

APPENDIX 13—COUNTY PLAN PUBLIC LAND COMMENTS SUMMARY

Section 202 (c) (9) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) states that “Land use plans of the Secretary [of the Interior]...shall be consistent with state and local plans to the maximum extent he finds consistent with federal law and purposes of this Act.” In developing the Richfield Resource Management Plan (RMP), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is committed to considering state and local plans. In the case of Utah counties, “local plans” are titled “general management plans.”

In 1992, the Utah State Legislature adopted the “County Land Use Development and Management Act.” This legislation’s purpose was to enable counties to develop comprehensive general management plans for their present and future needs and growth and development of lands within their borders. Counties completed general management plans in the mid to late 1990s, with funding provided by the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget. Public lands and resources are only one of many topics addressed in the plans.

This document summarizes statements, comments, and direction provided by the counties on the public land and resource management contained in the general plans of the five counties that the BLM’s Richfield Field Office (RFO) encompasses.

This document makes no judgments about the appropriateness or correctness of the counties’ statements; it simply records them as written. Resources are listed below in the sequence in which they appear in Appendix C of the BLM’s *Land Use Planning Handbook*, H-1601-1. Because county plans are organized differently, this sometimes required summarizing or taking county plan statements out of context. Consequently, a page attribution for each statement cited is included. If readers have questions, they are invited to check the county plans. Not every county commented on every resource, and none of the counties commented on some resources of concern to the BLM.

GENERAL STATEMENTS

Garfield County

- The small private land base cannot be effectively sustained without considering the management of the public lands. Therefore, county leaders will develop a cooperative working relationship with all government agency managers to ensure the inclusion of local perspectives and concerns in public land management directions. (Garfield, p. 3-2)
- Practice has shown that attempts to manage natural resource development with a single resource focus fail to reflect the true scope of impacts to the natural and built environment. At the same time, the “ecosystem management” concept, as described by federal agencies, tends to treat humans as intruders in the natural system. County leaders reject this supposition and will insist that natural RMPs and/or “ecosystem” management plans for all county lands, public or private, consider humans as part of the system. (Garfield, p. 3-2)
- ...the county deems it critical that RMPs provide for range improvements, current grazing on public lands be preserved, county water rights be maintained, and public lands timber harvesting be continued and mining leases be considered and encouraged. (Garfield, p. 6-8)
- ...it is in the county’s best interest that BLM/U.S. Forest Service (USFS) management practices encourage economic ecological sustainability... (Garfield, p. 6-8)

Piute County

- Because about 85 percent of the land area in Piute County is publicly owned, it is extremely important that consideration be given to the coordination and consistency with the federal and state RMPs. It is the intent of the Piute County General Plan to influence the planning processes and management practices occurring on these publicly administered lands... (Piute, p. 2)
- ...it is in the county's best interest that BLM and USFS lands be managed for multiple use [and] access is maintained on public lands. (Piute, p. 11)

Sanpete County

- The Sanpete County Commission shall establish a standing Planning Commission Subcommittee on Public Lands. (Sanpete, p. 10-9)
- Given that Sanpete County's economic stability depends on public lands...this General Plan policy: (a) requires federal and state agencies to coordinate present and future land use plans with and through the Sanpete County Public Lands Committee, planning commission, and county commission; (b) requires public lands in Sanpete County to be managed under the principles of multiple-use and sustained yield for which the property is intended. (Sanpete, p. 10-9)
- Federal...agencies shall also endeavor to work closely with Sanpete County officials in resolving conflicts between private and public entities when issues arise. (Sanpete, p. 10-9)

Sevier County

- Multiple-use activities on public lands in Sevier County should continue and should include uses such as agricultural grazing, fishing and hunting, mineral exploration and mining, recreation, wildlife habitat and timber sales.... Federal land agencies should seek input through the Sevier County Public Lands Committee on land use management decisions within the county... (Sevier, p. 3-10)
- Because Sevier County is economically dependent on the use and development of public land resources, a principal concern is that public land use and road management decisions are based on input from county officials and residents. Consistent with federal regulations, federal land managers have a responsibility to inform and involve local county and community leaders and multiple users of public lands in public land access decisions. (Sevier, p. 9-3)

Wayne County

- [...the livestock and agriculture industries] currently contribute significantly to the county's lifestyle and economic base and are heavily dependent on the use and availability of public lands and resources. We view the use of these lands as a traditional property right. Therefore, we require that RMPs provide for range improvements, current stocking rates on public lands be preserved, county water rights be maintained, and public land timber harvesting be continued. (Wayne, p. 10)
- Wayne County reminds all public land managers...of their responsibility to the citizens of Wayne County to consider any impact their public land decisions will have on the private property of Wayne County. (Wayne, p. 10)
- ...it is the county's desire that each resource be managed for the optimal economic return, but in ways that do not sacrifice the county's natural aesthetic values. (Wayne, p. 12)
- Wayne County supports preserving traditional multiple use of resources. (Wayne, p. 13)

- Wayne County...requires all federal and state public land and resource managers to consider the impact of management decisions on Wayne County custom and culture and economic base. (Wayne, p. 17)
- Wayne County supports the multiple-use concept on Parker Mountain with common sense environmentalism. (Wayne, p. 19)
- When you manage resources, you manage people and their lifestyle. We believe all resources should be managed for the multiple use concept, grazing, mining, and timber. (Wayne, p. 21)
- The BLM should be allowed to manage the National Park Service (NPS) lands as though they were regular BLM land, except for the areas of critical environmental concern (ACEC) near the campground, visitor center, etc. (Wayne, p. 22)

NATURAL, BIOLOGICAL, AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Air

Garfield County

- The preservation of clean air is one of the goals of Garfield County. Currently, this goal does not present a conflict with economic or resource development, except in a few selected areas... (Garfield, p. 4-2)

Piute County

- Air quality in Piute County is excellent. Many residents value clean air as a cultural benefit associated with the rural county lifestyle. (Piute, p. 78)

Wayne County

- Air quality in Wayne County is excellent. Many residents value clean air as a cultural benefit associated with the rural county lifestyle. (Wayne, p. 99)

Soil and Water

Garfield County

- The county will identify and map all drinking water source protection zones in effect in the county and will recognize their importance in land use permit reviews and approvals. (Garfield, p. 3-4)

Piute County

- Piute County wishes to maintain its existing water rights. (Piute, p. 14)

Sevier County

- Sevier County should support efforts to improve the vegetative management and protect the watershed on public lands. Activities such as chaining, burning, fencing, reseeding, grazing, and others are beneficial to the watershed. (Sevier, p. 3-11)

Wayne County

- Wayne County wishes to preserve and expand existing water rights. (Wayne, p. 13)
- ...we feel all dam diversions, ditches, and other waterways and rights must be recognized and honored by any management plan. (Wayne, p. 21)
- Salinity problems should be addressed by federal entities that possess the means to solve the problem. (Wayne, p. 21)
- Water is a critical resource in the Henry Mountain area. It should be used as it has been used with protection for all the rights and privileges of the people with established use[s]... The riparian area should be treated with common sense environmental concern. (Wayne, p. 22)

Cultural Resources

Garfield County

- The subcommittee thought that protecting the county's traditional land uses and rural aesthetics should be one of the ordinance's main objectives. (Garfield, p. 7-1)

Sevier County

- Expanding the county's historical values and cultural assets and preserving its rural lifestyle are land use and planning priorities in Sevier County. (Sevier, p. 4-9)
- It is the intent of these land use policies to foster and preserve the county's culture... (Sevier, p. 4-9)

Wayne County

- Wayne County...requires all federal and state public land and resource managers to consider the impact of management decisions on Wayne County custom and culture and economic base. (Wayne, p. 17)
- Historical and cultural values are of great importance to Wayne County. All historical and cultural values and uses should be identified, recognized, and honored. (Wayne, p. 21)

Visual Resources

Wayne County

- National Park...viewsheds should not be expanded nor should viewsheds be maintained on BLM lands. (Wayne, p. 12)

Fish and Wildlife

Garfield County

- ...the county desires that wildlife resources be comprehensively managed without detriment to county economic interests. (Garfield, p. 6-8)
- ...wildlife numbers must be established for designated areas within the county. It is county policy that introduction of any exotic plant or animal species into the county should not take place without formal concurrence by the county commission and that public hearings should be held in Garfield County prior to any such introductions. (Garfield, p. 6-10)

- Garfield County believes watchable wildlife areas should be developed. (Garfield, p. 6-10)
- Garfield County has organized a wildlife committee to make recommendations on wildlife numbers. Committee recommendations should be based on balancing economic, recreational, environmental, and other needs and demands. (Garfield, p. 6-10)

Piute County

- ...the county desires that wildlife resources be comprehensively managed to preserve and enhance...economic and recreational opportunities. (Piute, p. 10)

Sevier County

- Hunting and fishing are integral parts of the culture and lifestyle in Sevier County. At certain times of the year, virtually all of the economy of Sevier County is focused on hunting, fishing, and related seasonal activities. (Sevier, p. 3-7)
- Grazing is another important consideration in managing wildlife. The agencies must balance grazing versus the special interest of hunters and revenue from the permits for wildlife. (Sevier, p. 3-7)
- Wildlife is a vital part of the lifestyle and culture of Sevier County. (Sevier, p. 3-9)
- Sevier County land use policies should encourage...reasonable wildlife management as long as this management does not create a single-use status adversely impacting or limiting other resources on public lands. (Sevier, p. 3-11)

Wayne County

- We require that wildlife resources be comprehensively managed in ways that optimize wildlife resources opportunities in coordination with agriculture, livestock, timber, recreation, and other important economic interests. (Wayne, p. 11)
- Wayne County supports establishing and maintaining upper limits on big game herd sizes. (Wayne, p. 14)
- Wayne County supports increasing the number of cougar permits. (Wayne, p. 14)
- ...we support a controlled number of antelope at no more than 400 head [on Parker Mountain].
- Bison are part of the region and should be managed not to exceed a herd of 200 head. (Wayne, p. 21)
- Management of Big Horn Sheep should continue as they are presently being managed. (Wayne, p. 22)

Fire Management

Sevier County

- Sevier County officials intend to adopt agreements and ordinances consistent with fire, interface, mitigation, and natural hazard codes that assist in protecting private and public property within the county from natural hazards and wildland fires. (Sevier, p. 3-33)

RESOURCE USES

Forestry

Garfield County

- Continue to support the timber industry with the goal of achieving the highest long-term sustained production level. (Garfield, p. 5-4)

Piute County

- ...the county supports responsible timber and woodland resource management. (Piute, p. 11)
- Piute County supports responsible timber/wood product management practices on public lands. (Piute, p. 12)
- Piute County believes that federal and state public land/natural resource stewards should manage timber and wood products in ways that allow continued public access and use. (Piute, p. 20)

Sevier County

- ...timbering shall be actively extended and promoted in Sevier County. (Sevier, p. 3-33)

Wayne County

- ...we require that RMPs provide for public land timber harvesting to be continued. (Wayne, p. 10)
- Wayne County seeks to maintain the current level of timber harvest of 4 million board feet. (Wayne, p. 15)
- Wayne County supports restructuring timber sale contracts to eliminate the discrimination of our local mills caused by the current sale size and administration. (Wayne, p. 15)

Livestock Grazing

Garfield County

- Maintenance and expansion of the livestock trade should be encouraged. (Garfield, p. 5-4)
- ...the county deems it critical that RMPs provide for range improvements [and] current grazing on public land be preserved.
- ...the number of animal unit months (AUM) allocated within the county should be expanded to the full carrying capacity of the forage resource. (Garfield, p. 6-10)

Piute County

- ...the county desires to preserve and enhance the livestock and agricultural industries within the county. (Piute, p. 10)
- Piute County supports maintaining and increasing...(AUMs) through developing county policies supporting affordable grazing fees and range improvement incentives. (Piute, p. 12)
- Piute County wishes to expand the number of AUMs. (Piute, p. 13)
- The county supports maintaining affordable grazing fees and implementing range improvement incentive programs on public lands... (Piute, p. 16)

Sevier County

- Commercial grazing is very important to the economy and heritage of Sevier County. The BLM and USFS should continue to promote, permit, and regulate grazing on public lands. However, removing livestock should not be the only option for managing public lands for utilization. (Sevier, p. 3-10)
- Sevier County should support the current PRIA formula for determining AUMs for grazing public lands. (Sevier, p. 3-10)
- Local agricultural boards, councils, and permittees could be and should be consulted by the federal agencies to help with local input on grazing issues. (Sevier, p. 3-10)

Wayne County

- Wayne County believes BLM and USFS rangelands should be managed and improved using all effective traditional range improvement methods. (Wayne, p. 13)
- Wayne County supports increasing predator control. (Wayne, p. 14)
- Wayne County supports maintaining the number of...AUMs within the county. (Wayne, p. 15)
- We support allotment boundaries as established and livestock numbers and time of use as prior to drought conditions [on Parker Mountain]. (Wayne, p. 20)

Recreation

Garfield County

- The county will support efforts to establish hiking and off-highway vehicle (OHV) trails across public lands, including a bicycle trail along Highway 12, which is a designated Scenic Byway. (Garfield, p. 2-6)
- ... to strengthen its economic base, the county wishes to increase its revenue opportunities through enhancing county recreational opportunities and developing destination-related activities. (Garfield, p. 5-3)
- Garfield County supports exploring tourism and recreational opportunities in the county. (Garfield, p. 5-3)
- Garfield County supports creating new attractions and recreational facilities within the county. (Garfield, p. 5-3)

Piute County

- ...the county desires to strengthen its economic base by further responsibly developing [recreation] resources. (Piute, p. 10)
- Piute County supports exploring tourism and recreational opportunities within the county. (Piute, p. 12)
- Explore and encourage the development of recreational, fishing, and wildlife opportunities within the county. (Piute, p. 19)

Sevier County

- The Paiute ATV Trail is a series of roads and trails, tied together and mapped for the use of off-road and all terrain vehicles (ATV). This trail system resulted from a cooperative effort among the Utah State Parks Service, County Commissions, the BLM, the USFS, and many community groups. Sevier County wants to ensure this trail system remains intact well into the future. (Sevier, p. 3-6)

- Preserving, protecting, and promoting increased use of recreational resources in Sevier County is a fundamental policy of this general plan....Sevier County shall continue its support for increased commerce, travel, tourism, and land uses in mountain and valley locations that are compatible with present multiple land uses in the county. (Sevier, p. 4-9)
- Sevier County citizens and officials strongly support the Paiute ATV Trail system and the designation of ATV routes within communities in the county that allow ATV riders access to necessary and required services in Sevier County communities and resort areas. (Sevier, p. 9-19)
- The county would like to continue to capitalize on its proximity to limitless recreational sites and activities and to focus on its human resources and natural assets as a means for attracting recreationists, travelers, and visitors as participants in the county's exceptional historic and scenic features. Preserving, protecting, and promoting increased use of recreational resources in Sevier County is a fundamental policy of this General Plan... (Sevier, p. 12-15)

Wayne County

- ...it is our intent that recreational growth be carefully planned to balance recreational developments with the county's ability to provide essential services, ensure other important economic resources are not sacrificed for the benefit of recreational development, [and] preserve the county's custom and culture. (Wayne, p. 11)
- The impact of increased recreation should be managed to protect the environment as other uses are. We believe in the "pack-it-in, pack-it-out" concept. (Wayne, p. 21)
- Recreation, hunting, hiking, boating, camping, and four-wheeling should be managed to protect the environment and other uses. (Wayne, p. 22)
- Wayne County supports exploring tourism and recreational opportunities in the county. (Wayne, p. 31)
- Create the financial mechanisms that are necessary for generating the public funds needed to cover the costs associated with providing services to an increased number of tourists. (Wayne, p. 32)

Lands and Realty

Garfield County

- Transfers of private land to federal or state ownership should not result in a net "private land" acreage loss, unless they result in long-term, ongoing, economic benefits to the county. (Garfield, p. 6-8)
- Garfield County supports identifying possible federal and state land exchanges, with the understanding that such exchanges will not increase the net acreage of federal lands in the county. (Garfield, p. 6-9)
- Garfield County will normally, before supporting or approving any federal-state-county exchanges, involve the County Natural Resource/Land Use Committee. (Garfield, p. 6-10)

Sanpete County

- Sanpete County should encourage development around existing municipalities with existing infrastructure for development. (Sanpete, p. 9-11)
- This policy documents the intent of the Sanpete County Commission...to propose land uses or exchanges that assure there will be no net loss of private lands in Sanpete County. (Sanpete, p. 10-9)

Sevier County

- Sevier County leaders may identify any federal lands in the county for exchange with School Trust Lands. Some possible areas that Sevier County leaders may want to be exchanged are Poverty Flat south of Monroe, some BLM land south of Glenwood, and some lands west of Aurora. (Sevier, p. 3-4)

Wayne County

- No net increase in federal ownership as a result of state school land and federal land exchanges within the county. (Wayne, pp. 11-12)
- No involuntary transfer of private lands to public ownership if such transfers result in a tax revenue and value loss. (Wayne, p. 12)
- State school trust lands should not be consolidated. Checkerboard should be maintained on BLM lands. (Wayne, p. 12)
- The county supports privatization of land. (Wayne, p. 12)
- Transfers of private lands to federal or state ownership should not result in a net “private land” acreage loss. (Wayne, p. 12)
- Wayne County supports establishing a policy statement supporting no involuntary transfer of private land to federal or state ownership if such transfers result in a tax or revenue loss. (Wayne, p. 14)
- Where possible and necessary, any public land needed by towns or cities for expansion purposes should be provided if it does not infringe on others with established use. (Wayne, p. 20)
- All transactions should be brought to the attention of county officials before the exchange takes place. (Wayne, p. 21)

Minerals and Mining

Garfield County

- Garfield County supports aggressively pursuing coal and other mineral resource development. (Garfield, p. 5-3)
- Continue to support the highest economically allowable development of the...Henry Mountain coal reserves. (Garfield, p. 5-4)
- Continue to support the redevelopment of Ticaboo and the uranium mines and mill. (Garfield, p. 5-4)

Piute County

- ...it is in the county’s best interest that federal and state land management plans continue to provide opportunities for the growth and development of the mining industry. (Piute, p. 11)
- Piute County wishes to ensure mineral development within the county continues as an option and to pursue the development of mineral resources. (Piute, p. 12)
- Piute County supports mineral resource development. As a result of recent national mining/mineral law changes, the county believes that it is important to protect and preserve existing mining rights and privileges. The county also believes that future mining/mineral interests should be protected and that development opportunities should not be stifled by prohibitive regulations and restrictions. (Piute, p. 23)

Sevier County

- Minerals, mining, and mineral related production...shall be actively extended and promoted in Sevier County. (Sevier, p. 3-33)

SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

Wilderness Study Areas

Sevier County

- There are no lands currently being considered by any federal agency for wilderness designation in Sevier County. (Sevier, p. 3-4)

Wayne County

- Wayne County does not favor any land being designated as wilderness in Wayne County. (Wayne, p. 20)
- Wayne County feels all land designated as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) should be released immediately and opened for mineral exploration. (Wayne, p. 21)

Wild and Scenic River Suitability

Garfield County

- Garfield County will, if it deems appropriate, comment on and may develop and submit proposals for Wild and Scenic River designations to the appropriate federal land management agencies. (Garfield, p. 6-11)

Wayne County

- We feel that Wayne County does not have any rivers or streams that qualify for Wild and Scenic River designation. We feel this designation is too restrictive and would interfere with water rights upstream. (Wayne, p. 21)
- We do not feel the Fremont River meets the criteria as a Wild and Scenic River because the eastern portion of the river, where it joins the Dirty Devil, has been dry in some summer months. (Wayne, p. 22)

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Wayne County

- Special designation such as ACECs should not be considered at this time. We feel ACEC designation to be too restrictive for the multiple use concept. (Wayne, pp. 20-21)
- Special designation such as ACEC should be designated only in the National Parks where there is heavy pressure by visitors. (Wayne, p. 22)
- The BLM should be allowed to manage the National Park Service lands as though they were regular BLM land, except for the ACEC near the campground, visitor center, etc. (Wayne, p. 22)

SUPPORT

Transportation and Facilities

Garfield County

- Maintain or improve the existing roadway system within the county, including the preservation of RS-2477 access rights-of-way (ROW) to federal and state lands for mining, timber, grazing, etc. Such activity is authorized by state law (UCA 27-12-25). (Garfield, p. 2-5)
- Existing public access to public land [should] be protected and all RS-2477 ROWs preserved. (Garfield, p. 6-8)
- It is the policy of Garfield County to preserve and enhance access to public lands. (Garfield, p. 6-11)

Piute County

- Piute County wishes to ensure local input regarding access on existing roads (RS2477) be maintained. (Piute, p. 12)
- In Piute County, the preservation of RS 2477 rights is very important because land within the county is predominantly owned by state government and the Federal Government. Loss of access means loss of use and loss of revenue. Because of this, Piute County has filed various RS 2477 claims with the Bureau of Reclamation[?] at the state level as part of the congressional hearing and evaluation process... Maps of RS 2477 roads are available by contacting the Clerk's office... (Piute, p. 22)

Sevier County

- Sevier County shall continue the road use agreements with the BLM, USFS, and other agencies that own public and private lands so that rights-of-ways and access to public land are maintained. All present or expanded RS-2477 roads within Sevier County shall be recognized by applicable federal land management agencies. (Sevier, p. 3-11)
- Access to natural resources in Sevier County shall be preserved and protected. (Sevier, p. 3-33)
- Sevier County leaders also believe that federal and state regulations on access...must recognize the need for roadway maintenance and for new road development... (Sevier, p. 9-3)
- Historical and continued use of man-made trails as thoroughfares for agricultural, ranching, recreation, and related purposes, allows Sevier County to claim historical and prescriptive use on or across public lands as valid RS-2477 ROWs. (Sevier, p. 9-4)
- In cooperation with BLM and USFS land managers, Sevier County is in the process of listing all roads within the county that traverse public lands. This listing is planned for completion by the end of calendar year 1998. It is Sevier County's claim that these roads are valid public thoroughfares and are, by definition and use, granted "public right of way" status. These roads will be added to those presently identified on the county's public land and public roads ROW map on file at the Sevier County Clerk's Office. (Sevier, p. 9-4)
- Sevier County citizens shall continue to use, and to expand through appropriate procedures, RS-2477 designated roadways throughout the county. (Sevier, p. 9-18)
- Sevier County officials shall work to maintain the historical and continuing use of trail ways, byways, highways, roadways, and ROWs established by agriculturists, herders, and livestock owners in the county. (Sevier, p. 9-18)

Wayne County

- All transportation routes on public lands (e.g., primitive ROW, trails, roads, canals, ditches, pipelines, transmission lines, livestock driveways, and any other traditional use) should be protected. (Wayne, p. 12)
- Wayne County has more than 600 miles of county roads. Three hundred of these miles are west of Capitol Reef National Park. We feel all roads and highways, bridges, flumes, and culverts should be recognized and honored and be well maintained and improved as finances will allow, with 60 to 100 feet of ROW allowed wherever possible. No obstructions or gates are to be put in place unless agreed by all concerned. (Wayne, p. 20)
- Wayne County interprets highway to mean trails, stock driveways, pipelines, roads, ditches, canals, and transmission lines [with regard to RS2477 assertions]. (Wayne, p. 114)

OTHER COUNTY ISSUES

Payment in Lieu of Taxes

Garfield County

- Garfield County wishes to increase payments in lieu of taxes (PILT). (Garfield, p. 5-3)
- The county takes the position that it should not be penalized, through loss of federal or state shared revenues, such as PILT, mineral leasing, or other revenues when federal lands become state lands or when state school trust lands are exchanged. (Garfield, p. 6-9)

Sanpete County

- Public land owners shall provide an equitable in-lieu payment and bear a proportionate share of the costs associated with administering public lands in Sanpete County. (Sanpete, p. 10-9)

Wayne County

- Wayne County supports an increase in...PILT by the Federal Government. (Wayne, p. 14)

Search and Rescue

Garfield County

- ...Garfield County...supports establishing a state search and rescue fund. Monies from this fund would be used to reimburse counties for county-provided search and rescue services. (Garfield, p. 4-8)
- As a matter of economic reality, Garfield County reserves the right to establish user fees for search and rescue activities, based on a user pay concept. (Garfield, p. 6-9)

Piute County

- Piute County supports a user fee for search and rescue. (Piute, p. 13)