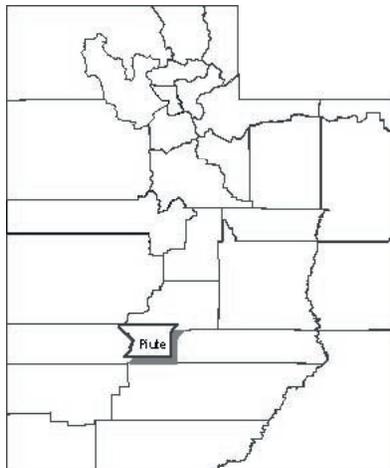


# Piute County

## Local Planning Summary

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



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***PIUTE COUNTY GENERAL PLAN, 1994***

<p><b>Summary &amp; Key Issues</b></p>	<p>Piute County is the second smallest county in Utah, and also has the second smallest economy. The 1994 Plan estimates that 85% of the County land is in public ownership. County residents value the rural lifestyle, and would like to see the public lands managed in ways that would promote the local economy through things such as affordable grazing fees, hunting opportunities, and logging access.</p>
<p><b>Historical Abstract</b></p>	<p>Piute County began as an agricultural area, and remains so today. Metals and minerals became a significant part of the local economy during World Wars I &amp; II, but have since declined.</p>
<p><b>Economic Values</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The local economy is heavily dependent on agriculture and government (Piute School Dist), (p.62).</li> <li>• The Plan supports agriculture by recommending more affordable grazing fees and creating a range improvement incentive program, (p.54).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Environmental Values</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Air quality in Piute County is excellent. Many residents value clean air as a cultural benefit associated with the rural county lifestyle”, (p.78).</li> <li>• “Piute County currently does not have an approved solid waste disposal site” (as of 1994), (p.79).</li> <li>• The entire County (including incorporated cities) uses septic tank systems to dispose of wastewater, (p.80).</li> <li>• The County would like to see better water management of Piute Lake, (p.55).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Social &amp; Cultural Values</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Piute County values the rural life style, clean air, and water it has known over the years”, (p.88).</li> <li>• The County Recreation Master Plan recommends more ATV trails, (p.104).</li> </ul>

<p><b>Public Lands Issues</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Plan estimates that 85% of County land is in Public ownership, (p.2 &amp; 11).</li> <li>• The County would like to give preference to deer over elk in wildlife management, (p.55).</li> <li>• Multiple-use of public lands is in the County’s best interest, (p.56).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Regional Demographic Issues</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Piute Co is the second smallest county in Utah, and also has the second smallest economy, (p.59).</li> <li>• Piute Co’s unemployment rate has been generally been double the average rate for the State, (p.60).</li> <li>• One-third of the County residents live in Circleville, (p.3).</li> </ul>
<p><b><i>PIUTE COUNTY RECREATION and TOURISM PLAN, 1998</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Summary &amp; Key Issues</b></p>	<p>Tourism in Piute County has not played as major a role in the local economy as it has in surrounding counties, but the County would like to encourage it while maintaining their quality of life. Most residents want operation of the public lands and state parks to continue as currently conducted. “Fishlake Forest is a unique and somewhat untapped tourism opportunity for the County.”</p>
<p><b>Historical Abstract</b></p>	<p>The purpose of this plan is to develop an inventory of existing recreation and tourism resources, develop an understanding of the existing tourism industry, and identify opportunities for existing and potential future recreation and tourism in the area.</p>
<p><b>Economic Values</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Tourism in Piute County has not played as major a role in the local economy as it has in surrounding counties”, (p.1&amp;4).</li> <li>• Based on a visitor survey, the primary reason for visiting the County is for “pleasure / vacation”. The most popular activity is fishing, followed by camping, and watching wildlife. Most come for a peaceful and relaxing experience, (p.18).</li> <li>• There are two other travel regions in Southern Utah that are the most direct competition for Piute County (Canyonlands and Color Country), (p.25).</li> </ul>

<p><b>Social &amp; Cultural Values</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The County wishes to expand the role of tourism in its economy while also maintaining its current quality of life, (p.1).</li> <li>• “Most residents want operation of the public lands and state parks to continue as currently conducted – with no user fees for trails and facilities on public lands and no privatization of state park operations”, (p.26).</li> <li>• The Plan makes frequent mention of the Butch Cassidy boyhood home as a potential tourist attraction, (p.43).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Tribal-Specific Issues</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Fremont Indian State Park is a regional tourist attraction”, (p.10).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Forest-Specific Issues</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Fishlake National Forest is an important resource for Piute County, providing water, wildlife, timber, grazing, and mineral resources”, (p.10). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Fishlake Forest is a unique and somewhat untapped tourism opportunity for the County. Camping, picknicking, hiking, hunting, sightseeing, and mountain biking are a few of the activities possible.”</li> </ul> </li> <li>• “The Paiute ATV trail...can be accessed from each community. The main trail is administered by the Forest Service and BLM, with innumerable side trips possible along hundreds of miles of connecting trail”, (p.12).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Public Lands Issues</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 71% of the total land area is administered by the Forest Service or BLM, (p.2).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Regional Demographic Issues</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Piute County is a mostly rural area with little diversification in its economy”, (p.5).</li> <li>• In the US, 13.1 percent of total trips taken by travelers were for outdoor recreation in 1990, while in Utah, 18 percent of all travel trips are for outdoor recreation, (p.15 – citing Utah Tourism Report: 16).</li> <li>• Roughly 66 percent of visitors to Utah visit the Wasatch Front. Panoramaland is the destination for only 2 percent.</li> </ul>

**SIX COUNTY ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS**  
**Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, 2000**

<p><b>Summary &amp; Key Issues</b></p>	<p>The Six County AOG attempts to coordinate economic development efforts with the Six County Economic Development District, and this Plan is their comprehensive strategy. Population is expected to grow in each County. The government services sector is the largest employer in the Region. Tourism/trade is the fastest growing industry, and is expected to provide the greatest number of new job opportunities. One of the primary goals is to maintain coordination between agencies, and another is to assist Native Americans with their economic development efforts.</p>
<p><b>Historical Abstract</b></p>	<p>The Six County Economic Development District (SCEDD) was formed through inter-local agreements by Juab, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, and Wayne Counties. The Plan was guided by the “CEDDS 2000 Steering Committee”. This advisory group comprises elected officials, special interest representation, education, business, labor, industry, agriculture, minority groups, community organizations, unemployment and underemployment.</p>
<p><b>Economic Values</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The government services sector is the largest employer in the Six County Region, (p.8). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Employment in this sector includes public lands management, education, public health and safety, parks and recreation, law enforcement.</li> <li>○ This sector is vital to the area’s economy as higher level salaries are provided.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Tourism/trade is the fastest growing industry within the region. Unlike other major industries within the area, tourism related businesses have experienced significant growth and are expected to provide the greatest number of new job opportunities, (p.8).</li> </ul>

<p><b>Tribal-Specific Issues</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal #2: “conduct and support a reliable and integrated planning in cooperation with all agencies”, (p.15). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ One of the objectives is to “maintain communications with county, community, tribal and other agency planning officials”, and</li> <li>○ Provide technical assistance to counties, communities, and tribal bands in general planning, including development planning, (p.16).</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Goal #6: “assist minority and ethnic populations in achieving their economic development goals and objectives”, (p.20). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Assist Native Americans within the region with their community and economic development efforts, (p.20).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Forest-Specific Issues</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• USFS was a member of the Steering Committee, (p.2).</li> </ul>
<p><b>Public Lands Issues</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal #4: “encourage and identify opportunities to develop more efficient use of natural resources”, (p.19). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Coordinate natural resource development with public land managers to foster multiple-use of public lands”.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Regional Demographic Issues</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Plan predicts that population in all six counties will grow through 2050, (p.6).</li> <li>• Unemployment has been consistently greater in the region when compared with the State and Nation, (p.7).</li> <li>• Currently, public lands dominate with BLM and USFS controlling 72 percent of the total acreage. Private ownership equals only 15 percent. State and other interests control 13 percent, (p.11).</li> <li>• Presently the elected officials directing the economic development efforts of the Region are most interested in the development of industry that will utilize the area’s natural resources, enhance the standard of living, and create family sustaining jobs, (p.12).</li> </ul>

