

APPENDIX M. UTAH PUBLIC LANDS STUDY – KEY SOCIAL SURVEY FINDINGS FOR DAGGETT, DUCHESNE AND UINTAH 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 Daggett County (n = 41 survey responses), Duchesne County (n = 108 survey responses), and Uintah County (n = 119 survey responses).¹

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 1, only a minority of survey respondents in Daggett, Duchesne, or Uintah 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 Daggett 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 (12.2%). In Duchesne County these types of economic linkage to public lands were reported most often for activities involving land administered by the State of Utah (13.9%), followed by the Bureau of Land Management (11.1%). In Uintah County such linkages were most frequently reported for permit-based activities involving Bureau of Land Management lands (21.8%) and lands administered by the State of Utah (14.3%) Overall, these types of connections to public lands in Utah appear to be most prevalent among residents of Uintah County, and least prevalent among those living in Daggett County.

¹ The number of respondents for Daggett County is small in part because the commercial firm that provided random samples of residential mailing addresses for the statewide survey was able to identify only 183 potentially valid residential addresses in that county. In addition, 110 of the questionnaire packets that were mailed to addresses included in the sample were returned as undeliverable. As a result of this unexpectedly small sample size, results for Daggett County should be interpreted cautiously.

Table 1. Percentage of Survey Respondents Reporting that a Portion of Household Income is Directly Linked to Permitted Use of Public Lands or Resources

	Uintah County	Daggett County	Duchesne County
Forest Service	12.2%	5.6%	8.4%
BLM	21.8%	4.9%	11.1%
Other Federal Agency	0.0%	6.5%	7.6%
State of Utah	2.6%	13.9%	14.3%

The data reported in Table 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 are based on a limited number of cases and as a consequence need to be interpreted with caution. Nevertheless, it is clear that in all three of these counties the survey respondents who reported participation in permit-based economic activities on public lands often rely fairly heavily on those activities as sources of household income.

Table 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

	Uintah County	Daggett County	Duchesne County
Forest Service	60.0%	66.7%	40.0%
BLM	88.5%	50.0%	75.0%
Other Federal Agency	0.0%	67.1%	67.7%
State of Utah	100.0%	20.0%	52.9%

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 3 indicate that for any of these activities only a minority of survey respondents in Daggett, Duchesne or Uintah counties reported participation. Among Daggett County respondents the activities reported most frequently were participation in commercial firewood cutting (10% of responses), in oil and gas exploration or development (10%), and in miscellaneous other commercial activities (10.8%). In Duchesne County the activities identified most often included participation in oil and gas exploration or development (26.9%) and livestock grazing or related work (12.3%). In Uintah County the most commonly-reported commercial activities were participation in oil and gas exploration or development (31.4%), livestock grazing and related work (12.7%), and commercial firewood cutting (11.9%). 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 Uintah County than is the case in either Daggett County or Duchesne County.

Table 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

	Daggett County	Duchesne County	Uintah County
Livestock grazing and related work	2.5%	12.3%	12.7%
Commercial firewood cutting	10.0%	5.6%	11.9%
Logging, post & pole cutting, or other timber-related work	2.5%	3.7%	6.8%
Mining of coal, uranium or other solid minerals	0.0%	1.9%	5.2%
Mining of sand, gravel, or other construction materials	0.0%	4.7%	5.1%
Oil & gas exploration/development	10.0%	26.9%	31.4%
Operating an outfitting or guiding business	5.0%	1.9%	3.4%
Film making/commercial photography	0.0%	0.0%	0.8%
Other commercial activities	10.8%	3.1%	2.8%

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. The percentage of respondents indicating involvement in such businesses was highest in Daggett County (22.5%). In contrast, relatively few survey respondents from either Duchesne County (8.3%) or from Uintah County (8.0%) 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, over three-fourths (77.8%) of Daggett County respondents, over one-fifth (22.2%) of Duchesne County respondents, and over two-fifths (44.4%) of Uintah 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. Not a single respondent from Daggett County reported this type of economic linkage involving their household. One out of ten (10.2%) respondents from Duchesne County and two out of ten (21.2%) respondents from Uintah County reported that they or a household member was involved in some way with this type of business.

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, 67.5% of Daggett County respondents, 29.6% of Duchesne County respondents, and 18.4% of Uintah 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 all three of these counties most frequently cited their permanent residential property (63.4% in Daggett County, 20.4% in Duchesne County, and 9.2% in Uintah 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 4 summarizes response patterns to this series of questions for Daggett, Duchesne and Uintah 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 4. Percentage Of Survey Respondents Indicating That Selected Public Land Resource Uses Are “Very Important” To The Overall Quality Of Life In Their Community

	Daggett County	Duchesne County	Uintah County
Grazing of livestock on public lands	68.4%	77.0%	67.3%
Water resources used to irrigate crops and pastures	84.2%	95.1%	94.5%
Water resources used to supply homes and businesses	90.0%	80.8%	90.3%
Water resources that provide important fish/wildlife habitat	87.5%	79.6%	75.9%
Energy resources such as oil, gas, coal or uranium	55.3%	81.2%	83.0%
Sand, gravel or other minerals used in building and construction industries	32.4%	37.4%	46.8%
Forested areas that provide timber used by logging operations and lumber mills	57.9%	45.9%	47.7%
Areas where trees or other vegetation provide important wildlife habitat	82.1%	69.2%	72.1%
Areas that attract tourism and recreational activity	82.1%	55.4%	57.1%
Opportunities to enjoy off-road vehicles, snowmobiling, or other motorized recreation	61.5%	39.2%	60.9%

Table 4. Percentage Of Survey Respondents Indicating That Selected Public Land Resource Uses Are “Very Important” To The Overall Quality Of Life In Their Community

	Daggett County	Duchesne County	Uintah County
Opportunities to enjoy hiking, backpacking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, or other types of non-motorized recreation	66.7%	56.7%	55.5%
Opportunities to hunt for wild game	80.0%	65.0%	66.7%
Opportunities to fish in area lakes, streams and rivers	95.0%	74.0%	70.5%
Undeveloped landscapes where motorized access and resource development are restricted	47.2%	46.5%	40.8%
Areas managed to maintain biodiversity and protect habitat for sensitive or important plants or wildlife	44.7%	35.6%	42.2%

In Daggett County only three of the fifteen types of public land resource use presented in this question were considered “very important” by fewer than one-half of respondents (sand/gravel or other construction-related mineral development, 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 Daggett 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, areas where trees or other vegetation provide important wildlife habitat, areas that attract tourism and recreation opportunity, opportunities to hunt for wild game, and opportunities to fish in area lakes, streams and rivers to be “very important” to the local quality of life.

In Duchesne County five 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, opportunities to enjoy off-road vehicles, snowmobiling, or other motorized recreation, 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 energy resources such as oil, gas, coal or uranium -- were considered “very important” to the local quality of life by more than three-fourths of Duchesne County respondents.

Four of the resource uses included in this list were considered to be “very important” to the overall quality of life by fewer than one-half of respondents living in Uintah County (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). Four of the resource uses included in the list -- 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 energy

resources such as oil, gas, coal or uranium -- were considered to be very important by more than three-fourths of Uintah 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 5 and Table 6. These findings clearly indicate that there is widespread participation in many of these public land activities among residents of Daggett, Duchesne, and Uintah Counties.

Table 5 reports the extent of reported participation in thirty different outdoor recreation activities. Among survey participants living in Daggett County, more than one-half reported participation in ten of these activities -- camping, picnicking, day hiking, bird watching, wildlife viewing, nature photography, motor boating, fishing, visiting historical sites, and driving for pleasure/sightseeing on public lands -- during the preceding twelve months. In Duchesne County over half of respondents reported that they had participated in six of these activities -- camping, picnicking, wildlife viewing, fishing, visiting historical sights, and sightseeing/driving for pleasure. One-half or more of Uintah County respondents reported participation during the prior 12 months in nine of the activities -- camping, picnicking, day hiking, wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, visiting historical sites, ATV riding, and driving for pleasure/sightseeing on public lands.

Table 5. Percentage Of Survey Respondents Reporting Participation In Selected Recreation Activities On Utah Public Lands During The Past Twelve Months

	Daggett County	Duchesne County	Uintah County
Camping	68.3%	64.5%	75.4%
Picnicking	82.5%	75.0%	79.7%
Backpacking	23.1%	19.6%	17.3%
Day hiking	72.5%	41.0%	54.9%
Bird watching	53.8%	26.5%	29.0%
Wildlife viewing	82.5%	61.3%	72.6%
Nature photography	61.5%	33.7%	40.2%
Canoeing/kayaking	15.4%	5.9%	10.2%
River rafting	47.5%	9.8%	26.1%
Motor boating	56.1%	20.4%	40.2%
Jet skiing	7.7%	3.9%	8.3%
Swimming	45.0%	24.3%	47.8%
Rock climbing	12.8%	9.5%	15.6%
Mountain climbing	17.5%	15.2%	17.4%
Hang gliding	0.0%	1.9%	0.0%
Mountain bike riding	27.5%	9.6%	13.8%
Hunting	43.9%	39.4%	52.6%

Table 5. Percentage Of Survey Respondents Reporting Participation In Selected Recreation Activities On Utah Public Lands During The Past Twelve Months

	Daggett County	Duchesne County	Uintah County
Fishing	82.9%	60.6%	67.8%
Horseback riding	20.5%	26.2%	24.8%
Orienteering/geo-caching	7.7%	6.9%	7.5%
Rock hounding	27.5%	25.2%	27.8%
Visiting historical sites	70.7%	55.1%	64.9%
Resort skiing/snowboarding	12.8%	11.5%	6.5%
Backcountry skiing/snowboarding	7.7%	5.9%	1.9%
Snowshoeing	7.7%	5.8%	4.7%
Snowmobiling	17.9%	9.7%	13.8%
ATV riding	39.0%	31.7%	50.0%
Dirt bike riding	7.7%	3.9%	15.7%
4-wheel driving/jeeping	40.0%	20.2%	39.3%
Sightseeing/pleasure driving	85.4%	79.6%	81.9%

Table 6. Percentage Of Survey Respondents Reporting Participation In Selected Non-commodity Use Activities On Utah Public Lands During The Past Twelve Months

	Daggett County	Duchesne County	Uintah County
Collecting firewood for home use	67.5%	26.2%	23.9%
Cutting Christmas trees	37.5%	21.4%	36.0%
Collecting material for craft projects	35.0%	16.7%	21.8%
Collecting rocks for home landscaping	50.0%	26.7%	33.3%
Collecting plants for home landscaping	12.5%	6.9%	9.2%
Gathering wild mushrooms	5.1%	1.0%	0.9%
Gathering pinyon nuts	10.3%	14.7%	13.6%
Gathering berries, herbs or wild foods	5.1%	8.9%	12.8%
Collecting fossils, rocks or minerals	25.6%	20.4%	22.0%

Responses to a question focusing on participation in a variety of non-commodity use activities on public lands are summarized in Table 6. Among this list of activities, Daggett County respondents were most likely to report that they participate in collection firewood for home use, collecting rocks for home landscaping, cutting Christmas trees, collecting materials for craft projects, and collecting fossils, rocks or minerals. In Duchesne County the activities identified most often included collecting rocks for home landscaping, collecting firewood for home use, cutting Christmas trees, and collecting fossils, rocks or minerals. In Uintah County respondents most frequently indicated participation in cutting Christmas trees, collecting rocks for home landscaping, collecting firewood for home use, collecting material for craft projects, and collecting fossils, rocks or other minerals from public land areas.

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 Daggett County respondents the first of these activities listed by respondents most often involved fishing (35.0% of responses), followed by camping (10.0%). In Duchesne County the first listed activity most often involved camping (29.5% of responses), followed by fishing (13.7%). In Uintah County the activities listed most frequently were camping (29.2% of responses), fishing (12.3%) and sightseeing/pleasure driving (11.3%). When asked to indicate where they participate in the first-listed of their “most frequently pursued” activities, 95% of Daggett County respondents, 74.5% of Duchesne County respondents, and 86.3% of Uintah County respondents 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 7 and Table 8.

The data presented in Table 7 indicate that Daggett County respondents were considerably more likely to prefer an increase rather than a decrease in timber harvest levels, protection of important fish and wildlife habitat, thinning of forested areas to reduce wildfire risk, and development of water storage and delivery systems on Utah public lands. On the other hand, attitudes were more evenly split between preferences for reducing and preferences for increasing mineral exploration/extraction, designation of wilderness areas, exploration for and development of oil and gas resources, livestock grazing, and designation of wild and scenic rivers. Daggett County respondents were also considerably more likely to prefer a reduction rather than an increase in management efforts to protect endangered species.

Among Duchesne County residents respondents were more considerably 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. To a lesser extent they also were more likely to see an increase rather than a decrease in protection of endangered species and

designation of wild and scenic rivers, yet at the same time they were more likely to prefer a reduction as opposed to an increase in designation of wilderness areas.

Uintah County respondents were considerably more likely to express a preference for an increase rather than a decrease in public land management that would involve mineral exploration/extraction, timber harvest, exploration for/development of oil and gas resources, protection of fish and wildlife habitat, use of controlled burns to improve ecological conditions, thinning of forested areas to reduced wildfire risk, livestock grazing, and development of water storage and delivery systems. They were somewhat more likely to prefer a reduction as opposed to an increase in designation of wilderness areas, protection of endangered species, and designation of wild and scenic rivers.

Results summarized in Table 8 indicate that Daggett 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 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 Duchesne County respondents were considerably 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 non-motorized recreation, regulations that require motorized vehicles to stay on designated trails, regulations that limit levels of noise and emissions from snowmobiles and ATVs, and development of visitor facilities that would encourage increased tourism. In Uintah County, responses indicated a stronger preference for increases rather than decreases 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, implementation of regulations that would require motorized vehicles to remain on designated trails, implementation of noise and emission regulations for snowmobiles and ATVs, and development of facilities to attract increased tourism.

Table 7. Survey Respondents' Attitudes Regarding The Extent To Which Various Activities Occurring On Utah Public Land Should Be Reduced Or Increased*

	Daggett County		Duchesne County		Uintah County	
	Reduce	Increase	Reduce	Increase	Reduce	Increase
Mineral exploration/extraction	25.6%	25.6%	7.3%	40.6%	14.7%	43.1%
Timber harvest	12.5%	32.5%	13.5%	29.2%	16.7%	40.7%
Designation of wilderness areas	27.5%	32.5%	31.3%	21.9%	34.6%	21.5%
Exploration for/development of oil and gas resources	22.5%	30.0%	12.4%	45.4%	13.4%	55.3%
Protection of important fish and wildlife habitat	10.2%	53.9%	9.2%	52.0%	7.2%	46.8%
Protection of endangered species	40.0%	27.5%	23.5%	30.6%	34.8%	25.0%

Table 7. Survey Respondents' Attitudes Regarding The Extent To Which Various Activities Occurring On Utah Public Land Should Be Reduced Or Increased*

	Daggett County		Duchesne County		Uintah County	
	Reduce	Increase	Reduce	Increase	Reduce	Increase
Use of controlled burns to improve ecological conditions	35.0%	30.0%	15.8%	29.5%	7.4%	46.3%
Thinning of forested areas to reduce wildfire risk	10.0%	65.0%	10.1%	53.5%	4.6%	60.2%
Livestock grazing	25.6%	20.5%	9.1%	30.3%	9.3%	32.7%
Designation of wild and scenic rivers	30.8%	30.8%	19.1%	29.7%	25.0%	18.5%
Developing water storage and delivery systems to meet needs of nearby communities	5.0%	52.5%	3.0%	77.8%	2.8%	73.1%

* 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 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*

	Daggett County		Duchesne County		Uintah County	
	Reduce	Increase	Reduce	Increase	Reduce	Increase
Permitting of commercial guiding or outfitter services	28.2%	10.3%	16.2%	18.2%	20.8%	10.3%
Providing road access to recreation areas	15.0%	35.0%	12.7%	40.2%	7.3%	41.8%
Providing hunting opportunities	12.8%	33.3%	10.6%	27.8%	7.5%	47.7%
Developing trails for off-highway motorized recreation	32.5%	30.0%	30.1%	32.0%	17.4%	44.0%
Developing trails for hiking, biking, and other non-motorized recreation	10.0%	47.5%	10.6%	43.3%	8.3%	46.8%
Regulations that require motorized vehicles to stay on designated trails	5.0%	55.0%	9.7%	49.5%	13.5%	45.9%

Table 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*

	Daggett County		Duchesne County		Uintah County	
	Reduce	Increase	Reduce	Increase	Reduce	Increase
Regulations that limit levels of noise and emissions from snowmobiles and ATVs	15.4%	46.1%	16.2%	45.4%	21.1%	42.4%
Developing visitor facilities to increase tourism	20.0%	37.5%	14.9%	38.6%	12.8%	42.2%

* 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 PRMP/FEIS, BLM has only relied on information specifically cited in the PRMP/FEIS text and included in this Appendix."

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