

## 1. Agriculture

### a. County Policy:

- i. Washington County supports the agriculture industry, including irrigated agriculture, livestock grazing, orchards, and other methods of food and fiber production.
- ii. Washington County balances the need to produce food, feed, and fiber with private property rights and the need to develop land for growth.
- iii. Washington County's agriculture nuisance policy reflects the state's policy as codified at Utah Code 76-10-803(3).
- iv. Washington County supports efforts to keep local agriculture sustainable into the future.
- v. Washington County supports economic and natural resource based conservation methods in local agriculture.
- vi. Washington County values agriculture as part of the local economy. Utah State Code 4-23-2 states that "...it is important to the economy of the state to maintain agricultural production at its highest possible level..." Accordingly, Washington County strives to protect its agricultural heritage to protect the economy.
- vii. Washington County values agriculture as part of the local farming heritage and culture.
- viii. As required by Utah Code 17-41-201 the county relies on the Agriculture Protection Advisory Board, made up of members of the local conservation district board to assist in creating agriculture protection zones.

### b. Desired Future Conditions/Objectives:

- i. Rural communities have healthy economies that include the agricultural production of food, feed, and fiber.
- ii. Agricultural communities within the county are thriving because of innovation and adaptation.
- iii. Best agricultural practices, including water saving measures, are standard within the county.
- iv. Agricultural land in the county provides open space.
- v. Thriving agriculture helps preserve the culture of the county by providing exposure to traditional Western lifestyle and food production.

### c. Management Actions:

- i. The county will seek cooperating agency status on all federal resource management plans within or affecting Washington County.
- ii. The county will support and facilitate efforts by USU extension, state grazing programs, and any other helpful resources to educate agricultural producers and improve the health of the soil and natural resources.
- iii. The county will consider the agricultural needs of the area when making zoning, taxing, and other administrative and legislative decisions.
- iv. The county will support efforts to educate the public about the importance of agriculture in Washington County.

**d. Maps**

**e. Background of resource use and development:**

- i. The early settlers of this area attempted to grow cotton to provide cloth for the growing Great Basin population. Part of the motivation to send settlers to Washington County was the potential to grow figs, citrus fruit, and other commodities that couldn't be grown on the Wasatch Front.

**f. Detailed explanations as needed:**

- i. Over the past several decades, much of the agricultural land in the county has been converted to allow growth of the communities. While the county strives to protect agriculture and maintain the farming and livestock grazing heritage of the area, the county also protects the rights of property owners to develop their property for other uses. No county agriculture policy should be construed as anti-growth or anti-development. Rather, the county strives to balance the need for growth with the need to preserve the Western agrarian culture of the area.

## **1. Cultural, Historic, Geological, and Paleontological Resources**

### **a. County Policy:**

- i. Washington County supports preserving cultural, historic, geological, and paleontological resources according to state and federal laws.
- ii. Washington County opposes public lands management that restricts public access to enjoy cultural, historic, geological, and paleontological resources except as required by law.
- iii. Washington County favors management that makes cultural, historic, geological, and paleontological resources available for educational purposes that can be enjoyed by the public.

### **b. Desired Future Conditions/Objectives:**

- i. Cultural, historical, geological, and paleontological resources are identified and adequately protected.
- ii. Protected resources contribute to cultural education of the county and also to the economy.

### **c. Management Actions:**

- i. The county will support efforts to catalogue and protect cultural, historical, geological, and paleontological resources.

### **d. Maps**

### **e. Background of resource use and development:**

- i. Washington County is rich with cultural resources.
  1. Native American artifacts
- ii. Washington County is rich with historic resources.
  1. Pioneer homes
  2. St. George historic district
  3. Silver Reef
  4. Harrisburg
- iii. Washington County has unique geology that is one of the defining characteristics of the area.
  1. Red Rock
  2. Black Ridge
- iv. Washington County is rich with paleontological resources
  1. Dinosaur tracks
  2. fossils

### **f. Detailed explanations:**

- i. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 began requiring that any project with a federal undertaking (in very simplistic terms: federal funds or federal permitting) undergo a "Section 106" consultation.
- ii. Utah Code 17-50-326 grants to counties the authority to preserve historical areas or sites.
- iii. Utah Code 76-6-902 makes it unlawful to "intentionally alter, remove, injure, or destroy antiquities" on state land. On private land, permission from the land owner is required.

- iv. Utah Code 9-8-306 provides for designating sites of significance on state, SITLA, or private land.
- v. Utah Code 9-8-401 provides for the State Division of History to maintain a state register of places and sites that are significant in Utah history.
- vi. Utah Code 57-13b-201 provides for the preservation of historic livestock trails.
- vii. Utah Code 79-3-5 govern paleontological resources on state, SITLA, and private land.



## 1. Land Access

### a. County Policy:

- i. Washington County values land access to the maximum extent that respects private property rights.
- ii. Washington County encourages federal land management agencies to ensure maximum access to public lands within the county.
- iii. Washington County maintains recognized roads within the county to ensure adequate access to private property and to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents.
- iv. Determinations about what constitutes a road or what roads will be maintained within the county will be made by the county public works director in accordance with state and federal laws.

### b. Desired Future Conditions:

- i. RS2477 rights of way are open and maintained to the extent necessary to provide access to the public.
- ii. County roads are maintained to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the county.
- iii. Public lands are managed in coordination with the county to meet the demands for public access for multiple uses.

### c. Management Actions:

- i. The county will develop and adhere to a county road maintenance schedule that ensures access to lands within the county.
- ii. The county will support and facilitate efforts state and federal partners to provide access through road construction and maintenance.

### d. Maps

### e. Background of resource use and development:

- i. Property necessary includes access.

### f. Detailed explanations as needed:

- i. RS 2477 was a provision in the 1866 Mining Act that provided for the creation of public rights of way across the public lands. It was repealed in 1976 by FLPMA, but existing RS2477 roads were still recognized. In order to establish a public right of way across the public lands, a road needed to be used for at least 10 years before the statute was repealed. Washington County is involved in an ongoing lawsuit with the BLM to establish which routes in the county are RS2477 rights of way.
- ii. Utah Code 72-3-1 governs highways in the state including county roads.

## **1. Livestock and Grazing**

### **a. County Policy:**

- i. Washington County supports the ranching industry.
- ii. Washington County opposes any loss of AUMs absent scientific proof of resource degradation.
- iii. Washington County values the livestock industry as part of the local economy.
- iv. Washington County values livestock grazing as part of the local ranching heritage and culture.
- v. Washington County recognizes the Utah grazing agricultural commodity zones created by Utah Code 63J-105.8.
- vi. Washington County encourages livestock operators to keep records of forage yield and utilization rates to help facilitate continued livestock grazing.

### **b. Desired Future Conditions/Objectives:**

- i. Rural communities have healthy economies with livestock grazing as a contributor.
- ii. All resource management planning within the county involves active participation from the county.
- iii. AUMs within the county remain at or above current levels unless a scientific need for reduction is demonstrated to the satisfaction of the county.
- iv. Livestock raising is a vibrant part of the agrarian, Western culture of the county.
- v. Grazing rights are managed under best grazing practices including the time/timing/intensity model.
- vi. All grazing management plan acknowledge and consider the cultural and economic importance of the livestock industry to the county.

### **c. Management Actions:**

- i. The county will seek cooperating agency status on all federal resource management plans within or affecting Washington County.
- ii. The county will support and facilitate efforts by USU extension, state grazing programs, and any other helpful resources to educate grazers about best management practices and improve the health of the rangelands and grazing resources.
- iii. The county will zealously advocate for the livestock industry with state and federal partners.

### **d. Maps**

#### **Background of Resources use and development**

#### Historical Practices

*“Survival was the Goal.” – Heber Jones<sup>1</sup>*

Settlers began arriving in Washington County in the 1850's. The climate and terrain were rugged which made farming difficult. Because of this, most settlers turned to livestock production as a means of survival. In these early days of the county, livestock (mostly cattle and sheep) were the hub of the community. Nearly every family raised livestock for their own subsistence in addition to selling a few animals. By the 1870's, every family had at least one individual who became the rancher of the family.

As a result of the desert climate, the settlers that came to the county could not obtain a sufficient amount of private land to support enough livestock for subsistence and commercial needs. Because of this, settlers who ranched had to rely heavily on public lands to graze their livestock, especially the Beaver Dam Slope in the winter and Pine Valley in the summer. From this period until 1934 when the Taylor Grazing Act was passed, there were no formal allotments or grazing fees. Instead the range was open but every rancher knew who had rights to which areas, usually tied to water rights and a history of grazing in that area. After 1934, the culture of ranching continued in the county but ranchers were required to have private base property in order to qualify for allotment rights to adjacent land. Unfortunately, this change forced some ranching families out of business but, ranching remained a central focus for many in the county.

### Modern Practices

*“[I] ranch[] because I like it. And, [it] is the way of life that I want.” – Kelton Hafen<sup>2</sup>*

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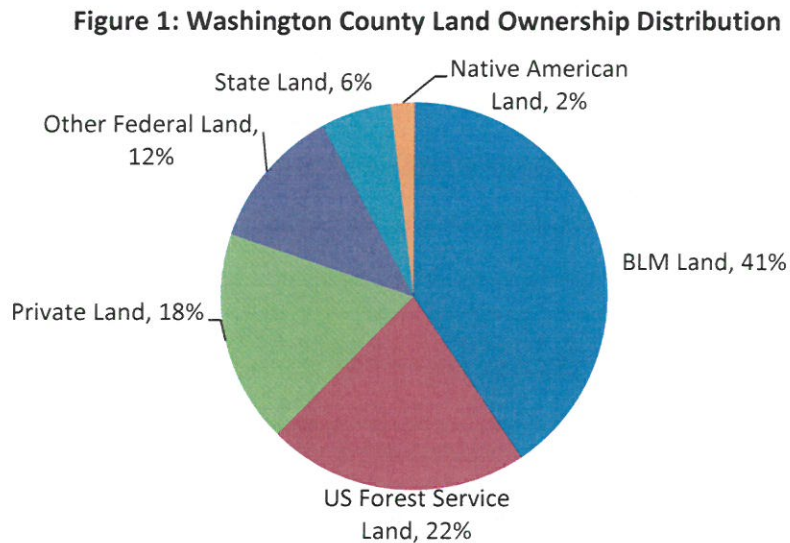
<sup>1</sup> *Ranching on Utah Hill and the Beaver Dam Slope*. The Alder-Brooks Oral History Collect #94-013, Dixie State College of Utah, St. George, Utah. August 22, 1994. Pg. 9.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 8.

Today ranching still plays an important and prominent role in Washington County. In 2006 livestock and livestock products constituted 84.31% of the total agricultural receipts in the county.<sup>3</sup> In addition to the economic importance, many ranchers continue to ranch to carry on the culture that the county was founded with and honor the heritage of settlers of the past.

Currently, every rancher in the county has a Cow-Calf operation in which a cow raises a calf to seven or eight months old and then the calf is sold to a stocker operation which then raises the calf to market weight. The majority of these operations are run within immediate and extended families although the ranchers share fences and water with one another and trial animals across each other's land when needed.

Like early settlers, ranchers in Washington County still rely very heavily on grazing livestock on public lands, since only 18% of the county is held in private ownership, see Figure 1 below.<sup>4</sup>

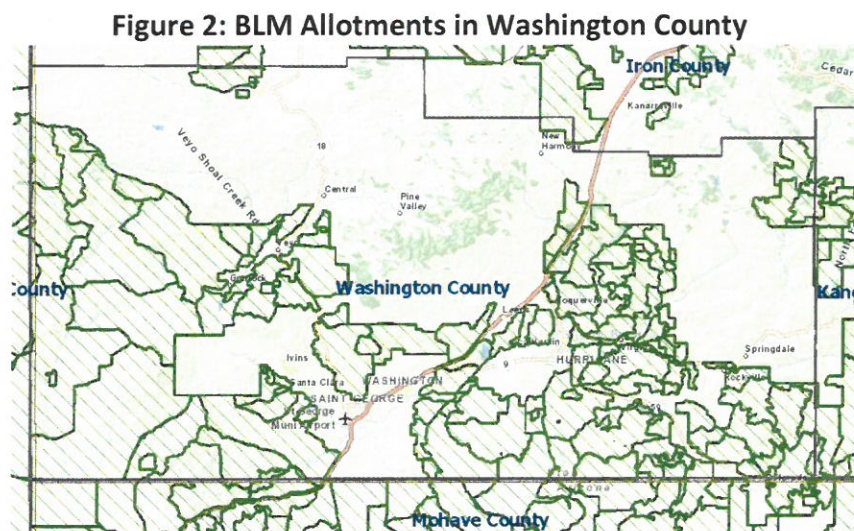


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<sup>3</sup> E. Bruce Godfrey. *Livestock Grazing in Utah: History and Status: A report for the Utah Governor's Public Lands Policy Coordination Office*. Utah State University. December 2008. Figure 5. Pg. 7.

<sup>4</sup> Data gathered from Id. at 16.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the largest land holder in the county (41% of land within the county) and the primary agency involved in fall, winter, and spring ranching. Most of this land is shrub and grassland on the west side of the county, see Figure 2 below.<sup>5</sup> The BLM administers 99 allotments within the county, consisting of approximately 560,000 acres.<sup>6</sup> These allotments are usually handed down generationally. More than half of the allotments hold ten cows or less, two hold horses, and no allotments hold sheep. Utilizing these allotments are 89 operators, including organizations which are counted as one operator. A total of 28,424 AUMs are authorized for livestock use, of which 30-40% are used yearly due to range conditions and operators' choice. AUMs that are suspended due to range conditions are rarely, if ever, reinstated.



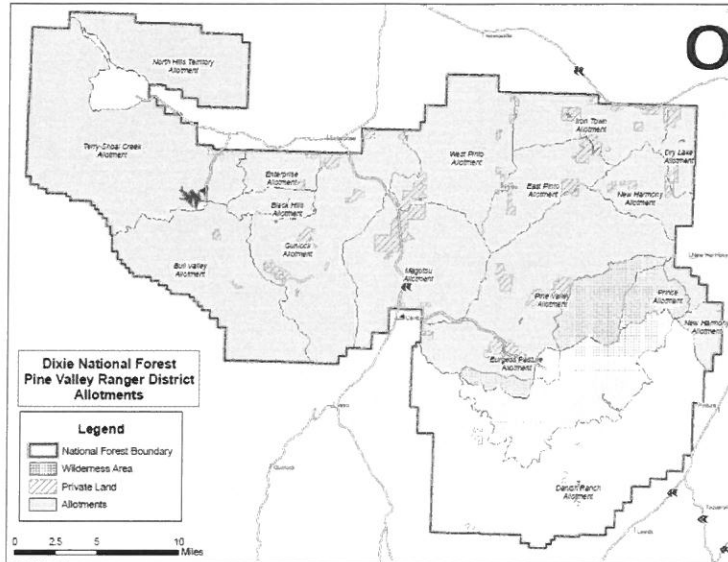
The United States Forest Service is the second largest land holder in the county at 22% of the land within the county. Ranchers utilize Forest Service land primarily in the summer in the Pine Valley area, see Figure 3 below.

**Figure 3: Dixie National Forest Allotments**

<sup>5</sup> Map generated from geocommunicator.gov. <http://www.geocommunicator.gov/blmMap/Map.jsp?MAP=GA>

<sup>6</sup> St. George Field Office, Bureau of Land Management. [http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/st\\_\\_george/grazing\\_.html](http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/st__george/grazing_.html)





From the first settlers to modern ranchers, livestock grazing has been central to the culture and heritage of Washington County and will continue to be an integral part of the community for years to come.

## 1. Noxious Weeds

### a. County Policy:

- i. Washington County supports comprehensive weed management that reduces or eradicates seed sources for noxious weed infestations.
- ii. Washington County supports efforts to secure the agricultural commodities and aesthetic beauty of the county against weed infestations.
- iii. Washington County supports wildfire suppression efforts through weed control.
- iv. In compliance with Utah Code 4-17-4, Washington County has a weed board to manage noxious weed control within the county.

### b. Desired Future Conditions/Objectives:

- i. Noxious weed infestations are documented, mapped, and being actively managed.
- ii. The public is aware of noxious weeds and educated about how to manage noxious weeds.
- iii. The county works cooperatively with private, municipal, state, and federal partners to locate and manage noxious weeds.

### c. Management Actions:

- i. The county will maintain the county weed board.
- ii. The county will work cooperatively with state and local governments to continuously update and improve the county weed plan.
- iii. The county will support efforts by USU extension, private land owners, municipalities, and others to identify and control noxious weeds.
- iv. The county will maintain a county noxious weed list which identifies plants that are harmful within the county.
- v. County weed management will reflect state policy (codified at Utah Code 4-17-7) The county, through the county weed board, will determine whether land owners need to be notified of noxious weed problems or declared nuisances.

### d. Maps

### e. Background of resource use and development:

- i. Noxious weeds are identified on state and county noxious weed lists.
- ii. Noxious weeds interfere with the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of the county because they choke out native plants, interfere with agricultural production, create fire hazards, etc.

### f. Detailed explanations as needed:

- i. Utah's noxious weed list can be found at [www.utahweed.org](http://www.utahweed.org)
- ii. Washington County's noxious weed list can be found at

## **1. Predator Control**

### **a. County Policy:**

- i. Washington County supports efforts to control predators.
- ii. Washington County opposes allowing predators to infringe on private property rights.
- iii. Washington County supports finding local solutions to predator concerns.
- iv. Washington County opposes introducing any new predators into the ecosystem without consultation with and consent of the county commission.

### **b. Desired Future Conditions/Objectives:**

- i. Predators are managed to be balanced with native plants and animals along with private property rights and economic needs in the county.
- ii. The public understands the importance controlling predators and actively participates in control programs.

### **c. Management Actions:**

- i. The county will work with federal, state, and municipal partners to manage predators.
- ii. The county will work with federal, state, and municipal partners to determine predator control needs.

### **d. Maps**

### **e. Background of resource use and development:**

- i. Historically, settlers protected livestock by hunting predators. Over the years, government trappers, hunters, and residents have killed wild animals that were considered a threat to humans or domestic animals. Currently, predator control is mostly managed by the state or federal agencies.

### **f. Detailed explanations:**

- i. Specific details about the state predator control program can be found at [www.wildlifeutah.gov](http://www.wildlifeutah.gov).



## 1. Threatened and Endangered Species

### a. County Policy:

- i. Washington County adheres to federal law and reasonable practices in protecting threatened, endangered, and sensitive species.
- ii. Washington County opposes listing any new species as threatened or endangered without proper scientific evidence.
- iii. Washington County opposes introducing any new protected species into the county without full cooperation and approval from the county.
- iv. Washington County support finding local solutions to protect sensitive species in an effort to prevent federal listing.

### b. Desired Future Conditions/Objectives:

- i. All existing federally listed species are recovered to the point of being delisted.
- ii. Residents are educated about and implementing best practices for protecting species.
- iii. Local conservation efforts suffice to preclude the need for any future listings.

### c. Management Actions:

- i. The county will work cooperatively with state wildlife agencies and the USFWS to determine and implement best management practices for protecting sensitive, threatened, and endangered species.
- ii. The county will support and facilitate efforts educate the public about best management practices.
- iii. The county will continue to manage the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve and the desert tortoise habitat conservation plan in the best interest of recovering the desert tortoise population.

### d. Maps

### e. Background of Resources use and development

Washington County respects and values the diverse wildlife that is found within its borders. Because of this, the county follows the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, and all regulations relating to it, to ensure that sensitive, threatened, and endangered species can thrive in the county. According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, “under the ESA, species may be listed as either endangered or threatened. ‘Endangered’ means a species is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. ‘Threatened’ means a species is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.” U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, *ESA Basics*, [https://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/ESA\\_basics.pdf](https://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/ESA_basics.pdf), accessed July 18, 2016.

Species found within the county that are federally listed as threatened or endangered:

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Federal Status</u>
California Condor	Gymnogyps Californianus	Experimental Population, Non-Essential
Desert Tortoise	Gopherus Agassizii	Threatened

Dwarf Bear-Poppy	Arctomecn Humilis	Endangered
Gierisch Mallow	Sphaeralcea Gierischii	Endangered
Holmgren Milk-Vetch	Astragalus Holmgreniorum	Endangered
Mexican Spotted Owl	Strix Occidentalis Lucida	Threatened
Shivwitz Milk-Vetch	Astragalus Ampullarioides	Endangered
Siler Pincushions Cactus	Pediocactus (=Echinocactus, =Utahia) Sileri	Threatened
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	Empidonax Trailii Extimus	Endangered
Virgin River Chub	Gila Seminuda (=robusta)	Endangered
Woundfin	Plagopterus Argentissimus	Endangered
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Cucyzus americanus	Threatened

This data was collected from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service website, <https://www.fws.gov/endangered/>, on July 7, 2016.

The State of Utah also lists species classified as Wildlife Species of Concern (SPC) and Species Receiving Special Management under a Conservation Agreement in order to preclude the need for federal listing (CS). Species found within the county that are listed as SPC or CS:

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>State Status</u>
Allen's Big-Eared Bat	Idionycteris phyllotis	SPC
American Three-Toed Woodpecker	Picoides dorsalis	SPC
American White Pelican	Pelecanus erythrorhynchos	SPC
Arizona Toad	Bufo microscaphus	SPC
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	SPC
Big Free-Tailed Bat	Nyctinomops macrotis	SPC
Black Swift	Cypseloides niger	SPC
Bluehead Sucker	Catostomus discobolus	CS
Bonneville Cutthroat Trout	Oncorhynchus clarkii Utah	CS
Burrowing Owl	Athene cunicularia	SPC
Common Chuckwalla	Sauromalus ater	SPC
Desert Iguana	Dipsosaurus dorsalis	SPC
Desert Night Lizard	Xantusia vigilis	SPC
Desert Springsnail	Pyrgulopsis deserta	SPC
Desert Sucker	Catostomus clarkia	SPC
Ferruginous Hawk	Buteo regalis	SPC
Flannelmouth Sucker	Catostomus latipinnis	CS
Fringed Myotis	Myotis thysanodes	SPC
Gila Monster	Heloderma suspectum	SPC
Greater Sage-Grouse	Centrocercus urophasianus	SPC
Kit Fox	Vulpes macrotis	SPC
Lewis's Woodpecker	Melanerpes lewis	SPC



Long-Billed Curlew	Numenius americanus	SPC
Mohave Rattlesnake	Crotalus scutulatus	SPC
Mountain Plover	Charadrius montanus	SPC
Northern Goshawk	Accipiter gentilis	CS
Pygmy Rabbit	Brachylagus idahoensis	SPC
Short-Eared Owl	Asio flammeus	SPC
Sidewinder	Crotalus cerastes	SPC
Speckled Rattlesnake	Crotalus mitchellii	SPC
Spotted Bat	Euderma maculatum	SPC
Townsend's Big-Eared Bat	Corynorhinus townsendii	SPC
Virgin Spinedace	Lepidomeda mollispinis	CS
Western Banded Gecko	Coleonyx variegatus	SPC
Western Red Bat	Lasiurus blossevillii	SPC
Western Threadsnake	Leptotyphlops humilis	SPC
Western Toad	Bufo boreas	SPC
Wet-Rock Physa	Physella zionis	SPC
Zebra-Tailed Lizard	Callisaurus draconoides	SPC

This data was collected from the Utah Natural Heritage Program's Biodiversity Tracking and Conservation System (BIOTICS), which was last updated October 1, 2015.

## Detailed Explanations

### 1. Federally listed Species with special plans

Washington County, under Section 10 of the ESA, is part of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) in conjunction with the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Natural Resources, and School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration to protect the Desert Tortoise in the county. The HCP provides for protection of the Tortoise and allows for development that is vital to the people and economy of the county. Below is a summary of the status of the Desert Tortoise. The current HCP can be found at [https://www.fws.gov/ecos/ajax/docs/plan\\_documents/thcp/thcp\\_355.pdf](https://www.fws.gov/ecos/ajax/docs/plan_documents/thcp/thcp_355.pdf).

<b>Desert Tortoise</b>	<b>Biology and Life History</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
<i>Gopher Agassizii</i> Tier I <i>Reptile</i>	Frequents desert washes, riverbanks, dunes and rocky slopes. Requires firm ground for burrow construction. Also uses shelters among rocks and exposed, eroded caliche layers in wash walls. Herbivores must have adequate ground moisture	In 2003, desert tortoise density estimates showed a 47% population decline within Management Zone 3 of the Red Cliff Desert Reserve and a 41% decline throughout the Reserve since regional monitoring began in 1998. Both estimates indicate a biologically significant	Mojave and Sonora deserts. Southwest corner of Washington County, Utah; Southern Nevada; Southeastern California;

	for survival of eggs and young. A clutch of 1 to 12 eggs is deposited in ground in May-July. Usually one clutch is laid per year but two clutches are possible when conditions are favorable.	downward trend for 2003. This trend was influenced by the severe drought in 2002, which likely contributed to the 2003 tortoise decline.	southwestern Arizona; Mexico.	
<b>General Threats</b>	<b>Specific Threats</b>	<b>General Conservation Actions</b>	<b>Specific Conservation Actions</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Development	Municipal development eliminates available habitat	Habitat Monitoring and Research	Construct road culverts along heavily used roads that bisect the Reserve. Monitor culvert use. Finalize and implement tortoise fencing standards across the range of the desert tortoise.	H
Disease	Upper Respiratory Track Disease	Test and Monitor	Assess health of populations across the range of the desert tortoise	H
Energy Development	Utility development impacts available habitat	Habitat Monitoring and Research	Monitor habitat degradation and fragmentation from utility development projects. Control/minimize impacts of utility development projects where feasible.	M
Habitat Loss	Habitat destruction and fragmentation	Permanent Conservation of Habitat	Acquire remaining habitat under federal ownership. Maintain habitat integrity.	M
Human Disturbance	Predation by domestic animals and human recreation	Control and Monitor Disturbance	Monitor recreation impacts within the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve and other areas	H
Invasive Animal Species	Predation by ravens and feral animals	Control and Monitor	Monitor raven predation within the	H



		Invasive Species	Red Cliffs Desert Reserve	
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Data gathered on July 18, 2016 from Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, Publication Number 05-19, [https://wildlife.utah.gov/cwcs/11-03-09\\_utah\\_cwcs\\_strategy.pdf](https://wildlife.utah.gov/cwcs/11-03-09_utah_cwcs_strategy.pdf)

## 2. State Listed Species with Special Plans

The State of Utah has classified five species as Species Receiving Special Management under a Conservation Agreement: Bluehead Sucker, Bonneville Cutthroat Trout, Flannelmouth Sucker, Northern Hoshawk, and Virgin Spinedace. Details of these five species and the methods being used to protect them can be found below.

### Bluehead Sucker:

<b>Bluehead Sucker</b> <i>Catostomus Discobolus</i> Tier 1 Fish	<b>Biology and Life History</b> Widely distributed in the Colorado River Basin. Occur in mainstem rivers and tributary streams from the mouth of the Grand Canyon upstream to headwater reaches of the Green and Colorado rivers. Large adults live in water as deep as 2 to 3 meters and commonly seek cover in the form of pools and undercut banks. Adults almost always found in areas with moderate to fast current and rocky substrates. Larval and juvenile forms use shallower, low-velocity shoreline and backwater areas. Bluehead suckers spawn in spring and early summer at lower elevations and into late summer at higher elevations.	<b>Population</b> Bluehead suckers are found in most historical habitats though declines have been noted in the White River and in the upper Green River into Wyoming. The species is locally abundant in all of the three major sub-drainages of the San Rafael River. In the Bonneville Basin, however, blueheads were only found in the Weber River in 2003 and 2004 and in no streams surveyed in 2005 (Bear, Ogden, and Weber).	<b>Distribution</b> Bluehead sucker are found in the mainstem Green, Colorado, and San Juan rivers and smaller tributaries including the Duchesne, White, Strawberry, Price, San Rafael, Fremont, and Escalante rivers and Muddy Creek. Bluehead sucker are also found in the Weber, Ogden, and Bear rivers in the Bonneville basin.	
	<b>General Threats</b>	<b>Specific Threats</b>	<b>General Conservation Actions</b>	<b>Specific Conservation Actions</b>

Hybridization	Loss of genetic integrity through hybridization with white sucker and sometimes flannelmouth sucker	Control and Monitor Invasive Species	Remove nonnative white suckers from bluehead spawning locations	H
Invasive Animal Species	Competition with and predation by a variety of introduced esocids, ictalurids, centrarchids, and cyprinids	Control and Monitor Invasive Species	Remove nonnative predators and competitors from important life history locations	H
Lack of Information	Population status and trends not fully known	Population Monitoring and Research	Determine population status and trends	H
Lack of Information	Life history and habitat needs not entirely known	Habitat Monitoring and Research	Determine habitat needs of all life history stages	H
Water Development	Habitat fragmentation due to development of streams and rivers (dams, diversions)	Determine and Map Distribution	Identify areas that need to be connected and implement appropriate actions	M

Data gathered on July 18, 2016 from Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, Publication Number 05-19, [https://wildlife.utah.gov/cwcs/11-03-09\\_utah\\_cwcs\\_strategy.pdf](https://wildlife.utah.gov/cwcs/11-03-09_utah_cwcs_strategy.pdf). For additional information on the Bluehead Sucker and efforts being made to protect the species, see the Division of Wildlife Resources' Range-wide Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Roundtail Chub, Bluehead Sucker, and Flannelmouth Sucker, [https://wildlife.utah.gov/pdf/UT\\_conservation\\_plan\\_5-11-07.pdf](https://wildlife.utah.gov/pdf/UT_conservation_plan_5-11-07.pdf).

### **Bonneville Cutthroat Trout:**

<b>Bonneville Cutthroat Trout</b>	<b>Biology and Life History</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
	Bonneville cutthroat trout historically occupied both streams and lakes within the Bonneville Basin. They	In a recent status review biologists identified approximately 4,400 miles of stream as historic habitat and	Bonneville cutthroat trout are native to the Bonneville Basin of Utah. Bonneville

<p><i>Oncorhynchus Clarkii</i> Utah Tier I Fish</p>	<p>need habitats with cool, well oxygenated water. Adults spawn in streams from April to July depending on the elevation of occupied habitat. Stream populations typically mature at 2 – 3 years of age while some lake populations may mature later. Eggs are deposited in depressions dug in gravel-riffle areas. Fish less than 15 inches in length typically feed on insects or zooplankton while larger fish begin feeding more on small fish. Brown and brook trout compete with Bonneville cutthroat trout for food and space. Rainbow trout and other subspecies of cutthroat trout can hybridize with Bonneville cutthroat trout populations.</p>	<p>Bonneville cutthroat trout currently occupy 1,515 miles of stream or 34% of the historic range. Approximately 1,000 stream miles were identified as having population expansion potential. Twenty miles had high potential and 34 miles had intermediate potential for restoration and expansion.</p>	<p>cutthroat trout are found in the Bear River, Provo, Weber, and Sevier River drainages as well as some other smaller drainages.</p>	
<b>General Threats</b>	<b>Specific Threats</b>	<b>General Conservation Actions</b>	<b>Specific Conservation Actions</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Habitat Loss	Loss and fragmentation of streams and riparian habitats from dams, diversions, channelization, grazing, recreation, fire and agriculture	Conserve Suitable Habitat	Work with land management agencies and private landowners to conserve remaining good habitat	H
Habitat Loss	Loss and fragmentation of streams and riparian habitats from dams, diversions, channelization, grazing, recreation, fire and agriculture	Restore Degraded Habitats	Work with land management agencies and private landowners to restore habitat	H



Habitat Loss	Loss and fragmentation of streams and riparian habitats from dams, diversions, channelization, grazing, recreation, fire and agriculture	Habitat Monitoring and Research	Monitor habitat to establish trends in condition and management	M
Invasive Animal Species	Stocking of non-native species where Bonneville cutthroat trout exist or where stocked fish can migrate into occupied areas	Control and Monitor Invasive Species	Discontinue direct stocking of non-native, especially fertile non-natives	H
Invasive Animal Species	Stocking of non-native species where Bonneville cutthroat trout exist or where stocked fish can migrate into occupied areas	Control and Monitor Invasive Species	Produce sterile non-natives for stocking where they produce important sport fisheries but have contact with native cutthroat trout populations	H
Hybridization	Hybridization and competition with non-native species	Control and Monitor Invasive Species	Chemically or physically remove non-native salmonids	H
Harvest	Over harvest of adults from existing population	Control and Monitor Disturbance	Place special fishing regulations on waters if needed	M
Disease	Loss of significant numbers of Bonneville cutthroat trout due to various diseases	Test and Monitor Disease	All hatcheries stocking fish into Utah waters must be disease certified	M
Disease	Loss of significant number of Bonneville cutthroat trout due to various diseases	Education and Outreach	Educate anglers and the public about how	M



			they can help reduce the spread of disease	
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Data gathered on July 18, 2016 from Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, Publication Number 05-19, [https://wildlife.utah.gov/cwcs/11-03-09\\_utah\\_cwcs\\_strategy.pdf](https://wildlife.utah.gov/cwcs/11-03-09_utah_cwcs_strategy.pdf). For additional information on the Bonneville Cutthroat Trout and efforts being made to protect the species, see the Division of Wildlife Resources' Range-wide Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Bonneville Cutthroat Trout, <https://wildlife.utah.gov/pdf/cacs7.pdf>.

**Flannelmouth Sucker:**

<b>Flannelmouth Sucker</b>	<b>Biology and Life History</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Distribution</b>
<i>Catostomus Latipinnis</i> Tier I Fish	Typically inhabit pools and deeper runs of larger rivers in the Colorado River Basin. Range thought to be limited by cool water temperatures as they are not usually found above 1,880 meters elevation. Substrate preferences appear to vary from mud and silt to cobble and gravel, though adults appear to prefer hard substrates. Spawn in May and June in Utah and are thought to time spawning on a variety of environmental cues. Young fish appear to use lower velocity habitats than adults and are frequently found in backwaters, eddies, side channels, and shallow riffles.	Flannelmouth sucker appear to be persisting in almost all historical habitats. Most populations have likely experienced declines; however, accurate estimates are not available for most populations of the species. Flannelmouth were thought to be common in the mainstem Green River in 2004, though population estimates from 2001 to 2004 display a possible declining trend, though not statistically significant. In the San Rafael River, flannelmouth are thought to be experiencing a lack of successful spawning. This inability to pull off a successful spawn could be the result of limited or reduced nursery habitat. Flannelmouth are	Flannelmouth are found in the Virgin, White, middle and lower Green, Duchesne, Strawberry, Price, San Rafael, San Juan, Colorado, Fremont, Dolores, and Escalante rivers in Utah.

	Are thought to have large home ranges and to need both mainstem and tributary habitats for their various life stages.	considered common in the mainstem Escalante.		
<b>General Threats</b>	<b>Specific Threats</b>	<b>General Conservation Actions</b>	<b>Specific Conservation Actions</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Hybridization	Loss of genetic integrity through hybridization with white sucker and sometimes bluehead or razorback sucker	Control and Monitor Invasive Species	Remove nonnative whitefish from flannelmouth spawning locations	H
Invasive Animal Species	Competition with and predation by a variety of introduced esocids, ictalurids, centrarchids, and cyprinids	Control and Monitor Invasive Species	Remove nonnative predators and competitors from important life history locations	H
Lack of Information	Population status and trends not fully known	Population Monitoring and Research	Determine population status and trends	H
Lack of Information	Life history and habitat needs not entirely known	Habitat Monitoring and Research	Determine habitat needs of all life history stages	H
Water Development	Habitat fragmentation due to development of streams and rivers (dams, diversions)	Determine and Map Distribution	Identify areas that need to be connected and implement appropriate actions	M

Data gathered on July 18, 2016 from Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, Publication Number 05-19, [https://wildlife.utah.gov/cwcs/11-03-09\\_utah\\_cwcs\\_strategy.pdf](https://wildlife.utah.gov/cwcs/11-03-09_utah_cwcs_strategy.pdf). For additional information on the Flannelmouth Sucker and efforts being made to protect the species, see the Division of Wildlife Resources' Range-wide



Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Roundtail Chub, Bluehead Sucker, and Flannelmouth Sucker, [https://wildlife.utah.gov/pdf/UT\\_conservation\\_plan\\_5-11-07.pdf](https://wildlife.utah.gov/pdf/UT_conservation_plan_5-11-07.pdf).

**Northern Goshawk:**

<b>Northern Goshawk</b> <i>Accipiter Gentilis</i> Tier I Bird	<b>Biology and Life History</b> Goshawks nest in large diameter trees (primarily coniferous and aspen forests in Utah) but require relatively open understories in which to forage (primarily for birds)	<b>Population</b> Information on population trend is limited and controversial. Kennedy (1997) found that goshawk densities (abundance) are highly variable, and show no downward trend. There are no reliable statewide trend estimates for Utah.	<b>Distribution</b> In the West, goshawks are patchily distributed; in Utah, the species is limited primarily to conifer and aspen forests. Goshawk habitat patches appear to be fairly well connected and allow for goshawk dispersal	
<b>General Threats</b>	<b>Specific Threats</b>	<b>General Conservation Actions</b>	<b>Specific Conservation Actions</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Habitat Loss	Changes in connectivity among suitable habitat stands	Conserve suitable habitat	Maintain and strengthen connectivity of habitat	H
Habitat Loss	Loss of large diameter trees (conifers and aspen) to fire, insects, harvest	Restore degraded habitat	Increase number and distribution of large diameter trees	H
Habitat Loss	Loss of large diameter trees (conifers and aspen) to fire, insects, harvest	Protect significant areas	Avoid removal of existing nest trees and stands	H
Lack of Information	Limited knowledge of statewide population trends and productivity	Population monitoring and research	Monitor populations and productivity	H

Data gathered on July 18, 2016 from Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, Publication Number 05-19, [https://wildlife.utah.gov/cwcs/11-03-09\\_utah\\_cwcs\\_strategy.pdf](https://wildlife.utah.gov/cwcs/11-03-09_utah_cwcs_strategy.pdf). For additional information on the Northern Goshawk and efforts being made to protect the species, see the U.S. Forest Service’s Conservation Assessment of the Northern Goshawk, Black-Backed Woodpecker, Flammulated Owl, and Pileated Woodpecker in

the Northern Region,

[http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5130737.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5130737.pdf).

**Virgin Spinedace:**

<b>Virgin Spinedace</b>	<b>Biology and Life History</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Distribution</b>	
<p><i>Lepidomeda Mollispinis</i> Tier I Fish</p>	<p>The Virgin Spinedace life span can be as long as three years. Spawning season extends through most of the spring and continues into early summer. The primary factors affecting the reproductive cycle are photoperiod and water temperature. Sexual dimorphism is slight, but is most pronounced during the peak spawning period. Based on collections, age 1 fish ranged between 55-76 mm SL and age 2 fish ranged between 76-85 mm SL. The largest collected fish during the sampling period was 128 mm SL. Virgin Spinedace rarely exceed 88 mm SL.</p>	<p>Virgin Spinedace is confined to the Virgin River Basin, inhabiting the Virgin River mainstem and several tributary streams. Population is stable in the mainstem above the Quail Creek Diversion. Current tributary population status: North Fork, (population stable), East Fork (population stable), North Creek (population increasing since augmentation), La Verkin Creek (population low but stable), Ash Creek (populations extirpated), Moody Wash (populations fluctuating), Santa Clara (population low but re-introduction projects underway), Lytle Ranch (population stable), and Motoqua (populations fluctuating).</p>	<p>Historically, Virgin Spinedace distribution included the mainstem Virgin River and several tributaries in southwestern Utah, northwestern Arizona, and southeastern Nevada. In Utah, Virgin Spinedace are monitored along the mainstem Virgin River and several tributaries to the Virgin River since 1994. Tributaries include the following: North Fork, East Fork, North Creek, La Verkin Creek, Ash Creek, Moody Wash, Santa Clara and Lytle Ranch. Limited Virgin Spinedace populations occur in the Virgin River and Beaver Dam Wash in Nevada and Arizona.</p>	
<b>General Threats</b>	<b>Specific Threats</b>	<b>General Conservation Actions</b>	<b>Specific Conservation Actions</b>	<b>Priority</b>
<p>Invasive Animal Species</p>	<p>Competition with and predation by a variety of introduced</p>	<p>Control and Monitor Invasive Species</p>	<p>Chemical and mechanical removal of red</p>	<p>H</p>



	escocids, ictalurids, centrarchids, and cyprinids		shiner and other species	
Water Development	Habitat fragmentation due to development of streams and rivers (dams, diversions).	Restore Degraded Habitats	Protect and conserve flows and riparian habitat. Re-establish permanent flows and Virgin Spinedace population in the Santa Clara River below Gunlock Reservoir; provide fish passage/screening at diversion structures	H
Water Development	Diversions causing entrapment	Control and Monitor Disturbance	Modify diversions	M
Limited Distribution	Occurs in limited area and number	Restore Degraded Habitats	Maintain Virgin spinedace refuge populations and implement re-introduction projects (Santa Clara, Beaver Dam Wash, North Creek); implement Zion Canyon floodplain/riparian corridor restoration and associated Virgin Spinedace monitoring	M
Habitat Loss	Degradation and fragmentation of habitat. Flow depletions degrade water quality (temp., turbidity, dissolved oxygen), during summer low flow periods.	Conserve Suitable Habitat	Evaluate and assess population status and trends. Implement limiting factors, studies, sediment management, and flow augmentation studies.	H

Data gathered on July 18, 2016 from Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, Publication Number 05-19, <https://wildlife.utah.gov/cwcs/11-03->

[09 utah cwcs strategy.pdf](#). For additional information on the Virgin Spinedace and efforts being made to protect the species, see the Division of Wildlife Resources' Virgin Spinedace Conservation Strategy, [https://wildlife.utah.gov/pdf/spinedace\\_strategy.pdf](https://wildlife.utah.gov/pdf/spinedace_strategy.pdf).

In addition to the five species classified as Species Receiving Special Management under a Conservation Agreement, special attention is being paid in Washington County to protect the Gila Monster.

**Gila Monster:**

<b>Gila Monster</b> <i>Heloderma</i> <i>Suspectum</i> Tier II <i>Reptile</i>	<b>Biology and Life History</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Distribution</b>	
	Inhabits rocky canyon bottoms or washes.	Population size and trends unknown.	Found in localized portions of Washington County	
<b>General Threats</b>	<b>Specific Threats</b>	<b>General Conservation Actions</b>	<b>Specific Conservation Actions</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Human Disturbance	Predation by domestic animals and human recreation	Protect significant areas	Prioritize and protect undisturbed areas with fencing or other restrictions	H
Development	Municipal and industrial development eliminating available habitat	Protect significant areas	Prioritize and protect undisturbed areas with zoning and/or acquisitions; seek habitat restoration opportunities.	M
Harvest	Subject to illegal collection	Education and Outreach	Complete and distribute educational brochure	M

Data gathered on July 18, 2016 from Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Utah Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy, Publication Number 05-19, [https://wildlife.utah.gov/cwcs/11-03-09 utah cwcs strategy.pdf](https://wildlife.utah.gov/cwcs/11-03-09_utah_cwcs_strategy.pdf). For more information on the Gila Monster, visit the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve website, <http://www.redcliffsdesertreserve.com/wildlife/banded-gila-monster-heloderma-suspectum>.

## 1. Wilderness

### a. County Policy:

- i. Washington County supports management of existing wilderness according to federal law.
- ii. Washington County opposes creation of new wilderness areas in the county.
- iii. Washington County favors management that maximizes the public's enjoyment of existing wilderness including maximum access.

### b. Desired Future Conditions/Objectives:

- i. Existing wilderness is ecologically healthy and supports appropriate recreation.
- ii. Land that is not designated as wilderness by Congress is not managed like wilderness.

### c. Management Actions:

- i. The county will seek cooperating agency status on all federal resource management plans that relate to Washington County.
- ii. The county will actively participate with federal partners in making wilderness management plans.
- iii. The county will actively oppose the creation of new wilderness areas inside the county.

### d. Maps

### e. Background of resource use and development:

- i. In 1964, the passage of the Wilderness Act gave Congress the authority to declare wilderness areas as part of a National Wilderness Preservation System. The Wilderness Act gave the Forest Service 10 years to review areas that might be eligible for designation as national wilderness areas and make recommendations to Congress.
- ii. In 1976, when FLPMA was passed, BLM was given 15 years to study possible wilderness areas (WSAs) and make recommendations to the President who would then make a recommendation to Congress for designation. In the interim between wilderness study and designation decisions by Congress, wilderness study areas were to be managed so as not to impair the wilderness characteristics. Because of controversy surrounding the process and results of BLM inventories, Congress has not made designation decisions in most areas. Lands determined to be WSAs are being managed for nonimpairment pending designation decisions.
- iii. Washington County, largely to settle the wilderness question, entered into a cooperative process to create a lands bill that could be passed by Congress. After several years of participation by local, state, and federal governments as well as landowners, environmental groups, etc., Washington County's lands bill was passed by Congress and signed by the President in 2009 as part of the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act (OPLMA).

- f. OPLMA designated over a quarter of a million acres as wilderness areas and released all undesignated lands from further study. As a result of this legislation, Washington County does not have WSAs. Designated wilderness is managed by the agency that managed the land before designation, either Forest Service or BLM.
- g. Because of the lands bill and the release language, Washington County will adamantly oppose any new wilderness areas in the county as well as any management of any undesignated areas in a way that amounts to wilderness management.
- h. Detailed explanations:**
  - i. Designated Wilderness Areas (see maps):
    1. Beartrap Canyon, approximately 40 acres, BLM
    2. Blackridge, approximately 13015 acres, BLM
    3. Canaan Mountain, approximately 44531 acres, BLM
    4. Cottonwood Canyon, approximately 11712 acres, BLM
    5. Cottonwood Forest, approximately 2643 acres, USFS
    6. Cougar Canyon, approximately 10409 acres, BLM
    7. Deep Creek, approximately 3284 acres, BLM
    8. Deep Creek North, approximately 4262 acres, BLM
    9. Doc's Pass, approximately 17294 acres, BLM
    10. Goose Creek, approximately 98 acres, BLM
    11. LaVerkin Creek, approximately 445 acres, BLM
    12. Red Butte, approximately 1537 acres, BLM
    13. Red Mountain, approximately 1829 acres, BLM
    14. Slaughter Creek, approximately 3901 acres, BLM
    15. Taylor Creek, approximately 32 acres, BLM
    16. Red Butte, approximately 1537 acres, BLM
    17. Zion, approximately 124406 acres, ZNP



## 1. Wildlife

### a. County Policy:

- i. Washington County recognizes the authority of the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and wildlife board in managing the wildlife in the county.
- ii. Washington County supports wildlife management that seeks an optimal balance between wildlife populations and human needs.
- iii. Washington County opposes any federal land management that infringes on state jurisdiction over wildlife.
- iv. Washington County values wildlife as an important part of the ecology and beauty of the county.
- v. Washington County values game hunting as part of the economy of the county.
- vi. Washington County values game hunting as part of the custom and culture of the county.

### b. Desired Future Conditions/Objectives:

- i. Healthy wildlife populations support local ecology.
- ii. Thriving wildlife populations provide wildlife viewing and hunting experiences for residents and visitors to the county.
- iii. Hunting continues to be part of the economy and traditions of the area.

### c. Management Actions:

- i. The county will seek cooperating agency status on all federal resource management plans that relate to Washington County to ensure that state jurisdiction over wildlife is preserved.
- ii. The county will actively participate with state partners in making wildlife management plans.
- iii. The county will cooperate with all partners to avoid listing of any wildlife species in the county.

### d. Maps

### e. Background of resource use and development:

- i. Hunting provides food and recreation for Washington County families and visitors who come from other areas to enjoy hunting in the county. Licensed hunting, during hunting season, is an important tradition in this area. Lawful hunting of rabbits, coyotes, and other small game makes are also important parts of the local culture. Hunting also contributes to the economy of the county by bringing in hunters and supporting the sporting goods industry.

### f. Detailed explanations:

- i. Utah Code 23-15-2 establishes that the state has jurisdiction of all wildlife in the state, including aquatic wildlife, whether on public or private land.
- ii. Utah Code 23-14-1 the power to manage wildlife in the Utah Department of Wildlife Resources.

- iii. Utah Code 4-23-2 declares that preserving the wildlife resources of the state is important to the economy of the state.