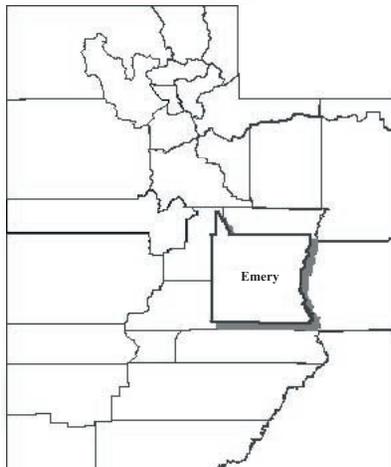


Emery County

Local Planning Summary

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



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EMERY COUNTY GENERAL PLAN 1996

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| <p>Summary & Key Issues</p> | <p>Emery County’s economy has always been dependant on its natural resources, and is one of the strongest rural economies in the Nation. Mining and power generation jobs have led to the highest average monthly payroll wage in the State. The County is exploring tourism as an emerging sector, and have seen an increase in non-traditional uses of their public lands (i.e. OHV). There is pressure on Emery’s water resources, and they are managed by 38 different agencies (as of 1996). The County has established a “Public Lands Council” to represent its public lands interests.</p> |
| <p>Historical Abstract</p> | <p>The economy in Emery County was predominantly agriculturally-based until the demand for coal during World War II stimulated the development of several mines in the County. Following the War, the economy and population declined. The different reservoir projects brought new stability to irrigation water supply and facilitated industrial development. More recently, power generation plants have been developed.</p> |
| <p>Economic Values</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to maintaining a strong economic base with coal mining and power production, Emery is trying to diversify their economy with tourism and senior-oriented services, (p.8). • Emery has one of the strongest rural economies in the Nation, (p.10). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Numerous coal mines and its use in five power generation units. • Green River seems to have the most potential for attracting tourism, (p.46). • 75% of agriculture in the County is livestock (as of 1992), (p.II-19). |
| <p>Environmental Values</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 23 federal water agencies and 15 state agencies with whom water users in the County must commonly deal (as of 1996), (p.50). • Emery County is experiencing over-allocation and political pressures on its water resources, (p.50). |

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| <p>Social & Cultural Values</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “In every public discussion regarding Emery County’s future, the desire to maintain our rural character and lifestyle emerged as the highest priority”, (p.10). |
| <p>Public Lands Issues</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public lands constitute 92% of the County, (p.3). • The region is becoming increasingly popular for non-traditional recreational uses such as mountain biking, river running, and OHV riding, (p.8 & 25). • “The County feels that federal and state agencies should more adequately consider and address the County’s concerns, interests, and objectives”, (p.16). • Public land should be managed under the “multiple-use and sustained yield” concept, (p.21). • The County would like to partner with federal land management agencies to develop a strategic plan for tourism, (p.43). • The County has established a “Public Lands Council” to represent its public lands interests, (p.68). |
| <p>Regional Demographic Issues</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emery County had the highest average monthly per capita payroll wage in the State (because of mining and power industry), but technological advances are eliminating some of those jobs (as of 1996), (p.39). |

***EMERY COUNTY BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT, 2001
&
ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION ACTION PLAN, 1995***

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| Summary & Key Issues | Emery County economic development plans are largely concerned with public lands in the County. There is a sense of pride in the rural atmosphere, and concern regarding land use restrictions. The Forests were invited to be part of the “Action Teams”. |
| Historical Abstract | In both 1995 and 2001 the Emery County Economic Development Office conducted a series of public workshops and community forums. Action team members were selected from a broad representation of community members. |
| Economic Values | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Business owners identified several important aspects of Emery County that could contribute to its economic development. Its natural resources were perhaps the most frequently cited strength”, (p.4). |
| Environmental Values | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The greatest additional concern expressed by the vast majority of respondents involved the negative impacts of “overly-aggressive” environmentalism that led to unnecessary land use restrictions”, (p.8). |
| Social & Cultural Values | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County residents are proud of their Indian and pioneer heritage and history. They are proud of the environment and [rural] tranquility, (p.3). |
| Forest-Specific Issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USFS was identified as a member of the Emery County Action Teams that would concentrate on agriculture and environment, ((1995) p.19&20). |
| Regional Demographic Issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “There is a sense of inequity in the distribution of state tax funds, with a disproportionate amount seen as going ‘up north’”, (p.8). |

EMERY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT, WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN, 1999

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| Summary & Key Issues | The agricultural areas in Emery County are developed far beyond the naturally-occurring water resources of the area. The District's purpose is to store and convey water for agricultural, municipal, and industrial needs. The District maintains one large dam and three major canals. |
| Historical Abstract | The Emery County Project was authorized as one of the participating projects of the Colorado River Storage Project in 1956. The District has contracts with the Bureau of Reclamation for 28,100 acre feet. It serves the Huntington-Cleveland Irrigation Company, UP&L, Castle Valley Special Service District, Orangeville, and Castle Dale. |
| Economic Values | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most agriculture products grown in the area are used to support the area's livestock, (p.4).• UP&L purchased water rights for cooling and process water, (p.6). |
| Environmental Values | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Precipitation averages 7.6" annually in the valley areas, (p.7). |

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

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| <p>Summary & Key Issues</p> | <p>Emery 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 Emery’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"> • Emery County contains a 6- to 10-mile wide band of coalbed methane gas that could produce 25% of the total State’s natural gas production. |
| <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). |

***THE CASTLE VALLEY RAILROAD REGIONAL ECONOMIC IMPACT and
MARKET POTENTIAL OF THE EMERY MINE, 2002***

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| <p>Summary & Key Issues</p> | <p>The Emery Mine was closed in the early 1990s. Re-opening the mine was considered with the establishment of new power generating facilities. The feasibility assessment determined that the Emery Mine is the next logical source of new coal production in Utah, and that it would be cost-competitive with both existing and proposed new mines in the Region <u>if</u> a new source of demand was found.</p> |
| <p>Historical Abstract</p> | <p>This analysis was prepared as a second phase of a feasibility investigation to determine the potential economic viability of a railroad in Emery County.</p> |
| <p>Economic Values</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Without a new source of demand for Utah coal, the market is unlikely to support the operation until 2010 or beyond, (p.7). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Looking at a fourth unit at PacifiCorp’s Hunter generating station. • |
| <p>Environmental Values</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “At full longwall production, the mine’s design capacity will be on the order of four million tons per year and will have a reserve base sufficient to sustain production for 20 years”, (p.7). |