

Technology for Tourists

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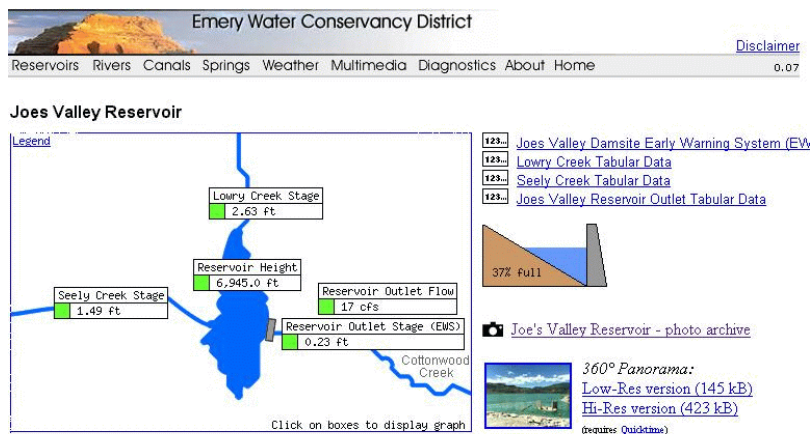
Tourists, by definition, are visiting unfamiliar places. Information about the particular tourist attraction is essential for a successful holiday. In the western United States, tourists are often visiting isolated locations. Information about weather, climate and maps of the area, therefore, can be crucial to the enjoyment of the region and safety of the tourist.

The **Emery Water Conservancy (EWC) District** has set out to improve visitor/tourist satisfaction in remote, sparsely populated central Utah. Emery County boasts spectacular scenery and natural attractions such as hiking canyons, boating rivers and streams, high mountain reservoirs, and dinosaur bone quarries, among others. Emery County has historically been a Mecca for outdoor enthusiasts seeking isolation.



To not only help publicize the region's attractions, but also to assist tourists in gathering information on the various resources, the EWC district will set up a diverse set of technologies (kiosks and website, including wireless technology) in locations such as museums, quarries, dams and reservoirs, state parks, and the water conservation district. The system will

both provide and collect information on land resources. For example, tourists will be connected to the EWC's real-time environmental monitoring system for weather, water, and land information. Maps can be downloaded showing the location of trails and hiking paths. Real-time stream flows will lead to fewer boater frustrations over too high or too low flows (i.e., canoeing is a seasonal activity in the county and having current information is critical to safe boating).



To meet tourist needs in remote locations, interactive/online/solar-powered kiosks will be developed. The kiosks will be located both indoors and outdoors in isolated locations such as

quarries and state parks. In some instances, the kiosks will be equipped to transmit audio/visually, with touch-screen monitors, speakers and printers. The outdoor kiosks will be designed to withstand the weather and some will be equipped with Interactive Voice Response technology.

Partners include the Museum of the San Rafael, Emery Telephone Company, StoneFly Technology, Utah State University, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and Reclamation, and Utah Department of Natural Resources.