

Lower Duchesne Wetlands Project

Questions & Answers

AGRICULTURAL AND SOCIOECONOMICS

Q: How will private property acquisition affect local property tax revenues?

- A:**
- Private lands acquired on a willing-seller basis under the revised Proposed Action will be retained in “fee status” under Tribal corporate ownership, thereby retaining those private lands on the local tax rolls and minimizing tax revenue losses.
 - Under the Proposed Action, changes in tax revenues associated with acquiring residences and converting from residential to greenbelt use, would result in total tax losses to Duchesne and Uintah counties, ranging from \$0 to \$1,632 annually.

Q: What effects will the LDWP have on the livestock industry and agricultural production and practices?

A: The Project’s Proposed Action would affect agricultural practices and operations in the project area as follows:

- 58 acres of cropland would be withdrawn from agricultural markets and, instead, devoted to sustaining wildlife. (Marketable yield on 58 acres of cropland would be about 232 tons per year of grass and alfalfa hay.) The loss of 232 tons of crop production represents a 0.1 percent decrease in the two-county area.
 - The 58 acres of cropland within the project boundaries would be acquired in fee.
 - There would be no conservation easements purchased on established cropland under the Proposed Action (as was proposed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)).
- Grazing would be eliminated from pastures within the project area, unless necessary to achieve wildlife management goals.

Q: Have you revised your economic impact analysis from the Draft EIS?

A: Yes. A revised economic impact analysis was prepared for the Project’s Final EIS. The new model, referred to as IMPLAN, is used by the State of Utah and other federal agencies for economic impact forecasting.

- The IMPLAN model uses a multiplier that captures the widest possible economic impacts on the regional economy.
- According to the revised analysis, the Project would result in the following temporary increases to the local economy during its construction:
 - net economic output: \$924,729 to \$1,259,642
 - personal earnings: \$316,387 to \$375,305
 - employment: 13.1 to 15.1 jobs
- After construction, operation of the project would increase the net economic output by \$335,810 annually.
- None of the changes in output represent more than a 0.1 percent change in the Uinta Basin economy.