Western Rural Development Center
MISSION, GOALS, AND PRIORITIES

Mission The WRDC collaborates with its public and private sector partners to promote excellence in research, education and Extension for the prosperity of western rural communities.

Goals The WRDC strengthens rural communities by sharing scientific discovery and application of sustainable practices with rural citizens via conferences, trainings, Web 2.0, and publications. The Center aims to help rural communities prosper, thrive economically, and become self-sustaining.

The Rural West is at an economic, demographic, and ecologic crossroads. Many of the traditional sources of employment for rural residents, such as agriculture and the natural resource extraction industries of forestry and mining have been declining for several decades. In addition, the steady decline of manufacturing makes it increasingly unlikely that communities will be able to attract industry to offset declining resource-based employment. The skills developed by rural workers for employment in the resource-based and manufacturing industries do not easily translate into 21st century jobs. Yet at the same time, there are numerous opportunities for rural communities that simply did not exist in years past. In order to more effectively address these issues and the emerging concerns facing the residents of the rural West, the Western Rural Development Center (WRDC) focuses its efforts on three priority areas.

The WRDC Priority Areas:
1. Enhance Human Capacity through PEOPLE-BASED DEVELOPMENT
2. Create Vibrant Rural Economies through PLACE-BASED DEVELOPMENT
3. Promote New Job Creation through SUSTAINABLE NATURAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

THE 2011 ANNUAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS SOME OF OUR RECENT WORK WITHIN THE THREE PRIORITY AREAS.
People-Based Development
ENHANCE HUMAN CAPACITY
People-Based Development
ENHANCE HUMAN CAPACITY

**OVERVIEW** With a decline in traditional sources of rural employment, such as agriculture, natural resource extraction, and manufacturing, it is increasingly apparent that the education, skills and training of many rural workers do not translate easily into the education, skills and training needed for employment in the 21st century. Rural communities are in need of improved K-12 schools and adult education and workforce training programs that will provide them with the necessary skills to gain quality employment in a post-industrial economy. Training programs geared toward underserved, low income and minority populations are essential.

There is also a great need to foster and improve leadership capacity. Without strong leaders, communities lack direction and therefore are at a disadvantage to deal with the many questions and concerns that confront them. The lack of youth involvement in community leadership positions is of significant concern.

The Western Rural Development Center collaborates with western land-grant university faculty and its other public and private sector partners to strengthen and increase the availability of training programs to ensure prosperous and self-sustaining rural communities. In addition, the Center encourages its partners to conduct research that uncovers key factors contributing to or inhibiting education, workforce and leadership development in rural areas.

5 OF THE 10 FASTEST GROWING STATES IN THE U.S. ARE IN THE WEST: NEVADA, ARIZONA, UTAH, IDAHO, COLORADO
REGIONAL DATA The Western Rural Development Center staff spent the year analyzing the latest Census data and creating data reports for the region. Visit the Regional Data page on the website for regional overviews and the 13 state population briefs.

The 2010 Census revealed the number of residents in the 13 western states continues to rapidly increase. From 2000 to 2010, the population of the western states increased by 8.7 million people to 71,945,553. During this decade, the region’s population increased by 13.8 percent compared to 8.5 percent in the rest of the country. Over a 30-year period, from 1980 to 2010, the population of the West increased by 66.6 percent compared to 29.1 percent in the remainder of the U.S.

One implication of the West’s growing population is increased political clout as determined by the number of congressional representatives. And the West’s number of congressional representatives has increased from 69 in 1960 to 102 in 2010. Population growth is not universal, however, and 98 counties (22.5 percent) had population declines from 2000 to 2010.

Census data also revealed that populations in the West are becoming increasingly diverse. The West’s White population has declined from 73.8 percent of the total population in 1980 to 52.8 percent in 2010. Growth has been especially pronounced among Hispanic populations. Since 1980 the number of White residents in the West increased by only 19.4 percent while Hispanic populations grew by 229 percent.
People-Based Development
ENHANCE HUMAN CAPACITY

ADDRESSING THE DEVELOPMENT CONCERNS OF THE RURAL WEST
The Western Rural Development Center coordinates the activities of the Western Extension/Education Research Activity (WERA) committee, "Addressing the Rural Development Concerns of the Rural West."

The Committee held its 2011 meeting in Las Vegas, Nevada. The committee’s primary areas of focus include the implications of energy development (including renewable energy), and the continuing development the Community Business Matching Model. Committee members include the developers of the Community Business Matching Model, and members are heavily involved with the socio-economic aspect of the WRDC-coordinated project, the Consortium for Renewable Energy in the West (CREW).

WERA COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Don E. Albrecht
  Western Rural Development Center
- Marion Bentley
  Utah State University
- Buddy Borden
  University of Nevada-Reno
- Yong Chen
  Oregon State University
- Roger Coupal
  University of Wyoming
- Thomas Harris
  University of Nevada-Reno
- Abelardo Rodriguez
  University of Idaho
- Anil Rupasingha
  New Mexico Cooperative Extension
- Loretta Singletary
  Nevada Cooperative Extension
- Steve Smutko
  University of Wyoming

385% THE PERCENT OF POPULATION GROWTH SEEN IN NYE, NEVADA, BETWEEN 1980 AND 2010. IT LED THE WESTERN NONMETROPOLITAN AREAS WITH THE GREATEST POPULATION INCREASE. EAGLE, COLORADO, RANKED 2ND HAVING SEEN A 291% INCREASE IN ITS POPULATION.
PEOPLE-BASED DEVELOPMENT
People-Based Development
ENHANCE HUMAN CAPACITY

ENHANCING RURAL CAPACITY
AN EXTENSION COMMUNITY
OF PRACTICE The Enhancing Rural Capacity Community of Practice is a team of Cooperative Extension faculty, staff, practitioners, and researchers dedicated to creating a comprehensive virtual learning environment focused on building and sustaining vibrant rural communities.

Formed in 2011, the Community of Practice is currently developing Web content for its site on eXtension.org. Once the community launches, these web pages will provide answers to frequently asked questions, factsheets and articles, and training tools for communities. All of the content is geared toward providing Cooperative Extension staff and practitioners with online tools to address the diversity of education, information and technical assistance needs of rural communities across America.

YOU CAN PARTICIPATE! Join the Community of Practice and assist with curriculum development, FAQs, factsheets, peer reviews, and more! To join contact:

Mary Peabody
mary.peabody@uvm.edu
Heidi Mouillesseaux-Kunzman
hmm1@cornell.edu

COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Mary Peabody, University of Vermont
Heidi Mouillesseaux-Kunzman, Cornell University
Don Albrecht, Western Rural Development Center, Utah State University
Will Andersen, University of Wisconsin
Bo Beaulieu, Southern Rural Development Center, Mississippi State University
Sarah Bowker, University of Kentucky
Mary Emery, South Dakota State University
Jenny Fertig, West Virginia State University
Sharon Gullick, University of Missouri
Jane Haskell, University of Maine
Lorie Higgins, University of Idaho
Lisa Hinz, University of Minnesota
Paul LaChappelle, Montana State University
Betsy H. Newman, Western Rural Development Center, Utah State University
Ellen Rowe, University of Vermont
Karen Schneider, University of Vermont
Harriet Shaklee, University of Idaho
J. Caroline Williams, Cornell University

GET TO KNOW eXtension!
Visit the website: EXTENSION.ORG
RURAL CONNECTIONS is published two times each year and focuses each issue on a particular topic of interest to residents in the Western U.S. Contributors include researchers, faculty, Extension researchers and educators, practitioners, and professionals from throughout the nation. It is intended to appeal to a broad audience and is delivered to a diverse following of WRDC supporters.

Climate Change Adaptations in the Rural West
Contributors to this issue represented: University of Arizona, Oregon State University, Oregon Department of Agriculture, University of California-Davis, University of Idaho, University of Idaho Extension, U.S. Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station, University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service, University of Wyoming, Washington State University, Washington State University Extension, University of Alaska-Fairbanks, Scenarios Network for Alaska & Arctic Planning.

The Rural West: Daring to Innovate Job Creation
Contributors to this issue represented: Oregon State University, University of Oregon, Utah State University, University of Guam, University of Idaho, University of Hawaii, University of Nevada-Reno, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, Montana State University Extension, Montana State University-Bozeman, Washington State University Extension, Clemson University, North Carolina State University, USDA Economic Research Service.

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Place-Based Development
CREATE VIBRANT RURAL COMMUNITIES
Place-Based Development
CREATE VIBRANT RURAL COMMUNITIES

OVERVIEW
In recent decades there has been a steady decline in employment in agriculture, the natural resource extraction industries, and manufacturing, which have always been the mainstays of the rural economy. Subsequently, traditional approaches to improve economic opportunities in rural areas are much less successful now than in the past. When most nonmetro jobs were in agriculture and the natural resource industries, community development efforts tended to focus on enhancing the supply of or demand for natural resources. Then with the growth of manufacturing, the most common rural development path was to entice industrial firms to build or relocate to their community.

In the 21st century economy, the opportunities for resource development are limited, and the traditional “buffalo hunt” for industrial firms is more costly, the odds of success are greatly reduced, and overall today this approach is much less effective as a community development strategy.

At the same time, there are development opportunities that simply did not exist in the past. With computers, the Internet, and cell phones, it is now possible for individuals and firms to be connected to the global economy while enjoying the benefits of rural living.

However, a significant obstacle to economic development in many rural communities involves telecommunications infrastructure that is often significantly inferior to the infrastructure available in urban communities. Much of the rural West is inadequately served, and the obstacles for achieving better service are extensive. The Western Rural Development Center has begun working with its partners to increase broadband and cellular connectivity to our rural communities.

“I HAVE REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT WE MUST OVERHAUL OUR APPROACH TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL AMERICA. THE FRAMEWORK OF THE NEW EFFORT RECOGNIZES THAT THE RURAL ECONOMY OF TOMORROW WILL BE A REGIONAL ECONOMY. NO ONE COMMUNITY WILL PROSPER IN ISOLATION.”

TOM VILSACK, SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE
**PLACE-BASED DEVELOPMENT**

**BROADBAND EDUCATION** The Western Rural Development is involved with Extension professionals throughout the country in developing broadband education and training programs. These training programs are intended to provide rural and other underserved individuals with the skills needed to utilize broadband to its full potential for job creation and training.

To advance this work, WRDC Director Don Albrecht met with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration’s Broadband Technology Opportunity Program (BTOP) grant recipients in Cleveland, Ohio, during their annual meeting. Then in December 2011, Albrecht and Extension representatives from 14 states met in Nashville, Tennessee, to explore existing broadband education programs and discuss ways to better coordinate future work.

The Western Rural Development Centers work in broadband education continues in 2012 with several activities already scheduled.

You may read more about BTOP and BroadbandUSA on the Web at: www2.ntia.doc.gov

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**60%**
**NUMBER OF AMERICAN URBAN HOUSEHOLDS WITH IN-HOME INTERNET ACCESS.**

**49%**
**NUMBER OF AMERICAN RURAL HOUSEHOLDS WITH IN-HOME INTERNET ACCESS.**

**55%**
**NUMBER OF WESTERN RURAL HOUSEHOLDS LIKELY TO GET ONLINE.**

Compared to 48% of other rural households.

Place-Based Development
CREATE VIBRANT RURAL COMMUNITIES

REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES PHASE II “STRONGER ECONOMIES TOGETHER: STRATEGIES FOR BUILDING NEW ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES” The Western Rural Development Center in collaboration with the other three Regional Rural Development Centers were awarded phase-two funding by USDA Rural Development to further develop and deliver a national community and economic development curriculum based on regional development. The intention is for the curriculum, “Stronger Economies Together: Strategies for Building New Economic Opportunities” to be used by USDA Rural Development, Extension, and communities to develop regional clusters and actively engage them in economic development. More details about SET can be found on the Web at: srdc.msstate.edu/set

SET PHASE TWO TEAMS AND LOCATIONS IN THE WEST

Don Albrecht and Jim Goodwin, WRDC

Colorado Locations
1. Huerfano and Las Animas Counties, Colorado and Colfax County, New Mexico
2. Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray, and San Miguel, Colorado

Colorado Team Leaders
Patti Snidow, USDA-RD
Nancy Banman, Colorado State University Extension
Travis Hoseli, Colorado State University Extension

Washington Locations
1. Klickitat and Skamania Counties, Washington and Hood River, Sherman and Wasco Counties, Oregon
2. Ferry, Pend Oreille and Stevens Counties, Washington

Washington Team Leaders
Paul Johnson, USDA-RD
Monica Babine, Washington State University Extension
READYCOMMUNITY
BUILDING DISASTER-RESILIENT PLACES
A companion to FEMA’s Comprehensive Preparedness Guide 101, ReadyCommunity provides a process to help guide the work of local communities in planning for a disaster.

Facilitated by a neutral coach, the initiative fosters broad civic participation, creates links to needed assets and resources within the community, and supplies current data to help guide the planning process. Pilot efforts are underway in Montana, New York, Oklahoma, and Texas. The project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

READYCOMMUNITY PILOT SITES

Montana
Deer Lodge and Granite Counties
Barbara Andreozzi, Extension Facilitator

Oklahoma
Choctaw County
Brian Whitacre, Extension Facilitator

Texas
Cass and Marion Counties
John Cooper, Facilitator

READYCOMMUNITY CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Don Albrecht, Western Rural Development Center, Utah State University
Bo Beaulieu, Southern Rural Development Center, Mississippi State University
Lorraine Garkovich, University of Kentucky
Virginia Morgan, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, Auburn University
Shelley Murdock, California Cooperative Extension, Contra Costa County
Betsy Newman, Western Rural Development Center, Utah State University
Deborah Tootle, University of Arkansas Extension
Rachel Wellborn, Southern Rural Development Center, Mississippi State University
Sustainable Natural Resource Development

PROMOTE NEW JOB CREATION
Sustainable Natural Resource Development
PROMOTE JOB CREATION

OVERVIEW From the time of initial settlement, residents in the Western U.S. were attracted to areas where available natural resources allowed them to earn an economic livelihood. In time, communities emerged to meet the needs of these settlers. Areas with the greatest concentration of relevant resources were in greatest demand as these areas could support the largest populations and life could be lived more abundantly.

Much has changed in recent decades. The West experienced a decline in many of the traditional resource-based industries as technology replaced human labor in the production process. In certain cases, legal and cultural changes have greatly limited the access of rural residents to utilize these resources for their economic livelihood. Additionally, population growth and an improved standard of living have significantly increased demand for some resources such as water and open space. Several resources including forests and rangelands were not always used sustainably and consequently supplies are now limited. When it comes to conserving or developing the rural West’s vast natural resources, the residents of these rural areas have endured hardships and engaged in debates that have often pitted neighbor against neighbor. These debates often resulted in litigation with decisions that were unsatisfactory to all involved.

Fortunately, in many instances there is a sustainable balance that can be achieved through open dialogue and thoughtful community development planning. It is a time for ready access to research and people skilled in community economic development, land-use planning, natural resources, and conflict resolution. And as the West’s rural communities consider their natural resources, they need to know that in recent decades the best predictor of economic and demographic

WESTERN EXTENSION COLLABORATION RESULTS IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY TOOLKIT
Montana State University CREW member Sarah Hamlen and University of Wyoming CREW member Milton Geiger developed and launched Exploring Energy Efficiency and Alternatives (E3A), a toolkit for Extension educators. The Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education provided funding for the Toolkit. Read about the E3A Toolkit on the next page and visit them on the Web at: e3a4u.info
growth is the presence of natural amenities. These amenities may be one of their community’s most valuable commodities.

CONSORTIUM FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY IN THE WEST The Consortium for Renewable Energy in the West (CREW) was created by the Directors of Extension and Agricultural Experiment Stations at the Land Grant Universities in the states/territories of the Western Region. Member states/territories identify and collaborate on projects including research, Extension, education, policy development, and other ventures; and will partner with government agencies and non-governmental organizations to identify and jointly act upon opportunities that meet the goals outlined in CREW’s charter.

CREW’s annual meeting was held in Seattle, Washington, in June 2011. The group was organized into three expert groups: 1) wind energy, 2) conservation and efficiency, and 3) socioeconomic issues associated with renewable energy development. Their work is advancing around these topic areas.

CREW Goals:
1. To ensure that our member states/territories move toward greater energy independence.
2. To expand the production and use of renewable and alternative energy and the adoption of practices that result in increased energy efficiency and decreased energy use.
3. To increase the discovery and production of bioenergy, biofuels and bioproducts to advance the bioeconomies in the West.

CREW MEMBERS
Don Albrecht, WRDC
Jan Auyong, Oregon State University
Barbara Allen-Diaz, University of California, Berkeley
Valerie Barber, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Richard Beard, Utah State University
Buddy Borden, University of Nevada, Reno
Roger Coupal, University of Wyoming
Lisa Gaines, Oregon State University
Milton Geiger, University of Wyoming
Sarah Hamlen, Montana State University
Mike Harrington, WAAESD
Tom Harris, University of Nevada, Reno
Lyla Houglum, WEDA
Joseph Junker, Oregon State University
Mike Kahn, Washington State University
Tom Karsky, University of Idaho
Ed Martin, University of Arizona
Richard Sefiert, University of Alaska Fairbanks
Irene Shonle, Colorado State University
Jon Van Gerpen, University of Idaho
E3A TOOLKIT The E3A (Exploring Energy Efficiency and Alternatives) Toolkit curriculum resulted from Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (WSARE) program funding for Montana State University Extension (MSUE) and University of Wyoming Extension (UWE). This self-guided toolkit includes nine topic folders and teaching guides on energy issues – designed to make energy discussions with constituents easy for Extension faculty well-versed in energy education, as well as those with limited energy experience. The toolkit emphasizes the need for energy conservation and efficiency, while exploring alternative energy technologies. It offers easy-to-use programming options, as well as in-depth teaching tools and online support for Extension educators.

Extension is tasked with providing education and outreach on relevant societal issues—such as renewable energy. Evidence of renewable energy as a relevant issue is presented in the 2011 and 2012 State of the Union Addresses, the U.S. Farm Bill, and the Western Extension Directors Association reports from 2006 to present. Federal and state Extension partners recognize renewable energy as a relevant topic and research suggests that Extension professionals have a responsibility to provide research-based data on renewable energy alternatives.

The United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) national plan identifies sustainable energy as one of the five national priorities. The Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities lists energy as one of its 10 major initiatives.

Despite the emphasis on renewable energy, Extension has struggled to engage its own educators in outreach on the subject. The
struggle has been related both to a lack of a standardized Extension curriculum on renewable energy in many states and the need for faculty to learn the technical elements of renewable energy in order to conduct effective outreach.

To begin engaging Extension educators on the subject of renewable energy in Montana and Wyoming, the E3A toolkit was created. The toolkit provides a self-contained and self-guided curriculum on nine renewable energy topics. Programming options allow faculty members to find a level of involvement appropriate for their programming needs and audience. All materials are supported with sample lessons, PowerPoint materials, online references and links, and monthly webinars on specific topics. This toolkit is an important first step toward Extension involvement in renewable energy education. This project fills an important niche in Extension outreach and education. It is a regional model for educating constituents on renewable energy issues, and provides programming alternatives designed to meet the needs of Extension educators. The project is currently being customized to meet the needs of multiple Western states.

**ADDITIONAL E3A CONTRIBUTORS**

**Colorado State University**
Dr. Catherine M. H. Keske, Assistant Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics
Dr. Sybil Sharvelle, Assistant Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
North Dakota State University Extension

**E3A IMPLEMENTATION PARTNERS**
Montana Natural Resources Conservation Service and the NRCS West National Technical Support Center
Montana Weatherization Training Center

Visit the E3A website: E3A4U.INFO
TEAMWORK
MOTIVATION
INSPIRATION
LEADERSHIP
VISION
INNOVATION
+
SUCCESS
Regional Focus, National Impact
THE PEOPLE AND PARTNERS OF THE WRDC
Regional Focus, National Impact
THE PEOPLE AND PARTNERS OF THE WRDC

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 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 Western Rural Development Center 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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REGIONAL FOCUS, NATIONAL IMPACT

WESTERN LAND-GRAIN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES 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 Western Rural Development Center to provide practical tools and solutions that create and sustain our region’s rural communities.

1862
AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY
NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA
UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
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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
Regional Focus, National Impact
THE PEOPLE AND PARTNERS OF THE WRDC

REGIONAL PARTNERS In addition to our land-grant partners and USDA-NIFA, the Western Rural Development Center 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.

AGCHAT FOUNDATION
ASSOCIATION OF EXTENSION ADMINISTRATORS
ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC AND LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH DIRECTORS
BILL LANE CENTER FOR THE AMERICAN WEST, STANFORD UNIVERSITY
COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS-WEST
DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND DEFENSE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION
ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE, USDA
EXTENSION DISASTER EDUCATION NETWORK (EDEN)
FARM TO TABLE
FARM FOUNDATION
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)
MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS
NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION, U.S. DEPT. OF COMMERCE
NORTH CENTRAL REGIONAL CENTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
NORTHEAST REGIONAL CENTER FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT
RURAL SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY
RURAL WEST INITIATIVE, STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STATE RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS
STATE OF UTAH GOVERNOR’S OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE RESEARCH EDUCATION (SARE)
SUSTAINABLE NORTHEAST
SOUTHERN RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER
SOUTHWEST MARKETING NETWORK
USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT
USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION DIRECTORS
WESTERN EXTENSION DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION
WESTERN GOVERNORS’ ASSOCIATION
REGional FOCUS, NATIONAL IMPACT

REGional RURAL DEVELOPMENT CENTERS The four USDA-funded Regional Rural Development Centers include the Western Rural Development Center and the:

Northeast Regional Center for Rural Development
The Pennsylvania State University
Stephan J. Goetz, Director

North Central Regional Center for Rural Development
Michigan State University
Scott Loveridge, Director

Southern Rural Development Center
Mississippi State University
Lionel J. Beaulieu, Director

Learn more about the Regional Rural Development Centers at: rrdc.info
Regional Focus, National Impact
THE PEOPLE AND PARTNERS OF THE WRDC

**FUNDING** The Western Rural Development Center (WRDC) is one of four regional centers competitively funded by the United States Department of Agriculture’s (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 is hosted by Utah State University and receives substantial support from Utah State University’s Cooperative Extension and the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station. The Center also applies for and receives additional grant funding.

In 2011, the WRDC received one-time financial support from:

- Colorado Agricultural Experiment Station
- Colorado State University
- Montana State University Extension
- New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station
- New Mexico State University Extension
- Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station
- Oregon State University Extension
- University of Alaska Extension-Fairbanks
- Arizona Agricultural Experiment Station
- University of Arizona Extension
- California Agricultural Experiment Station
- University of California Extension
- University of Hawaii Extension
- Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station
- University of Wyoming Extension
- Washington State University Extension
STAFF ACTIVITY The Western Rural Development Center’s staff interacts with its partners throughout the region and nation on a daily basis and represented the Center on regional and national teams including:

- Editorial Board, Rural West Initiative, Stanford University
- Peer Reviewer for *Choices*, the Journal of Rural Social Sciences, Social Forces and Sociological Spectrum
- Quarterly briefings with Senate Agricultural Legislative Assistants
- Leadership Team, Enhancing Rural Capacity, Community of Practice, eXtension
- Participant & Member, Rural Wealth Creation and Livelihoods, National Community of Practice, Ford Foundation and Economic Research Service
- Delegate, Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)
- Member, EDEN Social Media Team
- Committee Chair, Classified Employee Association, Utah State University
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 or other funders.

The WRDC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability or veteran status.