENGAGE THE FUTURE
we must listen to you


Says who? Says the more than 200 people we heard from that participated in the WRDC and Farm Foundation’s Rural Development Roundtables held throughout the region in 2009. Representing western towns, counties, states, universities, Extension, non-profits, private businesses, tribal associations, and government agencies, these diverse groups all had one thing in common: a desire to enhance the quality of life for rural citizens in the western U.S.

Roundtable Participation by State

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Number of Participants</th>
<th>Extension Liaison</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>Kihei, Maui</td>
<td>January 7, 2009</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Linda Cox</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>Denver</td>
<td>April 8, 2009</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Jan Carroll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wyoming</td>
<td>Cheyenne</td>
<td>April 9, 2009</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Duane Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
<td>Salt Lake City</td>
<td>April 30, 2009</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alaska</td>
<td>Anchorage</td>
<td>May 6, 2009</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Pete Pinney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montana</td>
<td>Bozeman</td>
<td>May 13, 2009</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Paul Lachapelle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Mexico</td>
<td>Albuquerque</td>
<td>May 26, 2009</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Michael Patrick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>Casa Grande</td>
<td>June 4, 2009</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Cynthia Flynn and Cathy Martinez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nevada</td>
<td>Carson City</td>
<td>June 11, 2009</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Tom Harris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oregon</td>
<td>Corvallis</td>
<td>June 17, 2009</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Bruce Weber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>Richfield</td>
<td>June 24, 2009</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Chuck Gay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>Spokane</td>
<td>July 1, 2009</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Rob McDaniel and Vickie Parker-Clark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho</td>
<td>Boise</td>
<td>September 8, 2009</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Priscilla Salant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>California</td>
<td>Davis</td>
<td>September 17, 2009</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>Dave Campbell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>202</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Why are we interested in hearing from the region? Because we are embarking on developing and implementing our five-year strategic plan and we didn’t want that plan to be the WRDC telling the region what needed to be addressed. Instead, we wanted you, our stakeholders, sharing your experiences and expert analysis on our rural communities. We wanted to travel the region and hear from you about the challenges and opportunities you are facing each day. And all of this in the hopes of strengthening our partnerships and developing a strategic plan that will guide the center to focus its efforts on the topics most pressing to the region.

Enhancing the quality of life for our region’s rural citizens is no small task given the vast landmass of the region and the diversity of issues. However, and most interesting of all, what we discovered during the roundtables was that from New Mexico to Alaska and Hawaii to Montana our rural communities are facing similar challenges, and are asking for assistance on similar issues.

The full report detailing the roundtables and outlining the WRDC’s five-year strategic plan will be presented in a separate report published in early 2010; but here is a summary of what we have heard from the region.

The West’s rural communities are in need of practical tools and ready-to-use, research-based information that will allow them to:

1. Improve human capacity through education, leadership, and workforce development.
2. Spur economic development through entrepreneurial development.
3. Fund infrastructure development, especially telecommunications.
4. Implement resource conservation and opportunities for development including renewable energy.

The summaries from each roundtable are available for you to read and download from the WRDC website: wrdc.usu.edu/htm/programs/rural-development-roundtables.
Your community is bursting with motivated, talented people committed to encouraging economic growth, and yet your town continues to see outmigration of skilled workers and new businesses choosing to set up shop in other communities. What gives?

It could be that your approach to business recruitment, retention and community capacity building is in dire need of some refinement. And that’s where the award-winning Community-Business Matching Model is benefiting communities throughout the Western U.S.

Partially funded by the WRDC, the Community-Business Matching (CBM) Model provides a framework for communities to use with the guidance of a trained Extension Specialist to prioritize their business recruitment and retention goals. They work together to identify the assets within their community to help them achieve these development goals. Utilizing the CBM database, a community’s goals and assets are compared to business profiles to determine compatibility and development decisions that reflect the desires of community members. Basically, generating a list of businesses whose operations best match the community’s goals. Then the Extension facilitator helps the community to outline its economic development strategies to attract those businesses it is most compatible with based on the community’s goals and assets.

To date the CBM program has been applied in Montana, Nevada, Arizona, and California. In the state of Montana, it has been applied in two communities. The first application was at the local community level in Anaconda, Montana. This is an EPA Superfund site where economic development alternatives are limited. The Anaconda economic development group was able to use the results of the CBM process to elicit a strategic economic development plan and successfully recruit two industries.

The second application in Montana was utilizing a regional approach comprising four counties. Typically counties have difficulty forming cohesive economic development strategies; however, the CBM approach provided a vehicle for these four counties to easily create a regional development plan and has paved the way for the relocation of firms with little political difficulties. Additionally, clearance and approval has been secured for a new energy generation plant to begin operations in 2011. The new plant is expected to more than double the tax base for one of the counties in the region: Deer Lodge County Montana.

In the state of Nevada, the CBM approach was applied to the Colorado River Region border communities of Bullhead City, Fort Mohave, Mohave Valley and Golden Valley, Arizona and Laughlin, Nevada. These communities were impacted by the closure of the Mohave Power Plant. The CBM approach led to a regional approach to economic development and the successful and targeted relocation of firms to the new local industrial district.
The Community-Business Matching Model was awarded Finalist in the category of Excellence in Economic Development Research at the University Economic Development Association meeting held November 2008 in St. Petersburg, Florida.

CBM Model Team Leader and WRDC Board Member, Thomas R. Harris, in collaboration with Stephan J. Goetz and Steven C. Deller, edited the new book Targeting Regional Economic Development. According to the publisher, “For the first time in a single book, Goetz, Deller and Harris present an innovative approach through a collection of chapters discussing industry targeting and the relevance of TRED as an important analytical tool for practical targeting purposes.”


Excerpt from Targeting Regional Economic Development. Edited by Stephan J. Goetz, Steven C. Deller, and Thomas R. Harris. Published by Routledge, 2009.

While economists have yet to reach a consensus about “the” optimal economic development strategy, many would agree that indiscriminate smokestack chasing is becoming, or needs to become, a strategy of the past. Economic development specialists and practitioners have a responsibility to provide local policy-makers and concerned citizens with additional decision-making tools to assist them with creating innovative new strategies to combat low income levels, stem outmigration of the highly educated population (especially youth), and provide clarity on how to thrive in the emerging global economy.
The rural West is rife with never-ending picturesque vistas; long, dusty roads leading to the promise of adventure; mountaintop views inspiring quietude; and crafts people striving to make a living.

Working and living amongst us in our rural communities, many of these artisans struggle to eek out a livable wage. It’s costly to invest in advertising and marketing materials, and often great distances divide them and their community’s nearest retail centers. So what to do?

Extension researchers in Idaho are working to organize artisans to strengthen their visibility and enhance tourism and economic development by launching Two Degrees Northwest (2DNW). Based in north central Idaho and southeastern Washington, and places in between 47 and 49 degrees latitude, Two Degrees Northwest: Where Art Meets the Land works to create a place-based economy, where dollars are firmly tied to heritage, culture, landscape, and community.

Partially funded by the WRDC’s Rural Development and Natural Resources Research Mini-Grant Program, “Where Art Meets the Land: A Social and Economic Assessment of a Regional Cultural Tourism Program,” is underway and gaining momentum.

“Our approach fosters regional thinking, entrepreneurship, and community and resource stewardship,” says Lorie Higgins, Co-Principal Investigator. “This research will utilize the community capitals framework to assess the impact of a regional cultural tourism program in north central Idaho and southeastern Washington.”

2DNW is well on its way to spurring economic development and entrepreneurial skill building for local artisans. Utilizing additional funding, a storefront and business incubator has opened in Moscow, Idaho, wherein the project team provide hands-on retail experience, business training, market testing, and networking through membership and events. Working in partnership with shopthefrontier.com, 2DNW is providing eCommerce avenues for local crafts people to market and sell their wares online.

“Though we have little more than baseline measurements at this time, what we know from analyzing the Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc. (EMSI) data helps us understand the state of the arts and related industries in this region, project future growth in the arts and related industries, and target the services of Two Degrees Northwest to the needs of the target population,” says Higgins.
2DNW Collaborates with shopthefrontier.com

Providing an online marketplace for the artisans and craftspeople in north central Idaho and southeastern Washington is proving integral to the success of these rural entrepreneurs. Two Degrees Northwest (2DNW) has teamed up with shopthefrontier.com so these talented people have affordable, easy access to selling their wares online.

Shop the Frontier (STF) is a non-profit rural marketplace and project of Stone Soup whose mission is “to assist rural women and families through individual, organizational and community capacity building projects.” Officially opening its virtual doors in November 2005, shopthefrontier.com has seen a 50% increase in sales and attracted over 635,000 individual website visitors.

Rural artisans and craftspeople living and working within the 2DNW region may join STF through a juried process. Once accepted, members sign a contract and pay an annual membership fee (currently listed at $225). They then have access to a wide array of valuable services.

Shop the Frontier members receive:

- Free business advice
- Technical assistance
- Financial statements
- Monthly sales checks
- Credit card processing
- Web-hosting
- Digital photography training
- Peer networking
- Joint marketing
- Product description writing assistance
- Access to micro loans

2DNW Team

Principal Investigators
Lorie Higgins
University of Idaho

D. Phil Watson
University of Idaho

Collaborators
Mark Beauchamp
Economic Modeling Specialists, Inc.

Elizabeth Carney
University of Idaho Extension

Department of Community and Rural Sociology
Washington State University
NACDEP promotes the importance of community and economic development through education, advocacy, and coordination within the land-grant university system.

NACDEP’s annual conference is coordinated by the association and the Regional Rural Development Centers who played a key role in the association’s formation. The WRDC’s Jim Goodwin served as conference co-chair for the 2009 conference held in San Diego, California, 20-22 April. Additionally, the center dedicated the content of its April issue of Rural Connections to the conference and produced “A National Collection of Extension Programs Presented at NACDEP 2009.”

Eager to discuss and share sustainable community development activities occurring throughout the nation’s land-grant universities, the NACDEP conference planning committee chose the 2009 conference theme: Creating Sustainable Communities in a Changing America. The United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development defined sustainable development as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Extension educators, specialists and researchers along with USDA professionals were encouraged to submit their presentation proposals adhering to the following conference session tracks which focused on the “Three Es of Sustainability” plus two additional tracks to incorporate the diverse body of work conducted by Extension professionals. The session tracks were:

- Economy
- Environment
- Equity
- Engagement
- Evaluation

More than 90 presenters and conference attendees converged on San Diego for an invigorating three days of discussion, information sharing and capacity building. To learn more about NACDEP and to read the presentations from 2009 or past conferences, visit the website: nacdep.net

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**NACDEP 2010**

12-14 April

Bloomington, Minnesota

Building Bridges for Sustainable Communities

The 2010 Conference will highlight the role of Extension Community Development professionals in building and sustaining critical links between research, practice and partners for the social, economic and environmental sustainability of communities. The conference provides a forum for Extension educators, scholars, researchers, partners and government officials to explore the breadth of topics related to community development. Visit them online at: nacdep.net
Contributors to the April 2009 special NACDEP issue of RC included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Louis Bassano</th>
<th>Stanley M. Guy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer H. Boyles</td>
<td>Mary Ann G. Hennen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Burr</td>
<td>Ed Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. David Cooper</td>
<td>David Kay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Dane</td>
<td>Indranee Kumar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Darger</td>
<td>Andy Lewis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maurice W. Dorsey</td>
<td>Amy L. Meier</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nancy Eberle</td>
<td>Marsha S. Moorehead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia J. Fairchild</td>
<td>Myra L. Moss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick Farnsworth</td>
<td>Christine Nolan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonah Fogel</td>
<td>Bruce Schwartau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles French</td>
<td>Dave Shideler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michele Gagne</td>
<td>Beth S. Stedman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Grunkemeyer</td>
<td>Diane C. Vigna</td>
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Engaging the Future

Demographic and economic changes in the rural west give rise to community development challenges. To assist the region in adapting to these changes, a Multistate Coordinating Committee known as WERA was formed to provide a platform for focused community development discussions and research leading to strengthened rural economies.
Through the years, the Committee has linked researchers and outreach personnel in several states to conduct research, convene multistate collaborations, and to develop and disseminate extension curricula. States involved on the committee have included Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. The committee met in Reno, Nevada in August 2008 and January 2009.

What is WERA?

Western Education/Extension and Research Activity (WERA) is defined by the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment State Directors as activities that “serve to integrate two or more functions (i.e., education, extension and research) on a particular topic where multistate coordination or information exchange is appropriate; have expected outcomes; convey knowledge; and are peer reviewed.”

The Association goes further to define the work of WERA committees as follows:

Fully integrated research, education and extension program coordination with clearly defined, impact-oriented objectives, where results are effectively embodied in educational efforts to assist those in need.

2009 Multistate Coordinating Committee Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Don E. Albrecht</td>
<td>Western Rural Development Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddy Borden</td>
<td>University of Nevada-Reno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda Cox</td>
<td>University of Hawaii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allison Davis</td>
<td>University of Kentucky</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mariah Evans</td>
<td>University of Nevada-Reno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hans Geier</td>
<td>University of Alaska, Fairbanks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Harris</td>
<td>University of Nevada-Reno</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The WRDC allocates a portion of its funding to educate stakeholders about the center, and research and programs impacting rural communities throughout the region. Publications are available for download from the WRDC website (wrdc.usu.edu).

**PUBLICATIONS**

2008 Annual Report

Rural Connections
Nov. 2008 - Western Researchers Explore Possibilities for Renewable Energy

April 2009 - Creating Sustainable Communities in a Changing America

RC Brief
The Role of Extension in Land Use Planning and Sustainable Development in the West

Colorado State University’s Unique Approach to Clean Energy and Technology Transfer

Population Briefs
This wildly popular series of 18 publications is available for viewing and download on the WRDC website. The briefs were compiled using data from U.S. Census of Population for 1980, 1990, 2000, and, where available, 2006.

Coming in 2010: county data for all 435 counties in the western U.S.

**EXHIBITS**

The WRDC, either alone or in conjunction with the Regional Rural Development Centers (RRDC), exhibited at the following events between July 2008 and June 2009.

- **Rural Sociological Society**
  - 28-31 July 2008
  - Manchester, New Hampshire

- **RRDC Partnership Meeting**
  - 11-12 August 2008
  - Washington D.C.

- **Galaxy III Conference**
  - 15-19 September 2008
  - Indianapolis, Indiana

- **National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals Conference**
  - 20-22 April 2009
  - San Diego, California

- **National Extension Tourism Conference**
  - 14-17 June 2009
  - Park City, Utah

**SPONSORSHIPS**

The WRDC contributed financial or in-kind support to the following professional associations and/or events during the year.

- **Utah Bioneers Conference**
  - 17-19 October 2008
  - Logan, Utah

- **National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals Conference**
  - 20-22 April 2009
  - San Diego, California

- **National Extension Tourism Conference**
  - 14-17 June 2009
  - Park City, Utah
Whether it’s jetting to Honolulu for a rural development roundtable, driving hundreds of miles for a two-hour meeting, or crunching data and drafting publications at his computer late into the evening, the center’s director dedicates thousands of hours a year to informing and educating the region and nation on rural issues and innovative programming to address the needs of rural people.

Listed here are some highlights of his activities this past year.

Western Regional Conference
Economic Development Administration
10 December 2008
Sacramento, California

Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education
4 March 2009
Salt Lake City, Utah

Bear River Association of Governments
24 March 2009
Brigham City, Utah

Western Extension Directors Association
2 April 2009
Thanksgiving Point, Utah

Montana Association of Community Development Extension Professionals
13 May 2009
Bozeman, Montana

National Association of Counties – Western Interstate Region
22 May 2009
Pendleton, Oregon

**DIRECTOR’S PUBLICATIONS**

**REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES**


**BOOK CHAPTERS**

Excerpt from Population Brief: The Changing West
By Don E. Albrecht
Published by the WRDC, 2009.
Between 1980 and 2006, the 13 states of the Western region experienced population growth from 43.2 million in 1980 to 69.3 million in 2006, an increase of over 26 million people, or 60.5 percent. This growth rate far exceeded the 25.5 percent population growth experienced in the rest of the United States (see Figure 1). Eight of the 11 states with the fastest growing populations between 1980 and 2006 are located in the western U.S. and include Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Washington and California. Five of those states with the largest increase in the number of inhabitants were in the Western Region (California, Arizona, Washington, Colorado and Nevada).
Loosely defined, a Board of Directors is “a body of elected or appointed members who jointly oversee the activities of a company or organization.”

We at the WRDC define our Board of Directors as “compassionate experts who give generously of their time to effect positive change for the rural West.” If it were not for this dedicated group of individuals, the WRDC would not be nearly as effective or successful in its efforts.

Our Board members serve two-three year terms and while some of the folks whose names are listed below have by now moved off the Board and onto other adventures, we thank them again for their support.

Bettye Atkinson
Economic Development Administration

Kent Briggs
Council of State Governments-WEST

Mike Burke
Oregon State University

James Christenson
University of Arizona

Noelle Cockett
(Chair)
Utah State University Extension

Elisabeth Cohen
Utah Governor’s Office

Dan M. Dooley
University of California

Linda K. Fox
Washington State University

Charles W. Gay
Utah State University Extension

Karen Grillo
Nevada Association of Counties

Robert Hadfield
Nevada Association of Counties

Michael H. Harrington
Western Association of Agriculture Experiment Station Directors

Thomas R. Harris
University of Nevada-Reno

Sheldon R. Jones
Farm Foundation

Carol Lewis
University of Alaska-Fairbanks

Sally Maggard
National Institute of Food and Agriculture

H. Paul Rasmussen
Utah State University Extension

Peter Stenberg
Economic Research Service United States Department of Agriculture

Yvonneda Thompson
Chief Dull Knife College

Dave Tovey
Siletz Tribal Business Corporation
The WRDC has actively engaged in partnership-building activities with those institutions, agencies, NGOs and private sector enterprises that are committed to furthering the livelihood of rural communities. This is a sampling of partners the center collaborated with during the year.

Association of Extension Administrators
Association of Research Directors
Bureau of Land Management
Council of State Governments-WEST
Economic Development Administration
Economic Research Service, USDA
Farm Foundation
Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
Governor’s Office of Economic Development, Utah
Montana Association of Community Development Extension Professionals
National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals
North Central Research and Extension Center
North Central Regional Center for Rural Development
Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development
Rural Community Assistance Corporation
Rural Sociological Society
State Rural Development Councils
Sustainable Agriculture Research Education (SARE)
Southern Rural Development Center
Southwest Marketing Network
USDA Rural Development
U.S. Forest Service
Utah Department of Rural Economic Development
Western Extension Directors Association
Western Experiment Station Directors Association
Western Governors’ Association
The Western Rural Development Center, established by the Rural Development Act of 1972 “to provide for improving the economy and living conditions in rural America,” works closely with the land-grant colleges and universities throughout its region to promote excellence in research, education and extension.

We are grateful to them for joining with the WRDC to provide practical tools and solutions that create and sustain our region’s rural communities.

Western Land-Grant Colleges and Universities

1862
American Samoa Community College
Colorado State University
Montana State University
New Mexico State University
Northern Marianas College
University of Alaska
University of Arizona
University of California
University of Guam
University of Hawaii
University of Idaho
University of Nevada
University of Wyoming
Utah State University
Washington State University

1994
Blackfoot Community College, MT
Chief Dull Knife College, MT
Dine College, AZ
Fort Belknap College, MT
Fort Peck Community College, MT
Institute of American Indian Arts, NM
Little Big Horn College, MT
Navajo Technical College, NM
Northwest Indian College, WA
Salish Kootenai College, MT
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, NM
Stone Child College, MT
Tohono O’Odham Community College, AZ
The WRDC receives its core funding from the United States Department of Agriculture’s National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA).

Additional contributions during the 2008-09 Fiscal Year came from these units within Utah State University:

- Cooperative Extension
- Agriculture Experiment Station
- College of Natural Resources

The center applied for and received extramural (Non-Federal) funding from the Farm Foundation for the specific purpose of conducting the Rural Development Roundtables.
The Western Rural Development Center (WRDC) is one of four regional centers funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to strengthen the capacity of local citizens to guide the future of their rural communities. Each Center links the research and extension capacity of regional land-grant universities with local decision-makers to address a wide range of rural development issues. The WRDC also receives substantial support from Utah State University’s Cooperative Extension, the Agricultural Experiment Station, and the College of Natural Resources.

Any opinions, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The WRDC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability or veteran status.