

Subject: 10-16-12 eBlast from Utah NRCS



October 16, 2012

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS LEARN TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

NRCS participated in the annual Environmental Immersion Day sponsored by the Fairchild Challenge, Thanksgiving Point and USU Extension. An estimated 330 high school students from 10 schools gathered at Thanksgiving Point Gardens on October 3 to gain some hands-on experience in various science disciplines dealing with the environment. The Fairchild Challenge began in 2002 to foster interest in the environment by encouraging students to appreciate and value the beauty of nature, develop critical-thinking skills, and to understand the need for biodiversity and conservation.



NRCS Civil Engineering Technician Ken Dastrup presented information at a station on GPS technology and its application to conservation work. He showed an NRCS GPS system (see accompanying photo) and compared it to the student's smart phones with similar, but less refined, GPS technology. He allowed students to move

the rover and see how calculations change from the main unit's readings from satellites above. He described the type of work NRCS can accomplish with the help of Global Information Systems.

NRCS Public Affairs Specialist Ron Francis was on hand to welcome the students and provide literature and a brief overview of career opportunities within the agency.

To learn more about the Fairchild Challenge at Thanksgiving Point go to <http://www.thanksgivingpoint.org/challenge/index.html>.

Periodic news reports from NRCS Utah



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