Survey Results for Public Lands
Executive Summary

Utahns want a balance of uses on public lands, including habitat, natural areas, energy production, grazing, and recreation, all done responsibly with good stewardship.

• Current circumstances:
  • Over 70% of Utah is public land owned by state or federal agencies.
  • There are many competing uses for public lands.

• Survey findings:
  • Fifty-four percent of Utahns want a balance of uses that includes natural areas as well as energy development.
  • Utahns want public lands managed to maintain and improve ecosystem and watershed health, promote energy self-sufficiency, provide recreational access, and foster jobs and economic development.
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The public lands action team worked for 18 months to create scenarios for the future of public lands in Utah.

Envision Utah and Governor Herbert invited public land experts from across the state to join the Your Utah, Your Future action team for the topic. The team has 65 members from the legislature, industry, local businesses and government, advocacy groups, research institutions, and other organizations. The action team is facilitated by Envision Utah.

The study concluded that Utahns value their public lands for habitat and natural beauty, access to recreation, and a variety of uses that promote economic development.

The action team worked for 18 months to research and model what Utah’s public lands future could be like in 2050 under various assumptions. They created four scenarios based on different strategies and outcomes for land usage. Based on the public’s responses in the Your Utah, Your Future survey, the action team will create a vision for Utah’s public lands future.
Agriculture, Public Lands, & Recreation Action Team Members

Action team members were selected by Governor Gary Herbert and Envision Utah to represent a spectrum of experience and political persuasions. All action team members were invited to participate by Governor Herbert.

- Leonard Blackham, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food, Retired Commissioner*
- Kathleen Clarke, Public Lands Policy Coordination Office, Director*
- Wendy Fisher, Utah Open Lands*
- Brad Peterson, Governor's Outdoor Rec Office, Director*
- Wayne Niederhauser, District 9, Utah State Senator
- Laura Hanson, Jordan River Commission, Executive Director
- Mike Styler, Department of Natural Resources
- Brent Tanner, Utah Cattlemen, Executive Vice President
- Ashley Patterson, Wasatch Community Gardens
- Warren Peterson, Farmland Reserve, Vice President
- Brad Barber, Barber Consulting
- Selma Sierra, Energy Dynamics Laboratory, Director of Energy and Environmental Policy
- Ashley Korenblat, Public Land Solutions
- Ron Vance, Forest Service, Recreational and Resource Manager
- Jon Hardman, Natural Resource Conservation Service
- John Fairchild, Division of Wildlife Resources
- Mark Clemens, Sierra Club Utah Chapter, Manager
- Jack Draxler, Utah State Legislature District 3
- Thayne Mickelson, Utah Conservation Commission
- Nathan Rafferty, Ski Utah, President
- George Sommer, Blue Ribbon Fisheries Commission, Chair
- Julia Geisler, Salt Lake Climbers Alliance, Executive Director
- Eric Sadler, Wasatch Mountain Club
- Mark Compton, Utah Mining Association, President
- LaNiece Davenport, WFRC Regional Planner
- Sarah Hinters, U of U Metropolitan Research Center
- John Bennett, Utah Quality Growth Commission
- Larry Crist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Julie Peck Dabling, Salt Lake County Open Space & Urban Farming
- David Ure, Summit County Council (Former legislature)
- Vicki Varella, Managing Director Utah Office of Tourism
- Lynn Jackson, Grand County Council
- LuAnn Adams, Box Elder County Commission
- Gordon Topham, Sevier County Commissioner
- Elizabeth Tubbs, Grand County Council
- Gene Ciarus, Grand County Council
- Bruce Adams, San Juan County Council
- Roger Barrus, Utah House of Representatives District 18
- Mike Noel, Utah State Legislature, District 73
- Ralph Okerlund, Utah State Senator, District 24
- David Hinkins, Utah State Senator, District 27
- David Garbett, SUWA
- Randy Parker, Utah Farm Bureau
- John Mathis, Utah State Legislature, District 55
- Curtis Rowley, Cherry Hill Farms
- Scott Chew, Cattle and Sheep Uintah Basin
- Ed Sunderland, Sanpete County farmer
- Alma Adams, Iron County Commissioner
- Logan Wilde, Iron County Commissioner
- Kent Peatross, Duchesne County Commissioner
- Kerry Gibson, Weber County Commissioner
- Mike Kohler, Wasatch County Council
- Juan Palma, BLM state director
- Evan Vickers, Utah State Senator, District 28
- Kay McIff, Utah State Legislature, District 70
- Douglas Sagers, Utah State Legislature, District 21
- Peter Knudson, Utah State Senator, District 17
- Jim Dabakis, Utah State Senator, District 2
- David Livermore, Nature Conservancy, Utah State Director
- Alan Matheson, Governor's Office
- Chris McCandless, Sandy City Council
- John Evans, Petzl Climbing Equipment
- Mallory Bateman, Utah Foundation
- LuAnn Adams, Utah Department of Agriculture and Food
- JoanDegiorgio, Nature Conservancy
- Layne Jones, Mountain Accord
- Hans Erbar, U of U Department of Economics
- Brandie Balken, Equality Utah
- Tara McKee, Governor's Outdoor Rec Office
- Wesley Smith, Salt Lake Chamber
- Michael Merrill, Salt Lake Chamber
- Dustin Rowley, Utah Association of Conservation Districts

*Action Team Co-Chair
Projections show that Utah’s population will nearly double by the year 2050. The *Your Utah, Your Future* survey was designed for Utahns to create a vision for the State of Utah for the next 35 years.

Envision Utah performed a values study to understand *what* Utahns care about regarding the future and *why* those issues are personally important to them. The study identified eleven key issues: agriculture, air quality, recreation, disaster resilience, public lands, transportation and communities, housing and cost of living, education, energy, jobs and economy, and water.

Four-hundred Utah experts worked in eight task forces to identify Utah’s choices for each of the 11 topics. The information and options in the survey were the direct findings of these taskforces.

The *Your Utah, Your Future* survey was designed to prioritize issues and their associated outcomes in order to make strategic decisions for Utah’s future. Nearly 53,000 people weighed in on the future that they want to create in 2050.
The Challenge:
By 2050, Utah’s population will nearly double in size. Utah will not.

TODAY THERE ARE

2,900,000
PEOPLE IN UTAH

BY 2050 THERE WILL BE

5,400,000
PEOPLE IN UTAH
The *Your Utah, Your Future* survey asked Utahns to indicate their choices for Utah’s Future on 11 specific issues.

- Housing & Cost of Living
- Education
- Agriculture
- Air Quality
- Transportation & Communities
- Economic Development
- Disaster Resilience
- Recreation
- Water
- Public Lands
- Energy
Survey participants then chose between five overall scenarios for Utah’s future, with each overall scenario proposing a set of choices for the 11 specific issues.
Our goal was for 50,000 Utahns to take the *Your Utah, Your Future* survey about their desires for the future for Utah.

**Goal**
- 50,000 Respondents

**Actual**
- 52,845 Respondents
The *Your Utah, Your Future* survey garnered more public participation than any such project ever has.

The original *Envision Utah 1999* survey held the record with 17,500 public response for many years.
YOUR FUTURE
Envision Utah
How we grow matters

Survey Methodology
Utahns were invited to participate in two parts of the survey. In the first part:

Survey participants chose among five overall scenarios for Utah’s future.

Each overall scenario was made up of a set a choices on 11 different topics.

- Housing & Cost of Living
- Education
- Agriculture
- Air Quality
- Transportation & Communities
- Economic Development
- Disaster Resilience
- Recreation
- Water
- Public Lands
- Energy
Participants compared the different options within each topic and selected their preferred scenarios for that specific topic.

They were provided with in-depth information and background data for each of the topics and choices.
After making selections for each of the 11 topics, participants could study a summary comparison chart and vote on their preferred overall scenario.
In the second part of the survey, Utahns participated in more traditional survey exercises.

Together, the results of parts one and two of the survey allow a sophisticated analysis of what Utahns want, why they want it, and what they’re willing to do to achieve their goals.
Detailed Survey Methodology

Each part of the survey had different goals and provided important information.

**SCENARIO SELECTIONS**

1. Educate Utahns on the key issues facing the state
2. Quantify preferences for issue-specific outcomes
3. Identify areas of consensus and disagreement across issues
4. Quantify preferences for defined scenarios

**TRADE-OFF SURVEY**

1. Force Utahns to prioritize importance / level of concern for all issues
2. Quantify importance of outcomes related to specific issues
3. Assess willingness to make trade-offs in order to reach desired outcomes
A random sample survey of Utahns was used to cross-check outreach results.

**OUTREACH SAMPLE**
Utahns that heard about the survey through Envision Utah’s outreach efforts and went to the website to vote
- School outreach
- Digital media
- Partner organization emails and posts
- Radio advertisements
- News coverage

**Total participants: 52,845**

**RANDOM SAMPLE**
A statistically representative sample of Utahns randomly sampled to participate in the survey
- Direct email
- Physical mail (postcard invitations)
- Phone recruiting

**Total participants: 1,264**
Survey Participation

All Participants participated in Part One

Outreach Participants had the option to participate in Part Two

All Random Sample Participants participated in Part Two
Outreach and Random Sample participant responses were very much aligned across issues and preferences.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue “Favoriting”</th>
<th>+/- 3%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scenario Vote</td>
<td>+/- 4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue Prioritization</td>
<td>+/- 1.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Importance of Outcomes</td>
<td>+/- 2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trade-off Willingness</td>
<td>+/- 7%</td>
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“**We can conclude that the results represent the desires and opinions of Utahns.**”

“Results were obtained via the largest public outreach effort in the history of Utah, resulting in public input from more than 50,000 people; an effort that was cross-checked with a random sample of 1,264 Utahns, and overseen by Dan Jones & Associates.”

—Cicero; Dan Jones & Associates
Envision Utah performed a values study in 2014 to understand what Utahns care most about regarding the future.

Public Lands Values
Utahns want their public lands managed for habitat and natural beauty, to ensure the ability to recreate and enjoy the outdoors with family and friends, and to provide a variety of uses that promote economic development.
In the *Your Utah, Your Future* survey, Utahns were given information about Utah’s public lands today and four different scenarios for what our public land usage could be like in 2050 depending on the choices we make.
Utah’s Public Lands Today

- Over 70% of Utah land is public.
- There are many competing uses ranging from energy development to habitat preservation. Demands are growing as Utah grows.
Questions Concerning the Future of Public Lands

• How will we balance competing uses?
• Will we increase or decrease energy production (fossil fuels and renewables)?
• How much of the public lands will be managed to preserve natural character and for recreation (hiking, fishing, hunting, camping, etc.)?
• How much grazing and other agriculture will happen on public lands, and how will it be managed?
By 2050, more public lands are used for high-intensity purposes.

- Energy production and other uses increase
- No increase in lands managed for natural character
- Statewide jobs, economic development, and tax revenue increase
- Ecosystem health declines
Public lands are managed like today.

- No increase in energy production or other uses
- No increase in lands managed for natural character
- Statewide jobs, economic development, and tax revenue stay the same
- Ecosystem health stays the same
By 2050, more of our public lands are used for low-intensity purposes.

- Energy production and other uses decrease
- More lands are managed for natural character
- Statewide jobs, economic development, and tax revenue decrease
- Ecosystem health improves
Advocates for different uses compromise. By 2050, public lands are used for a *balance* of high-intensity and low-intensity purposes.

- Energy production and other uses increase
- More lands are managed for natural character
- Statewide jobs, economic development, and tax revenue increase
- Ecosystem health improves
In the 2014 values study, Utahns ranked all 11 issues as being important to Utah’s future. The 2015 survey used a sophisticated technique to force a “weighting” of the issues, providing a wider gradation of concern.

Source: Survey – Keeping in mind that between now and the year 2050, Utah will almost double in population, please consider how important each of the following issues is to you. Considering only these four issues, which is the Most Important and which is the Least Important as you think about Utah’s future?
Results of the random sample survey evidenced greater concern for housing & cost of living, taxes, and disaster resilience than public lands.
Your Utah. Your Future.

Source: Website – Select your favorite public lands outcome(s) from the 4 presented below for Utah in 2050. Consider public land use and the impact each outcome proposes to resources, the economy, and the environment.

OUTREACH
n = 52,845

### Issue-specific Scenarios

**% “Favorite” Selections, n=18,991**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Selection</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seagull and Quaking Aspen</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance of high- and low-impact uses (preservation, energy, etc.)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sego Lily</td>
<td>29%</td>
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<tr>
<td>More lands for nature &amp; preservation; less energy production, grazing, etc.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allosaurus</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More energy production, grazing, etc.; no new preservation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonneville Trout</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public lands are managed like today</td>
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### What Utahns Want:

54% of Utahns selected a public lands scenario with a balance of uses.

29% chose a scenario in which Utah sets aside more land for nature and preservation.

11% chose a scenario in which Utah sets aside more land for energy production and grazing.

Only 8% want to have public lands managed as they are today.
Why Utahns Want a Balanced Approach to Public Lands:
Utahns want to maintain ecosystem and watershed health as well as ensure we have enough land for energy production, recreation, economic development, and grazing/agriculture.

**Importance of Outcomes**

*Average % Allocated, n=4,875*

- Maintaining and improving ecosystem and watershed health: 22%
- Ensuring Utah can produce enough energy to meet its own needs: 18%
- Ensuring we have access for low-impact recreation (hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, climbing, backcountry winter sports, etc.) on public lands: 17%
- Maximizing statewide jobs and economic development: 15%
- Ensuring public lands are available for grazing/agriculture: 11%
- Maximizing rural Utah jobs and economic development: 11%
- Ensuring we have access for high-impact recreation (off highway vehicles, etc.) on public lands: 6%

Source: Survey – Please indicate each outcome’s relative importance by allocating 100 points across all outcomes. The more points you allocate to a given outcome, the more important it is to you to achieve that outcome.
Willingness to Make Tradeoffs to Preserve Public Lands

% Level of Willingness, n=4,875

- We will not be able to do as much intensive recreation (e.g., off-highway vehicles) on public lands
  - 9% Not At All Willing
  - 9% 19% 18% 44% Very Willing

- We will not be able to develop as much access for motorized vehicles to public lands
  - 8% Not At All Willing
  - 10% 24% 20% 38% Very Willing

- We will not be able to develop some potential energy sources (fossil fuels and renewables) on public lands
  - 16% Not At All Willing
  - 24% 29% 13% 19% Very Willing

- We will not have as much grazing or agriculture on public lands
  - 17% Not At All Willing
  - 25% 30% 14% 15% Very Willing

What Utahns are willing to do to preserve public lands:
Utahns are very willing to limit intensive recreation (e.g., OHVs) and avoid developing more access for motorized vehicles on public lands. Utahns are less willing to limit energy development and grazing.

OUTREACH
n = 52,845

Source: Survey – Please indicate your willingness to make each trade-off in order to improve Utah's wilderness preservation. Outcomes:
- Less public lands used for energy or intensive recreation
- Improved ecosystem and watershed health
- We will not have as much grazing or agriculture on public lands
- We will not be able to do as much intensive recreation (e.g., OHVs) on public lands
- We will not be able to develop as much access for motorized vehicles on public lands
- We will not be able to develop some potential energy sources (fossil fuels and renewables) on public lands
- We will not have as much grazing or agriculture on public lands

Cicero Dan Jones & Associates Public Opinion & Market Research
Willingness to Make Tradeoffs to Use Public Lands Intensively

% Level of Willingness, n=4,875

We will have to impact some undeveloped public land that otherwise would have been managed for natural characteristics or low-impact recreation (e.g., hiking)

Ecosystem and watershed health may decline in some places

What Utahns are willing to do to use lands intensively:
Utahns are somewhat willing to impact some undeveloped land. They are very unwilling to cause ecosystem and watershed health to decline.

Source: Survey – Please indicate your willingness to make each trade-off in order to increase Utah’s public land use. Outcomes:
- More energy development
- Intensive recreation
- Grazing/agriculture on undeveloped lands
- Economic benefits and meet energy needs
In addition to the specific results from public lands questions, a number of results from other topics show support for both energy production and recreation on public lands.
Willingness to Make Tradeoffs for Natural Gas Production

% Level of Willingness, n=4,924

1. More land will need to be used for natural gas wells, which have environmental impacts
   - 16% Not At All Willing
   - 23% Somewhat Willing
   - 34% Very Willing
   - 16% Somewhat Willing
   - 11% Very Willing

2. There will be more air pollution emissions in rural Utah (where the energy is produced) than if we used other energy sources, but fewer than today, because today we are primarily using coal for our electricity
   - 20% Not At All Willing
   - 22% Somewhat Willing
   - 31% Very Willing
   - 16% Somewhat Willing
   - 10% Very Willing

3. There will be more carbon dioxide emissions (which are implicated in climate change) than if we used other energy sources, but fewer than today, because today we are primarily using coal for our electricity
   - 20% Not At All Willing
   - 23% Somewhat Willing
   - 31% Very Willing
   - 15% Somewhat Willing
   - 10% Very Willing

4. We will be vulnerable to supply shocks/price spikes because of reliance on a single energy source that is shipped throughout the country
   - 24% Not At All Willing
   - 34% Somewhat Willing
   - 30% Very Willing
   - 8% Somewhat Willing

Source: Survey – Please indicate your willingness to make each trade-off in order to focus on natural gas as the primary energy source in Utah. Outcomes:
- Costs of electricity would stay as low as possible

Utahns are somewhat willing to use more land for natural gas wells.
Utahns are very willing to use more land for renewable energy production.

Willingness to Make Tradeoffs for Renewable Energy
% Level of Willingness, n=4,924

- Reduction in air pollutants in rural areas
- Reduction in carbon dioxide emissions
- Reduction in the potential for energy supply disruptions

Source: Survey – Please indicate your willingness to make each trade-off in order to increase renewable energy in Utah. Outcomes:
- Reduction in air pollutants in rural areas
- Reduction in carbon dioxide emissions
- Reduction in the potential for energy supply disruptions
What Utahns Want:

79% of Utahns selected a recreation scenario in which Utah’s recreation facilities were expanded to prevent crowding.

Source: Website – Select your favorite recreation outcome(s) from the 4 presented below for Utah in 2050. Consider the number of new facilities and their cost.

Issue-specific Scenarios
% “Favorite” Selections, n=19,021

- **Quaking Aspen**
  - More trails, campgrounds, etc.; tourism promoted; little crowding
  - 42%

- **Seagull and Sego Lily**
  - More trails, campgrounds, etc.; tourism NOT promoted; little crowding
  - 37%

- **Bonneville Trout**
  - Some new trails, campgrounds, etc.; some crowded facilities
  - 16%

- **Allosaurus**
  - Few new trails, campgrounds, etc.; crowded facilities
  - 6%
**Importance of Outcomes**

Average % Allocated, n=4,824

- Maximizing economic benefits to Utah through tourism: 20%
- Providing good access to nearby outdoor recreation facilities (trails, parks, etc.): 18%
- Providing good access to weekend/destination recreation (campgrounds, hiking/OHV trails, state and national parks/monuments/recreation areas, etc.): 18%
- Minimizing how much crowding there is in our outdoor recreation facilities (parks, campgrounds, picnic areas, parking lots, trails, etc.): 15%
- Growing the outdoor recreation industry in Utah (equipment manufacturing, etc.): 11%
- Minimizing conflicts between user groups: 10%
- Limiting how much we spend on outdoor recreation facilities (parks, campgrounds, picnic areas, parking lots, trails, etc.): 8%

**Why Utahns Want to Improve Recreation:**
Utahns want to have easy access to a variety of recreation opportunities and to prevent crowding.

Source: Survey – Please indicate each outcome’s relative importance by allocating 100 points across all outcomes. The more points you allocate to a given outcome, the more important it is to you to achieve that outcome.
83% of Utahns would support designating another state or national park. Of those, 31% support a new park only if it doesn’t mean adding significant new land use restrictions.
The Survey is still available!
Visit envisionutah.net to view the choices for public lands and each of the 11 topics in the Your Utah, Your Future survey.