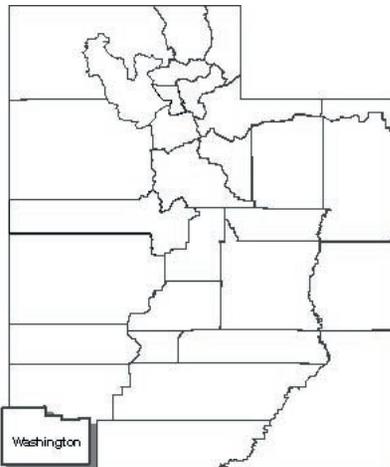


Washington County

Local Planning Summary

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



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WASHINGTON COUNTY GENERAL PLAN 1994

(The County recently completed an update to this Plan. The new document was not available for this Assessment.)

<p>Summary & Key Issues</p>	<p>Tourism is a significant part of the Washington County economy. The County is very interested in the maintenance of multiple uses and sustainability of public lands. Forty percent of the County General Plan is concentrated on public lands issues. County residents are interested in preserving agriculture as a viable industry, and want to enhance tourism. Federal and State land holdings should be better organized through consolidation, trade, etc, and the County is very interested in achieving an ongoing, working relationship with those agencies. (This Plan also includes a plan for the New Harmony Valley. The Valley is considerably different than the lower parts of the County, and has grown significantly since the creation of the County Plan. The entire Valley is owned privately).</p>
<p>Historical Abstract</p>	<p>Washington County began as an agricultural settlement, but which has become a significant tourist destination in large part because of the development of Zion National Park. The area has always been attractive for seasonal housing.</p>
<p>Economic Values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Washington Co. is ranked second among the counties in the State in terms of tourist dollars spent, (p.6).• “All public lands should be open to sales and free use of woodland and other vegetative products on a sustained yield basis” (p.11).• The County supports the National Park Service policy of keeping tourist facilities in Zion National Park open on a year-round basis, (p.12).• Agriculture is significant to the economy, and should also be protected because it influences urban property values, (p.16).• Industrial developments such as mining may be located outside the urbanized areas, but the Plan won’t speculate on where this would likely be, (p.19).<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Utility service and traffic access for such developments should be coordinated with surrounding developments.

<p>Social & Cultural Values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Scenic Highways include all highways in Washington County” (p.21). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ (The County notes, that this statement is descriptive, not literal, and a statement about the beauty of the region. The only scenic-designated highway connects Rockville to Apple Valley.) • Horseback riding and hiking are two of the important recreational activities in the area, (p.22).
<p>Tribal-Specific Issues</p>	<p>No specific mention in the Plan.</p>
<p>Forest-Specific Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County supports the open space designation for the Pine Valley area, but vehicular access to the interior forest should remain, (p.13). • Scattered and isolated USFS holdings should be consolidated, (p.13). • Thought should be given to the creation of an advisory board that considers National Forest issues, and includes representation from the County Commissions, (p.13).
<p>Public Lands Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plan recommends that a County Ordinance be prepared and adopted that will implement land use planning that focuses on Federal and State land use and activities, (p.7). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Process is intended to insure self-determination by local communities, and to maintain close ties between governmental agencies. • “The continued use of public lands for multiple use purposes is of utmost importance to residents of Washington County” (p.8). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10 of the Plan’s 25 pages are dedicated to public lands discussion. • OHV use on public lands should be limited to existing roads and trails, but OHV use for permitted activities (i.e. hunting, fishing) should be allowed to continue, (p.9). • Wild and Scenic River designations were not granted to the streams and washes on public lands within the County, (p.9). • The Plan recommends that National Park boundaries should be reduced to the area that the public actually sees and uses, (p.12).

<p>Regional Demographic Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 80-90% of growth, south of Utah County, takes place in Washington County, (p.6). • Washington Co. does not want to become involved in providing urban services to unincorporated areas, (p.18).
<p align="center"><i>WASHINGTON COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, STRATEGIC PLAN & FIVE COUNTY AOG, WASHINGTON COUNTY FACT SHEET, 1999</i></p>	
<p>Summary & Key Issues</p>	<p>The Washington County economy is one of the most urbane in Southern Utah, and was one of the fastest growing counties in the State during the 1980's. From 1990 to 1994, Washington County continued its rapid growth, registering as the fourth fastest growing county in the United States. Despite their growth, one of the nine goals in their plan for economic development includes the preservation and protection of open spaces. The Plan recognizes their stewardship responsibilities, and encourages all communities to establish an open space plan. A replacement airport is also considered.</p>
<p>Historical Abstract</p>	<p>The Washington County Economic Development Strategic Plan outlines nine goals and the critical strategies to achieving them.</p>
<p>Economic Values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Preserve critical open spaces in Washington County that enhance and promote the County’s economy particularly agricultural businesses, human quality of life, and the quality of our natural resources in keeping with our stewardship responsibilities”, (#9).

<p>Public Lands Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A “transportation and essential services” goal is to expand existing infrastructure to maintain and improve service levels. A critical strategy is to replace the existing airport, (#4). • “Open space” is defined as any space or area of land or water set aside, dedicated, designated, or reserved for the public use or enjoyment or for the use and enjoyment of owners and occupants of the land, (#9). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The County and Cities are encouraged to draft a master plan that identifies what and where open space is as well as open space uses.
<p>Regional Demographic Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Washington County was the fastest growing county in the State during the 1980’s, (AOG p.1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ From 1990 to 1994 Washington County continued it’s rapid growth registering as the fourth fastest growing county in the United States.
<p><i>WASHINGTON COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT WATER CONSERVATION PLAN 1998</i></p>	
<p>Summary & Key Issues</p>	<p>Washington County is growing at an unprecedented rate. If residents continue using water at the current rates, and if no agriculture water is converted to municipal and industrial use, demand will exceed supply under the growth scenario. The Plan supports the opportunity for improved management and development to increase water quality and quantity should be a prominent feature of all general land use plans. The District would also like to implement conservation pricing.</p>

Historical Abstract	<p>In the face of overwhelming growth and continued depletion of existing surface water and groundwater sources, the Washington County Water Conservancy District (WCWCD) has developed a Water Conservation and Drought Management Plan to provide for the future water needs of the County. The Plan's goals are to conserve water by improving the quality of surface water reducing seepage and evaporation, managing drought, enhancing the watershed, improving irrigation practices, educating the public, and passing conservation ordinances.</p>
Economic Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The District would like to implement conservation pricing, (p.18).
Environmental Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the Purpose and Needs study, completed by Boyle Engineering for the WCWCD, it is projected that the population of Washington County will reach somewhere between 203,937 and 552,872 by the year 2040 depending on low, medium, or high growth, (p.5). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Under the Low Growth Scenario, if residents continue using water at the current rates, and if no agriculture water is converted to municipal and industrial use, demand will exceed supply by 2010, (when the county population reaches 112,000). ○ Under the Medium Growth Scenario, demand would exceed supply in nine years, by the year 2004. ○ Under the High Growth Scenario, the County would run out of water by 2002, in seven years. • The Plan recommends implementation measures that include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ construction of the Sand Hollow Reservoir and diversion of LaVerkin Springs water, (p.7&8), ○ upgrading ditches and canals, (p.8&9), ○ watershed management (through local and federal planning) and enhancing groundwater sources, (p.9).
Forest-Specific Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The opportunity for improved management and development to increase water quality and quantity should be a prominent feature of all general land use plans, (p.9). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ All plans should be reviewed carefully and appropriate information provided to assure implementation.