

# U.S./Sino Grass Alliance Tour and Meeting

June 8-9, 2012

Nephi, Ephraim, and Panguitch, Utah

Scientists at the USDA, ARS Forage and Range Research Laboratory (FRRL) and Utah State University (USU), Logan, Utah, and Chinese institutions created formal relationships in 2009 to encourage scientific exchange and cooperation in the areas of genetics and ecologically-based management practices related to rangeland, turf, and pasture species (grasses and more recently forbs and legumes). These interactions began in 2008, and resulted in the creation of the U.S./Sino Grass Alliance in 2009 with Chinese public, government, and private member institutions and the FRRL.

Specific SCAs and Material Transfer Agreements (MTAs) were developed in 2010/2011 to test elite grass and legume populations in replicated trials in five non-irrigated growing environments across China from hot, humid sites in eastern China to hot, dry sites in western China (six locations). This was the first step towards conducting more comprehensive cooperative research projects. In 2012, replicated trials incorporating ARS released and experimental grasses, legumes and sub-shrubs (i.e., forage kochia) were established in six locations across northern China. In June of 2012, the third U.S./Sino Grass Alliance meeting was held in Panguitch Utah where 12 Chinese scientists attended from alliance institutions and private industry. Research plots in Nephi and Panguitch, and the seed storage facility of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources in Ephraim, Utah were visited. Reports were given on the successes of the establishment of plant materials in the Chinese replicated trials. Three additional Chinese institutions joined the alliance bring the total member institutions to 12.



Tour participants at Bryce Canyon National Park



Mr. Craig Rigby demonstrating ways in which stand establishment can be quantitatively measured.



Dr. Mike Peel describing morphological differences between native languages.



Dr. Tom Jones providing information to tour participants on native grasses and their improvement.



Dr. Blair Waldron demonstrating the productivity of his new forage kochia release, 'Snowstorm', for rangeland agriculture.