

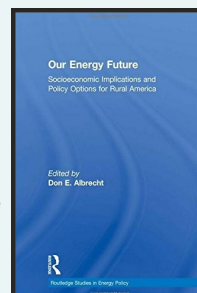
# RuralCONNECTIONSMONTHLY

A newsletter of the Western Rural Development Center

## CENTER NEWS

### "Our Energy Future" Now Available!

The Western Rural Development Center's Director, Don Albrecht, spearheaded a multi-state research project to address the socioeconomic implications and policy options of energy production and consumption for rural America. The outcomes of the project are a series of policy briefs and a recently-published book, "Our Energy Future: Socioeconomic Implications and Policy Options for Rural America."



"Some of the top scholars in the country contributed to this project," says Albrecht, "and chapters in the book cover socioeconomic issues related to fracking, wind and solar energy, biofuels, nuclear energy, conservation and efficiency, and other important issues related to our energy future."

The book is a direct outcome of a project initiated by the joint RRDC National Agricultural and Rural Development Policy Center (NARDeP). The goal of NARDeP is to develop and deliver timely, policy-relevant information about the myriad of complex issues facing rural America.

[Explore the book.](#)

[Read the policy briefs.](#)

[Learn more about NARDeP.](#)

### Meet the Intern!

We are excited to welcome our new Social Media and Communications Intern, Shane Jensen. Shane is joining our team next week and will be increasing our activities in Twitter, Facebook, and on our website. Shane is a senior at Utah State University majoring in Marketing. Look for more from Shane in the coming months and if you aren't already, be sure to engage with us in [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)!

## Wildfire Workshop

### Save the date!

The Western Rural Development Center is excited to let you know we are planning a Wildfire Workshop for March 10-12, 2015 in Tucson, Arizona. We will share more details with you in the coming weeks.



We began planning the workshop more than one year ago at the encouragement of the Western Extension Directors and the Western Agriculture Experiment Station Directors. They assisted us with assembling a committee to explore the region's needs and thanks to those efforts we are proceeding with the workshop.

The planning committee is co-chaired by Doug Cram (New Mexico State University) and Julie Rogers (Fire-Adapted Communities Specialist). The planning committee members are finalizing their commitment so we'll share their names with you next month.

#### In the meantime...

Read an article co-authored by Doug Cram, "[Fire and Drought in Paradise-Say It Isn't So, Smokey](#)," from the 2013 issue of *Rural Connections* on Drought and Wildfire in the West.

Check out a video from the Northwest Fire Science Consortium:

[Prescribed Fire: A Multipurpose Tool](#)

#### And...

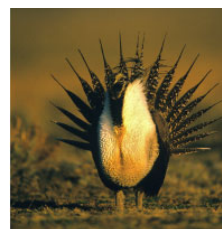
[Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details!](#)

## INTERNATIONAL SAGE GROUSE FORUM

**November 13-14, 2014**

**Salt Lake City, Utah**

The International Sage-grouse Forum (ISGF) will bring together local sage-grouse working group members, landowners, county and city planners, energy industry environmental organization representatives, and local government officials from throughout the West to interact and dialogue with federal, regional, state sage-grouse conservation decision makers, wildlife managers, and biologists to further advance sage-grouse conservation through science, management, and local community involvement. The ISGF will also highlight the magnitude and resolve of on-going range wide species conservation partnerships.



[Visit the Forum website for all of the details.](#)

## CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS

### WEBINAR: Livability and the Connection Between Housing and Transportation

WRDC-NACDEP Western Region  
27 August 2014

[Details.](#)



### University Economic Development Association Annual Summit 2014

28 September - 1 October 2014  
Santa Fe, NM

[Details.](#)

### California Naturalist State-Wide Conference

17-19 October 2014  
Pacific Grove, CA

[Details.](#)

### Wildfire Smoke in the Sky - What does it mean to ME?

6-8 November 2014  
Albuquerque, NM

[Details.](#)

### International Sage-Grouse Forum

13-14 November 2014  
Salt Lake City, UT

[Details.](#)

### Wildfire Workshop

10-12 March 2015  
Tucson, AZ

**Save the date!** Details coming soon.

## DROUGHT AND WILDFIRE IN THE WEST

In this 2013 issue of *Rural Connections* hear from western governors, Cooperative Extension Specialists, and researchers on the West's response to and the impacts of wildfire and drought.

[Read this issue of \*Rural Connections\*.](#)



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