WRDC's Work Featured in Utah State Magazine
"Rebuilding Rural"

The Western Rural Development Center's initiative, Area Sector Analysis Process, known as ASAP, along with WRDC Director Don Albrecht's forthcoming book, "Building a 21st Century Economy for Rural America," were featured in the Fall 2018 issue of Utah State Magazine. ASAP matches a community's economic development goals and assets with business profiles in order to assist in development decisions that reflect the desires of community members. The Area Sector Analysis Process is a collaborative effort between the WRDC, the University of Nevada-Reno, and its project partners.

Read the Utah State Magazine article.

Learn more about ASAP!

FEDERAL LANDS MANAGEMENT
WRDC Hosts Initial Meeting of its Newly-Formed Extension and Research Team

Vast amounts of land in the western U.S. is owned and managed by the Federal Government. In recent years, federal land management decisions have been prominent and divisive. To begin to better understand and address these issues, earlier this year the WRDC solicited regional participation in a new initiative, "Federal Lands Management Research and Extension Program," and on September 13-14 the assembled team met at the WRDC offices on the Utah State University campus for one and a half days of discussions and strategic planning. In the coming months, the team will explore and/or develop scientifically-sound and politically-neutral information on the consequences of various land management decisions, an understanding of the views of various population segments on these issues, and the capacity to present this information to policy makers and other interested individuals in an unbiased manner. The team, pictured above, includes (L-R): Yong Chen (Oregon State University), Don Albrecht (WRDC), Paul Jakus, (Utah State University), Julie Suhr Pierce (BLM-Utah), and Sam Smallidge (New Mexico State University). Not pictured-Paul Lachapelle (Montana State University).

Information, tools, and resources developed by the team will be shared as it becomes available. In the meantime, to help satiate your land management curiosities, check out the wide range of articles and policy briefs in our publication library.
Western Policy Brief

Using Homes to Improve Behavioral Health Outcomes in the Rural West
By Brandn Green, JG Research and Evaluation

The Western Rural Development Center has added to its Western Policy Brief series with this latest brief by Brandn Green, LG Research and Evaluation, highlighting housing and its relation to improving behavioral health outcomes. "Housing is intertwined with well-being and health. For those who have a behavioral health condition, housing can be unstable, uncertain, and hopefully, a location for recovery. In this brief, the varied ways that housing interacts with behavioral health are presented and placed within the current policy context of Medicaid expansion."

Read the brief.

MEET OUR NEW DAYA ANALYST

WRDC Welcomes Riana Gayle

Riana Gayle joined the WRDC staff in August 2018 as a data analyst. Prior to starting at WRDC, Ms. Gayle completed her M.S. in Ecology at Utah State University. Her research analyzes the adoption of drought policies at the city-level across the U.S. During her final year she also worked as a science reporter for Utah Public Radio and continues to blend her love of science and learning with communication strategies for larger audiences. Read more.

Send a welcome message to Riana!

Listen to her Utah Public Radio segments.

Call for Proposals

2019 Joint National Sustainability and National Extension Energy Summit
DEADLINE: October 1, 2018

Sustainability and energy Extension professionals, researchers, graduate students, formal and informal educators, practitioners, and community partners are invited and encouraged to submit
Submit your abstract online.

The joint summit is being held April 16-19, 2019, at the Westshore Grand in Tampa, Florida. Visit the NSS & NEES website for more information.

SAVE THE DATE!

Sustainable Tourism and Outdoor Recreation Conference
Astoria, Oregon
October 8-10, 2019

Join colleagues including University Extension and Sea Grant professionals, other faculty, agency and students, and industry representatives working on tourism and outdoor recreation. Present and learn about research, case studies, sustainability and funding modes, educational program materials, and more! Open to all interested individuals. Mobile presentations will visit coastal community projects and environments. Save the date and plan to join us in Oregon next year.

Learn more by visiting the National Extension Tourism Network.

LEADERSHIP ONLINE FOR TODAY

University of Missouri Extension Offers Innovative Online Program
January 21 - April 8, 2019

University of Missouri Extension has developed an innovative online program with the focus on building better leaders. Leadership Online for Today is an interactive program that allows participants to improve communication skills, build relationships and networks, and develop a collaborative project to benefit a community or organization. The program begins on January 21, 2019, and concludes in early April. It was developed with the intent to prepare emerging leaders to affect positive community change. For more information about the program, contact Johanna Reed Adams, Ph.D.

Learn more about Leadership Online for Today.

COMING SOON!
What you'll be reading in the Fall 2018 issue of Rural Connections

INTRODUCTION
Don E. Albrecht, Western Rural Development Center

BRINGING JOBS AND DOLLARS TO OREGON'S JOHN DAY COUNTRY THROUGH WATERSHED RESTORATION
Michael Hibbard, Sue Lurie, and Rodney Bohner, University of Oregon

WHAT'S IT WORTH? PUTTING A PRICE ON ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Sara Delheimer, Colorado State University

FARMERS MARKET FLASH
Shannon Bachtel, Washington State University

BRINGING CO-OPERATIVE BUSINESS BACK IN: HOW MIGHT WE OVERCOME POLITICAL GRIDLOCK TO MEET OUR COMMUNITY NEEDS?
Keith Taylor, University of California, Davis

JUMPING INTO OPPORTUNITIES TO COOPERATE
Kevin Fort, Regenerative Business Institute

WyHoming
Hannah Swanbom and Duane D. Williams, University of Wyoming Extension; and Kim Porter, Wyoming Business Council

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS: LATINO ENERGY LITERACY OUTREACH AND RESEARCH IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST
Noelle Hart, Washington State University Extension

Can't wait for the Rural Connections goodness? Check out past issues.

OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE YOUR AWESOMENESS!

WEBINAR: Lessons from a Three-State Community Review Program to Help Communities Achieve Diverse Goals
Part of the NPIEC Webinar Series
September 19, 2018
Details.

WEBINAR: Demand-side Factors Influencing Endemic Drug use in America
September 25, 2018
Details.

WEBINAR: Exploring Partnerships to Address Economically-Vulnerable Populations
Part of the NPIEC Webinar Series
October 3, 2018
Details.

Women in Agriculture Conference
October 27, 2018
Multiple locations
Details.

WEBINAR: Dreamland: America’s Opiate Epidemic and How We Got Here
Presented by Sam Quinones
December 7, 2018
Details.

NAEPSDP Annual Conference
December 10-13, 2018
Alexandria, Virginia
Details.

WEBINAR: Leadership Online for Today
January 21, 2019
Details.

2019 Joint National Sustainability Summit and National Extension Energy Summit
April 16-19, 2019
Tampa, Florida
Details.
NACDEP 2019
June 10-13, 2019
Asheville, North Carolina
Details.

Sustainable Tourism & Outdoor Recreation Conference
October 8-10, 2019
Astoria, Oregon
Details.

Click to view the calendar on our website for more upcoming webinars and conferences.

Rural Connections Monthly (RC Monthly) is published by the Western Rural Development Center most months of the year, and is intended to provide updates on activities at the Center along with items of interest to those working in or with rural communities in the Western U.S. This material is based upon work that is supported by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under award number 2017-51150-27127.

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE WRDC
wrdc.usu.edu