

Millard County Profile

Prepared for the:
**Dixie, Fishlake & Manti-La Sal National Forests
Forest Plan Revision
Social and Economic Assessment**

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MILLARD COUNTY OVERVIEW



County Land Ownership

66.0%—Bureau of Land Mgt.
 13.5% — Private
 8.7% — State Trust Lands
 8.4% — Forest Service
 2.8%— Intermittent Water
 0.6% — State Wildlife
 0.1% — Other
 0% — Wilderness Areas
 6.3% —Wilderness Study Area
 (within BLM total)

source: SITLA, 2003

County Planned Uses

96.0% — Range and Forest
 3.7% — Agriculture
 0.2% — Commercial-Industrial
 0.1% — Residential

source: Millard County

This overview contains observations drawn from the maps, economic and demographic trend data, and a review of county plans contained in this profile. In addition, it contains comments and explanations of county leaders and residents, gathered at workshops conducted to review this assessment.

Landscape

Millard County is geographically the third largest county in the state, but is home to one of the smaller populations in the state. The county stretches from forested mountains on the east to the arid desert lands on the Nevada border, with valleys of desert and sagebrush between high mountain ranges, and several large playa areas—remnants of past lakes. The majority of the water and farmland, as well as the larger communities, are found in the eastern half of the county.

Population

Between 1970 and 2000, Millard County grew by 76% to a current population of roughly 12,500 residents, including a spike in the mid 1980's upon the opening of the Intermountain Power Project (IPP). Over 40% of the County's population currently lives in its two largest cities—Delta and Fillmore. A significant number of new dairy industry employees are Hispanic, but are not fully reflected in the recent census.

Economy

Millard County has an agricultural history and has the most acres under cultivation in the Six-County AOG region, including numerous dairy operations and sizable alfalfa fields. The county is adapting to changing trends to maintain their agricultural sector, by branching into agricultural processing and trade such as the Mountain Mushroom Plant, Great Lakes Cheese. The county has also benefited from Interstate 15 and a major railroad corridor, which has made such businesses more viable.

Government, services, and non-farm proprietors also play a strong role in the regional economy and are projected to become the largest share of total employment in coming decades. The most significant economic development in recent years is the construction and expansion of the IPP coal-burning plant near Delta, which provides a large majority of Millard County's tax revenue.

MILLARD COUNTY OVERVIEW

Current Issues

*value-added dairy businesses
for economic development
expansion of Intermountain
Power Plant adding jobs
tribal lands
transportation*

Planning

One of the primary goals of the Six County AOG is to maintain coordination between agencies, and another is to assist Native Americans with their economic development efforts. Southern Paiutes, Paiutes, and Goshute groups in the area have several small holdings on BLM land and strong ties to the Fishlake area. County residents believe that maintaining multiple-use management practices on Federal and State land is a top priority. Recently they have worked with SITLA on fencing proposals that affect grazing. Another matter which requires coordination is water systems. Millard County's system is comprised primarily of isolated waters systems, each operated and maintained independently by volunteer or part-time operators. Many systems are in need of system improvements to provide adequate services to existing and future users. Planning documents reviewed, which were available at the time of this assessment, include:

Millard County, General Plan, 1998

Millard County Regional Water Master Plan, 1999

Six County AOG, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, 2000

Utah State Historical Society, Beehive History: Utah Counties. 1988