Developing a County Resource Management Plan
State of Utah’s H.B. 323 – Resource Management Planning by Local Governments

This bill:

▪ requires a county to develop a resource management plan as a part of the county's general plan;

▪ establishes content requirements for a county's resource management plan;

▪ requires the state to provide information and technical assistance to a county;

▪ requires a county planning commission to coordinate with other counties;

▪ establishes a county's general plan as a basis for coordinating with the federal government;

▪ establishes administrative duties of the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office with regard to county resource management plans
...as a basis for communicating and coordinating with the federal government on land and resource management issues.

The general plan shall contain a resource management plan to provide for the protection, conservation, development, and managed use of resources that are critical to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the county and of the state.

The resource management plan shall:

- be centered on the following core resources ---

For each item listed under [core resources], a county's resource management plan shall:

(i) establish any relevant findings pertaining to the item;
(ii) establish clearly defined objectives; and
(iii) outline general policies and guidelines on how the objectives described are to be accomplished.
Funding Utah’s County Resource Management Plans

- Community Impact Board - $50,000 per county to each of the seven Association of Governments (AOG)
  - Data Collection

- Utah State Legislature - $50,000 per county
  - Report preparation
  - $25,000 up-front
  - $25,000 upon completion/adoption
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<th>Resources</th>
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<td>- air quality</td>
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<td>- cultural, historical, geological, and paleontological resources</td>
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<td>- ditches and canals</td>
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Pulling it all together

Create Resource Committee

Gather Relevant Resource Data

“Existing Conditions”

Develop Resource Objectives

“Desired Conditions”

Develop Policies and Guidelines

Assemble Plan

Conduct Public Hearings

Adopt Plan

Reimbursement from State
• State agency and university resource specialists were identified
  • Templates created
  • Drafts reviewed

• AOGs created a database of information that counties could utilize
  - Wasatch Front Regional Council
  - Southeast Utah Association of Local Governments

• Writing workshops were held regionally

• Regional webinars and file sharing
3. Geothermal Energy

Geothermal power is cost-effective, reliable, and sustainable and is environmentally friendly. See Map 9 showing sources of geothermal energy in Beaver County. There are three geothermal electric plants operating in the state of Utah, and all are located in Beaver County.

The Blundell Geothermal Power Plant at Roosevelt Hot Springs northeast of Milford has been in continuous operation since 1984. Production wells exceed 520°F with a depth range of 2,100 to 6,000 feet. The Blundell Plant produces 44.8 MW of electricity. There are plans to expand the plant to increase capacity by 30 MW.

The Sulphurdale Plant built near Cove Fort in 1985, has been in continuous operation since 2013. The production wells tap a shallow vapor dominated resource at depths ranging from 1,100 to 1,200 feet. The plant currently has the capacity to produce 25 MW. Planned expansions will increase capacity to up to 40 MW.

The Thermo Hot Springs geothermal plant, located west of Minersville, began operations in March of 2009. It currently produces 14 MW of electricity, which is contracted to the city of Anaheim, California.
1. To fulfill its responsibilities to its citizens including:
   a. To protect and expand the tax base and promote economic activity that provides a high standard of living;
   b. To provide the necessary county services for its residents and visitors;
   c. To provide a quality environment for the enjoyment and use of its citizens, including protection of local values and lifestyles;
   d. To represent the interests of its residents in coordinating the planning, management and regulatory activities of other local, state and federal agencies; and
   e. To protect the private property rights of its citizens including their ability to make choices concerning the development of resources on their land in harmony with community plans and zoning ordinances;

2. To take a more central role in the planning, management, and regulatory activities of federal, state and local agencies;

3. To demand that public land management agencies produce and maintain desirable vegetation for watershed protection, healthy timber, wildlife forage and livestock forage that is necessary to meet present and future needs and future economic growth and community expansion without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land; and

4. To enhance and expand hydroelectric energy production on the Beaver River.
Objectives:

1. Ensure federal recognition of the Uintah Basin Energy Zone in Uintah and Duchesne Counties.

2. Maintain federal lands available for oil and gas leasing and development with standard stipulations while considering the impacts to other public land resources and uses.

3. Avoid unnecessary federal rules associated with fracking and master leasing plans.

4. Support infrastructure that conveys energy resources such as pipeline development (e.g., pipeline from the Uintah Basin to existing railroads).

5. Encourage technology that would allow for the transport of crude oil.

6. Eliminate or reduce the amount of federal agency approval requirements for development to simplify and encourage investment in the area.

7. Promote renewable energy development.
3. Beaver County supports the development of energy resources on public lands, subject to valid existing rights.

4. Beaver County supports and defends public grazing rights: any removal, denial or termination of existing grazing rights must be justly compensated.

5. Beaver County has a policy of No-Net-Loss of grazing annual unit months (“AUMs”) on public lands. Any changes in grazing use shall only be the temporary suspension of AUM’s due to drought or other natural occurrences and shall be based on monitoring data of at least five (5) years.

6. Beaver County supports the expansion and enhancement of hydroelectric energy production and development, specifically on the Beaver River. Beaver County will explore opportunities to allow for increasing the benefits of hydroelectric power to its communities. Beaver County will also oppose any current or future law banning or limiting hydroelectric energy production.

7. Beaver County will take any and all appropriate actions to protect private property rights and the use of those lands, pursuant to county zoning ordinances.
Policies: It is the policy of Duchesne County that:

1. Access to public lands for all forms of energy development must be increased in the economic interest of the county citizens and government.

2. Energy exploration and development are consistent with the multiple use philosophy for management of public lands. These activities constitute a temporary use of the land that will not impair its use for other purposes in the future. All energy development activities shall comply with appropriate laws and regulations.

3. Identification of energy potential and location is important for planning future energy needs and resource management. Agencies shall plan, fund, and encourage by way of policy management decisions relative to energy resources.

4. All management plans must address and analyze the possibility for the development of energy resources where there is a reasonable expectation of their occurrence within the planning area.

5. After environmental analysis, and as provided for in the governing resource management plan, all tracts will be available and offered for lease or open to be claimed as provided by law. Duchesne County recognizes that decisions are made regarding oil and gas leases through the land use planning process. Alternatives identify areas where leasing may occur with standard lease terms, timing and controlled surface use stipulations or no surface occupancy. Additionally, some areas may be considered for no leasing in the future.
Counties could assemble plan however they liked, as long as Findings, Objectives, and Policies were addressed for all 28 resources.
Adoption and Utilization

- Draft RMPs were presented at Planning Commission meetings
  - Public input

- Final RMPs were adopted by Planning Commission, as an amendment to the general plan

- RMPs are being used to coordinate with Forest Plan Revisions, with State Agencies, in comment letters
Questions?

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http://publiclands.utah.gov/current-projects/rmp/