

APPENDIX P—UTAH PUBLIC LANDS STUDY – KEY SOCIAL SURVEY FINDINGS FOR CARBON AND EMERY COUNTIES

A statewide social survey was conducted by Utah State University in 2007 to assess the ways in which Utah residents use and value public land resources, and their views about public land management. Random samples of residential households were selected in each of the state's 29 counties. Sampled households were contacted by mail, and a randomly-selected adult from the household was asked to participate in the survey. Self-completion questionnaires were distributed to potential survey participants using a multiple-wave survey administration procedure. The discussion that follows is focused on key survey results obtained for Carbon County (n = 108 survey responses) and for Emery County (n = 110 survey responses).

ECONOMIC LINKAGES TO PUBLIC LANDS

One major focus of the survey questionnaire involved assessment of the various ways in which Utahans' may engage in economic activities that are linked directly or indirectly to public land resources in the state.

Permit-Based Economic Activities

As indicated in Table P-1, only a minority of survey respondents in either Carbon or Emery Counties reported that a portion of their household income is directly linked to activities that involve permitted uses of lands or resources administered by the U.S. Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), other federal agencies, or the State of Utah. In Carbon County reports of income derived from permit-based economic activities on public lands most often involved activities involving land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (13.3%), the State of Utah (9.7%) and the Forest Service (9.5%). In Emery County these types of economic linkage to public lands were reported most often for activities involving land administered by the Forest Service (22.2%), followed by the Bureau of Land Management (18.2%) and the State of Utah (14.7%). The percentage of respondents indicating that some portion of their household income is derived from such permit-based activities was generally higher in Emery County than was the case in Carbon County.

Table P-1. Percentage of survey respondents reporting that a portion of household income is directly linked to permitted use of public lands or resources.

Agency	Carbon County	Emery County
Forest Service	9.5%	22.2%
BLM	13.3%	18.2%
Other federal agency	2.9%	0.9%
State of Utah	9.7%	14.7%

The data reported in Table P-2 reflect the percentage of respondents reporting these types of permit-based economic linkages to public lands who also indicated that 25% or more of their total household income is derived from those activities. Since in many cases the number of respondents reporting such economic

linkages was small, these values must be interpreted with caution. Nevertheless, it is clear that in both Carbon County and Emery County the survey respondents who did report participation in permit-based economic activities on public lands tend to rely fairly heavily on those activities as sources of total household income.

Table P-2. Percentage of survey respondents reporting permit-based economic activities on public lands who indicated that 25% or more of their household income is derived from those activities.

Agency	Carbon County	Emery County
Forest Service	90.0%	78.3%
BLM	76.9%	80.0%
Other federal agency	100.0%	100.0%
State of Utah	70.0%	43.7%

Household Participation in Selected Commercial Activities

The next series of questions asked respondents to indicate whether they or members of their households participate in any of a number of commercial activities that, while commonly associated with public land use, can involve the use of either public or private lands. Results summarized in Table P-3 indicate that for any of these activities only a minority of survey respondents in either Carbon County or Emery County reported participation. Among Carbon County respondents, the activities reported most frequently were participation in mining of coal, uranium or other minerals (19.2% of responses) and mining of sand, gravel or other construction materials (8.7%). In Emery County participation was reported most frequently for livestock grazing and related work (23.1% of respondents), mining of coal, uranium or other minerals (19.6%), and commercial firewood cutting (10.4%). On balance, the response patterns indicate that there is a higher level of engagement in most of these types of resource-based commercial activities among residents of Emery County than is the case in Carbon County.

Table P-3. Percentage of survey respondents reporting that they or members of their households participate in selected resource-based commercial activities, on either public or private lands.

Economic Activity	Carbon County	Emery County
Livestock grazing and related work	1.0%	23.1%
Commercial firewood cutting	3.8%	10.4%
Logging, post & pole cutting, or other timber-related work	0.0%	4.7%
Mining of coal, uranium or other solid minerals	19.2%	19.6%
Mining of sand, gravel, or other construction materials	8.7%	4.7%
Oil and gas exploration and development	5.9%	6.7%
Operating an outfitting or guiding business	0.0%	2.9%

Economic Activity	Carbon County	Emery County
Film making/commercial photography	3.8%	1.9%
Other commercial activities	0.0%	2.0%

Household Involvement in Businesses Linked to Recreation/Tourism

Survey respondents were also asked whether they or any member of their household operates or works at a business linked to recreation or tourism activity that is influenced by the presence of public lands and resources. Very few survey respondents from either Carbon County (8.3%) or from Emery County (5.6%) said "yes" to this question. When asked to assess how important activities and uses linked to public lands are to the success of this business, one third (33.3%) of Carbon County respondents and one-half (50.0%) of Emery County respondents who did report involvement in such businesses said that the influence of public lands is "extremely important."

Household Involvement in Businesses Linked to Commodity Production

A similar question asked about the involvement of survey participants and members of their households in business that provide services and supplies to farming or ranching operations, logging firms, or other commercial enterprises that use or process natural resources located on public lands. The percentage of respondents reporting participation by a household member in such businesses was fairly low in both Carbon County (11.2%) and in Emery County (14.8%).

Ownership of Property or Assets With Values Influenced by Nearby Public Lands

When asked whether they own land, buildings, or other assets that they believe have a monetary value that is significantly influenced by the presence and condition of nearby public lands, 15.1% of Carbon County respondents and 26.9% of Emery County respondents said "yes." Those who did perceive the existence of such a relationship were then asked to identify specific types of assets that they own and that they believe have a value influenced by the close proximity of public lands. Respondents in both counties most frequently cited their permanent residential property (9.3% in Carbon County, 15.5% in Emery County) and water rights (cited by 6.5% of respondents in Carbon County and 10.0% of respondents in Emery County).

Perceived Importance of Public Lands for Overall Quality of Life

Survey participants were also asked to report how important they think fifteen different types of public land resources and resource uses are for the overall quality of life experienced by people living in their communities. Table P-4 summarizes response patterns to this series of questions for Carbon and Emery Counties, with a focus on the percentage of respondents from each county who indicated that they consider a particular type of resource use to be "very important" for local quality of life.

Table P-4. Percentage of survey respondents indicating that selected public land resource uses are "very important" to the overall quality of life in their community.

Resource Use	Carbon County	Emery County
Grazing of livestock on public lands	47.0%	77.5%
Water resources used to irrigate crops and pastures	79.8%	96.2%
Water resources used to supply homes and businesses	93.3%	99.0%
Water resources that provide important fish/wildlife habitat	75.7%	76.0%
Energy resources such as oil, gas, coal or uranium	79.6%	71.4%
Sand, gravel or other minerals used in building and construction industries	38.6%	41.4%
Forested areas that provide timber used by logging operations and lumber mills	29.0%	39.0%
Areas where trees or other vegetation provide important wildlife habitat	69.2%	69.2%
Areas that attract tourism and recreational activity	57.3%	54.4%
Opportunities to enjoy off-road vehicles, snowmobiling, or other motorized recreation	58.3%	69.3%
Opportunities to enjoy hiking, backpacking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, or other types of non-motorized recreation	55.3%	64.1%
Opportunities to hunt for wild game	57.3%	70.2%
Opportunities to fish in area lakes, streams and rivers	69.2%	77.9%
Undeveloped landscapes where motorized access and resource development are restricted	31.6%	31.6%
Areas managed to maintain biodiversity and protect habitat for sensitive or important plants or wildlife	46.4%	32.0%

In Carbon County five of the fifteen types of public land resource use presented in this question were considered "very important" by fewer than one-half of respondents (grazing of livestock, sand/gravel or other construction-related mineral development, timber production, undeveloped landscapes where motorized access and development are restricted, and areas managed to maintain biodiversity and protect plant or wildlife habitat). At the same time, over three-fourths of Carbon County respondents considered water resources used to irrigate crops and pastures, water resources used to supply homes and businesses,

water resources used to supply fish and wildlife habitat, and energy resources such as oil, gas, coal or uranium to be "very important" to the local quality of life.

In Emery County only four of these resource uses were considered "very important" by fewer than one-half of respondents (sand/gravel or other construction-related mineral development, timber production, undeveloped landscapes where motorized access and resource development are restricted, and areas managed to maintain biodiversity and to protect habitat). Conversely, five resource uses - grazing of livestock on public lands, water resources used to irrigate crops and pastures, water resources used to supply homes and businesses, water resources used to provide important fish and wildlife habitat, and opportunities to fish in area lakes, streams and rivers -- were considered "very important" to the local quality of life by more than three-fourths of Emery County respondents.

RECREATIONAL USES OF PUBLIC LANDS

Survey participants were also asked to report whether they had participated in any of a broad range of outdoor recreation activities and other non-commodity use activities on Utah public lands during the prior twelve months. Results from this series of questions are reported in Table P-5 and Table P-6. These findings clearly indicate that there is widespread participation in many of these public land activities among residents of both Carbon County and Emery County.

Table P-5 reports the extent of reported participation in thirty different outdoor recreation activities. Among survey participants living in Carbon County, more than one-half reported participation in nine of these activities -- camping, picnicking, day hiking, wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, visiting historical sites, ATV riding, and driving for pleasure/sightseeing on public lands -- during the preceding twelve months. In Emery County over half of respondents reported that they had participated in these same nine activities, as well as in 4-wheel driving.

Responses to a question focusing on participation in a variety of non-commodity use activities on public lands are summarized in Table P-6. Among this list of activities, Carbon County respondents were most likely to report that they participate in collection of rocks for home landscaping, collecting materials for craft projects, collecting fossils, rocks or other minerals, and gathering pinyon nuts. In Emery County, respondents most frequently reported that they cut Christmas trees, collect fossils, rocks or other minerals, collect rocks for home landscaping, and collect firewood for home use.

Table P-5. Percentage of survey respondents reporting participation in selected recreation activities on Utah public lands during the past twelve months.

Activity	Carbon County	Emery County
Camping	76.4%	75.0%
Picnicking	76.9%	74.3%
Backpacking	17.7%	15.4%
Day hiking	55.8%	53.8%
Bird watching	26.3%	22.8%
Wildlife viewing	71.8%	68.2%
Nature photography	38.4%	37.9%
Canoeing/kayaking	8.6%	7.7%
River rafting	14.4%	7.7%

Activity	Carbon County	Emery County
Motor boating	43.8%	27.9%
Jet skiing	11.8%	4.9%
Swimming	44.3%	36.5%
Rock climbing	16.5%	21.6%
Mountain climbing	21.4%	21.4%
Hang gliding	0.0%	0.0%
Mountain bike riding	20.8%	12.6%
Hunting	54.9%	57.0%
Fishing	72.5%	67.9%
Horseback riding	16.0%	35.8%
Orienteering/geo-caching	8.7%	10.0%
Rock hounding	28.1%	26.7%
Visiting historical sites	65.7%	65.7%
Resort skiing/snowboarding	9.8%	10.7%
Backcountry skiing/snowboarding	3.3%	9.8%
Snowshoeing	4.3%	6.8%
Snowmobiling	11.7%	4.9%
ATV riding	58.6%	62.0%
Dirt bike riding	12.8%	17.5%
4-wheel driving/jeeping	44.0%	52.4%
Sightseeing/pleasure driving	85.3%	86.1%

Table P-6. Percentage of survey respondents reporting participation in selected non-commodity use activities on Utah public lands during the past twelve months.

Activity	Carbon County	Emery County
Collecting firewood for home use	17.3%	25.0%
Cutting Christmas trees	16.3%	26.9%
Collecting material for craft projects	28.6%	10.6%
Collecting rocks for home landscaping	31.7%	25.5%
Collecting plants for home landscaping	14.9%	12.1%
Gathering wild mushrooms	3.0%	1.9%
Gathering pinyon nuts	23.5%	17.6%
Gathering berries, herbs or wild foods	12.7%	6.6%

Activity	Carbon County	Emery County
Collecting fossils, rocks or minerals	27.5%	26.4%

Respondents were also asked to identify the one or two activities from the lists presented in these questions that they participate in most often, and to provide detail on where they engage in those activities. Among Carbon County respondents the first of these activities listed by respondents most often involved camping (31.6% of responses), followed by fishing (12.6%) and ATV riding (11.6%). In Emery County the first listed activity most often involved camping (26% of responses), followed by fishing (13.5%), ATV riding (13.5%) and hunting (11.5%). When asked to indicate where they participate in the first-listed of their "most frequently pursued" activities, 50.6% of Carbon County respondents and 83.2% of Emery County residents who answered the question identified a location within the county where they live.

ATTITUDES AND PREFERENCES REGARDING PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT

Two similar sets of survey questions focused on respondents' attitudes and preferences regarding the extent to which various natural resource use activities or management practices should be reduced or increased by those responsible for managing public lands in Utah. Response patterns to these questions are summarized in Table P-7 and Table P-8.

The data presented in Table P-7 indicate that Carbon County respondents were considerably more likely to prefer an increase rather than a decrease in protection of important fish and wildlife habitat, protection of endangered species, use of controlled burns to improve ecological conditions, thinning of forested areas to reduce wildfire risk, designation of wild and scenic rivers, and development of water storage and delivery systems on Utah public lands. They were also more likely to prefer an increase in levels of mineral exploration and extraction. On the other hand, attitudes were more evenly split between preferences for reducing and preferences for increasing timber harvest levels, designation of wilderness areas, exploration for and development of oil and gas resources, and livestock grazing. Among Emery County residents respondents were more likely to prefer an increase rather than a decrease in mineral exploration/extraction, timber harvest, oil and gas development, protection of fish and wildlife habitat, use of controlled burns to improve ecological conditions, thinning of forested areas to reduce wildfire risk, livestock grazing, and development of water storage and delivery systems. They also expressed a strong preference for a reduction in the designation of wilderness areas, and were more likely to prefer a reduction as opposed to an increase in designation of wild and scenic rivers.

Results summarized in Table P-8 indicate that Carbon County respondents were more likely to prefer an increase rather than a reduction in provision of road access to recreation areas, provision of hunting opportunities, development of trails for off-highway motorized recreation, development of trails for non-motorized recreation, regulations that restrict motorized vehicles to designated trails, regulations to limit noise and emissions from snowmobiles and ATVs, and development of visitor facilities that would encourage an increase in tourism levels. In Emery County respondents were far more likely to prefer an increase rather than a decrease in provision of road access to recreation areas, provision of hunting opportunities, development of trails for off-highway motorized recreation, development of trails for non-motorized recreation, regulations that require motorized vehicles to stay on designated trails, and development of visitor facilities that would encourage increased tourism.

Table P-7. Survey respondents' attitudes regarding the extent to which various activities occurring on Utah public land should be reduced or increased. ^a

Type of use/activity	Carbon County		Emery County	
	Reduce	Increase	Reduce	Increase
Mineral exploration/extraction	20.0%	36.0%	10.8%	46.1%
Timber harvest	25.8%	28.8%	14.0%	51.0%
Designation of wilderness areas	30.3%	33.3%	61.8%	18.6%
Exploration for/development of oil and gas resources	26.3%	33.3%	14.9%	43.6%
Protection of important fish and wildlife habitat	6.1%	60.2%	11.7%	43.7%
Protection of endangered species	14.3%	42.8%	23.8%	30.7%
Use of controlled burns to improve ecological conditions	11.5%	31.2%	13.9%	36.6%
Thinning of forested areas to reduce wildfire risk	6.2%	51.5%	6.1%	58.6%
Livestock grazing	24.4%	18.4%	12.0%	46.0%
Designation of wild and scenic rivers	13.8%	41.5%	30.9%	19.6%
Developing water storage and delivery systems to meet needs of nearby communities	5.0%	76.2%	1.0%	73.6%

a. Original response categories were "major reduction" and "moderate reduction" (combined to create "reduce") and "major increase" and "minor increase" (combined to create "increase"). "Stay about the same" responses not reported here.

Table P-8. Survey Respondents' Attitudes Regarding the Extent to Which the Emphasis Placed on Various Activities Occurring on Utah Public Land Should be Reduced or Increased by Public Land Managers. ^a

Type of use/activity	Carbon County		Emery County	
	Reduce	Increase	Reduce	Increase
Permitting of commercial guiding or outfitter services	18.9%	16.7%	21.0%	25.0%
Providing road access to recreation areas	9.8%	48.1%	7.7%	59.6%
Providing hunting opportunities	6.9%	59.4%	7.8%	54.4%

Type of use/activity	Carbon County		Emery County	
	Reduce	Increase	Reduce	Increase
Developing trails for off-highway motorized recreation	23.3%	51.5%	23.1%	61.6%
Developing trails for hiking, biking, and other non-motorized recreation	7.8%	57.3%	16.3%	56.7%
Regulations that require motorized vehicles to stay on designated trails	20.2%	52.9%	21.4%	46.6%
Regulations that limit levels of noise and emissions from snowmobiles and ATVs	19.6%	39.2%	25.0%	32.7%
Developing visitor facilities to increase tourism	8.6%	52.4%	13.5%	54.8%

a. Original response categories were "major reduction" and "moderate reduction" (combined to create "reduce") and "major increase" and "minor increase" (combined to create "increase"). "Stay about the same" responses not reported here.

The State of Utah Public Lands Policy Coordination Office has asked that BLM refer readers to its website at <http://governor.utah.gov/publiclands> where it posts updated State of Utah socioeconomic information from time to time. The BLM does not participate in collecting or compiling this information. For purposes of this Proposed RMP/Final EIS, BLM has only relied on information specifically cited in the Proposed RMP/Final EIS text and included in this Appendix.

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