

RuralCONNECTIONSMONTHLY

A newsletter of the Western Rural Development Center

CENTER NEWS

Meet the Intern

We are excited to welcome our new Social Media and Communications Intern, Shane Jensen.

Hello! My name is Shane Jensen and I am a senior at Utah State University majoring in Marketing. I enjoy traveling and spending time outdoors climbing, hiking, mountain biking, and surfing. I love living in beautiful Logan, Utah, and have enjoyed my time here at USU. It has been a pleasure getting acquainted with the Western Rural Development Center staff and I look forward to continuing my work here over the next several months.

Check in with us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to see what we're up to!

SUSTAINABILITY

Join us this month to celebrate Sustainability!

Throughout the month of October, the Western Rural Development Center will be celebrating sustainability on our [Facebook page](#). It has been one full year since the Extension Sustainability Summit took place in Park City, Utah, and this month we will be sharing video presentations and highlights from the event. We will also provide information on what is happening now in the world of sustainability and how to get involved. Look for information about upcoming events and how to connect with others as we continue to progress in today's sustainability revolution.



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

Community Behavioral Health

Early Warning Systems

Call for Proposals 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.

WEBINAR

An informational webinar is scheduled for Monday, October 13, 2014 at 9:00 AM (MDT).

[Click here for webinar details.](#)

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

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.

Planning Committee

Co-Chairs

Doug Cram (New Mexico State University)

Julie Rogers (Fire-Adapted Communities Specialist)

Members

Ed Smith (University of Nevada / Living with Fire)

Glenn Nader (UCCE, Yuba City CA)

Mike Kuhns (Utah State University)

Steve Quarles (IBHS)

Janean Creighton (NW Fire Science, Oregon State University)

Stephen Fitzgerald (Oregon State University)

JoAnne Skelly (University of Nevada)
Don Albrecht (Director, WRDC - Sponsor)
Betsy Newman (Asst. Director, WRDC - Sponsor)
Timothy Ingalsbee (Association for Fire Ecology)
Catia Juliana (Association for Fire Ecology)
Geoff Babb (Association for Fire Ecology)

Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more details!

WEBINAR

ARTS & COMMUNITY: RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



National Endowment for the Arts

Monday, October 20, 2014

11:00 AM (MDT)

Join the webinar.

This webinar will explain funding and resources provided by the National Endowment for the Arts to support arts-based community development activities. Through its programs the Endowment supports American communities in their efforts to engage the arts in making places more livable. It will explain Challenge America Fast Track, Art Works, and Our Town funding guidelines and walk through some new resources that provide technical assistance to communities.

The webinar presenter is Jason Schubach. He is the Director of Design Programs for the National Endowment for the Arts, where he oversees all design and creative placemaking grantmaking and partnerships, including Our Town and Design Art Works grants, the Mayor's Institute on City Design, the Citizens' Institute on Rural Design, and the NEA's involvement in the HUD Sandy Recovery Taskforce Rebuild by Design Competition.

Registration

There is no registration and no fee for attending this webinar.

Join the Webinar

To join the webinar go to <http://connect.msu.edu/ncrcrd>, "enter as a guest" is by default already chosen. Type your name into the text box provided, and click on "Enter Room." You are now in the meeting room for the webinar.

If you've never used Adobe Connect on the computer you will be using, please use the "Test your connection" link below and do a test connection to the actual meeting space well in advance of the scheduled meeting time. http://connect.msu.edu/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm

To facilitate Q&A's, participants submit questions/comments via the Chat Function in Adobe Connect.

The webinar will be recorded and archived at http://ncrcrd.msu.edu/ncrcrd/chronological_archive.

RURAL ECONOMIES FOUND TO BENEFIT FROM BROADBAND

NARDeP Sponsored Research Finds



A team of researchers has come one step closer to showing that broadband is an engine for growth in rural U.S. communities, especially when a large segment of the population adopts the technology. Their findings are among the first to provide evidence to support a long-held assumption that rural economies are boosted by broadband.

"When broadband first came out, there were all sorts of claims that it would be great for rural areas, but until now we really hadn't seen any firm evidence on whether broadband impacts economic growth in these areas," said Brian Whitacre, an associate professor of agricultural economics at Oklahoma State University who led the study. "We found that rural counties that did a good job of adopting broadband had higher rates of income growth and lower rates of unemployment growth."

[Read more.](#)

INTERNATIONAL SAGE GROUSE FORUM

November 13-14, 2014
Salt Lake City, Utah



The International Sage-grouse Forum (ISFG) 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.

The Western Rural Development Center is exhibiting at the Forum so be sure to visit our booth and say hello!

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

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS

Informational Webinar-Community Behavioral Health Early Warning Systems Call for Proposals

13 October 2014
9:00 AM (MDT)

[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.](#)

Preparing for Wildfires

10-12 March 2015
Tucson, AZ

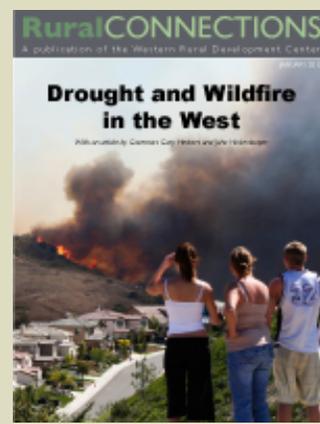
Save the date! Details coming soon.



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*.



STAY CONNECTED



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