

# RuralCONNECTIONSMONTHLY

A newsletter of the Western Rural Development Center

## CENTER NEWS

### WRDC to Coordinate Regional AMS Grant Writing Workshops

We are pleased to announce that the Western Rural Development Center, along with the three other Regional Rural Development Centers, were selected this year by the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service to develop and help deliver a national curriculum designed to support grant seekers applying for the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program (FMLFPP).



This collaboration represents an exciting opportunity for Extension in the Western region to provide leadership in developing the program and providing program support to farmers and other groups in rural and urban areas that are seeking to better connect consumers and producers through local food markets. It is also an exciting opportunity for farmers, farmer organizations, and related eligible groups to receive grant writing support and technical assistance in this program area.

The project began in September and with the assistance of the Western Extension Directors, the Western Rural Development Center has assembled a western team to assist with curriculum development and deliver state-level trainings. The trainings will be delivered in each state early next year and we'll keep you informed of the dates and locations as they are scheduled.

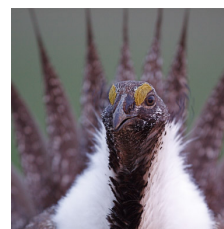
The Western Regional Team for the AMS Grant Writing Workshops and Technical Assistance (AMSTA) Project:

Nick Andrews, Oregon State University  
 Stephen Brown, University of Alaska Fairbanks  
 Kynda Curtis, Utah State University  
 George Haynes, Montana State University  
 Stuart Nakamoto, University of Hawaii at Manoa  
 Marcia Ostrom, Washington State University  
 Michael Patrick, New Mexico State University  
 Maud Powell, Oregon State University  
 Loretta Singletary, University of Nevada, Reno  
 Jennifer Sowerwine, University of California, Berkeley  
 Trent Teegerstrom, University of Arizona  
 Dawn Thilmany, Colorado State University  
 Jennifer Thompson, University of Wyoming  
 Ruby Ward, Utah State University  
 Cinda Williams, University of Idaho

## SAGE-GROUSE

Join us this month to discuss Sage-Grouse.

This month on Facebook the Western Rural Development Center will be highlighting the many economic and environmental impacts of sage-grouse and their habitat on our [Facebook page](#). Governments, farmers, and ranchers are working together to conserve the remaining habitat and sage-grouse populations in the 11 western states. The efforts that are being made to protect this species and its habitat is one of the largest conservation attempts undertaken in North America. Throughout November we will be posting articles, research, and information about upcoming conferences regarding sage-grouse and their habitat.



[Click here to read the posts and join the discussion!](#)

## Community Behavioral Health

### Early Warning Systems

Call for Proposals 2014

Deadline: November 19, 2014



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, and the Regional Rural Development Centers are partnering to implement a national program to explore options for community-implemented early warning systems with respect to community-level incidence of behavioral health issues (e.g. substance abuse, mental illness). The incidence of these issues and how they are expressed varies by place and across time, so local monitoring and intervention techniques are important.

The Community Assessment and Education to Promote Behavioral Health Planning and Evaluation Phase II (CAPE 2) project will fund Land Grant Universities and their partners to implement locally-based early warning systems. This is a national competition; individuals and teams are welcome to submit proposals to join the CAPE 2 project in one of two categories:

1. Innovation Communities. The activity includes designing and implementing an innovative and potentially replicable early warning protocol around a locally determined

set of community behavioral health issues. Creative use of existing locally produced information sets is encouraged. Successful applicants will engage their target community in prioritizing adoption of an intervention based on the information produced by the early warning system. Funding of up to \$150,000 is available for each innovation community. (See attachment for full details.)

2. **Barometer Communities.** The activity includes recruiting a panel of thirty knowledgeable local individuals who will be compensated to participate in a nationally designed biweekly community behavioral health survey and coordinating community priority setting and implementation to respond to emerging issues. Funding: the CAPE 2 project will compensate survey participants and offset 0.7 FTE of local team member salary. (See attachment for full details.)

**Proposals are due November 19, 2014.**

[Visit the CAPE website for the complete Call for Proposals and informational webinar.](#)

## Preparing for Wildfires Moving from Crisis to Opportunity

A Workshop for Extension Educators  
and Community Leaders

March 10-12, 2015  
Tucson, AZ



Mark your calendars for the Western Rural Development Center's wildfire workshop being held March 10-12, 2015 in Tucson, Arizona. The workshop, *Preparing for Wildfires: Moving from Crisis to Opportunity*, will equip Cooperative Extension professionals and other community leaders with the tools needed to successfully face the challenges of living in wildfire-prone environments. National-level scientists and experts will help attendees think through all aspects and stages of fire - before, during, and after - in both urban and rural landscapes. Extension personnel will be invited to share their challenges and success stories. Information will be shared about the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and its goal of developing fire-adapted communities.

The workshop will include two days of presentations and interactive discussions, a poster session, and an optional scenic and educational field trip to a community and forest recovering from wildfire.

### Who should attend?

All Cooperative Extension personnel and their local partners: e.g., elected officials, planning commissioners, Firewise and fire safe leaders, fire chiefs, and anyone else working together at the local level to prepare for wildfires.

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

## CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS

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

6-8 November 2014  
Albuquerque, NM

[Details.](#)

### Community Capitals Framework Institute

5-7 November 2014  
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

[Details.](#)

### International Sage-Grouse Forum

13-14 November 2014  
Salt Lake City, UT

[Details.](#)

### National Rural Housing Conference

2-5 December 2014  
Washington, DC

[Details.](#)

### JCEP Leadership Conference

11-12 February 2015  
Las Vegas, Nevada

[Details.](#)

### Preparing for Wildfires

10-12 March 2015  
Tucson, AZ

[Save the date!](#) Details coming soon.



STAY CONNECTED



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