

Subject: 6-9-11 eBlast from NRCS



June 9, 2011

## STATE OFFICE ADMINISTRATION CHANGES ANNOUNCED

The following administrative personnel changes for NRCS Utah were announced recently at the Utah NRCS Quarterly Business Leadership Meeting in Richfield:

**State Conservationist Sylvia Gillen is stepping down**, effective June 17, to join the staff of the NRCS Strategic Planning and Performance Division. Following her move from Utah, she will be working at the NRCS Technical Center in Fort Worth, Texas. Due to the serious illness of her mother and other personal circumstances, she had decided to serve the agency in a position that will allow her more flexibility in meeting the needs of her family. Speaking to her leadership team on Tuesday, she expressed her appreciation to all the NRCS employees (past and present) and to the Utah conservation partners, who have made her time in Utah so enjoyable and rewarding. And, true to her character, she continued to give solid advice and guidance to the NRCS work in Utah. This writer noted a few of her one-line gems during the two-day meeting, such as: "make conservation fun," "run to the change," and "let's learn how to sell conservation without money." Each of you will treasure your own memory of our respected leader, Sylvia Gillen. An open house farewell will be given at the State Office on Thursday, June 16, at 1 pm in room 4209.

**Pedro Ramos is the new Assistant State Conservationist for Programs**, succeeding **Lisa Coverdale** who was recently appointed Assistant State Conservationist for Operations. The accompanying photo shows Gillen (center) with the new appointees at the recent leadership meeting in Richfield. Ramos most recently served as leader for field operations at NRCS in Oregon. Previous NRCS work includes assistant state conservationist for operations in Vermont, a district conservationist in three states, and on headquarters details—one recent assignment on flood plain easements. He was reared in Bakersfield, California and attended Fresno State University.



**A Joint HR Streamlining Pilot between Utah and Wyoming** was announced at the recent Utah NRCS leadership meeting and sent to all NRCS employees in each state. The combined joint staff in human resources will provide greater availability to all employees and better utilize the skills of the human resources personnel in both locations. Mike Swanson, HR officer in Wyoming, will be the human resources officer for both states, splitting his time between both

locations. He will assign specific duties to each employee and will provide a directory that will help NRCS employees find the right person to help with human resource matters. This is a three-month pilot to see how such an arrangement might help NRCS better prepare for audits and improve customer service. For more information, contact [Jeff Williams](#), acting state administrative officer in Utah, or [Mike Swanson](#).

*Periodic news reports from NRCS Utah*



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**Sylvia Gillen, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service**

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