

Section 4

Profiles

- 4A: Tribal Profiles
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PROFILE CONTENTS

The study area of this social-economic assessment covered a very large geographic region, with numerous different owners, agencies and jurisdictions. Still, the types of information gathered for each entity was similar. Thus, this information was organized into a “profile” that summarizes basic facts and information about each and helps show the tie between different entities and the way decisions may affect one another.

Profiles were created for each tribe, county, and forest within the study area, and for the State of Utah.

This profile format is also intended to:

1. Provide a comprehensive perspective of each entity and help to identify causal relationships,
2. Be consistent and helpful for comparing one area to another, and
3. Be useful for other planning projects.

PROFILE ORGANIZATION

The profiles consist of four parts:

1. Overview
2. Review of their planning documents
3. Maps of political and landscape features, and
4. Economic and demographic data.

The overview contains a summary about the landscape and history of the area. It also highlights significant economic and demographic trends, many of which can be seen in the subsequent economic and demographic data. These overviews are included for every entity.

The review of local planning documents illustrates what the entities said about themselves. It highlights major issues communities are facing and illustrates the planning gaps that jurisdictions are facing. This review was completed primarily for the counties. The tribes have primarily economic development plans, with different content, and thus were not included. Plans for the forest were not summarized as part of the forest profile because they are so extensive and the most relevant ones are currently being updated. Instead, a brief listing of recent forest plans is included in the overview and a longer description of forest planning processes, is included at the beginning of their profile.

The comprehensive mapping shows important natural features, ownership and jurisdictions, and the spatial relationships that shape interactions between the different entities. It was compiled and created using a computerized GIS (Geographic Information Systems) and this data is available on the project CD. Maps were created for each entity, but differ based on the information available for them.

The economic and demographic summary shows a snapshot of current conditions as well as trends for certain indicators. These help show the economic tie between the communities and the lands around them. The specific employment tie to the forest is shown in the analysis in *2B—Economic Linkages*. The State and Tribal profiles contain additional maps showing a comparison of different counties and tribes, respectively.

A CAUTION ABOUT PROFILES

It is important to note that a profile can't accurately capture all of the economic activity that affects the counties. Two of the most significant examples of this are illustrated below. They demonstrate the importance of building communication and relationship networks with local communities in order to acquire specific historical and anecdotal information regarding resource-dependant industries within the study area.

Timber

Timber operations are reliant on National Forest lands because the sole supply of timber in many counties is found on these lands. The profiles show that timber harvesting and processing, while not economically significant on a statewide level, are very important to the localized economies of select counties in the study area. Unfortunately, tracking the direct impact these industries have on local communities is problematic for several reasons. First, in order to avoid disclosure of confidential information, current forestry employment figures for the study area are not made available. One reason behind this is that if only one timber processing employer is located within a county, the county's employment figures for that industry are not disclosed in order to protect the employer's privacy. Second, until recently, forestry-related employment figures had been aggregated with agriculture into one employment category using the Standard Industry Classification Manual (SIC). Recently has a nation-wide shift been taking place to track employment using a newer, and more detailed North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), which breaks forestry, fishing, and related activities out as separate, nonfarm employment categories. For further explanation about these two systems, please see *Appendix A5—Employment Sectors Defined*.

Mining

Oil, gas, and mining play a large role in some of the communities in the study area. Mining frequently experiences booms and busts as commodity prices and supplies fluctuate, but is still a considerable factor in several local economies in Utah. For example, according to the

Utah Dept. of Workforce Services, mining and related industry jobs account for roughly 20% of total nonagricultural employment in Emery County, but account for over 34% of the nonagricultural wages. Under the right conditions, mining can grow, and several counties, including Carbon, Emery, and Juab, are seeing the beginnings of an upswing. This sector, as it relates to the forest, was not directly measured for this study, partly due to the limited amount of control the forest administration exerts on the sub-surface mineral holdings within their boundaries, but specific county histories and trends can be found in *Section 4—Profiles*.

PROFILE REVIEW

At the conception of the Assessment project, it was recognized that data would be gathered from various sources, and that the findings would need to be validated by each of the entities themselves. Different approaches to creating these profiles were taken for each of the entities involved.

Counties adjacent to the forests entered into agreements that designated them as “cooperating agencies” to involve them more fully in creating and reviewing this assessment. Counties were consulted through a series of workshops. These were held in addition to the open houses held by the USFS. The first series of workshops were held jointly between several counties and were coordinated through their respective Associations of Governments. The second series of workshops was held with each County in order to further validate the findings and issues expressed in the draft Assessment and to involve a greater number of people from that locale.

Utah’s American Indian tribes cooperated through Utah Division of Indian Affairs (UDIA), who were contracted as a subconsultant. They worked with each tribe individually to create and review the materials. The project was also presented at two tribal council meetings.

The Tribes note that the numbers presented in this Assessment may not be the most accurate. However, they are presented here because they are the most complete and verifiable. GOPB recommends that users of this data keep this caution in mind. The primary messages that should be taken from the Tribal profiles are the substantial trends that are all of the various data sources would agree on.

The USFS Forest Plan Revision team was asked to review their materials and provide feedback.