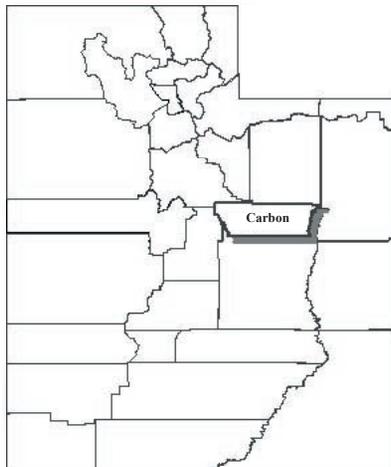


Carbon County

Local Planning Summary

Prepared for the:
**Dixie, Fishlake & Manti-La Sal National Forests
Forest Plan Revision
Social and Economic Assessment**



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CARBON COUNTY, MASTER PLAN REVISION, 2003
Public Lands & Resources

<p>Summary & Key Issues</p>	<p>The majority of land in Carbon County is in public ownership. The revised Public Lands & Resources element of the County’s Master Plan presents issue-specific goals, objectives, and strategies for implementation. The intent behind this plan is to articulate County positions in order to remain actively involved in federal land planning.</p>
<p>Historical Abstract</p>	<p>“Currently, federal law, and agency planning directives provide opportunities for local governments to participate actively in public land management decisions... Carbon County will continue to participate actively in planning, and to build on the existing relationships with the Manti-La Sal National Forest Managers, and the Bureau of Land Management personnel... The County has identified past challenges with the existing relationship between the public land agencies and the County. Through recent revisions of both the Forest and BLM Resource Management Plans we have found opportunities to interface with local managers to solve problems.” (p.1).</p>
<p>Economic Values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Resource extraction such as coal mining and coal bed methane extraction is the mainstay of our employment and tax base.” (p.1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The largest out-of-town consumers of these goods [from local merchants] are mining, drilling and mineral exploration contractors and suppliers, with tourists and recreational land users second. (p.1) • Of over four million dollars in gross receipts for livestock in Carbon County in 2002, nearly three million were realized from stock that graze on public lands all or part of the year. (p.1).
<p>Social & Cultural Values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “All residents of the County rely on these lands in ways they may not be aware of for their livelihood, resources, recreation, and other uses. Due to this close relationship, land use decisions concerning public land management directly impact the interests of the County.” (p.1). • “Our cultural, paleontological, historic and prehistoric sites are treasured and need to be protected. Before they can be protected they must be discovered and inventoried.” (p.16). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Nine-Mile Canyon area is viewed as one that is an important cultural attraction.

Public Lands Issues

- The first policy in the Plan revision is to “encourage no net loss of private lands or tax base”. (p.2).
- **Wilderness:** “The County adopted a Wilderness Proposal on April 1, 2003. The proposal contains approximately 13,000 acres and buffers the private lands captured within the area.” (p.3).
 - The County wishes to maintain a future transportation and energy corridor oriented east-west across the Green River, and north-south across Nine Mile Canyon. (p.3).
- **Wild & Scenic Rivers:** “The Price River corridor from Scofield Reservoir to Helper is especially important as this is our primary source of culinary, industrial, and agricultural water.” (p.3).
 - Goal: Oppose all facets of Wild & Scenic River Designation within the County.
- **Fish and Wildlife:** “We value fish and wildlife as a source of recreation and enjoyment, as well as one means to feed our families, and as a potential for tourism and recreation for visitors to hunt, fish and view wildlife... Federal lands, woodlands and forests are key to maintaining a healthy population of fish and wildlife.” (p.5).
- **Access:** “Without access to land, water and resources, our citizens cannot maintain their present level of prosperity or enjoy the quality of life they now enjoy.” (p.9).
 - “Tourism is entirely dependant on access.” (p.20).
- **Timber & Forest Product Harvesting:** “Timber and forest products are essential to our quality of life... The local sawmill is presently closed due to a shortage of timber... This situation can be corrected by a change in federal directives and policy, and by revising the BLM and Forest Service land use plans.” (p.11).
 - Goal: “To maintain a continuous supply of timber and to protect water sheds and water quality through minimization of soil erosion and other deleterious effects from insect damage and catastrophic fires.” (p.12).
 - Strategy: “Encourage the commercial and non-commercial harvesting of forests and woodlands, to the maximum extent possible, through Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management plans and policies.” (p.12).
- **Resource & Mineral Extraction:** “Our many carbon resources and other valuable minerals will continue to be the major source of income to residents.” (p.13).
 - Objective: “Work with federal agencies to streamline the permitting process locally for extractive industries.” (p.14).

**Public Lands
Issues**

- **All Terrain & OHVs:** “This activity is important to the economy of the County and is expected to grow in popularity.” (p.15).
- **Noxious Weed Control:** “Noxious weed control and eradication is a top priority for the County.” (p.18).
 - Objective: “Increase awareness of the potential devastation to our economy from the spread of noxious weeds.” (p.18).
- **Recreation and Tourism:** “The economic impact to the County from recreation and tourism is growing slightly, but is not expected to reach as high a level in the foreseeable future as in some Utah counties. In fact, there is fear of some negative economic impact from recreation and tourism due to increased demand from local search and rescue and emergency medical services. Any social-economic impact studies by federal agencies should address the relationship of revenue from recreation and tourism to the actual costs to local and state governments for emergency and other services.” (p.19).
 - “Non-resident visitors to the area are often unaware of the relationship between residents and the land. Visitors are often from densely populated areas and have lost their connection to the land. They return or visit to seek that connection. Their perceptions are often clouded by incomplete information.” (p.19).
- **Grazing Permits and Rights:** “Rather than expend resources on conflict over wildlife vs. livestock, the County will encourage the improvement of forest and range health to provide more forage for both livestock and wildlife... The County supports the ownership of improvements to public rangeland and water rights by the permit holder as collateral.” (p.23).
 - “The County adamantly opposes grazing buyouts and other maneuvers, whether for recreation, wilderness values, or otherwise which cause, encourage, result in or bring about the retirement, non-use, or other effective reduction of AUM’s devoted to livestock grazing uses, as mandated by the Taylor Grazing Act.” (p.23).
- **Water Rights and Use:** “Recently, special interest groups have attempted to buy grazing leases and water rights, then retire them for conservation.” (p.25).
 - Objective: “Construct the maximum possible number of water diversions, small reservoirs, ponds and other facilities for the storage and use of water for humans, agriculture, industry, commerce, livestock and wildlife.” (p.26).

- **Law Enforcement:** “It is in the best interest of Carbon County and its citizens that the County Sheriff assert this authority on all Carbon County lands, public or otherwise, and continue exercising such authority if in his best judgment such is called for, despite any contrary or inconsistent request, demand or opinion from any federal agency or officer.” (p.27).
 - Objective: “Construct the maximum possible number of water diversions, small reservoirs, ponds and other facilities for the storage and use of water for humans, agriculture, industry, commerce, livestock and wildlife.” (p.26).
- **Watersheds:** “Carbon County is unique in that we have no potable water aquifers in our valley. We rely on the Price River drainage and Grassy Trail to provide all of our useable water.” (p.30).

***CARBON COUNTY, GENERAL PLAN, 1997
GOALS & OBJECTIVES for CARBON COUNTY TOURISM
DEVELOPMENT CODE of CARBON COUNTY, 2003***

<p>Summary & Key Issues</p>	<p>True to its name, Carbon County has at many states of its history enjoyed a prosperous economy with the help of the coal industry. While Carbon County is relatively content with the way private lands have been utilized thus far, they want to ensure that they are used in a manner consistent with their values and rural character. However, providing a land use scheme that is favorable to new business and diverse housing projects is equally important.</p>
<p>Historical Abstract</p>	<p>Most of Carbon County’s residents live in the Price River Valley and at the foot of the Book Cliffs. Coal mining continues to play a vital role in economic and social development, with ups and downs in the industry creating periods of boom and relative bust. Between 1970 and 2000 Carbon County grew 31%. Government is currently the largest industry in Carbon County with over 21% of total employment.</p>

<p>Economic Values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced mining technologies, however, have led to a reduced level of local employment directly associated with mining, (p.1). • Recognizing the risks inherent in reliance on a few large employers, the County wishes particularly to encourage the growth of numerous small, locally owned businesses that are committed to training and hiring local residents, (p.1). • To encourage the establishment of new business...the County proposes to develop and support programs in the following four areas: business expansion, business recruitment, business assistance, and business retention, (p.1). • Provide rental space for growing businesses and develop site information and location incentives, (p.2). • The Carbon County Travel & Tourism goals and objectives focus on the concept of increasing tourism.
<p>Environmental Values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Virtually every economic activity from real estate development, to manufacturing, to agricultural production is limited by the short supply of water. Conservation at every opportunity, including lining canals to prevent seepage and evaporation, installing secondary water systems for residential irrigation, and recruiting businesses that do not require large amounts of water will be critical, (p.68).
<p>Social & Cultural Values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County wishes to support the Carbon School District’s efforts to pursue “educational excellence” by retaining quality teachers, provide teacher training and improve student achievement, as measured by a variety of factors, (p.2). • In addition, the County seeks to increase access to bachelor level education programs at the College of Eastern Utah in Price, (p.2).
<p>Forest-Specific Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and upgrade certain Forest Service roads, such as the Upper Fish Creek Campground Road, so they can be turned over to the County as Class B County Roads. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The County notes that this goal has been accomplished since the Plan was adopted. A new goal was added to include other roads to the Cooperative Maintenance Agreement for local resident and visitor access.

<p>Public Lands Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the roughly 952,990 acres of land in Carbon County, approximately 60% are public lands administered by federal and state agencies. The BLM’s Price River Resource Area and Price Canyon Recreation Area and United States Department of Agriculture’s Manti-LaSal National Forest are partially located within the County, (p.ii). • So that everyone may enjoy the extensive public land holdings, such as recreational opportunities, wildlife and reminders of its heritage, the County wishes to preserve access to these areas, (p.96). • The Carbon County Public Lands Task Group proposes that the County Commissioners organize a county-level public lands committee. If organized, it will act as a “clearinghouse” for county-impacting public land issues and as an advisory board on public land issues, (p.87). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Public Lands Committee concept has been eliminated from the Plan. Staff will be the clearinghouse. • The County has recently adopted a Revised Development Code that assigns twenty-two different zones for land within the area, (Code p.4-1).
<p>Regional Demographic Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County residents wish to set long-term development goals to ensure that economic development is well managed, and that growth does not either exceed the County’s ability to support it or threaten its rural character, (p.1). • Carbon County is concerned that many traditional access routes, some of which are county roads, are being blocked by private landowners, (p.96). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The County notes that since the adoption of this Plan, their concerns on this issue have for the most part moved from private landowners to actions taken at the federal level.
<p><i>CARBON COUNTY GENERAL PLAN (Water-Related Sections), 1997</i></p>	
<p>Summary & Key Issues</p>	<p>Carbon County depends heavily on water from the Price River. In order to quantify the likely impact of projects that threaten Carbon County’s access to this water, the County will assist the Carbon Water Committee to conduct an economic analysis of the types and values of uses to which Price River water is applied.</p>

Historical Abstract	<p>Within Carbon County there are many non-agricultural economic activities that are assisted by the production of crops and the raising of livestock. As a result, this creates a “multiplier effect” that brings economic benefits beyond the income generated directly by agricultural production. The County will continue to support efforts by the USU Extension Service and the Farm Bureau to increase public awareness and conserve water for agricultural uses in the County, (p.68).</p>
Economic Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A goal of Carbon County is to cooperate with Carbon Water Committee and assist the CWC in conducting an economic analysis of how Price River water is used, and how much revenue it produces in the County. The findings will be presented to the Bureau of Reclamation, (p.71). • Carbon County will work to acquire more water rights to permit the recruitment of industries/business that are higher water users. It is proposed to develop a program to purchase water shares from low-use property owners, (p.71). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The County notes that they will no longer pursue this.
Environmental Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One method being examined by Carbon County to encourage conservation is water metering. This approach is used in many communities to discourage individual users from wasting water. This will allow water companies to monitor usage and charge users appropriately, (p.69). • Work with Forest Service and BLM to encourage land management practices that will reduce erosion in major watersheds, (p.70).
Regional Demographic Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon County’s water supply is facing external threats, primarily the Gooseberry Narrows project in Sanpete County. For Carbon County to enjoy continued prosperity...pursuing conservation measures while also seeking to preserve the flows into the Scofield Reservoir will be necessary, (p.68).

THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS of COALBED GAS DRILLING in CENTRAL UTAH, 1995

<p>Summary & Key Issues</p>	<p>Carbon County also contains a significant coalbed methane field that can be productively mined for another 10 years. Depressed natural gas markets may prevent mining for some time.</p>
<p>Historical Abstract</p>	<p>Heightened interest in Carbon’s coalbed methane field led to an economic and fiscal impact analysis done by the Utah Division of Natural Resources.</p>
<p>Economic Values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ultimately, the depressed natural gas markets will determine whether any mining operation will be pursued, (p.14).
<p>Environmental Values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon and Emery Counties contain a 6- to 10-mile wide band of coalbed methane gas that could produce 25% of the total State’s natural gas production. (Estimate made at the time this Analysis was written (1995)).
<p>Regional Demographic Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon and Emery Counties have shown similar trends in broad measures of county-level economic performance between 1970 and 1993, (p.15). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The economic histories of both counties have been marked by a rapid ascent of the mining industry followed by an equally rapid decline, (p.21).