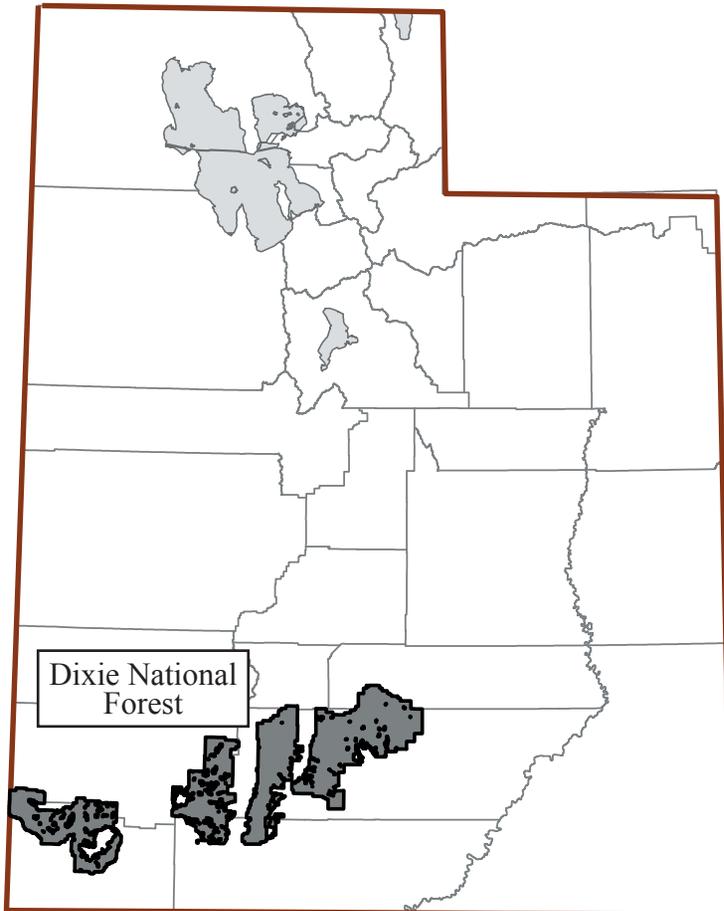


# Dixie National Forest Profile

*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:*  
Utah State University College of Natural Resources  
Utah Division of Indian Affairs



**Utah Governor's Office  
of Planning and Budget**  
116 State Capitol  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114  
(801) 538-1027  
[www.planning.utah.gov](http://www.planning.utah.gov)

**December  
2003**

## DIXIE NATIONAL FOREST OVERVIEW



### Forest Area

1,883,895 acres (2,944 mi<sup>2</sup>)  
4% reserved status (including wilderness)

### Forest Coverage

44% forested-timberland  
33% forested-woodland  
23% non-forested

### Forest type (in forested areas)

33%—Pinyon/Juniper  
17%—Ponderosa pine  
11%—Aspen  
8%—Spruce-fir  
8%—White fir  
7%—Engelmann spruce  
5%—Douglas-fir  
11%—Other

source: *Forest Resources of the Dixie National Forest, 1998*

### Dixie NF Ownership

30.3% of Garfield County  
22.1% of Washington County  
11.1% of Iron County  
4.7% of Kane County  
4.1% of Wayne County  
0.6% of Piute County

Dixie National Forest is the largest National Forest in Utah and straddles the divide between the Great Basin and the Colorado River. Elevations on the forest vary from 2,800 feet near St. George, Utah to 11,322 feet on Boulder Mountain, one of the largest high-elevation plateaus in the United States. The Forest has numerous rugged regions and holds 83,000 acres of designated wilderness in three areas: Pine Valley, Box-Death Hollow, and Ashdown Gorge. A large amount land under other jurisdictions (private, state, and federal) surrounding Dixie National Forest creates coordination challenges. This land pattern also heightens the sense of ownership many locals feel for the forest.

National Forests are managed to serve a diversity of stakeholders, responding to local, state, national, and international interests. This includes a variety of users from recreation to agriculture to industry. Approximately one-fourth of the Dixie is currently dedicated to producing timber, but many other activities are taking place on the forest such as wildlife, range, recreation, and minerals. Many of the roads developed to remove timber from the land also are used for gathering firewood, hunting, driving for pleasure, or winter activities (snowmobiling and cross-country skiing).

Management actions on the national forests are coordinated with other agencies, and the agency is advised to respect state and local plans and regulations as well. (*see 2D—Decision-Making Linkages*). However, National Forest activities must comply with numerous federal mandates and federal laws. Actions are guided by numerous plans which can be categorized into roughly two tiers of planning (*see 4C—Forest Profiles*). Each of these tiers is informed by assessment work. At the highest level is the Forest Plan, which sets the overall desired conditions for the entire forest and sets standards for what can and can't be done on the forest. At the most detailed level, project specific plans are created to determine the exact course of action to specifically change landscape conditions. For each level, detailed assessments are often undertaken to better understand specific and general conditions in order to chart a course for action. Examples of recent plans completed by Dixie National Forest are listed below. More plans and information can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/dxnf/>.

*Dixie & Fishlake National Forests: A Collaborative Process for Forest Plan Revision, 2003*  
*Utah High Plateau Ecoregion Assessment (pending, associated with The Nature Conservancy)*  
*Duck-Swain Roads Analysis Process, 1999*  
*Griffin Springs Timber Management Project*  
*Duck-Swain Travel Management Project*  
*Pine Valley Fuel Break Environmental Assessment*

### Dixie National Forest—Overview

Utah Governor's Office of Planning and Budget