



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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CEDAR CITY

August 22, 2007

Jerry Olds
State Engineer
Utah Division of Water Rights

After attending the meetings concerning the Beryl-Enterprise ground water management plan, I wish to make few comments.

I identified the "major" soil types in the Beryl-Enterprise area that are currently being irrigated by producers using the NRCS soil survey. There are about 12. The soil variability is great on many instances including texture, structure and erodibility factors.

The Wind Erosion Equation (WEQ) is commonly used by NRCS to determine the estimated average annual soil loss as tons per acre per year. I completed the WEQ for the 12 soils and the estimated erosion amount ranged from 33 tons/ac/yr. up to 188 tons/ac/yr. This is a worse case scenerio, meaning that once the water is removed from the land, the alfalfa dies out (which I estimate to be about 2-3 yrs depending on annual precipitation), leaving little or no permanent vegetative cover to protect the landscape.

This large amount of erosion occurring either as saltation, suspension, or surface creep will continue each year until a protective plant population is established. As you know this erosion will cause impairments to air and water quality. I recommend that all landowners, who may be required to cease irrigation, be granted a "phase out" irrigation period for establishment of perennial grasses and shrubs to prevent massive soil erosion. Our experience shows this may take 1-2 years. Our office could provide further technical assistance to landowners as necessary during this period.

Failure to establish a protective plant community, where irrigation currently occurs will cause severe natural resource degradation for years to follow.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Bradshaw".

Jason Bradshaw
Soil Conservationist

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