

MORGAN COUNTY

Morgan County spans a large stretch of the Wasatch back, yet remains pristine. The vast majority of land is privately owned, but is also mountainous and somewhat difficult to build. The most used areas are the valley floors, which have traditionally been agriculture but are highly desired for development. Residents are strongly interested in protecting land, but don't want it to be a burden to the private landowner.

Flood zones were in the first priority of residents, followed by cultivated agricultural lands, shallow groundwater, prime soils and critical habitat. These elements all coincide on the valley floor along the Weber River. When asked to rank open space models, Public Health, Welfare, and Safety was the first choice for the county but broader protection, the Composite Open Space model was sought for the greater region. While this area is still largely agricultural, the numbers of active farms are quite small and landowners felt the need to keep their options open for the future. The community generally wants to protect the lifestyle and appearance of the valley, but want it to be viable as well.

Major concerns:

- Strong interest in preservation, but concern for how to do it equitably
- Desire to protect agriculture but acknowledge it is hard to make a living
- Prime agriculture with water rights, especially around the river and on valley floor
- Protect water quality in several reservoirs and mountains at the top of Ogden's watershed
- A significant amount of diversity of wildlife to protect
- Connect trails into and over the mountains into Weber and other counties

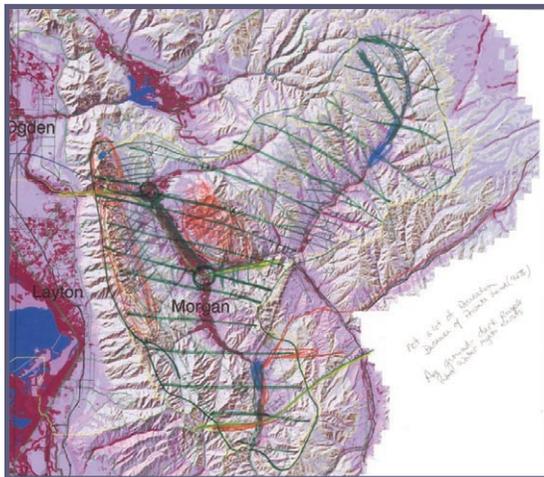


Figure 8 One of two public input maps completed at the Morgan County workshops using the Composite Open Space Model created by USU as a base. The model shows least important to most important open spaces in progressively darker shades of purple while the public highlighted important resources in blue, orange, brown, and green.

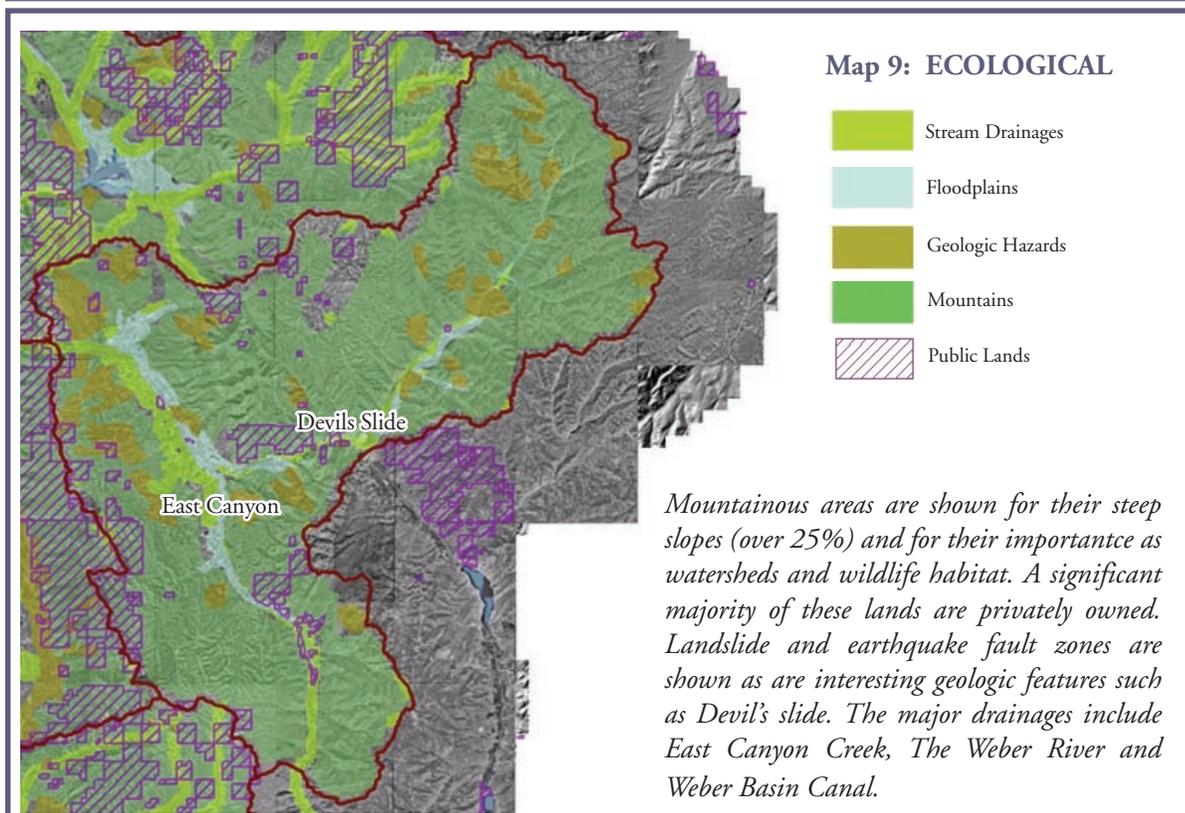
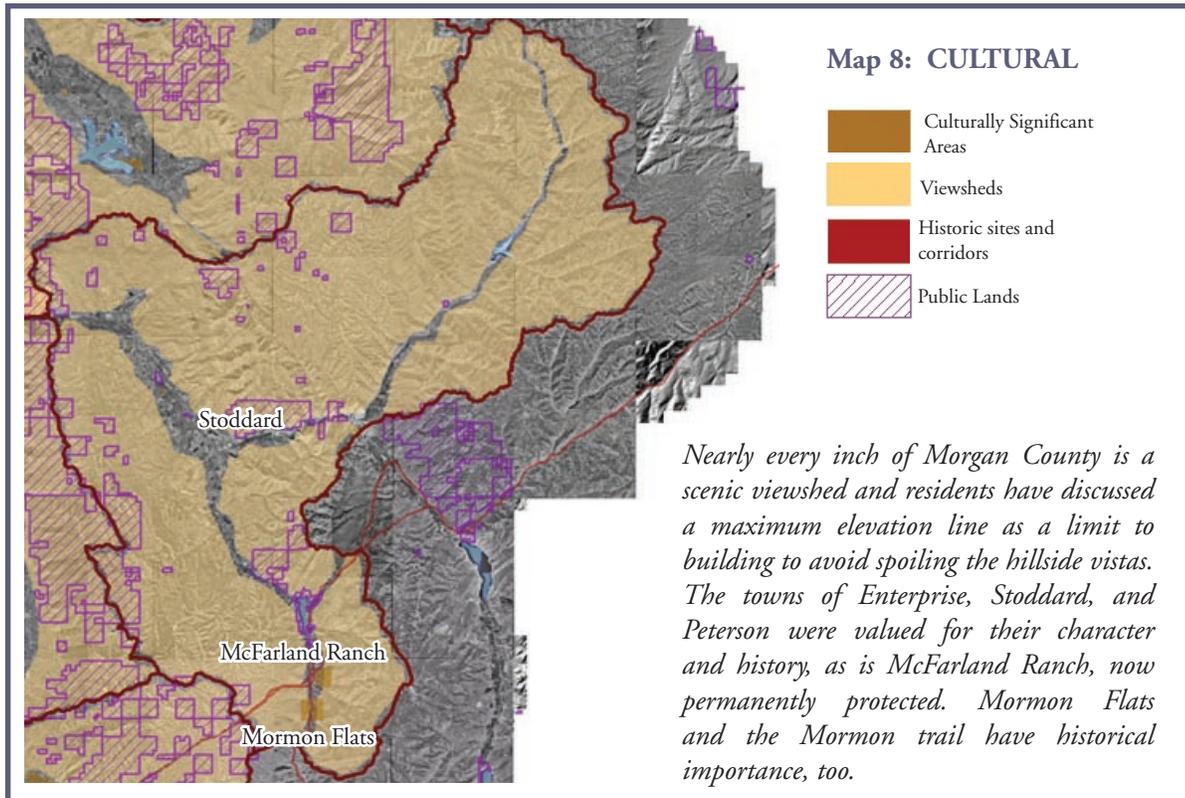
General types of land to protect:

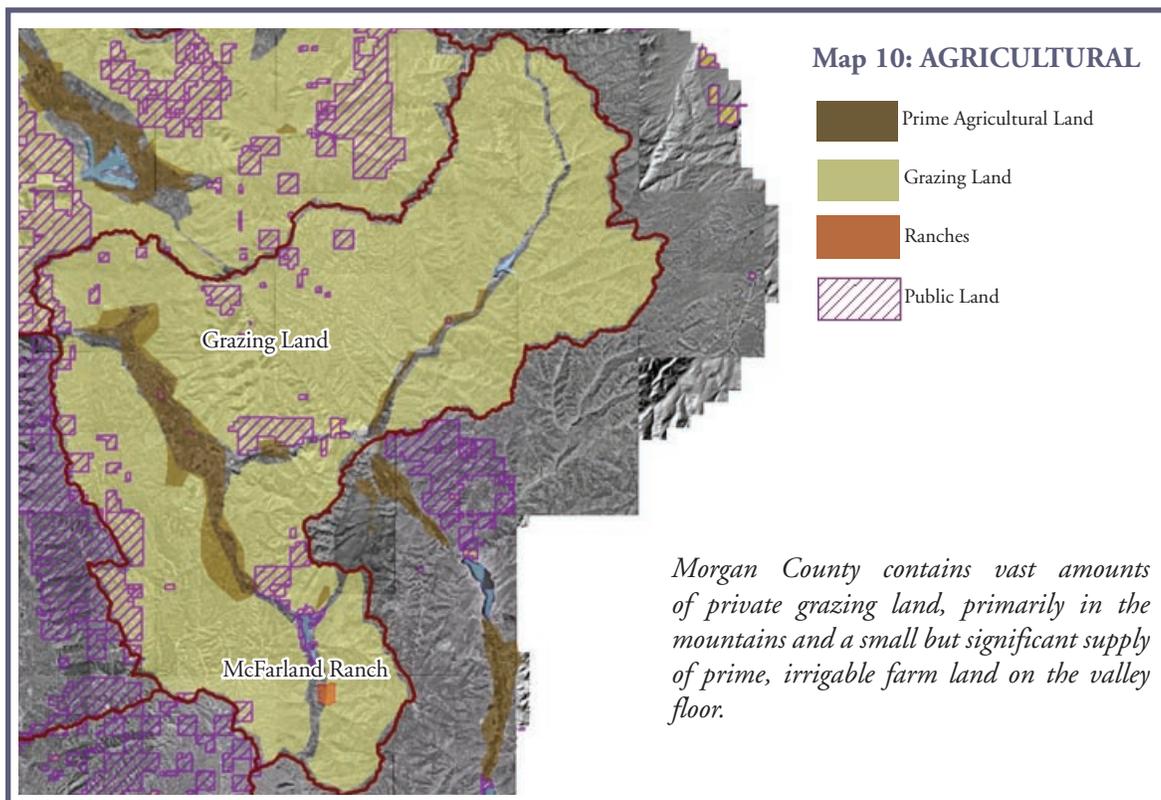
1. Rivers and Streams
2. Mountains
3. Viewsheds
4. Agricultural Lands
5. Three way tie: Watersheds, Wildlife Habitat, protecting dark night skies

Specific places to protect:

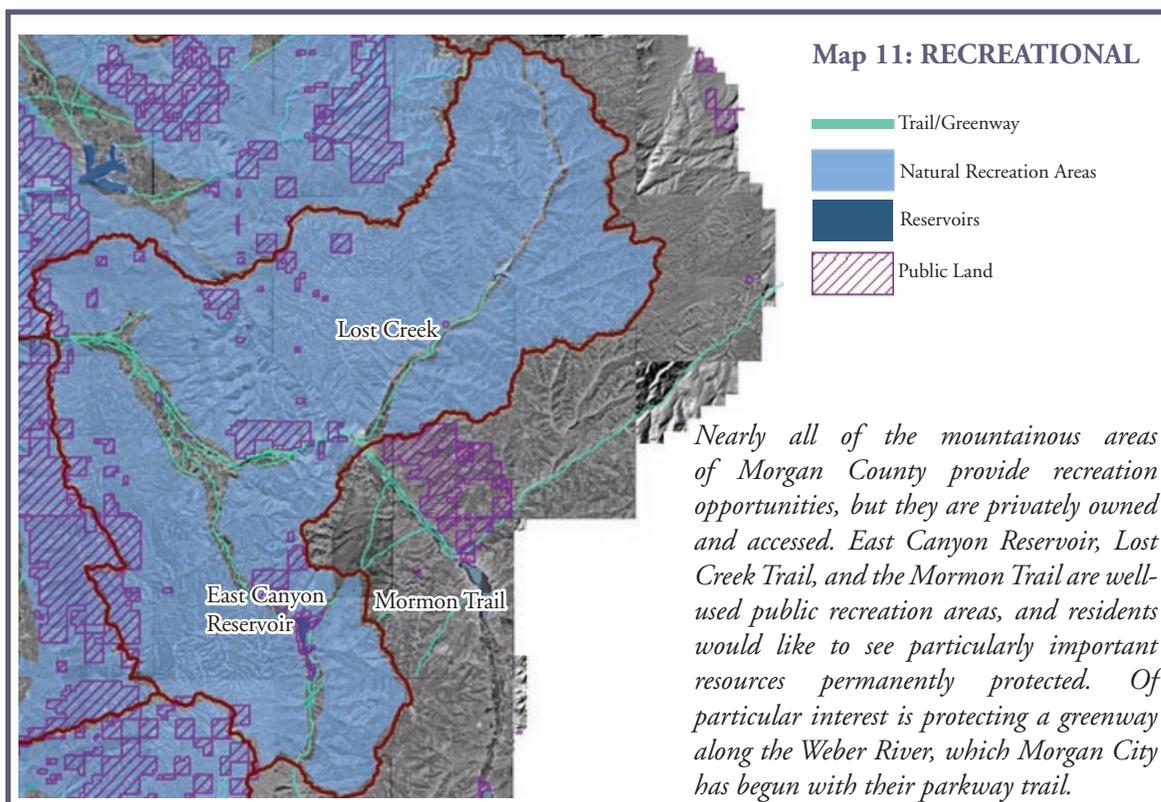
1. East Canyon tied
2. Lost Creek
3. Mormon Trail and Mormon Flats tied with Snowbasin and Golf Course in Round Valley

Morgan County Open Space Resources





Morgan County contains vast amounts of private grazing land, primarily in the mountains and a small but significant supply of prime, irrigable farm land on the valley floor.



Nearly all of the mountainous areas of Morgan County provide recreation opportunities, but they are privately owned and accessed. East Canyon Reservoir, Lost Creek Trail, and the Mormon Trail are well-used public recreation areas, and residents would like to see particularly important resources permanently protected. Of particular interest is protecting a greenway along the Weber River, which Morgan City has begun with their parkway trail.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

As the Morgan County workshop maps had every inch identified as open space, reasonably there are few places residents are willing to part with. This reflects residents' feelings as well as the county's master plan. It can't be stressed enough that developing a plan for preservation will be a challenge. The county planning and zoning commission already struggles with these issues weekly. The alternative, doing nothing, will surely yield worse results. Morgan County residents need to accept a level of development they are comfortable with and then plan on how best accommodate it. Without standards or a guiding plan, the threat to the health and character of the community is great.

Because so many areas are felt to be critical, the challenge is to decide on criteria or locations that are acceptable for development. Steep slopes, aquifer recharge areas and flood plains were identified as hazards, but safer areas that contained wildlife habitat or important views were also felt worth preservation. The community is advised to develop a list of critical areas and discuss why they are important. From this, they can develop a ranking system of areas to protect. The county is advised to then adopt strict development guidelines to funnel building into the least sensitive areas.

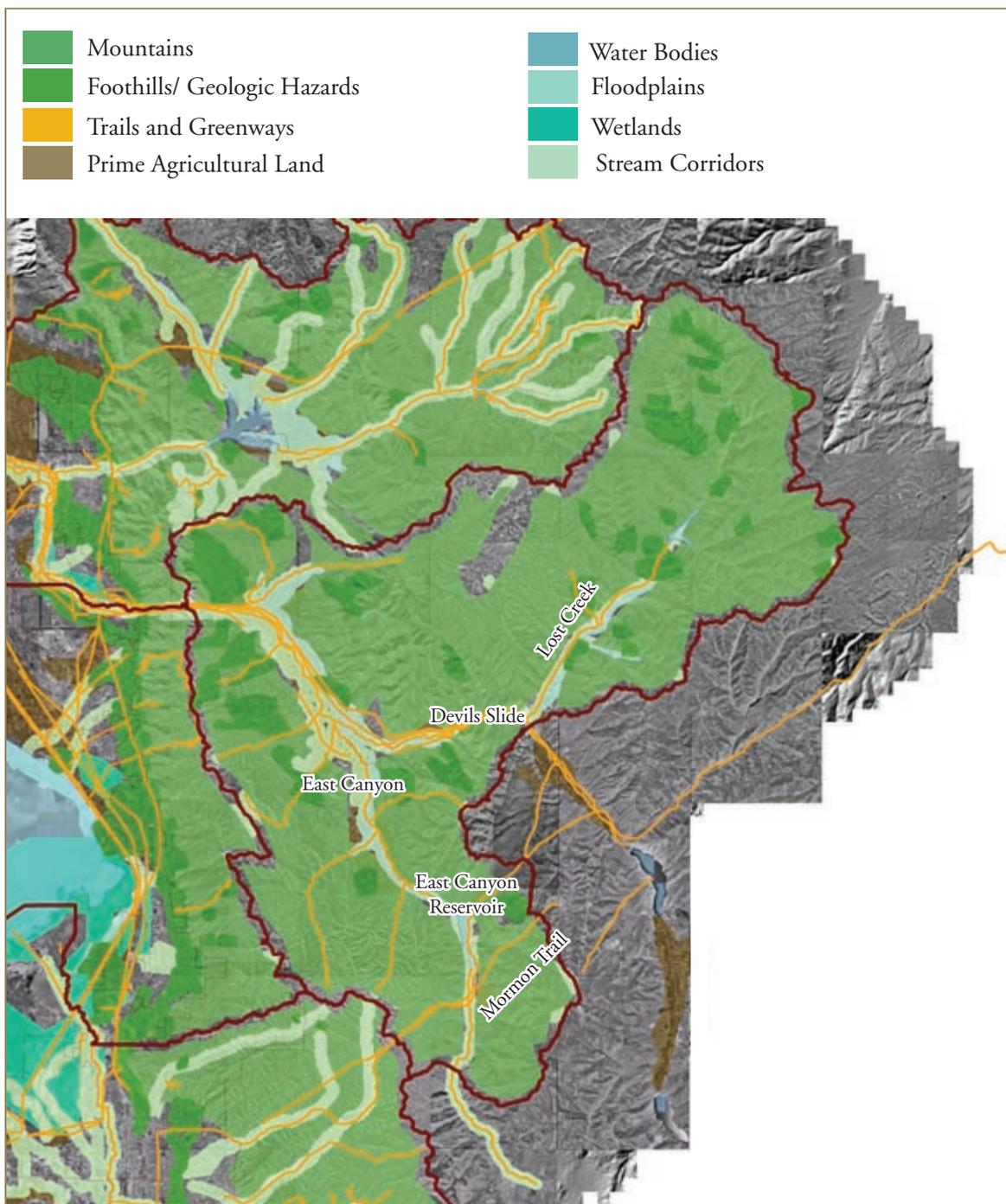
A cursory view of the area reveals few locations that are not sensitive to development, but the valley floors contain all of the top concerns from the workshops: flood zones, cultivated agricultural lands, shallow groundwater, prime soils and critical habitat. Because they are a small proportion of the land, they become even more critical. On the contrary, the base of the foothills, far from river corridors and nestled against gentler slopes, may be the least sensitive area to build. The county may wish to explore development styles that can nestle against the mountains, distant from riparian corridors, yet blending in with the mountains and never breaking ridgelines. This will disperse development significantly, which may not be desirable because of infrastructure expenses. However, if projects are self-sufficient, this may be the most sensitive solution. In addition, communities should allow higher densities within established towns to create a true community core and accommodate a less consumptive style of development.

Public access is another critical issue. Because the vast majority of this region is privately owned, there are few places for the public to recreate, whether they are local or not. But many people wish to see the landscape protected simply for the views, something that demands no access. In

Open Spaces Identified as Desirable for Protection

- Mormon Trail and Flats
- Lost Creek
- Weber River
- Snow Basin
- East Canyon
- Devil's Slide
- Enterprise Bench
- Peterson Mountains
- Stoddard/Enterprise
- Round Valley Golf Course
- Peaceful Valley Ranch
- Weber Basin Canal
- Pony Express Route
- West Mountains
- Backside of Wasatch Front
- Faultlines
- Parks
- Historic buildings
- Canyon Gateways
- Private properties
- McFarland Ranch
- Causey Reservoir

Map 12: Morgan County Open Space Map



every decision to acquire or protect lands, the appropriate level of access should be determined in advance and funding sources should be aware of this expectation. Limited or no access can be appropriate in areas where ranching or existing activities will continue, but landowners should anticipate a desire for even minimal access if public funds contribute to its preservation.



DAVIS COUNTY

While Davis County is a narrow strip of land, it does span a cross section from mountains to lake and is at the core of this study area, connecting to all but one of the other counties. As such, it becomes a critical link in regional corridors and trails, and can play a role in spurring action in other counties. One of the first steps Davis County is advised to take is to help the public understand the boundaries of public versus private land and realize the vast critical areas that are not protected from development.

Reflecting their urban bent and concern for all types of open spaces, Davis County residents chose the Composite Open Space Model followed by the Trails Model as their top choices to guide preservation in the county. Their top model choice for the region was Composite Open Space, followed by Maximum Conservation. Considering the diversity of open lands in the county and the critical roles they play, these choices reflect ongoing efforts to target as many areas as possible for protection.

Major concerns:

- Connecting trails into Salt Lake and Weber Counties and over the mountains into Morgan County
- Restoring one or more stream corridors that are currently piped to connect the lake to the mountains
- Maintaining agriculture as a buffer to the lake access to enjoy Great Salt Lake, its wetlands, wildlife, water recreation, and views
- Protecting a variety of habitat wildlife in natural and developed areas such as Hill Air Force Base

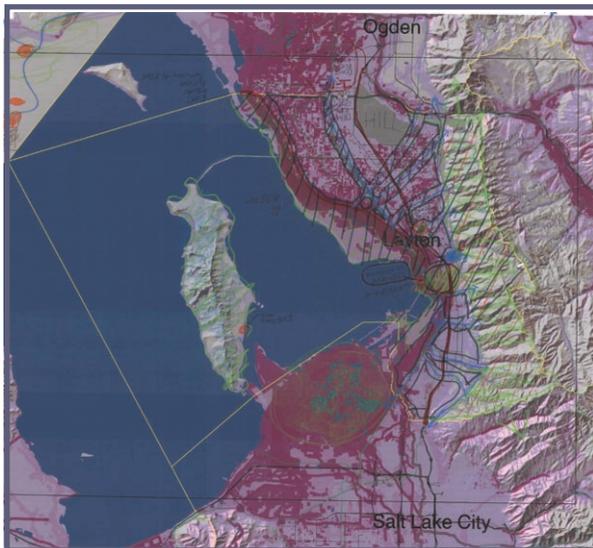


Figure 9: One of three public input maps completed at the Davis County workshops using the Composite Open Space Model created by USU as a base. The model shows least important to most important open spaces in progressively darker shades of purple while the public highlighted important resources in blue, orange, brown, and green.

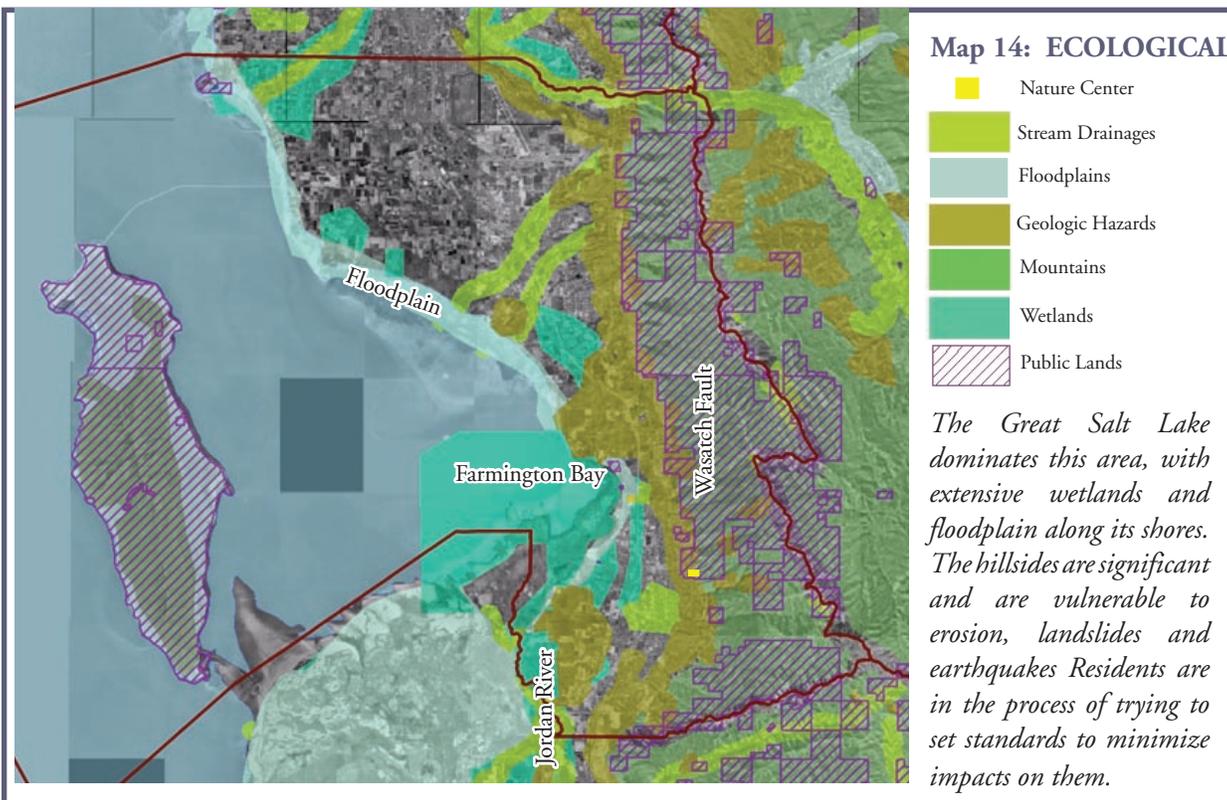
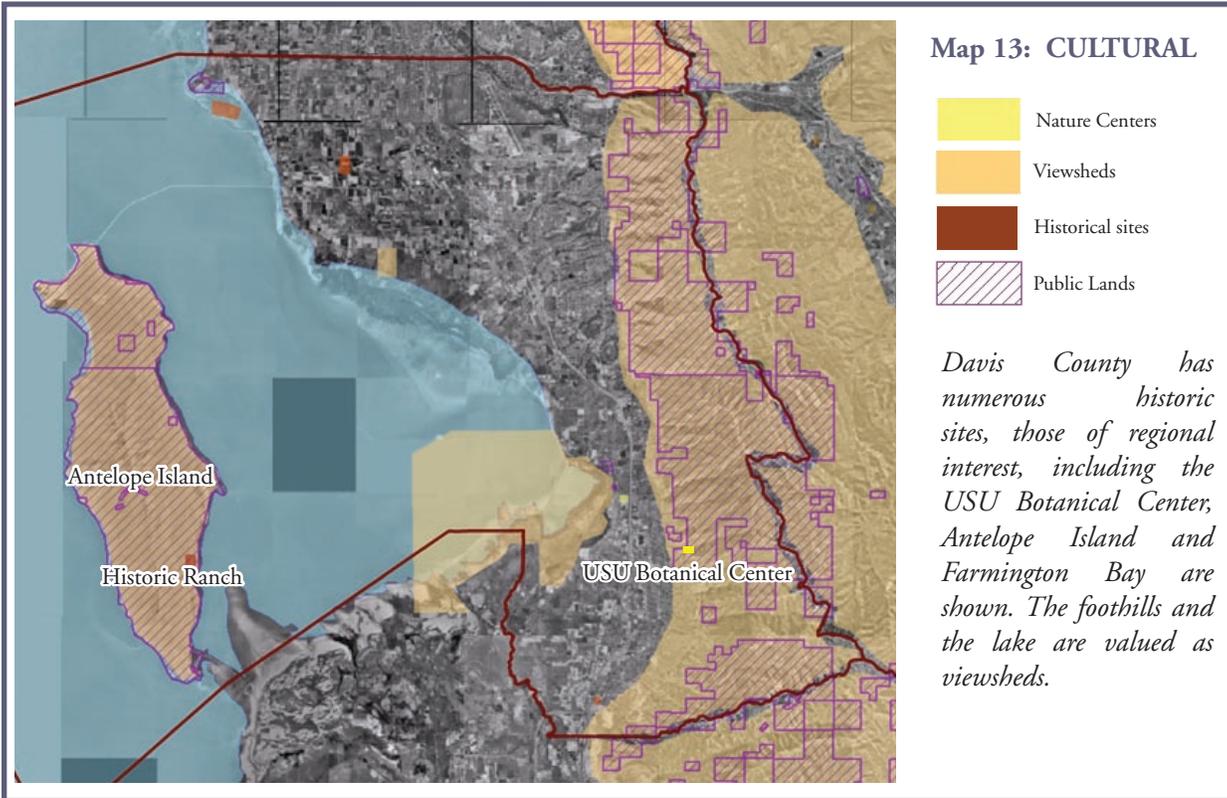
General types of land to protect:

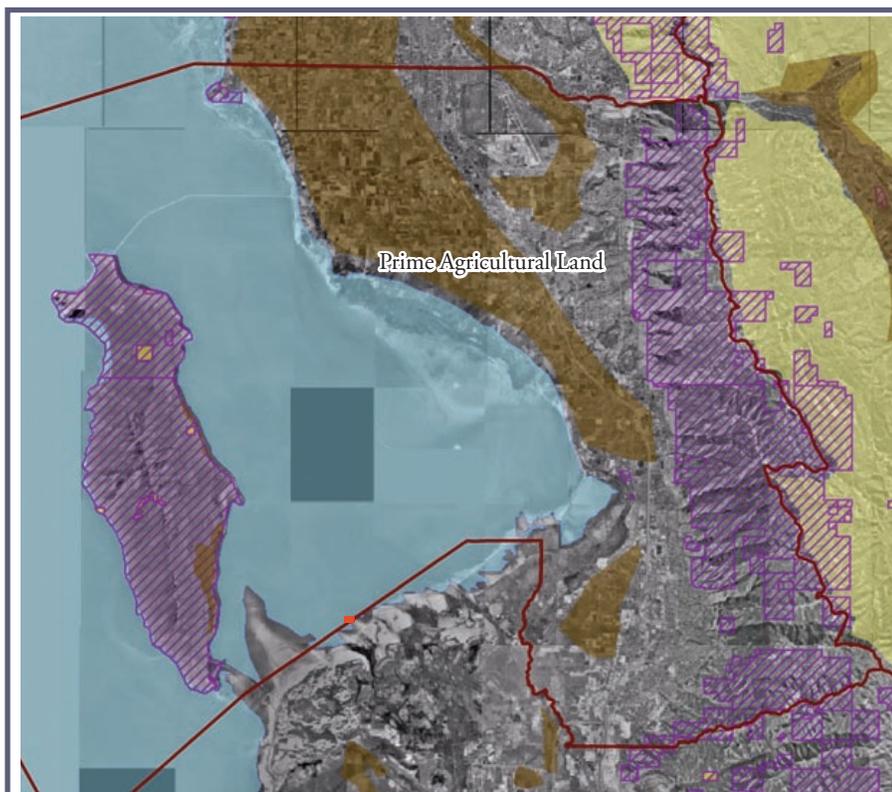
1. Rivers and streams
2. Trails
3. Foothills
4. Wetlands
5. tie: Recreational areas and Critical habitat

Specific places to protect:

1. tie: Foothills and Bonneville Shoreline and Jordan River
2. tie: Denver Rio Grande rail corridor and Agricultural lands
3. tie: Great Salt Lake and Shoreline and Corridors and Stream channels

Davis County Open Space Resources

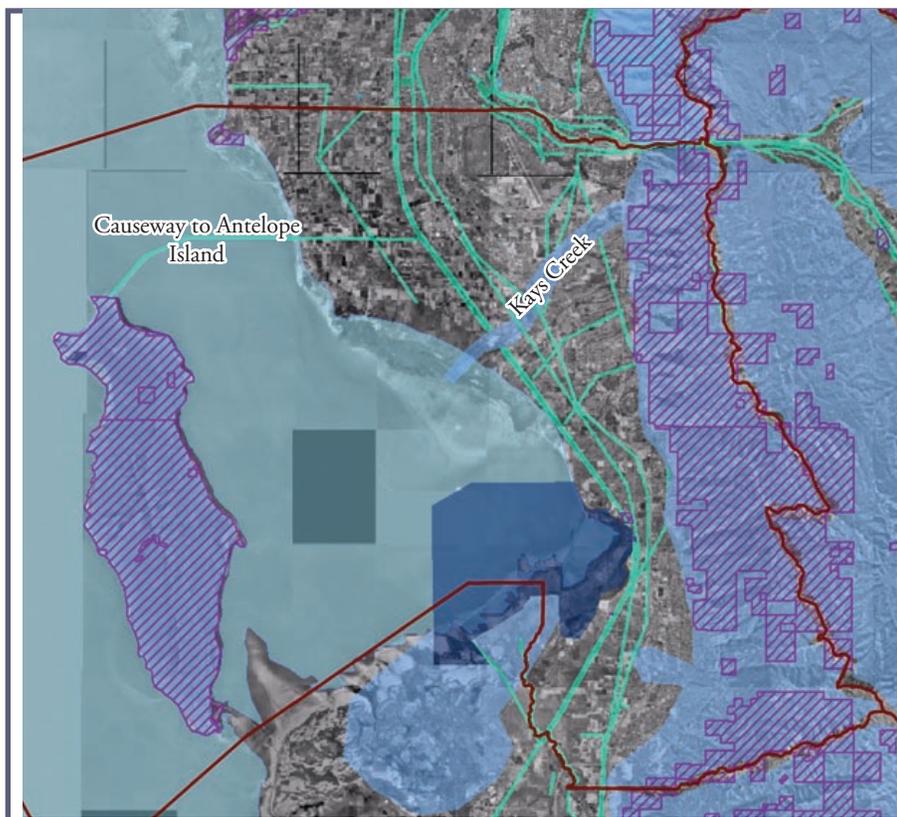




Map 15: AGRICULTURAL

- Prime Agricultural Land
- Grazing Land
- Ranches
- Public Land

Davis County agriculture includes prime farm lands remaining along the Great Salt Lake, including within its floodplain as well as some public grazing lands on Antelope Island.



Map 16: RECREATIONAL

- Trail/Greenway
- Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Golf/Ski Areas
- Natural Recreation Areas
- Reservoirs
- Public Land

Recreation in Davis County includes urban parks and trails as well as duck clubs for private hunting, and a wealth of opportunity to watch wildlife near Great Salt Lake. Residents would like to see trails connecting Davis County to other regions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Davis County and many communities within it have already begun tackling some of their most pressing concerns. The recently completed Davis County Shorelands Plan has been adopted by the communities along the Great Salt Lake and the effort has begun to implement a Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program to protect critical lands in this area. A similar approach could be taken with the foothills. Some communities have begun to adopt a hillside ordinance, but continuous protection is needed to ensure the entire stretch is protected. A uniform protected elevation is recommended to keep buildings below a certain level across the foothills. At the minimum, hillside protection ordinances should protect residents from the natural hazards that occur in this area, such as the Wasatch Fault and variable geology and unstable slopes that have the potential for landslides and rockfall. To supplement this protection, TDRs could also be used to move development around to more appropriate locations. A coordinated hillside effort between communities should also consider keeping a corridor open for the Bonneville Shoreline Trail. Additional trails that residents showed strong interest in were a centralized commuter and recreation trail along the old Denver & Rio Grande Railway right-of-way and along the Great Salt Lake, connecting the major natural attractions from the Antelope Island causeway along Farmington Bay to the Jordan River.

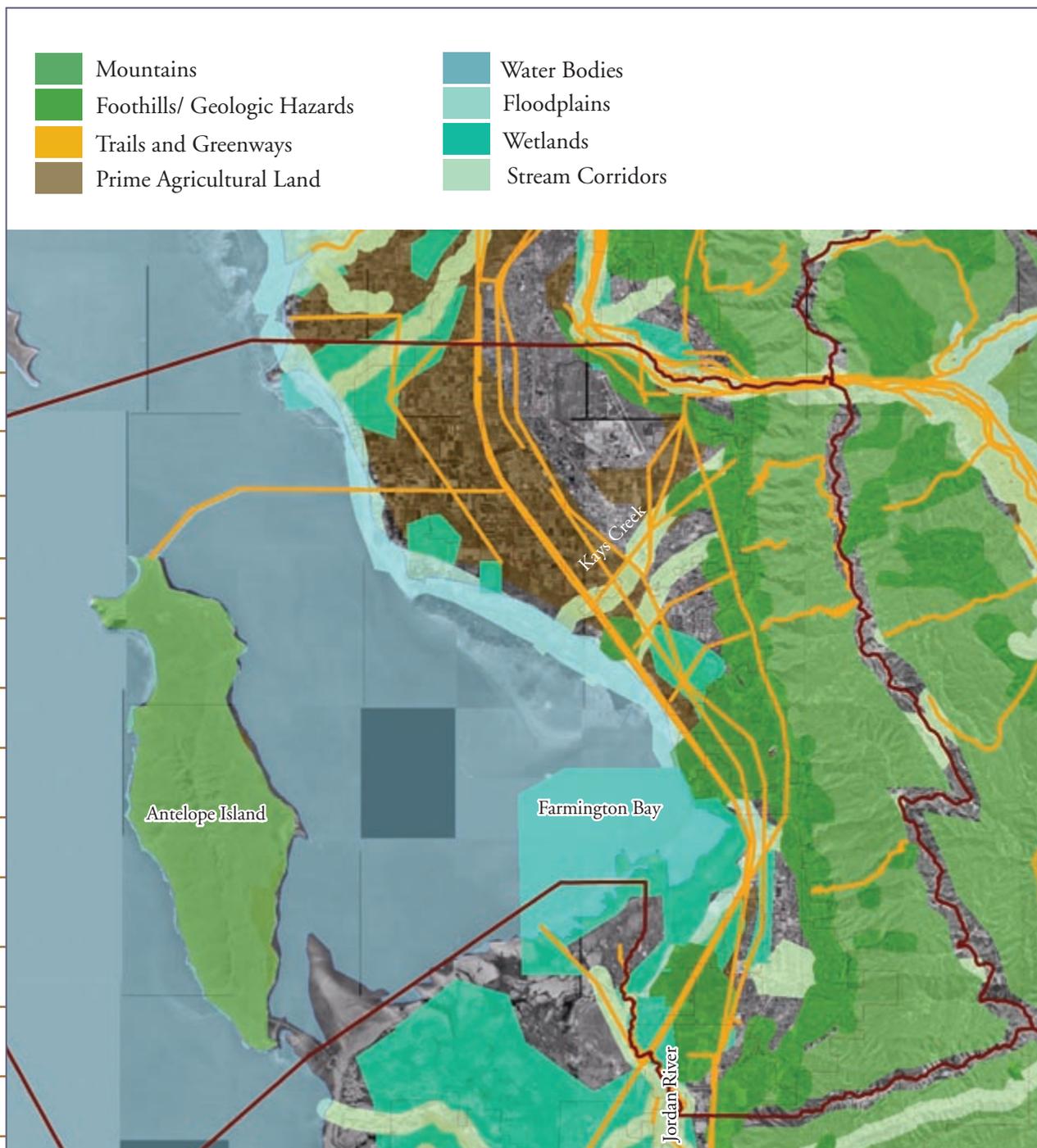
An additional concern of residents has been protecting agricultural land. While some pieces may be protected along the Great Salt Lake as a natural buffer during periods of high water, residents also expressed an attachment to the agricultural lands along Highway 89. In the past, this road passed through farms and orchards all along the Wasatch Front. The strongest remnants of this past are found in Brigham City, along the Fruitway, but Davis County residents expressed a desire to protect some of the last traces of this past along the Highway 89 corridor. A coordinated effort could spread the burden of protection to the greater community.

Davis County residents are eager to protect and gain access to streams and other waters within their boundaries. The Jordan River does in fact flow into the Great Salt Lake in Davis County, yet residents have no access to the river, either on shore or on the water itself. Davis County is encouraged to participate in the Jordan River Conservation Forum to raise this access and recreation issue as well as the health of the river and noticeable pollutant at its delta. In addition to the Jordan River, residents expressed a desire to restore one or more of the rivers and streams that

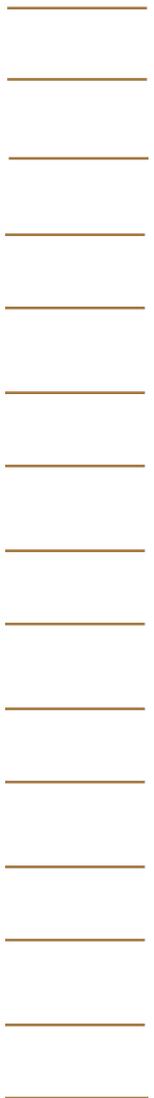
Open Spaces Identified as Desirable for Protection

- Foothills
- Bonneville Shoreline Trail
- Corridor along Great Salt Lake
- Great Salt Lake Wetlands
- View of Great Salt Lake
- Antelope Island & Causeway, Nature Conservancy property
- Farmington Canyon/ Farmington
- Muller Creek
- Kay's Creek
- Davis Creek
- Deuel Creek
- Steed Creek
- North Canyon Creek
- Mueller Canyon
- Jordan River
- Farmington Bay
- Historic Downtown Farmington
- USU Botanical Center
- Davis County Arts Center
- Highway 89 agricultural corridor
- Beck St. grade separated trail
- Denver & Rio Grande rail for trail
- Warm Springs
- Syracuse Museum
- Hill AFB Museum
- Woods Museum
- Lagoon Walking Trail
- Freshwater and saltwater wetlands

Map 17: Davis County Open Space Map



once flowed across the valley. Today, most of these streams are piped underground. “daylighting” or bringing these streams to the surface again would create corridors from the mountains to the lake for people and wild things alike. There is no protected east-west corridor today. Such an effort would be a logical place to start. In more general terms, securing and protecting access points to public trails and corridors is a critical step to expanding the system. Appropriate levels of access should be determined for all present and future open spaces as some combinations of uses, such as agriculture with recreation or wildlife with trails can be detrimental.



SALT LAKE COUNTY

Salt Lake County has urbanized to the point where it is more focused on protecting places for people to enjoy than for any other reason. There is a large and strong enough base of support to put a comprehensive, county-wide approach into place, but city leaders need to get behind the plan before it is too late.

Showing concern for all types of open space, Salt Lake County residents selected the most comprehensive choice—the Composite Open Space Model—as their first choice, followed by Public Health, Welfare, and Safety. They felt similarly about the region, with Public Health, Welfare, and Safety as their top choice, followed by Maximum Conservation. While trails were not included in any of these models, residents did wish to see them included in any protection effort.

Major concerns:

Concern for losing any of what little land is still left unbuilt

While agriculture is gone as a way of life, remaining farmlands are remnants of the most critical natural areas, worthy of protection

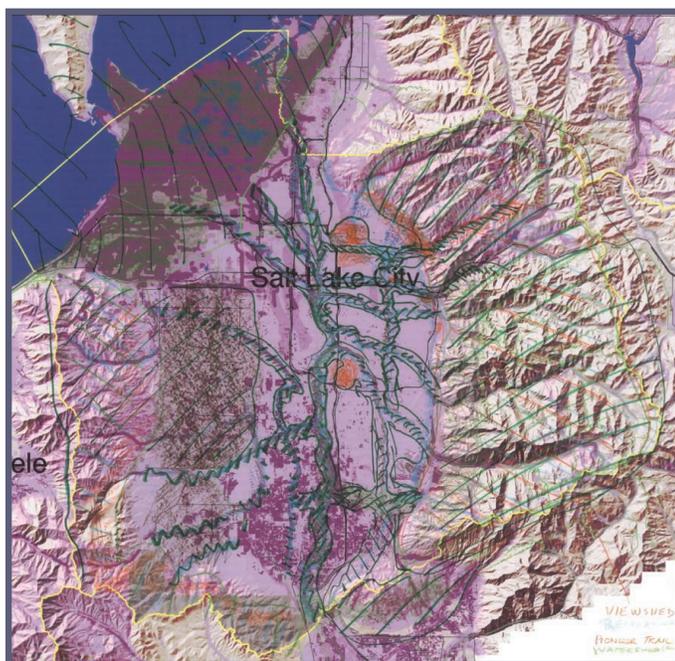
Recreational parks and greenways are gaining popularity and more are needed

Creating east- west corridors linking the the muontains to the Jordan River

Natural resources and recreation in the valley have been overshadowed by mountains, but need just as much protection

Mountain and hillside views, which define the area, need protection

Residents are willing to build more densely to protect land in other areas



General types of land to protect:

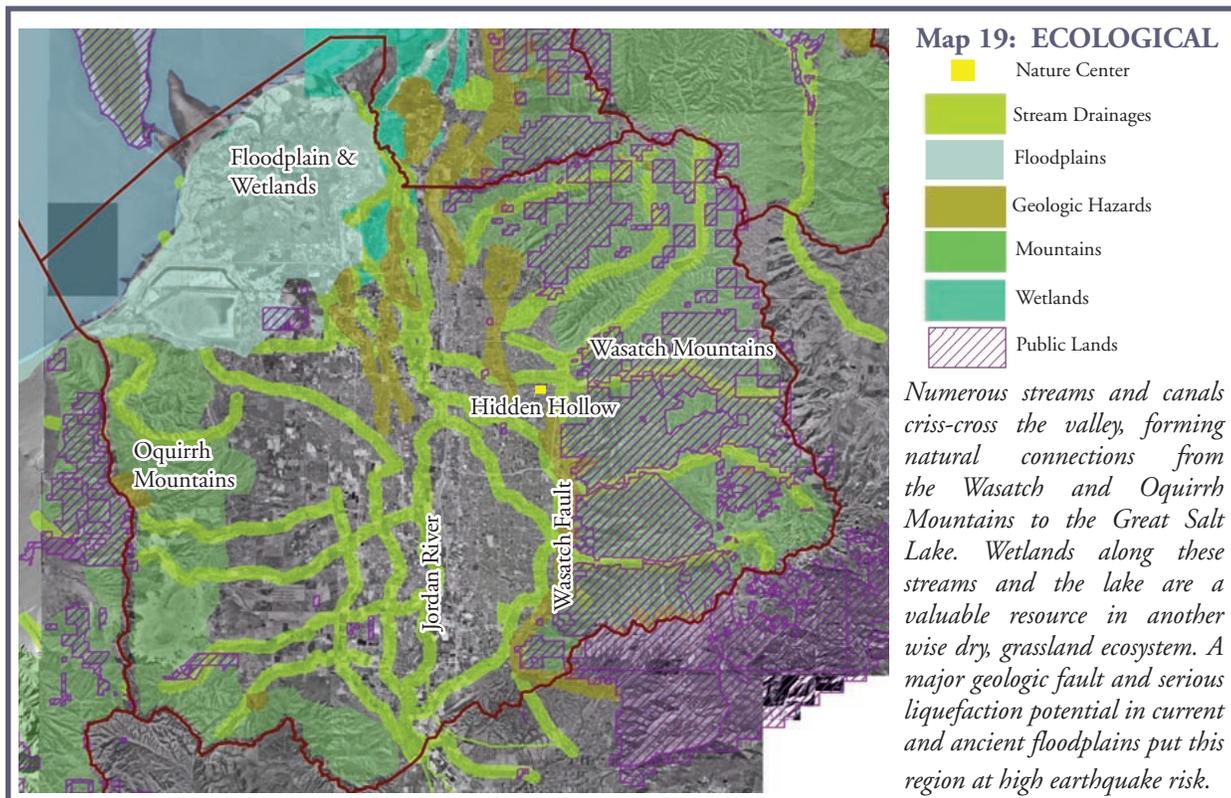
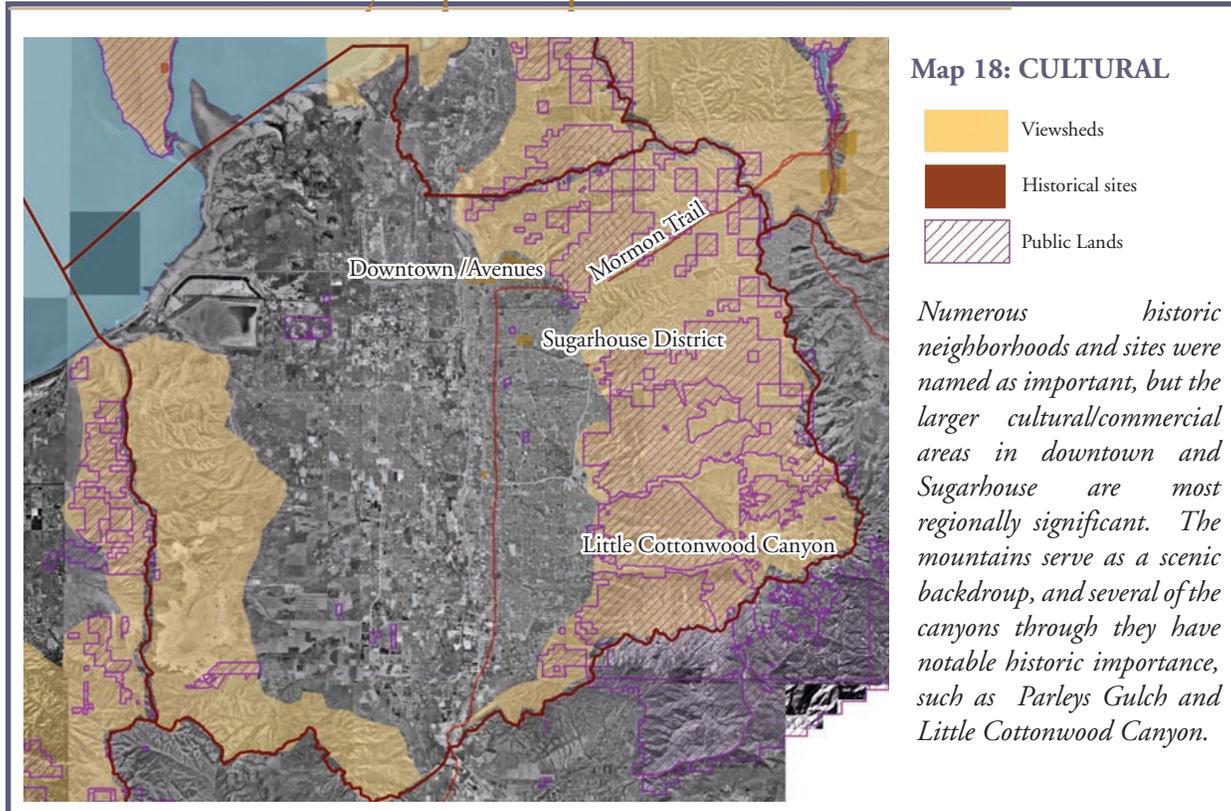
1. Wetlands
2. Trails
3. Critical habitat
4. Agricultural and water corridors (tie)

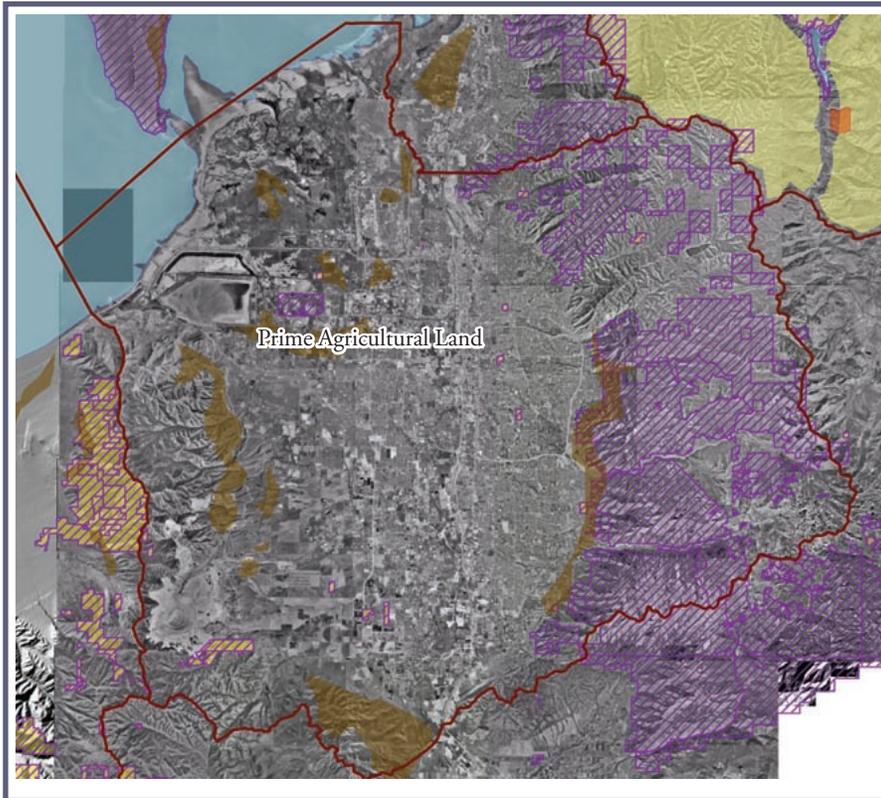
Specific places to protect:

1. Jordan River
2. 4 way tie:
 - Parley's Creek Corridor,
 - Northwest Quadrant
 - Wetlands
 - Bonneville Shoreline Trail
 - Corner Canyon

Figure 10: One of seven public input maps completed at the Salt Lake County workshops using the Composite Open Space Model created by USU as a base. The model shows least important to most important open spaces in progressively darker shades of purple while the public highlighted important resources in blue, orange, brown, and green.

Salt Lake County Open Space Resources

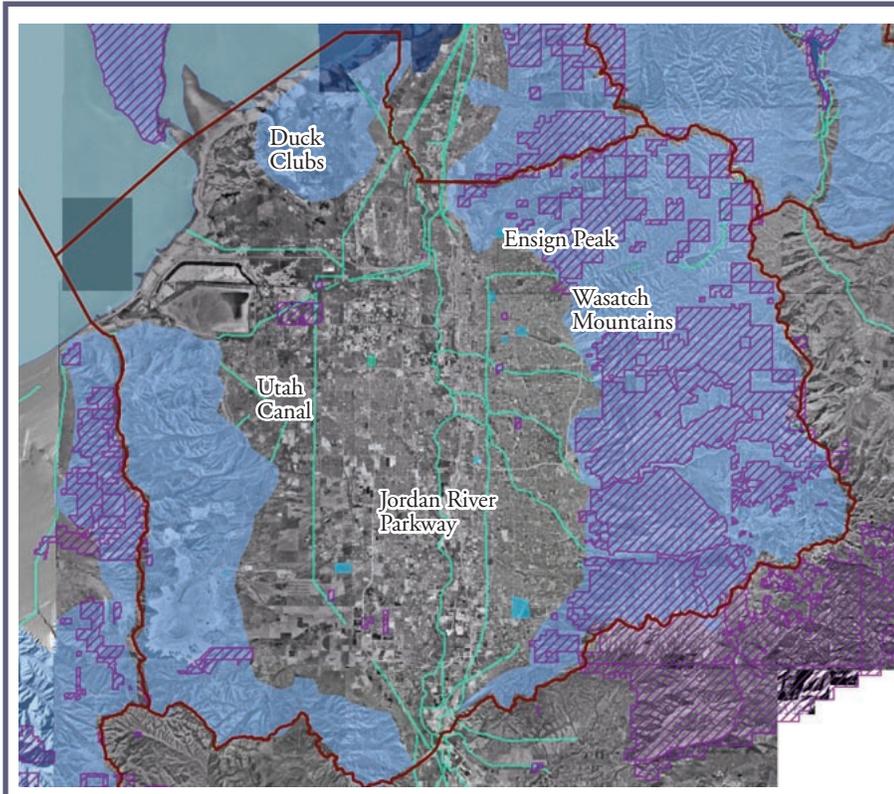




**Map 20:
AGRICULTURAL**

- Prime Agricultural Land
- Grazing Land
- Ranches
- Public Land

Salt Lake County's agricultural map shows the location of the few prime agricultural lands left. Although insignificant by regional measure, there are also small urban farms, nurseries, and community gardens. Still, residents are concerned with preserving agricultural lands in other parts of the region.



**Map 21:
RECREATIONAL**

- Trail/Greenway
- Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Golf/Ski Areas
- Natural Recreation Areas
- Reservoirs
- Public Land

Major recreational opportunities are shown here, including mountain recreation, duck clubs, and major trail and streams, corridors.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Residents are blessed with the Wasatch and Oquirrh mountain ranges enclosing the valley and forming scenic views and offering countless recreation opportunities. But while many residents enjoy natural areas and diverse sports in the canyons, the offerings in the valley itself are more limited. Natural corridors and resources have been neglected for years and people are finally taking notice as the last opportunities are lost. Many residents are conscious of the ecological importance of these areas and have an appreciation for the last vestiges of agriculture, but the focus of most workshop participants was protecting green spaces and places to soften urban areas and remind us of the importance of our environment.

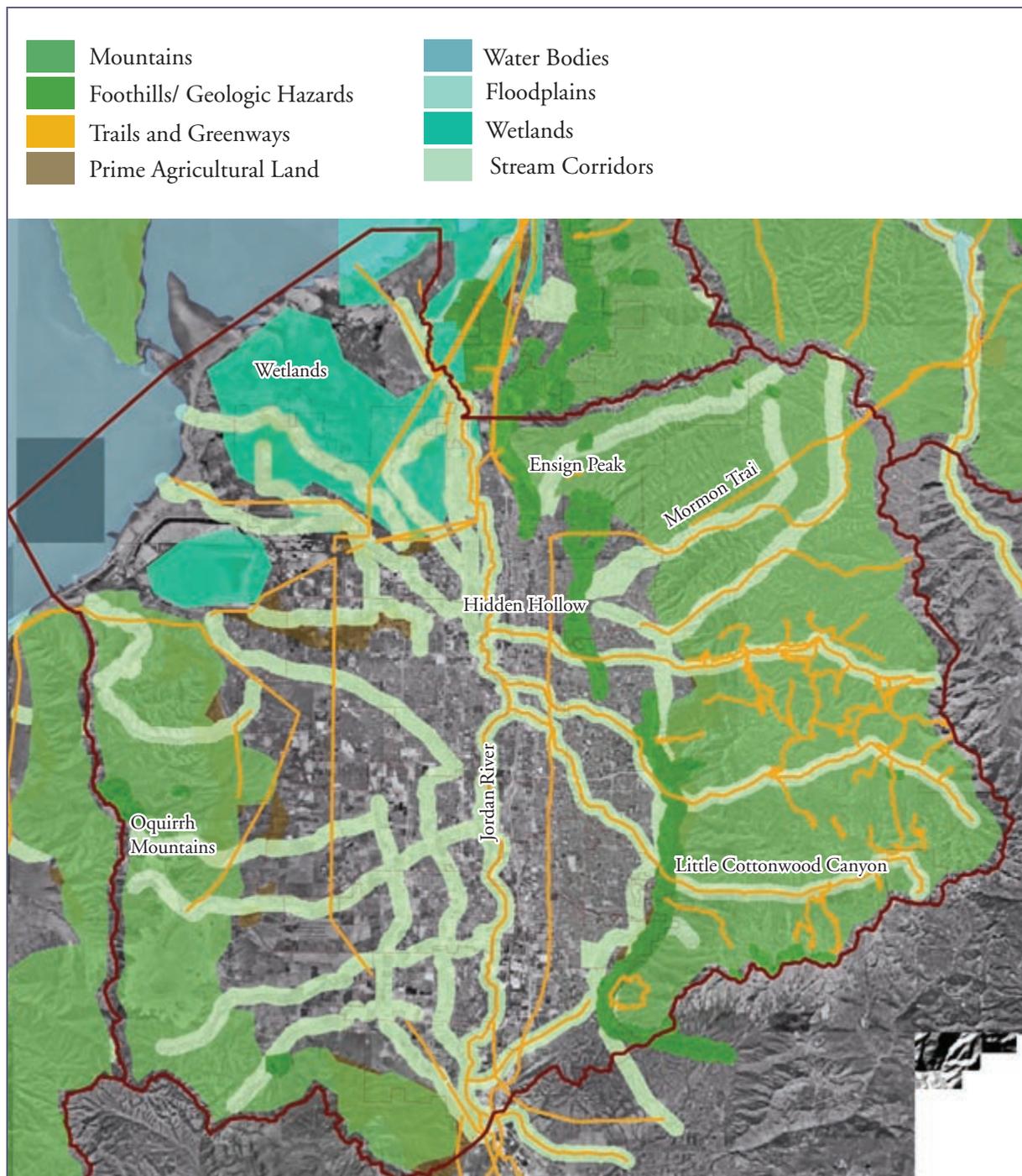
The major areas identified for protection are the ring of mountains around the valley and the waterways that connect them to the Great Salt Lake. The major canyons and the streams form some of the last continuous corridors of green space in the valley. Most communities are crossed by some major stream or the Jordan River or are adjacent to an important canyon, a natural network of unique resources, important to the health of all living things. Yet, many of these streams are cut off before reaching the Jordan River, either being piped underground or drained dry. They are also threatened by expanding development at the top of the watershed, in the canyons. While efforts are being made to protect the Jordan River corridor and the Great Salt Lake, these areas have long been overlooked and overstressed and it will soon be too late. Both are part of a globally significant habitat network for migrating birds and are locally critical resources in a desert environment for the small populations of wildlife that still subsist around the city. Outdoor environmental education is a critical component of increasing awareness and stewardship and should be a part of any effort to protect or enhance green spaces in the region.

The commitment to protection needs to be increased. Municipalities in this area are encouraged to formulate plans for small local open spaces as well as the large regional network passing through them. Ordinances should be crafted to protect wide stream corridors to accommodate the needs of humans and natural systems and to protect hillsides from hazardous development. Residents have expressed a willingness to pay to protect open space and make it accessible. Community leaders should take note and begin funding and staffing programs that achieve these critical goals before every opportunity is lost. A final note is the importance of

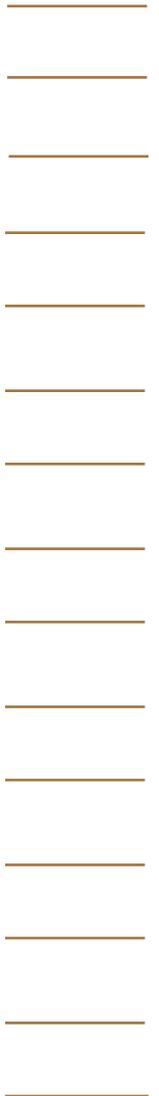
**Open Spaces Identified as
Desirable for Protection:**

Jordan River
Great Salt Lake
Little Cottonwood Creek / Canyon
Big Cottonwood Creek / Canyon
Mill Creek / Canyon
Parley's Creek / Canyon
Emigration Creek / Canyon
City Creek / Canyon
Bell Canyon
Corner Canyon
Butterfield Canyon
Bingham Canyon
Ferguson Canyon Trail
Wasatch Hollow
Hansen Hollow
Hidden Hollow
Wasatch Mountains
Oquirrh Mountains
Mt Olympus
Lone Peak
Dimple Dell Park
Fairmont Park
Liberty Park
Sugar House Park
Tanner Park
Copperton Park
Albion Basin Campground
Rose Creek
Ritter Canal
North Salt Lake Canal
Midas Pond
Views of the Wasatch Mountains
Salt Lake City historic sites
Historic Taylorsville
Chesterfield
Knudson's Corner & Knudsen's mill
Fort Street, Draper
Main Street, Magna
Olympic Venues
Pioneer Trails
Native American sites

Map 22: Salt Lake County Open Space Map



getting elected and appointed leaders involved in this effort. While many residents who attended these workshops have been working toward these goals for years, they have had little support from their city governments. Several non-governmental organizations and quasi-governmental partnerships have arisen to meet the challenge, but widespread success requires full participation, cooperation and understanding by all parties.



TOOELE COUNTY

Residents understand how limited their precious resources of prime farmlands, water and wildlife are and were most concerned with protecting the best of these while maintaining much of Tooele Valley's rural character. They also had very serious concerns about resources becoming contaminated with chemicals and wastes that are stored in the region.

Reflecting their concern for protecting agricultural lifestyles, prime soils were the first priority of residents, followed by cultivated agricultural lands and then critical habitat. Not surprisingly, residents also ranked Working Landscapes tied with Public Health, Welfare, and Safety highest among open space models. The same was true for the region, these two models ranked highest, reflecting Tooele County's dependence on the rest of the region to keep agriculture viable and protect the valley from waste disposal from beyond their borders.

Major concerns:

Protecting ground water quality.

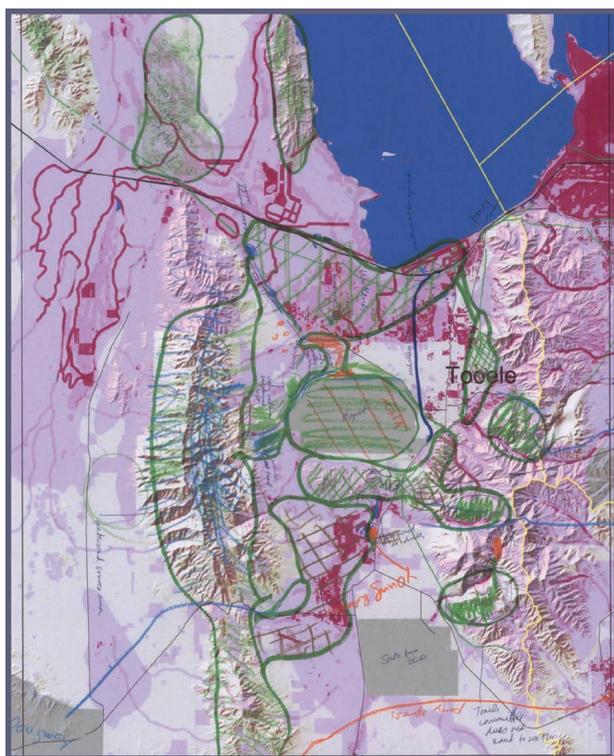
Severe water limitations may threaten natural resources as well as ability to develop.

Avoiding building hazards—high water table, wetlands, water, slopes, and contaminated areas

Maintaining agriculture as it is on the verge of dropping below the critical mass of agriculture needed to sustain farming.

Preserving existing wildlife habitat and corridors across the Tooele Valley.

Keeping a range of recreation options open - motorized and non-motorized.



General types of land to protect:

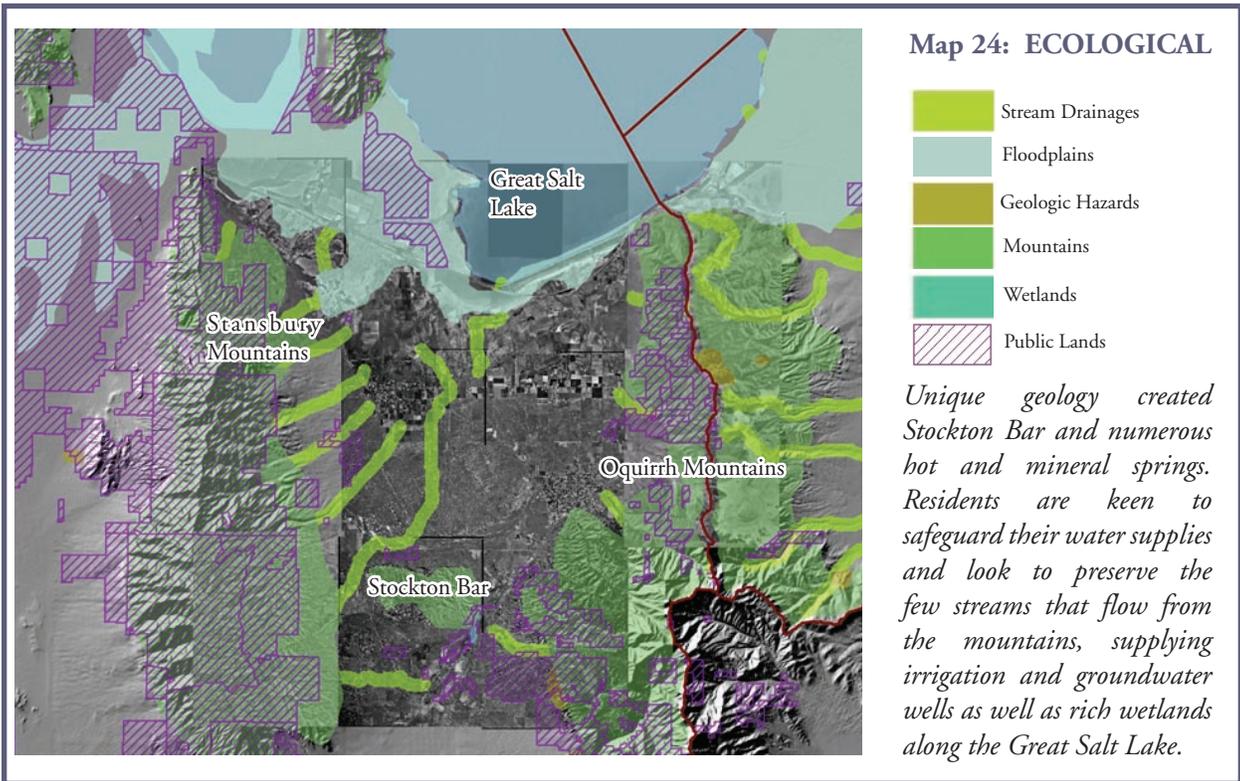
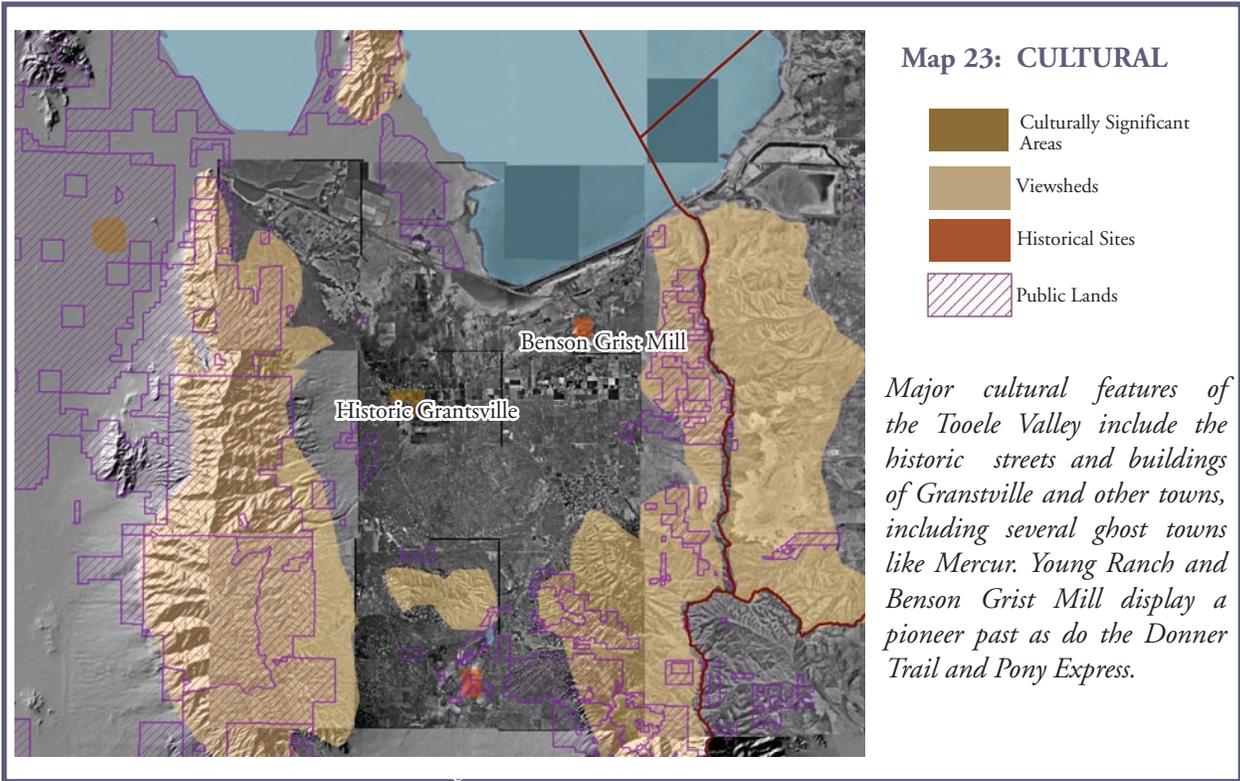
1. Prime agricultural land tied with watershed areas
2. Mountains
3. Wetlands

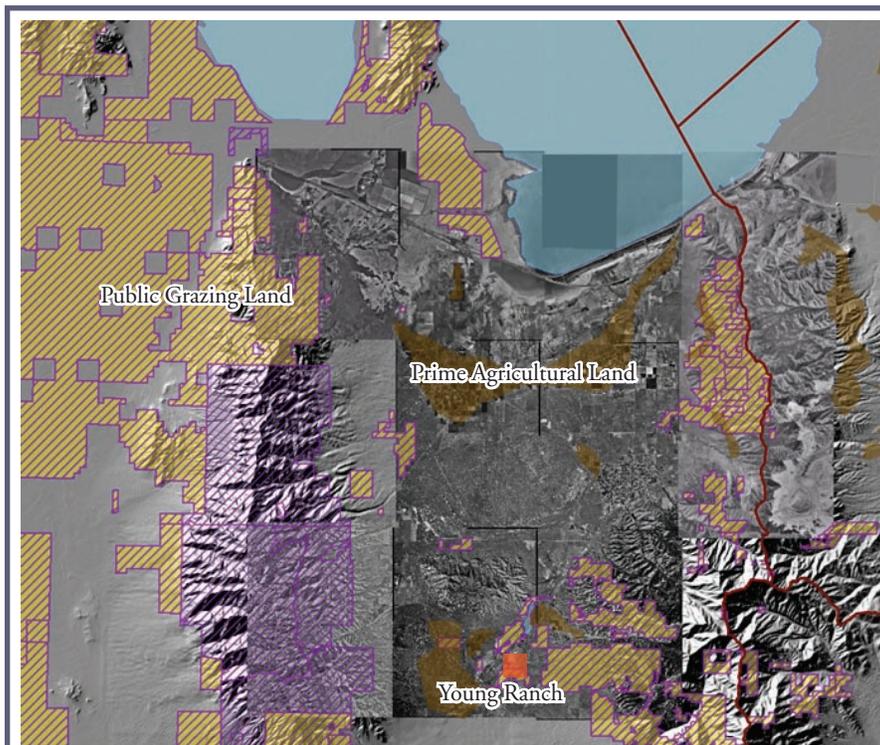
Specific places to protect:

1. Stockton Sand Bar
2. Foothills and mountain ranges
3. Northern wetlands

Figure 11: One of two public input maps completed at the Tooele County workshops using the Composite Open Space Model created by USU as a base. The model shows least important to most important open spaces in progressively darker shades of purple while the public highlighted important resources in blue, orange, brown, and green.

Tooele Valley Open Space Resources

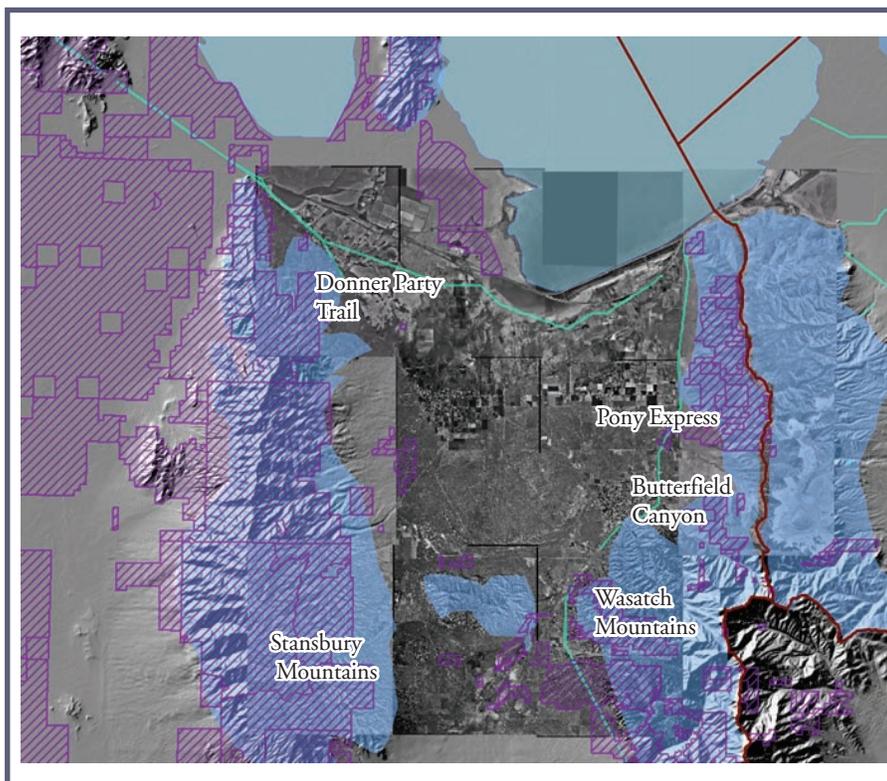




**Map 25:
AGRICULTURAL**

- Prime Agricultural Land
- Grazing Land
- Ranches
- Public Land

Agriculture still has a strong presence in the Tooele Valley, particularly close to the lake. Grazing is present on farmland across the valley as well as on vast public and private lands to the west and south.



**Map 26:
RECREATIONAL**

- Trail/Greenway
- Parks and Recreation Facilities
- Golf/Ski Areas
- Natural Recreation Areas
- Reservoirs
- Public Land

Much of the recreation in Tooele takes place in the canyons and mountains with offerings for motorized and non-motorized recreation. Trails are still in the planning stages, but sports at the Desert Recreation Complex serve the entire Valley.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

While the largest county by far in the region, Tooele is largely public lands or reservations and is very sparsely populated beyond the Tooele Valley, so the participants naturally focused on the part of the county closest to the Wasatch Front. While it is the least densely developed county in the WFRC area, it is also the most likely to experience exponential growth in the coming decades because it is flat, supplied with water and within commuting distance of Salt Lake City. Yet of all the counties studied, it placed the most emphasis on keeping farms and a rural lifestyle. Agricultural land is valuable to residents for more than just the farming products and lifestyle, it is a buffer from floodplains, an aquifer recharge area, secondary wildlife habitat and creates expansive views across the valley to the mountains and the Great Salt Lake. Ranching also has a hold on the community as farms are used to grow feed and surrounding public lands are used for grazing. Even with its towns growing at explosive rates, the prospect of keeping some of this lifestyle is strong and highly desired.

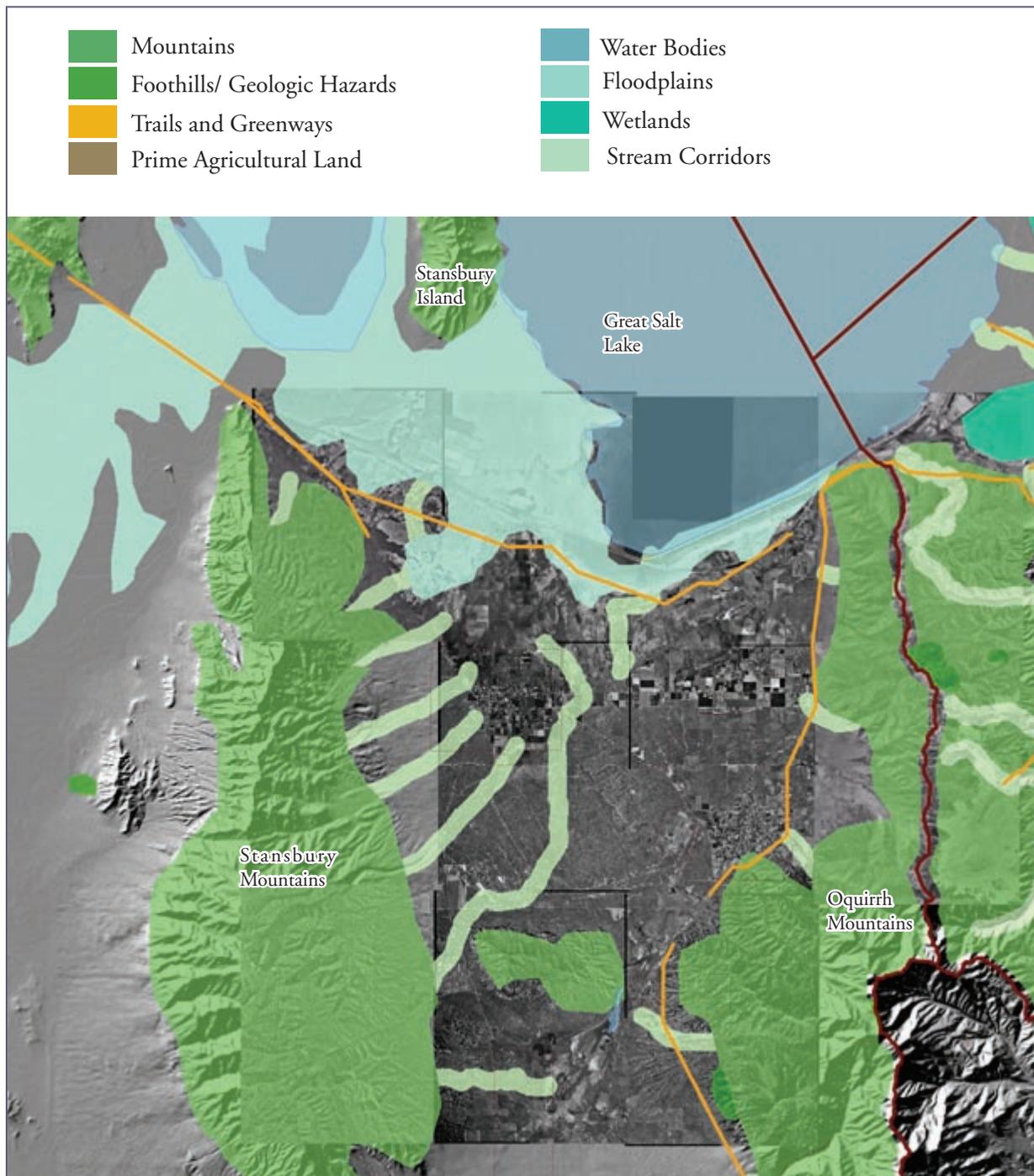
Beyond protecting the valley and mountainsides for scenic reasons, there are very strong health, safety and welfare concerns. Tooele County residents have worried for years about the safety of their water supplies and land that is built upon. Military, industrial and waste facilities have been located in the region for decades and their pollution impacts are only somewhat known. Residents were extremely sensitive to the need to protect water and resources from contamination and to only locate housing and other buildings in locations known to be safe. Many areas, such as the Tooele Army Depot will remain largely open space for years to come, and residents are thankful they will continue to provide unobstructed views and habitat for many animals.

Many residents in Tooele County live close to the land and are very aware of their natural surroundings. The canyons that drain into Tooele and Rush Valley are used for hunting, hiking, and motorized recreation. Residents felt strongly about protecting natural areas both for human use and for wildlife. The streams that flow out of the mountains fade out in the valley, creating areas with a high water table and lush vegetation, especially on the perimeter of the Great Salt Lake. Residents identified a wide band around the Great Salt Lake, including its floodplains, wetlands and nearby agriculture as important to protect for habitat and other reasons. They also identified numerous wildlife corridors crossing from the mountains across the valley into the Army Depot and agricultural fields.

Open Spaces Identified as Desirable for Protection

Stockton Sand Bar
 Northern Wetlands
 Great Salt Lake
 Rush Lake
 Simpson Springs
 Fish Springs Bird Refuge
 Horseshoe Springs
 Spring at Young Ranch
 Fish Springs
 Tooele Valley
 Rush Valley
 Skull Valley
 Soldier Mtn
 Oquirrh Mtn.
 Stansbury Mtn.
 Carislie Island
 Cedar Mountains
 Deep Creek Mountains
 Wig Mountain
 Deseret Peak
 Middle Canyon
 Dry Canyon
 Settlement Canyon
 Stockton Canyon
 Butterfield Canyon
 Ophir Canyon
 5-Mile Pass
 Open Area at the Army Depot
 Historic Buildings and character
 Donner Party Museum and Trail
 Pony Express Route
 Lincoln Highway and Goodyear Route
 Adobe Rock
 Iosepah
 Topaz Internment camp
 Deseret Peak Complex
 Wendover Airbase
 Bonneville Salt Flats
 The Knolls OHV area
 Granstville
 Mercur, Ophir, Joseph City
 Vernon
 Alpha
 Erda
 Sod Farms, Church Farms
 Deep soils in Granstville
 Agriculture south of Stockton
 Agricultural areas with water

Map 27: Tooele Valley Open Space Map

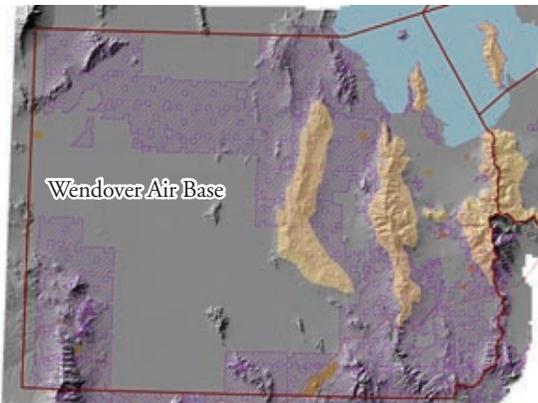


Tooele County is urged to take its agricultural preservation efforts seriously. Numerous tactics such as greenbelt zoning and transfer of development rights programs could be used to funnel development into urbanized area and create a true city in the valley, rather than disconnected subdivisions. Stringent site analysis should be adopted by the county and municipalities, too, ensuring every project avoids sensitive areas and hazards to humans.

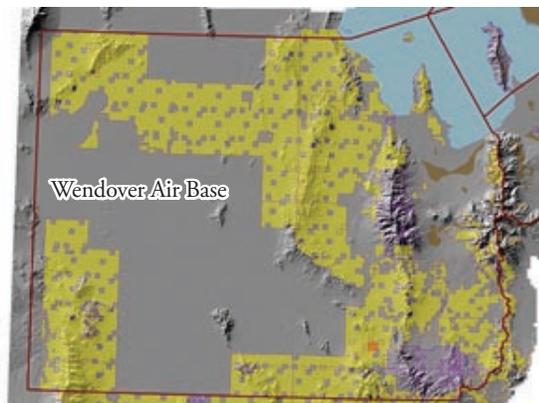
Tooele County Open Space Maps

The following maps show Tooele County in its entirety to show CEDAR resources that stretch beyond the Tooele Valley. Most notable is the Salt Flats, shown in the ecological (Map 29) and recreational (Map 31) maps, the Knolls OHV area as well as the vast amount of grazing land shown in the agricultural map. On the cultural map the Stansbery, Cedar and Oquirrh Mountain ranges are shown as viewheds.

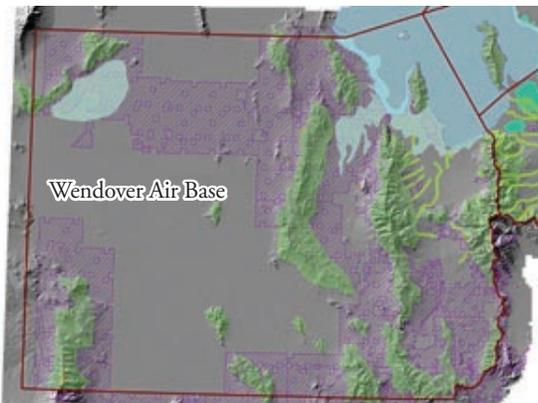
Map 28: Tooele County CULTURAL



Map 30: Tooele County AGRICULTURAL



Map 29: Tooele County ECOLOGICAL



Map 31: Tooele County RECREATIONAL

