



State and Local Resource Management Plans

“Speaking With One Voice”

“Holding the Line”

Dillon Hoyt, Planning Program Manager
Utah’s Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office

Why do we have Resource Management Plans?

First, the planning process allows the county to assess natural resources that play an important role in the local economy and set goals, objectives, and policies for the protection and utilization of those resources.

Second, these plans provide federal land managers with local land use plans that they can take into account when they are engaged in a public planning process for public lands.

Utah Legislation



A first-of-its-kind effort not only in Utah, but nationwide

House Bill 323 (2015)

- Required all 29 counties to develop a resource management plan as part of their **general plan** and established content requirements

House Bill 219 (2016)

- Clarified content, requirements, and provided funding.

House Bill 160 (2022)

- Incorporated and/or enhances the topics of land access, critical minerals and rare earth elements, renewable energy, utility corridors, and pipelines and infrastructure.

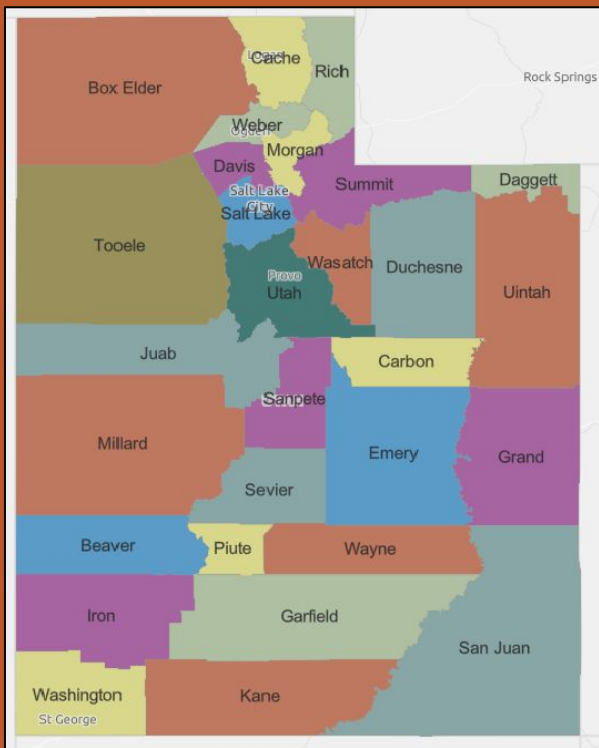
House Bill 39 (2023)

- Top-to-bottom housekeeping edits.

House Bill 76 (2024)

- Incorporated information on mature and old growth forests, environmental justice, updates to the Utah Wildlife Code, and clarified the requirements of consistency reviews and the Congressional Review Act.

County Resource Management Plans (CRMPs)



As directed by the Utah Legislature, all 29 counties adopted a County Resource Management Plan (CRMP) in 2017.

Since 2021, more than half of the counties have also made amendments to include new information on land access, critical minerals and rare earth elements, renewable energy, utility corridors, and pipelines and infrastructure.



State Resource Management Plan (SRMP)



STATE RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT PLAN
JANUARY 9TH, 2023



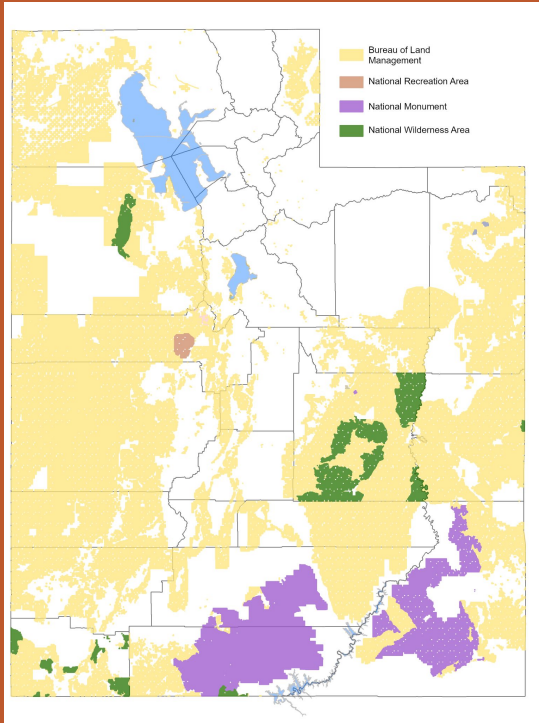
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements.....	3
Introduction.....	4
Economic Considerations.....	9
Agriculture.....	15
Air Quality.....	21
Cultural & Historical.....	29
Ditches and Canals.....	35
Energy Resources.....	39
Fire Management.....	53
Fisheries.....	61
Floodplains & River Terraces.....	67
Forest Management.....	71
Geological & Paleontological.....	79
Irrigation.....	83
Land Access.....	87
Land Use.....	91
Law Enforcement.....	99
Livestock and Grazing.....	101
Mining and Mineral Resources.....	109
Noxious Weeds.....	117
Pipelines & Infrastructure.....	125
Predator Management.....	143
Outdoor Recreation and Tourism.....	147
Riparian Areas.....	151
Threatened & Endangered Species.....	155
Utility Corridors.....	159
Water Rights.....	165
Water Quality and Hydrology.....	169
Wetlands.....	175
Wild and Scenic Rivers.....	179
Wilderness.....	183
Wildlife.....	187
Special Topic: Wild Horses & Burros.....	191

- Introduction
- Findings
- Economic Considerations
- **Goals, Objectives, and Policies**
- State Code

PLPCO coordinates and recommends SRMP amendments to the Utah Federalism Commission annually by August 31st

Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)



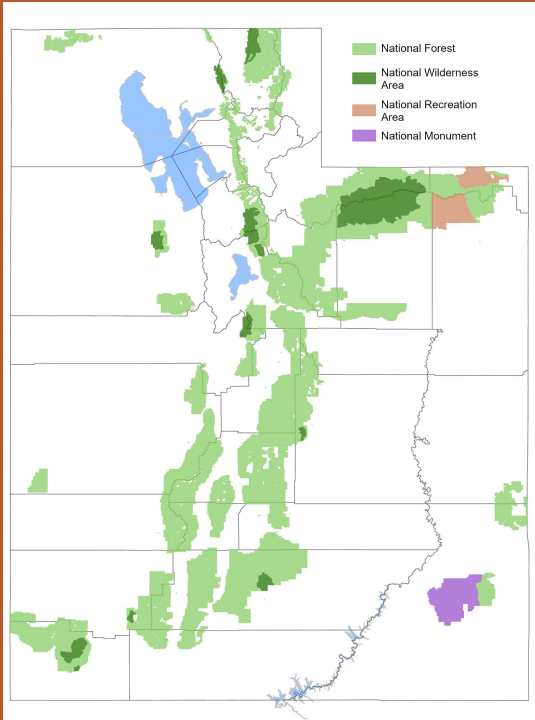
The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLMPA) (FLPMA) (43 USC 1712(c)(9)) states the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land use plans “shall be **consistent with State and local plans** to the maximum extent [the Agency] finds consistent with Federal law and the purposes of this Act.”

BLM requirements under FLPMA are as follows:

- Remain informed of local land use plans;
- Guarantee that local land use plans are given proper consideration;
- Attempt to resolve inconsistencies between local and BLM land use plans; and
- Provide meaningful involvement for local entities early and throughout the decision-making process.

Note: The BLM is terrible at doing taking these plans into consideration, which results a lack of coordination, cooperation, and consistency. Forces litigation.

National Forest Management Act (NFMA)



The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) (16 U.S.C. §1604(a)) requires the Forest Service to coordinate with local governments, but does not specify how the process of coordination is to be accomplished.

Forest Service regulations do require the following:

- The Forest Service must coordinate with local governments.
- Forest Service officials shall review local plans and policies that are relevant to the federal plan. The review will consider the objectives of local plans, the compatibility and interrelated impacts between local and federal plans, opportunities to address impacts and contribute to joint objectives, and opportunities to resolve or reduce conflicts.
 - This review must be included in NEPA documentation.

Note: In Utah, the Forest Service has done a better job taking state and local plans into consideration (e.g. Ashley National Forest Plan Revisions).

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

A Citizen's Guide to NEPA

Having Your Voice Heard



JANUARY 2021

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. § 4321), federal agencies are required to identify possible **conflicts** with state, local, and tribal plans during the environmental-review process and determine the significance of the conflict.

Where an **inconsistency** exists, the review should describe the extent to which the federal agency would reconcile its proposed action with the plan or law.

Coordination

The BLM and Forest Service are required to coordinate their plans (and policy changes) with state and local government plans.

Coordination is a separate process from cooperation, and must occur regardless of whether state or local governments were designated as cooperating agencies.



Cooperation



Cooperating-agency status gives the state or local government early input into NEPA analyses and some ability to shape the goals and framework of a federal proposal.

Federal agencies can designate state and local governments to become formal partners in the NEPA process, as cooperating agencies when it has special expertise with respect to any environmental impact involved in the project proposal.

Federal agencies should request participation of cooperating agencies in the NEPA process at the earliest possible time, using the environmental analysis and proposals of cooperating agencies with jurisdiction by law or special expertise, to the maximum extent possible when consistent with its responsibility as the lead agency.

Consistency

Consistency between federal, state, local, and tribal plans is the desired outcome for the coordination and cooperation processes required of federal agencies.

Early involvement and equal consideration in environmental reviews, as interdisciplinary team members, stakeholders, and cooperating agencies is the State of Utah's main objective and motivation for creation of the County and State Resource Management Plans.

Governor's Consistency Review

After NEPA has been completed, the Governor has a 60-day review period to identify inconsistencies between Final Decision and state and local plans.

After inconsistencies and protests have been considered and resolved to the extent practical with federal law, regulation, and policy, the BLM State Director or Forest Service Regional Forester may approve and adopt a final NEPA decision.



The RDCC, Comment Briefs, and Litigation

The Resource Development Coordinating Committee (RDCC) assists in fulfilling the responsibilities of reviewing and coordinating technical and policy actions that may affect the physical resources of the state and facilitates the exchange of information on those actions among state agencies and other levels of government.

Comment briefs are the written documents and supporting materials that are coordinated and submitted on behalf of the State of Utah. Coordinating internally before submitting a comment brief allows the State of Utah to “speak with one voice.”

Every comment brief submitted through PLPCO contains topic specific references to the goals, objectives, and policies contained within the State and County Resource Management Plans.

Comment briefs also establish a baseline record for potential consistency reviews or litigation.



Example Plans

County Plans:

[Beaver County](#) (Keven Whicker) (best goals and objectives)

[Cache County](#) (Bio-West) (lots of maps and very simple)

[Duchesne County](#) (Mike Hyde) (best goals and objectives)

[Iron County](#) (Mike Worthen) (better formatting)

[San Juan County](#) (Nick Sandberg) (more ambiguous)

[Utah County](#) (Bryce Armstrong) (website based)

* [Utah Resource Management Plan](#) (after county plans)

* Garfield County Colorado (extensive federalism content)

* Establish sideboards for counties and consultants (consistency)



Dillon Hoyt

Planning Program Manager

Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office

385-479-0423

dillonhoyt@utah.gov