

Millard County General Plan Federal and State Lands Element County Goals, Objectives and Implementation Strategies

Federal and State Agency Managed Lands

Over 87% of the land within Millard County is Federal or State land managed by government agencies. Approximately 78% is managed by Federal agencies including the Bureau of Land Management, BLM, (69.18%) and the United States Forest Service, USFS, (8.27%). The remaining ten percent is managed by State of Utah divisions and departments; specifically, the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, SITLA, (9.18%) and the Division of Wildlife Resources, DWR, (.81%). Tribal lands within the County account for 0.02%. The above totals leave slightly more than twelve percent of the County's total land area as privately owned (12.5%).

Millard County claims the powers, rights and authority given specifically to local governments and individuals to actively participate in Federal and State land management planning and decision-making processes. In order to more adequately and accurately articulate the County's Federal and State land management priorities and objectives, the County has prepared this section as part of their General Plan.

Specific elements addressed in this section include:

- County participation in Federal and State land management planning processes,
- multiple-use,
- Federal and State land resource use and development,
- wildlife management,
- water resources,
- Federal and State lands consolidation,
- Federal and State lands recreation, and
- Federal and State lands access.

Millard County officials and relevant Federal and State land management agencies will become familiar with this section of the General Plan and work cooperatively to implement the policies and objectives as adopted.

Overview - County Position

In general, Millard County supports "multiple-use" management of Federal and State lands and will work with the appropriate agencies to maintain an appropriate balance among uses and users. Maintaining adequate public access to Federal and State lands and the accompanying resources is also a County priority.

Due to the high percentage of Federal and State land within Millard County, County interests are directly affected by Federal and State land management decisions. In order to adequately protect these interests, the County must be included in all relevant Federal and State land management planning and decision-making processes. It is also the County's position that local concerns and interests must be acknowledged and addressed by Federal and State land management agencies before decisions are made and plans implemented. Individuals and communities most likely to be

affected by these decisions must also be included. The County maintains that local input should have a greater influence on Federal and State land management decisions than opinions or positions expressed by individuals or organizations living outside the area.

In order for Millard County to more fully participate in Federal and State land use planning processes, the County must be adequately notified and invited to participate. It is the responsibility of the Millard County Planner to ensure that the County Commissioners and County Planning/Building Department(s) are on the mailing lists of all relevant Federal and State land and resource management agencies. Currently, this list includes, but is not limited to, the following agencies:

- The United States Forest Service (USFS)
- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
- United States Fish and Wildlife (FWS)
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- State School and Institutional and Trust Lands Administration (SITLA)
- Sovereign Lands and Forestry (SLF)
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR)
- Utah Division of Water Resources
- Utah Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining (DOGM)
- Utah Division of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

Federal and State land management, planning and decision-making processes of which the County will be notified, including but are not limited to, the following:

- Resource Area Management Plans,
- Forest Management Plans,
- Environmental Assessments,
- Environmental Impact Statements,
- Grazing Allotments,
- Timber Sales,
- Land Sales and Leases,
- Wildlife Habitat Plans, and
- Biological Surveys.

As necessary, the County will request periodic "working document" reviews and project briefings. Following these sessions, the County may prepare and submit to the appropriate agencies formal responses listing specific areas of support or concern.

Several County industries such as livestock, agriculture, mining, and tourism depend on the continued access to and availability of Federal and State lands and their accompanying resources. It is the County's position that agency decisions which alter existing Federal and State land uses must be supported by accurate and adequate data. Agency-sponsored studies must identify and address the impacts to the local economy, traditional Federal and State-land uses and the environment. This information must also include social impacts to the area and identify possible mitigation measures. Millard County will work with Federal and State land management agencies to identify and interpret relevant information.

Currently, the County maintains informal, yet effective, working relationships with Federal and State land managers in the region. These relationships have developed over several years and are due to the willingness of County officials and agency personnel to cooperate. The County will continue to

work with local-level Federal and State land managers to improve these relationships and increase "citizen" awareness of Federal and State land issues.

Local Government Role in Federal and State Lands Planning

The United States Constitution has delegated and the United States Congress has bestowed considerable power and authority to local governments relevant to Federal and State land management and decision-making processes. Major laws relevant to the County include:

- The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)
- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- The National Forest Management Act (NFMA)
- The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA)

Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA)

Under FLPMA, Federal land management agencies are required to acknowledge local plans and participation. Title 43, U.S.C.A. §1712(c)(9) states:

“[The Secretary shall] to the extent consistent with the laws governing the administration of the public [Federal] lands, coordinate the land use inventory, planning, and management activities of or for such lands with the land use planning and management programs of other Federal departments and agencies and of the States and local governments within which the lands are located.... In implementing this directive, the Secretary shall, to the extent he finds practical, keep apprised of State, local and tribal land use plans; assure that consideration is given to those State, local and tribal plans that are germane to the development of land use plans for public [Federal] lands, assist in resolving to the extent practical, inconsistencies between Federal and non-Federal Government plans, and shall provide for meaningful public involvement of State and local government officials...in the development of land use programs, land use regulations, and land use decisions for public [Federal] lands.... Land use plans of the Secretary under this section shall be consistent with the State and local plans to the maximum extent he finds consistent with Federal law and the purposes of this Act.”

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The Supreme Court has described the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as having two major objectives. The first purpose is to place “upon an agency the obligation to consider every significant aspect of the environmental impact of a proposed action.” The second aim is to ensure “that the agency will inform the public that it has considered environmental concerns in its decision making process.” In respect to land use planning, agency-prepared NEPA documents must identify and discuss “possible conflicts between the proposed action and the objectives of Federal, regional, State and local plans, policies and controls for the area concerned.” 40 CFR 1502.16(c). This discussion shall include “any inconsistencies between the proposed action and any approved State or local plans or laws.... Where inconsistencies exist, documents should describe the extent to which the agency will reconcile its proposed action with the plan or law.” 40 CFR 1506.2(d). The Act also directs agencies to “cooperate to the fullest extent possible” with State and local agencies to reduce duplication between NEPA and State and local requirements. This “cooperation” includes: joint planning processes, joint environmental research/studies, joint public hearings, and joint

environmental assessments. 40 CFR 1506.2(b)(1-4).

National Forest Management Act (NFMA)

Principal provisions of the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) include implementing “multiple-use and sustained yield” management practices, long-term (50 year) renewable resource programs, land and resource management plans for forest units (every 15 years) and forest management practices “in accordance with” plans. 16 U.S.C.A. §1061(d)(1); “plans and permits, contracts and other instruments for the use and occupancy of National Forest System lands consistent with land management plans.” 16 U.S.C.A. §1604(l). In respect to local governments, Forest Service plans shall be “coordinated with the land and resource planning processes of State and local governments...” 16 U.S.C.A. §1604(a).

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA)

Federal regulatory agencies are also obligated by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) to consider historic, cultural or other similar values when completing “wild and scenic” river plans. These issues include existing rights, grazing leases and permits. Federal agencies must also formally recognize local planning efforts to protect river corridor resources and consult with local governments during wild and scenic river plan development processes.

Overview - Federal Land Management Agencies

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages Federal lands and resources under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). Resource Management Plans (RMPs) are the primary mechanism for implementing the “multiple-use/sustainable yield” stipulation and other guidelines outlined in FLPMA. Consistent with Federal laws and regulations, RMPs establish the management direction for designated planning areas and are kept in place as long as they remain pertinent to the issues of that area. RMPs also contain the standards and criteria used to govern subsequent decisions.

FLPMA requires the BLM to coordinate its land use plans with local (County) plans and take all practical measures to resolve inconsistencies between documents. BLM plans must be consistent with local plans to the extent that the latter does not contradict Federal laws and regulations. Prior to final RMP approval, the BLM is also required to submit a list of known inconsistencies to the Governor for review and comment. The BLM is exempt from these requirements if the local government fails to notify the agency of an adopted plan and subsequent revisions.

United States Forest Service (USFS)

Unlike the BLM, the Forest Service does not have a local plan “consistency” requirement. However, Forest Service regulations do call for “coordination”. This has been interpreted to include: participating in local planning efforts, developing and evaluating Forest Management Plan alternatives in light of potential conflicts with local plans, briefing local leaders prior to selecting the preferred alternative, displaying local plan reviews as part of agency Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) and monitoring how Forest Service actions affect nearby communities.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is required to give a 90 day notice to local governments of any intent to list additional species or identify additional critical habitat. Proposed listings must be based on the best scientific and commercial data available. Species and habitat recovery plans must take into account county efforts to protect the identified species and assure that the proposed recovery plans will provide conservation of the species. The FWS must also take into account economic impacts to the area before making critical habitat designations (areas may be excluded unless failure to designate would result in extinction of a species). Local governments are given the opportunity to formally comment on all listings or habitat designations.

County Participation in Federal and State Land Management Planning Processes

Objective: *Maintain active County participation in Federal and State land/resource planning processes....*

Currently, Millard County maintains informal, yet effective, working relationships with Federal and State land managers in the region. These relationships have developed over several years and are due to the willingness of County officials and agency personnel to cooperate. The Millard County Commission and County Planner actively participate in most Federal and State land management decision-making processes. As necessary, citizen committees are organized by the Commission to address major issues.

Existing County and Federal/State agency relationships are successful in addressing Federal and State land use issues on a county-agency level. County citizens also desire to become better informed and more active participants in Federal and State land planning processes. As a result, the County will implement outreach efforts designed to share additional Federal and State land use information with County residents.

Implementation Strategies:

Federal and State Land Issues Calendar

To better inform County residents concerning Federal and State land management issues, the County planner will maintain a quarterly schedule and summary of relevant Federal and State land/resource planning processes and issues. This information may include agency planning summaries, anticipated process time lines and meeting dates. Schedules will be posted at the County Courthouse (Fillmore) and County Offices (Delta) and identify specific opportunities for the County, communities and the public to participate as they see fit.

At a minimum, documents and resources reviewed by the County planner will include the State Resource Development Coordinating Committee packet (bi-monthly), BLM Resource Area Management Plan and subsequent updates, the Environmental Notification Bulletin Board (ENB) and Forest Service quarterly planning schedule(s).

County-level Citizen Federal and State Lands Committee

Currently, Millard County Commissioners organize citizen committees to address significant County issues on an "as need" basis. Relative to Federal and State land use issues, the Millard County

Commission will formally organize a standing county-level State and Federal lands committee. As *requested* by the Commission, this committee will act as an advisory board to the County planning staff and may be used to distribute relevant Federal and State land use information to the public.

Committee meetings will provide an opportunity to discuss natural resource/Federal and State land use issues in an open, positive manner. Where applicable and appropriate, this forum will be used to clarify issues and address Federal and State land management concerns at the local level. Through increased committee/agency interaction, County

responses to agency-proposed plans and actions will be well developed and better prepared.

Committee Structure -

Formal committee structure will include a Commission-appointed chairperson. This individual will work closely with the County planning staff to review, prioritize, and summarize for committee discussion, Federal and State land use information received or solicited by the County. The committee will also include or have access to competent legal assistance. This person will have a firm understanding of Federal and State land issues.

Millard County has residents who are interested in and directly impacted by Federal and State land use decisions. These individuals have knowledge of Federal and State planning processes and have established working relationships with Federal and State land managers. The Commission can utilize this expertise by appointing these individuals to the Federal and State Land Use Committee.

Federal and State agency personnel can also provide this committee with planning expertise, information/data and “agency” insight to Federal and State land use issues. Agency representatives will be invited to participate in Committee discussions as deemed necessary by the County and/or Committee membership.

The Millard County Federal and State Lands Committee will include representatives from all geographical areas of the County. Membership shall include, but not be limited to, the following areas of expertise or interest:

general County populace	recreation interests
agriculture and ranching	economic development
County/local officials	water interests
energy interests	minerals/mining interests
sportsmen and wildlife	conservation interests
utilities	tourism/recreational business interests
special interest groups	USU Extension

Agencies and interests that may be asked to participate include, but are not limited to, the following:

- U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
- Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
- Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- State of Utah Geological Service

State School and Institutional and Trust Lands Administration (SITLA)
Sovereign Lands and Forestry (SLF)
Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR)
Utah Division of Water Resources
universities and educational resources
media

Committee Agenda -

While it is the intent to have issues discussed by the entire committee, smaller task groups may be formed and "outside" specialists invited as needed. This process may include assigning individual committee members to study specific materials, gather additional data, and report to the committee with preliminary recommendations. Relevant information will also be made available to the general public for their review and comments. Recommendations from the County's Federal and State Lands Committee will be forwarded to the County Commissioners and County Planning Department for consideration as the County's official position.

The committee will refer to the Millard County General Plan and other local ordinances and policies as they discuss issues and make recommendations. It is anticipated that the County's Federal and State land use positions will be consistent with the County's Plan and resident interests.

As directed by the Commissioners, the committee may coordinate efforts with the Utah Association of Counties, the Six-County Association of Governments, the State of Utah Resource Development Coordinating Committee, Rural Development Council and other State and local Federal offices. The committee may also assist in preparing Federal and State-related grant applications and proposing revisions or additions to the County's General Plan Federal and State land use element.

County Position - Multiple-use

Maintaining multiple-use management practices on Federal and State land is a top County priority. Lands administered by the BLM and Forest Service must be managed under the principles of "multiple-use and sustained yield" as outlined in Federal policy. The County will work with these agencies in support of these objectives.

The County acknowledges that the terms "multiple-use" and "sustained yield" may be interpreted many different ways. For purposes of this Plan and the County's future interaction with Federal and State land management agencies, the County defines "sustained yield" as the management of resources in a manner that will support a consistent level of use on a year-to-year or season-to-season basis. The County defines "multiple-use" as the consumptive and non-consumptive uses historically and traditionally allowed to occur on Federal and State lands within the County. These uses include, but are not limited to, the following: livestock grazing, mining and mineral exploration and extraction, rock hounding, recreation, wildlife habitat, telecommunications, water resource use and development, and timber/woodland products (Christmas trees, firewood, pinenuts, posts, etc).

Millard County maintains that the above uses are compatible in most situations and that true "multiple use management" creates opportunities for the land and resources to be used for "multiple purposes" simultaneously.

Millard County does not define "multiple-use" as allowing "all uses, in all areas, all the time". The County encourages "responsible" use of Federal and State resources and will support and

participate in exercises designed to identify appropriate uses and locations.

The County does not support land use designations, such as wilderness, that *permanently* designate an area for a particular use and restrict other viable and compatible options. As part of a State-wide effort, Millard County completed a project designed to identify and evaluate potential wilderness areas within the County. Millard County opposes the “wilderness” management concept and will support wilderness designations only as outlined in the County’s adopted 1995 Wilderness Study/Plan.

The County acknowledges that some areas, due to their location or resources, may possess unique potential for a particular use. Under these circumstances, it may be economically beneficial to the County and in the public’s best interest to identify and *temporarily* designate these areas for specific, “priority uses”. For example, the County may support temporarily limiting recreation access through an area to allow mineral exploration and development. The County would pursue re-establishing “multiple uses” within these areas as doing so becomes feasible.

Millard County anticipates that conflicts among uses and users will arise. In these situations, the County will support uses consistent with maintaining the County’s rural lifestyle and character and/or uses providing a livelihood for County residents. For example, it is the County’s position that traditional Federal and State land uses, such as grazing, mining, and mineral development, are a higher priority than recreation. The County will not support placing these uses in jeopardy in order to expand recreational opportunities.

As the County clarifies its “multiple-use” position and preferences through the Millard County General Plan, Federal and State land management agencies will know in advance whether an agency-proposed action is consistent with County policy. Additional information beneficial to Federal and State land management agencies includes:

- identifying areas where specific uses or a combination of uses *will* be permitted, and
- identifying areas where specific uses and/or land classifications (wilderness, Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), etc.) *will not* be considered.

Millard County is actively working with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the United States Forest Service (USFS) to develop additional memorandums of understanding (MOU). These agreements will identify opportunities for the County and Federal and State land management agencies to work together on mutual interests and objectives and will identify specific opportunities for the County to participate in agency planning processes.

The County will continue to actively participate in agency decision-making processes on a consistent basis to ensure that County multiple-use concerns and interests are heard and adequately addressed.

Objective: County support of “multiple-use” Federal and State land management practices.

Implementation Strategies:

Under direction of the County Commission, the County planning staff and members of the County-level Federal and State Lands Committee may be invited to:

- advise the Commission concerning county-impacting multiple-use issues. The County Commissioners will submit the County’s formal responses to the appropriate local and State-level

offices of Federal and State land management agencies and organizations, e.g. copies of recommendations/comments will be sent to local and State offices of the Bureau of Land Management, United States Forest Service, United States Fish and Wildlife, National Park Service, State School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, and Division of Wildlife Resources. Copies may also be forwarded to the Utah Association of Counties, the Six-County Association of Governments, the State Resource Development Coordinating Committee, the Director of Utah Department of Natural Resources, and the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget.

- assist local-level Federal and State land managers in gathering and preparing valid data and information as needed to adequately and accurately represent impacts on County interests if multiple-use land management practices are modified.
- participate in Federal and State resource planning processes during the scoping/issue identification and draft plan review/comment periods.
- notify interested County residents of current or proposed activities and solicit their input when formulating County comments/responses.
- review Federal and State resource management plans in respect to "multiple-use" management. This includes proposed alternatives or modifications to existing practices and resource allocations.

County Position - Resource Use and Development

Millard County enjoys an abundance of natural resources including: minerals, rangeland, timber, wildlife, quality water, clean air and unique geological and educational features. Continued use and accessibility of these resources is necessary for the County to reap the associated economic benefits. It is in the County's best interest to actively participate in Federal and State resource allocation and use discussions to ensure that management plans continue to allow existing and future resource development and related industry expansion.

It is Millard County's position that Federal and State land resources should be utilized in a responsible manner. The County supports the continued use of renewable resources and the use of non-renewable resources as long as the latter can be developed in a manner consistent with the County plan and without adverse permanent impacts to the environment or water and air quality.

The County also encourages the use of additional natural resources as they become available or as new technologies are developed.

Under direction of the Commission and through partnerships with private industry and Federal and State land managers, the County's State and Federal Lands Committee and County planning staff may develop a "resource data base" identifying and inventorying natural resources within the County. This information will be used to evaluate development potential of currently untapped resources and the feasibility of continuing existing operations. This resource base will also identify areas of existing economic dependence. This information will be used to assist the County in identifying "preferred" land uses and development scenarios. Once gathered and analyzed, this information and subsequent recommendations will be added to the County's General Plan.

As part of this planning effort, four resource issues emerged as priorities: mineral development, range management, wildlife and water resources. These issues and the subsequent County

objectives are addressed following the general *Action and Implementation Steps* below.

Objective: *Responsible use and development of Federal and State land resources.*

Implementation Strategies:

Under direction of the County Commission, the County planning staff and members of the County-level Federal and State Lands Committee may be invited to:

- coordinate efforts with private industry, Federal and State land management agencies and the County's economic development department to identify and inventory natural resources within the County. Subsequent exercises may include identifying specific areas and/or resources to be targeted for future use. Efforts will include a consideration of consumptive and non-consumptive uses.
- review agency and industry resource development data and reports. Understanding this information will assist the County in identifying and prioritizing its natural resource development objectives.
- advise the County Commissioners concerning County-impacting resource use and development issues. The County Commissioners will submit the County's formal responses to the appropriate local and State-level Federal and State land management agencies and organizations, e.g., copies of recommendations/comments will be sent to local offices of the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, State School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration, and the Division of Wildlife Resources. Copies may also be forwarded to the State Resource Development Coordinating Committee, the Director of Utah Department of Natural Resources, and the Governor's Office.
- review Federal and State resource management plans in respect to resource stewardship and use. This includes ensuring that County resource availability and accessibility interests are preserved and maintained.

Mineral Development

As identified during the County's wilderness study, significant mineral resources can be found within the County. Currently, several private interests are developing these resources and contribute significantly to the County's economy. In order to maintain the viability of these industries and protect their economic contribution to the County, it is critical that Federal and State lands and the accompanying resources remain accessible and open to rock hounding, mineral exploration and development.

Objective: *County support for mineral development activities.*

Vegetation/Forage Management

Several County industries depend on open range grazing opportunities. Therefore, the County supports responsible rangeland management. The County encourages private and Federal/State agency partnerships organized to improve range conditions. Methods supported by the County

include prescribed burns, reseeding and reclamation. The County is particularly interested in wildfire management and post-burn rehabilitation efforts. The County also supports vegetation manipulation programs designed to re-establish traditional uses and use levels. The County will continue, and expand as financially feasible, current noxious weed management programs.

In order to adequately protect the land and accompanying resources, management decisions must be made in a timely manner and programs implemented quickly. Millard County will actively participate in these processes.

Objective: *Active County participation in rangeland management activities.*

Wildlife Management

Millard County residents enjoy a diverse and abundant game and non-game wildlife population. This resource continues to provide a variety of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike and makes a significant contribution to the County's "quality of life".

Millard County views wildlife as a resource that can be further promoted. Efforts in this area, however, must be appropriately balanced with other County interests. The County will support Division of Wildlife Resource (DWR) and private efforts to promote wildlife related activities and improve/protect critical habitat as long as doing so does not adversely impact or jeopardize other types of resource use and development including, but not limited to, farming, ranching, mining and off-road recreation.

It is Millard County's position that local government leaders and interested citizens must be advised of wildlife management issues and invited to provide input to the process *before* decisions are made and plans implemented. With this in mind, the County will work to improve communications between DWR and County residents through the local Land Owners/Wildlife Committee, the Regional Wildlife Advisory Council and State Wildlife Board. As opportunities allow, it is in the County's interest to recommend a County representative to serve on these committees, councils and boards.

The County is particularly interested in decisions surrounding sensitive, threatened, and endangered species. In respect to this issue, the County must be notified and have opportunities to participate in the listing and de-listing processes, NEPA compliance reviews, critical habitat designations and recovery plan development exercises.

A significant amount of wildlife habitat is located on private land throughout the County. It is the County's position that landowners must be compensated for property damage attributable to wildlife and that private property rights must be protected from hunter/wildlife recreationist trespass.

In respect to specific Millard County preferences, it was determined that County residents support improving the condition of existing wildlife species over the introduction (or reintroduction) of additional species and protecting game animals over predators. It is also the County's position that agency-determined increases in wildlife numbers and/or expanded habitat areas (including re-introduction areas) must not come as a result of decreases in livestock numbers and/or grazing allotments.

As allowed by State statute, the County will submit formal comments to the Governor regarding proposed DWR property acquisitions.

Objective: Active County participation in wildlife management decisions and issues.

Implementation Strategies:

Under direction of the County Commission, the County will actively participate in the State's management of big game, fisheries, upland game and other wildlife issues through the County-level Federal and State Lands Committee. On request, committee members may:

- advise the County Commissioners concerning County-impacting wildlife issues. The Commissioners will submit the County's formal responses to the appropriate local and State-level Federal and State land management agencies and organizations e.g. copies of recommendations/comments will be sent to the Regional Wildlife Advisory Council and the local offices of the Division of Wildlife Resources, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Forest Service. Copies may also be forwarded to the State Resource Development Coordinating Committee, the Director of Utah Department of Natural Resources, the Utah Wildlife Board, and the Governor's Office.
- actively promote County representatives on the Regional Wildlife Advisory Council and Utah Wildlife Board.
- prepare briefings for the Regional Wildlife Advisory Council and Utah Wildlife Board.
- notify interested County residents and in-County wildlife interest groups of current or proposed activities and solicit their input when formulating County comments.
- participate in Federal and State wildlife and wildlife/fish habitat planning processes during the scoping/issues identification and *draft* plan review/comment periods.
- attend local, regional, and State-wide Utah Wildlife Board public meetings as needed.
- review Federal and State resource management plans in respect to wildlife management. This would include assessing wildlife types, numbers, and location.

Water Resources

Water is considered the "lifeblood" of Millard County. Current and future residential, industrial, recreational, and agricultural development is determined by water quality, availability and allocation. It is in the County's interest to protect this limited resource by promoting the efficient use and management of its water resources. Relative to this agenda, the County will take an active role in all relevant State, regional, and local water-resource management plans and decision-making processes.

The County maintains that private water rights located on Federal and State lands must be protected. This position is further expanded to include the identification and adequate protection of community watersheds and groundwater recharge areas located on Federal and State lands.

Millard County desires to protect and enhance the quality and quantity of useable water by promoting and expanding the efficient management of water resources. The County supports the

development, adoption, and implementation of water storage and distribution plans by individuals, irrigation companies, industrial users, and municipalities.

Millard County also benefits from the vast water knowledge and expertise of its residents. Many are directly involved in water management, allocation, and use within the region. The County encourages increased cooperation among irrigation companies, special service districts, municipalities, and water user associations as these entities address water management issues and make county-impacting decisions.

Objective: *The County encourages and supports the development of water management plans and facilities.*

Objective: *County support and participation in responsible Federal and State land water resource management activities.*

Sevier River Resource Management Plan

Currently, the County is working with the State of Utah to develop a resource management plan for the Sevier River. This planning process will explore the various uses along the river corridor and the effects of adjacent land uses. Specific County interests related to this project include protecting the water rights of existing users and maintaining/protecting the water resource and use provisions as identified in the Cox Decree. Depending on the management plan's final objectives and recommendations, Millard County may adopt the document as part of their General Plan.

County Position - Federal and State Land Consolidation, Federal/State and Private Land Exchanges

Millard County supports efforts to consolidate and/or exchange Federal and State lands within the County if doing so improves management of these areas, benefits County residents and addresses challenges associated with the existing "checker board" ownership. More specifically, the County will work to identify and consolidate areas and resources that promote economic growth, allow additional resource development, protect sensitive resources (e.g. watersheds), reduce access problems, and/or improve land/resource management.

The County will actively participate in all relevant consolidation or exchange discussions through the Millard County Commission. Based on the magnitude and merits of each consolidation/exchange proposal, the County may prepare a formal "County position" indicating support or the lack thereof for the proposed action.

As the Millard County Commission reviews proposals recommending private-to-public and public-to-private land transfers, they will consider the following issues:

- impacts/benefits to the County in terms of private/public land ratios and the resulting tax revenue,
- impacts to adjacent land owners, and
- potential economic impacts/benefits.

County Position(s) - No net loss of private land, Support for increasing private land holdings within the County

Less than thirteen percent of the land area within Millard County is privately owned. It is the County's position that Federal and State land consolidation efforts and private-to-public sector land transfers should not further erode the County's private land base.

As private-to-public land transfers occur, Millard County will work with Federal and State land management agencies to identify and make available for private purchase an equivalent amount (in terms of acreage and value) of public land. In addition, the County will support the direct disposal of Federal and State lands to private interests if such interests are consistent with other County objectives. When possible, subject lands and the accompanying surface and subsurface resources will be transferred to private ownership without use restrictions.

Objective: *County support for consolidating Federal and State lands within the County.*

Objective: *County support for increasing private land holdings within the County.*

Implementation Strategies:

- The County will request to be placed on all agency mailing lists relevant to private/public/nonprofit organization Federal and State land or resource transactions.
- The County will review all proposed Federal, State and private land consolidation or transfer proposals. This includes all private land acquisitions by special-interest groups or non-profit organizations if subject properties are to be turned over to government agencies following the initial acquisition.
- Millard County will solicit Utah Association of Counties, Six-County AOG and State support for County recommendations on a case-by-case basis. The County's position will be forwarded to Federal and State agencies as necessary.

This effort may also include:

- gathering/preparing valid data identifying impacts to the County if transfer are made, e.g., loss of tax base, etc.,
- reviewing Federal and State private land acquisition and/or Federal and State land disposal proposals in respect to County interests (This includes considering affected resources uses and access.), and
- identifying and prioritizing Federal and State lands or resources for future "exchange" or "disposal".

County Position - Public Land Recreation and Tourism

Millard County offers a variety of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. Although the majority of these recreational facilities and resources are found on public lands, visitors to these areas directly impact the County by drawing on County-provided infrastructure, law enforcement, emergency-medical and waste disposal services.

The County supports increased recreational activity on public lands, but feels that Federal and State agencies should acknowledge, and more adequately address, the impacts associated with these activities. The County feels that Federal and State agencies have an obligation to assist the County in addressing these issues and that any efforts to increase recreational opportunities on public land should include an agency-provided evaluation of impacts on county-provided services and benefits to the local economy.

When evaluating potential recreational objectives and alternatives, the County will consider the following issues:

- the County's ability to provide essential services (law enforcement, emergency services, water and waste management, search and rescue);
- impacts on traditional resource uses;
- facility development and maintenance "partnerships" with agencies, concessionaires, and special interest groups; and
- anticipated economic returns and allocation of revenues received.

Objective: *The County will evaluate existing and anticipated tourism related infrastructure and service demands.*

Objective: *Millard County will actively participate in the recreational planning exercises of relevant Federal and State agencies.*

County Position - Federal and State Lands Access

Millard County has strong opinions concerning public access to and across Federal and State lands. The County depends on the use of these lands and the development of the accompanying resources for several County-based industries including mining and mineral development, grazing and recreation. Adequate Federal and State lands access is necessary for these activities to continue.

Millard County claims all roads and trails constructed on and traversing over Federal and State lands prior to the passage of FLPMA (1976) as public access routes. Furthermore, it is the County's position that the 1866 Mining Act transferred the ownership of all then-existing roads and rights-of-ways to the State of Utah. At that time, these thoroughfares crossed unreserved Federal and State lands and were open to the traveling public. The majority of these roads were constructed by either equipment or passage of vehicles and have been maintained by such activities since that time.

Millard County feels that the proposed RS2477 regulations are unjust, illegal and place an unfair burden of proof on western rural counties with regards to validating existing rights-of-ways. It is the County's position that closing these thoroughfares is a "takings".

The County has worked to develop a comprehensive RS2477 rights-of-way map and supporting documentation. Associated activities include identification and mapping of RS2477 rights-of-ways in the County (approximately 1841 roads). The location, distance and length of all County-claimed roads have been recorded through the use of Global Positioning Units (GPUs) and mapped accordingly by the Utah Geological Survey. Copies of the final map are on file with the Fillmore BLM Office and the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget.

The County claims access to all RS 2477 and all other County roads on the B and D systems.

The County also supports general public access through private lands to public lands as historically provided and allowed. The County will work with individual land owners as necessary to maintain these traditional thoroughfares and protect private property rights.

To ensure that the County's "access" questions and concerns are accurately identified and adequately addressed, the County will continue to participate in all relevant Federal and State land/road management decisions.

Objective: *County support for maintaining/preserving adequate public land access.*

Implementation Strategies:

Maintaining public land access efforts will include:

- working with the Bureau of Land Management to identify and establish ownership and “rights-of-way” agreements for all Class B and D roads within the County,
- gathering/preparing data identifying impacts on the County if public-land access is altered,
- notifying interested County residents of current or proposed activities and soliciting their input when formulating County comments/responses,
- continuing to work with Federal and State agencies to mutually address access issues (Relevant issues include proposed road closures, realignments, and/or "type of use" designations), and
- reviewing Federal and State resource management plans in respect to public land access. Again, relevant issues include proposed road closures, realignments, and/or "type of use" designations. This action includes reviewing the current Forest Service Travel Plan.