



Soil and Plant Science Division

Technical Soil Services

Southwest Soil Survey Region



NRCS Staff Assist With San Pitch River Watershed Days

Richfield and Price, Utah, Major Land Resource Area (MLRA) Soil Survey Offices (SSOs)

Purpose

On September 16 and 17, 2026, Richfield and Price MLRA SSO staff assisted Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) with its annual San Pitch River Watershed Days. Designed for fourth-grade students, this interactive educational event teaches students the multiple functions watersheds serve and how those ecosystem services affect their daily lives. Soil Scientists Miles Coker, Keith Crossland, and Britney Allen and Ecologist Matthew Jimenez ran the soil station at the event. They used hands-on activities and demonstrations to explain how the soil helps keep the water clean and teach applicable conservation practices that individuals can use to preserve soils and watersheds and increase soil health.

Background

Multiple classes from North and South Sanpete School Districts participated in the event held at the Sanpete County Fairpark. Upon arrival, classes went to booths covering watershed concepts, wildlife, plant lifecycles, and the function of a no-till drill. Richfield and Price MLRA SSO staff created an observation station where students could feel the differences among organic, loamy, and sandy soils (fig. 1). Students then watched a demonstration of the different filtering properties of each of the three samples (fig. 2). After the hands-on activity and demonstration, the staff and students participated in a question-led discussion about how individuals can preserve and protect the soil and watersheds.



Figure 1.—Soil Scientists Britney Allen, Miles Coker, and Keith Crossland guiding students through the observation station.



Figure 2.—Ecologist Matthew Jimenez and Soil Scientist Britney Allen demonstrating how soil acts as a filter.

Key Outcomes

By assisting with the San Pitch Watershed Days, Richfield and Price MLRA SSO staff increased students' understanding of how soil properties affect the ability of soil to filter water in a watershed. They taught students about conservation practices that help preserve soil and watersheds, and they discussed the importance of protecting natural resources and agricultural land.

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