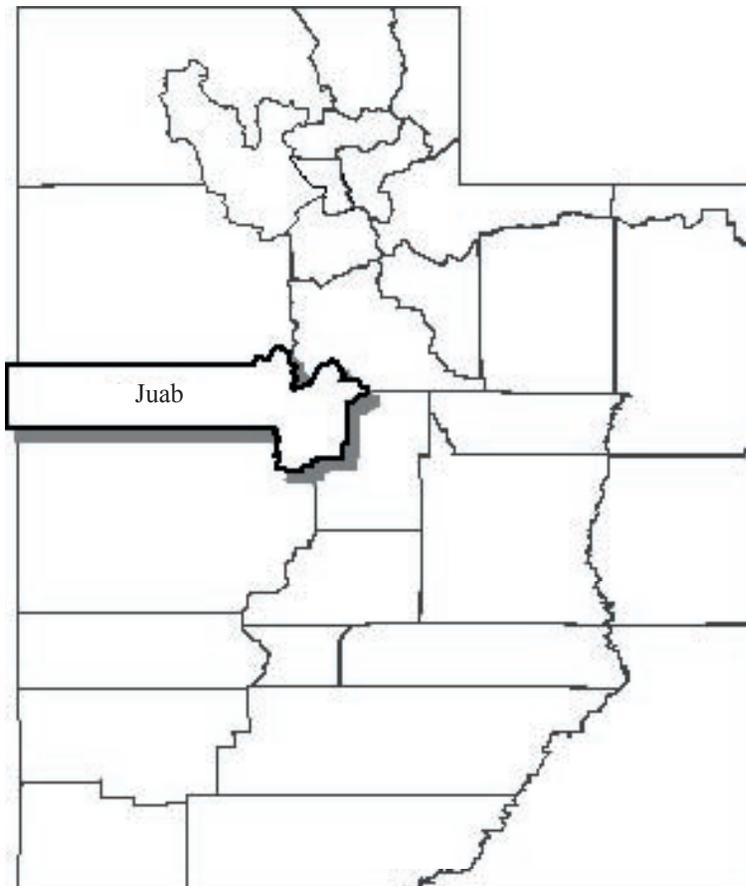


Juab County Profile

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

Prepared by:
Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
with assistance from:
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JUAB COUNTY OVERVIEW



County Land Ownership

65.2% — Bureau of Land Mgt.
 17.2% — Private
 7.7% — State Trust Lands
 4.5% — US Forest Service
 2.1% — Tribal
 3.4% — Other
 0.9% — Wilderness Areas
 4.9% — Wilderness Study Area
 (within BLM total)

source: SITLA, 2003

County Planned Uses

65.4% — Outlying Zone
 29.0% — Grazing, Mining
 Recreation & Forestry
 5.4% — Agriculture
 0.12% — Highway Commercial
 & Industrial
 0.07% — Residential
 Agriculture

source: Juab County

This overview contains observations drawn from the maps, economic and demographic trend data, and a review of county plans contained in this profile. In addition, it contains comments and explanations of county leaders and residents, gathered at workshops conducted to review this assessment.

Landscape

Juab County extends westward from the mountains of the National Forest, near the center of the state, to the arid desert lands on the Nevada border. The county is 125 miles long and 25 miles wide at its narrowest point, and covers an area of 3,412 square miles. The landscape is typical of western Utah's basin and range and houses diverse natural resources. It contains rich green valleys comprised of fertile farmlands, large areas of sagebrush flats, swamp like areas, and vast desert lands with acres of free moving sand dunes as well as several high mountain ranges. According to the County, 423,600 acres of arable lands, comprising 7.5% of the State of Utah's arable land, are found within its boundaries. This makes it one of the closest agricultural regions to a major population center in Utah.

Population

Juab County grew much faster in the last decade than in previous decades and continued strong growth is projected for the future. As Juab County becomes more of an extension of the Wasatch Front, many people are relocating their families to Juab County while working in Utah County. Many other Juab County residents have found employment in Millard County's power plants and in Sanpete County's mines. The county recently estimated that 40% of its residents are commuting to employment in other Counties. These trends have spurred a population surge in the last decade, swelling school enrollments and boosting average education levels, unlike many other rural areas, where populations are aging and young families are moving out.

Economy

Because the eastern part of the county is within a thirty-minute drive from the urbanized Wasatch Front, the local economy is increasingly influenced by regional forces. Agriculture and mining historically supplied many jobs, but changing economies have somewhat reduced the dependence on these industries, although they are still important to the overall economy of Juab County. Periodic mining closures and

JUAB COUNTY OVERVIEW

Current Issues

*trail development & access
growth management
improving airport capacity
growing tourism & services
commuting outside county
creating high-wage jobs*

declining agricultural wages have stagnated these industries but some mining operations continue on a small scale. County residents state that while the agriculture is becoming a smaller part of the economy, many residents still have part-time agricultural positions. Juab County lost a significant number of manufacturing jobs in the mid 1980s with the closing of the rubber plant and sewing plant. In recent years, several small manufacturing firms have opened and have helped to diversify Juab's economy. The services, trade and government employment sectors also grew swiftly in the 1990s. Job growth and unemployment have recently increased to levels near the statewide average.

Planning

Juab County's General Plan places a great deal of emphasis on the local economy, and recommends equal attention to be given to manufacturing, mining, and agriculture. It also places strong emphasis on "multiple use" of public lands within the county. The county desires to maintain its rural character. Local plans point out the tourism opportunities that are provided by the area's location and natural resources. Juab County is eager to enhance recreation facilities, including ATV and bike trails and wildlife viewing projects. Archaic Period and Fremont Culture sites, including Nephi Mounds—one of the most important Fremont sites in the eastern Great Basin—are further opportunities for cultural tourism.

While National Forests have less impact than BLM lands because they comprise less acreage within the county, they continue to have measurable impacts on the economy and lifestyle of the resident of Juab County. There are no developed BLM facilities in the county and many residents recreate on the forests. Forest lands are also important to water supplies and participants in the county workshop indicated a shortage of water in the aquifer near the Manti-La Sal National Forest nearby Levan. The county supports a policy of integrated planning and cooperative projects. Planning documents reviewed, which were available at the time of this assessment, include:

*Juab County General Plan, 1996
Juab County Economic Development Plan, 1993 (revised 2001)
Six County AOG, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, 2000
Utah State Historical Society, Beehive History: Utah Counties. 1988*