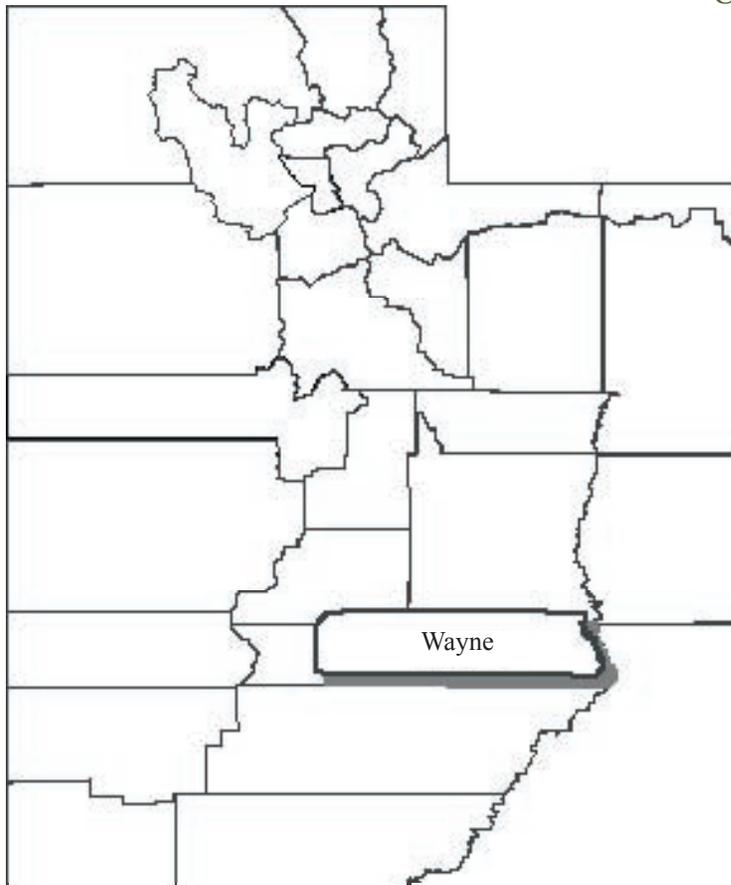


Wayne County Profile

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

Prepared by:
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with assistance from:
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WAYNE COUNTY OVERVIEW



County Land Ownership

56.6%—Bureau of Land Mgt.
 12.7%— Natl. Park/Monument
 10.7% — State Trust Lands
 10.2% — Forest Service
 6.2%— Natl. Recreation Area
 3.6% — Private
 0% —Wilderness Areas
 12.8% —Wilderness Study Area
 (within BLM total)

source: SITLA, 2003

County Planned Uses

96% — No Zoning
 3% — Residential
 1% — Municipal

source: Wayne 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

Wayne County lies entirely within the colorful Colorado Plateau and is primarily dry plateaus and deep canyons in its eastern and central sections and high mountain peaks interspersed with agricultural valleys on its western end. Much of this land has traditionally been used for grazing and raising livestock, which are viewed by many as culturally important industries. Nearly 96% of the land in the county is controlled by federal and state entities. Although only approximately ten percent is controlled by the USFS, these lands are quite important to county residents because the majority of the population lives in close proximity to the forests and many people have close business ties to the forest. Also, county residents utilize parts of the forest that extend into other counties, such as Boulder Mountain, which straddles Wayne and Garfield Counties.

Population

Because of the large amount of public land, population densities in Wayne County are among the lowest in the state, but it has also made the area a desirable place to relocate. The county has seen a steady population growth since 1970 and is expected to continue growing but the median age is one of the highest in the state, and the population continues to age. Many younger couples and families move out of the county for higher paying employment, and this has caused declines in school enrollment. Many new residents are seasonal or establishing retirement homes. The resulting second home ownership is creating a small residential building boom and generating concerns over providing services over a dispersed area. Seasonal employment is also intensifying.

Economy

Agriculture was a dominant industry in Wayne County into the 1980s. The creation of National Forests and National Parks instituted controls and shaped the growth of industries on the forest, especially timber and grazing. But in recent years, agriculture's (including forestry) share of current total employment has declined sharply. Only a handful of families are still solely supported by agriculture, but county residents point out that many families are partially supported by agriculture or consider it important to related business as well

WAYNE COUNTY OVERVIEW

Current Issues

*preserving water quality
law enforcement on public land
roadless areas
second-home ownership
infrastructure & services
protecting local businesses
job creation
preserving agriculture*

as to their lifestyles. Local efforts, such as the Southern Utah Forest Products Association, have recently stepped up to help develop new businesses supported by natural resources. In contrast, the tourism and education sectors have grown significantly. Numerous youth wilderness therapy programs have emerged, such as Aspen Health Services. Tourism, spurred on by Capitol Reef and Canyonlands National Parks as well as recreation on BLM lands, has also experienced steady growth but is still not seen as a substitute for other jobs because it often produces seasonal jobs and not all tourist businesses are locally owned. Government is a large employer and pays some of the higher wages in the county. The limited amount of land owned privately leads the County to look to public lands for economic development opportunities.

Planning

Planning for public lands requires a significant effort on the part of local leaders, and residents would like to improve relations with public land managers in order to coordinate planning and projects that affect both sides. Local residents value and want to protect, their rural, agriculture-based quality of life. Economic development needs to support on agriculture to the same degree it promotes tourism if this lifestyle is to be continued. The influx of new residents, mostly retirees and those working in new industries has complicated planning and economic development efforts as their views often diverge from those of more established residents. New growth will be limited by water supply, limited medical services, and a current shortage of high-wage jobs. Planning documents reviewed, which were available at the time of this assessment, include:

*Wayne County General Plan, 1994; Wayne County Zoning Ordinance (under revision)
Wayne County Water Development Program
Wayne County Travel Council, Capital Reef Area Travel Guide
Six County AOG, Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, 2000
Utah State Historical Society, Beehive History: Utah Counties. 1988*