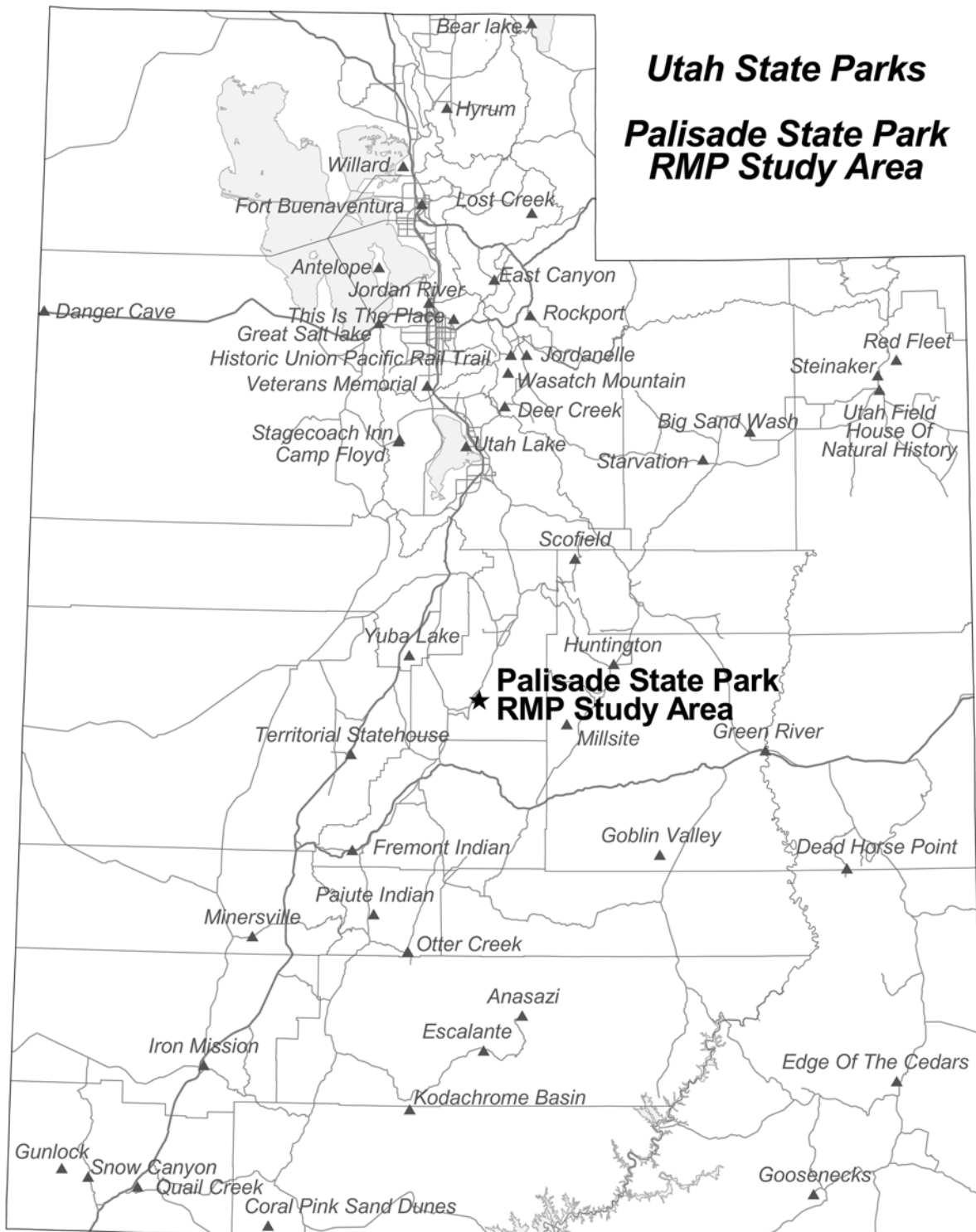


Palisade State Park



Resource Management Plan
October 2000





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Palisade State Park Resource Management Planning Team

Val Anderson, Manti
Mel Briggs, Salina
Lloyd Call, Manti
June Crane, Ephraim
Bart Nelson, Ephraim
Mayor Evelyn Nielson, Salina
Bill Peterson, Manti
Tim Smith (Regional Manager, Utah Division of Parks and Recreation)
Shon Tripp (Park Manager)
Rose Tukuafu, Ephraim

Golf Subcommittee Team Members

Matt Franks
Dave Bailey
Christy Southerland
Bob Jensen
Ken Strait
Terry Irons
Mel Briggs
Bart Nelson
Shon Tripp
J. D. Ransom
Scott Olsen
Tim Smith

Other Participants

Courtland Nelson, Director, Utah Division of Parks and Recreation
Dave Morrow, Deputy Director, Utah Division of Parks and Recreation
Terry Green, Planning Manager, Utah Division of Parks and Recreation
Jamie Dalton, Research Consultant, Utah Division of Parks and Recreation
Rosalind Bahr, Planner, Utah Division of Parks and Recreation
Susan Zarekarizi, GIS Consultant, Utah Division of Parks and Recreation
Bill Maughan, Construction Operations Specialist, Utah Division of Parks and Recreation



PREFACE

Palisade State Park offers an array of different recreational opportunities including golf, fishing, swimming and camping. Palisade's popularity is on the rise among recreational users. Annual visitation has steadily increased over the past decade as more and more visitors take advantage of Palisade's wide ranging recreational opportunities. These increases are taxing the park's limited capacity to effectively meet visitor demands. Recent acquisition of adjacent land will help alleviate some of the capacity problems. However, management actions are needed to determine the level and type of development that should take place on these acquired parcels. The current challenge therefore is to preserve the Park's unique recreational and scenic opportunities while accommodating an increasing visitor base.

Issues such as increasing recreational use, camping facilities, water-based recreation, golf, the need for visitor information, sustenance of a healthy ecosystem, signage, and visitor safety need to be addressed. As stewards of Palisade State Park and its resources, the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation, along with other interested parties proposed a comprehensive planning process for the park.

This **Resource Management Plan (RMP)** is required by the Utah State Legislature and the Board of the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation to guide short and long term site management and capital development. The planning process recommends limits of acceptable change or modification, and a future vision for the park. Specifically, the process: **(1) recognizes impacts will result from use and enjoyment of the site; (2) questions how much and what types of impacts may be accommodated while providing reasonable protection of the**

resources for future visitors; (3) seeks sustained quality and value; and (4) seeks to determine the conditions under which this can be attained.

A Palisade State Park Resource Management Team, consisting of community leaders, interested users, local residents and agency representatives, was formed to develop a vision for the park, identify issues, and provide managerial recommendations.

The team developed a future vision to guide management actions at Palisade State Park. This future vision is built upon a framework of five core elements which define the team's planning objectives. All recommendations within this plan are designed to:

- C develop and enhance recreational opportunities while retaining the park's current rural characteristics and values;
- C increase visitor knowledge of the park's natural and cultural resources through the development and enhancement of various educational programs;
- C strengthen the park's cultural, historical and economic linkages to local communities and the state;
- C develop facilities and infrastructure consistent with the park's values to meet recreational demands and visitor expectations;
- C enhance customer service by providing a highly trained and professional staff.

Team recommendations were reached by consensus and included input from the public and other government agencies. These recommendations will guide management of the park over the next two decades. They are intended to be dynamic and will evolve concurrently with park and local community development and as individual portions of the

vision statement are achieved.

Recommendations contained within the plan will be implemented under the direction of the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation. This plan is intended to be a useful, workable document that will guide management of the park into the 21st century. At the present time, there is no long range plan in place guiding necessary actions to accommodate increasing visitation and subsequent demands. It is essential that a plan be developed to sufficiently define a future vision for the park. It is also essential that this plan be embraced by park visitors and nearby communities to ensure its full implementation. Failure to implement such a planning process will result in reactive management schemes that cannot address longer-term problems. Without a forward-looking plan, the park's recreational opportunities could be jeopardized, possibly to the extent of compromising recreation experiences for future generations.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In March 2000 representatives from the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation met with community stakeholders from the Sanpete County area to initiate a resource planning effort for Palisade State Park. The planning process was based on public input and involvement. The Palisade State Park Resource Management Planning Team - a citizen-based team representing community leaders, interested users, local residents and agency representatives - was at the core of the process. The recommendations contained in this document represent several months of work by the team as well as direct public input.

The plan provides recommendations founded upon five primary vision elements that will guide future management of Palisade State Park. These elements focus on:

- C developing and enhancing recreational opportunities while retaining the park's current rural characteristics and values;
- C increasing visitor knowledge of the park's natural and cultural resources through the development and enhancement of various educational programs;
- C strengthening the park's cultural, historical and economic linkages to local communities and the state;
- C developing facilities and infrastructure consistent with the park's values to meet recreational demands and visitor expectations;
- C enhancing customer service by providing a highly trained and professional staff.

These objectives are geared toward improving and expanding the park's recreational opportunities, protecting its resources and providing the visitor with a safe, enjoyable

experience. Achievement of these vision elements will require the continued support of users, legislative and community leaders and the Division of Parks and Recreation.

The planning team issued several specific recommendations in support of the plan's vision elements. Six issue areas form the basis of the team's recommendations. Each issue area with its accompanying recommendations is outlined as follows:

C **Facilities Development**

- < Renovate and expand the park's existing clubhouse
- < Develop an interconnected trail system for hiking, walking, biking and motorized use
- < Appropriately develop recently acquired lands to expand recreation opportunities
- < Develop facilities and parking areas to better accommodate day use visitors
- < Establish measures and limits to ensure facilities are not used beyond their capacity to effectively serve visitors
- < Develop an on-site playground to provide children with additional recreational opportunities
- < Provide additional group camping areas and individual camping sites
- < Develop a putting course for golfers
- < Provide new facilities, renovate existing facilities to meet visitor needs

C **Park Policies, Programs and Funding**

- < Seek additional funding through partnerships, donations and events to effectively implement elements of this
- Develop and implement a plan to provide more efficient management and operation of the golf course
- < Add new staff to fulfill increasing

- responsibilities as plan elements are implemented
- < Coordinate efforts with citizen-based advisory groups, community advocates and division employees to implement plan elements

C **Natural Resource Management**

- < Ensure that there is an adequate supply of water to accompany increasing development or expansion of facilities
- < Enhance interagency communication, cooperation and coordination concerning management of park wildlife
- < Coordinate with local water users to minimize impacts from lake level fluctuations

C **Land Ownership - Impacts and Acquisition**

- < Acquire through trade, long term lease or other appropriate means, lands or areas - not owned by the park - that currently contain park facilities or park managed recreational activities
- < Coordinate with public and private entities to ensure adjacent development does not diminish the aesthetic quality of the park and corresponding visitor experiences

C **Education, Interpretation and Information**

- < Market the park's features on a more regional basis
- < Establish a solid base of interpretive information regarding park history and resources within and adjacent to the park

C **Collaborative Partnerships**

- < Develop functional, interactive relationships with Sanpete County, local communities, private landowners and other state agencies

Implementing some of these recommendations will be dependent upon acquiring new funding sources. There may be keen competition for funding or other unforeseen priorities and contingencies that could affect implementation.

The plan's success is dependent upon the continued support of park stakeholders. Efforts must be made to preserve park resources, interact with local communities and strive to meet the expectations of park visitors. The recommendations contained within this plan were based upon an open and collaborative process. It is imperative that this collaborative spirit continue as the plan's components are implemented.

MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS

Mission Statement

Mission Statement:

The mission of Palisade State Park is to provide visitors a wide variety of safe and satisfying recreational experiences, preserve park resources, increase visitor appreciation of park

Palisade State Park offers a multitude of recreational activities in a rural atmosphere. However, as visitation continues to increase, there will be a corresponding increase in demand for additional recreation opportunities. The team's mission is focused on meeting these demands. At the same time, the team recognizes that Palisade is more than just a site for recreation. It is also an area with unique natural attributes and a rich cultural heritage. Accordingly, the team determined that while the park should provide visitors a safe, satisfying recreational experience, it should also serve as a cultural link with rural communities surrounding it. Strengthening these linkages will heighten awareness and appreciation of the park and the role that it plays in the community at large.

Vision Statement

A vision statement is similar to a compass; it charts a destination, sets the team on the correct course of action, and provides the means to determine how closely team recommendations will follow that charted course. Utilizing the basic principles in the mission statement, the team developed a vision statement to guide development of the plan's recommendations. The vision statement provides the foundation for recommendations to meet visitor demands, increase awareness of the park, its connection to the area, and preserve its rural characteristics and values.

Vision Statement:

The future vision of Palisade State Park is to:

- T develop and enhance recreational opportunities while retaining the park's current rural characteristics and values
- T increase visitor knowledge of the park's natural and cultural resources through the development and enhancement of various educational programs
- T strengthen the park's cultural, historical and economic linkages to local communities and the state
- T develop facilities and infrastructure consistent with the park's values to meet recreational demands and visitor expectations
- T enhance customer service by providing a highly trained and



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN PURPOSE AND PROCESS

Purpose of the Plan

This Resource Management Plan is intended to help guide the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation's stewardship obligations for Palisade State Park. Planning for the park is essential given the recent rapid increases in visitation that have occurred over the past eight years.

With its beautiful wooded setting adjacent to the Manti La Sal National Forest on the western slope of the Wasatch Plateau, its comfortable summer climate, and its close proximity to the Wasatch Front metropolitan area, it is easy to see why Palisade has long been popular as a recreation site for campers, golfers, hikers and anglers. However, over the past two decades, the park's popularity has increased markedly. In 1980, 20,328 individuals visited Palisade. By 1999, visitation jumped to more than 127,500 - more than six times the 1980 levels. With the expansion of the golf course in 1996, visitation rates have accelerated over the past four years. Annual visitation rates of 200,000 or more - ten times the 1980 level - are not unreasonable for any current given year.

The increased visitation - while welcome - is putting pressure on the ability of current facilities, infrastructure and park staff to effectively meet visitor needs and protect park resources. It is essential that Palisade plan for these dynamic changes. Failure to interdict problems through a planning process will only lead to more complex problems in the future.

A number of issues ranging from facilities development to policies, programs and funding were identified by various sources including input from planning team members as well as the public-at-large through public meetings and opinion surveys. Team members aggregated 21 major issues into six

distinct categories dealing with: facilities development; land ownership; policies, programs and funding; natural resource management; collaborative partnerships; and education, interpretation and information. This plan addresses each of these issue areas. It will provide flexible guidelines for the management and development of the park over the next 10 to 20 year period. More importantly, it will provide this direction on the foundation of continued public input and consensus of key stakeholders, rather than by the unilateral direction of the Division of Parks and Recreation.

The Planning Process

Planning for an outstanding recreational asset such as Palisade State Park is required to serve visitor needs, protect park resources and ensure the efficient and effective expenditure of state and private funds. It is necessary for the long-term protection and public enjoyment of Palisade's diverse recreational opportunities that are of great interest to the recreating public in Utah, and for our out-of-state and international guests. This Resource Management Plan (RMP) is required by the Utah State Legislature and the Board of the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation to guide short and long-term site management and capital development.

The Utah Division of Parks and Recreation's master planning document, *Frontiers 2000*, delineates the required planning actions needed to effectively meet customer recreation and leisure needs as the agency moves into the new millennium. The document identifies resource management planning as an essential action to be completed for each park within the agency's system. Under the guidance of *Frontiers 2000*, each RMP is to designed around one core concept: meeting the needs and

expectations of customers, citizens of the state of Utah and visitors while protecting each park's unique resource base. In short, the process is "customer driven and resource-based."

The planning process recommends limits of acceptable change or modification, and a future vision for the park. Specifically, the process: (1) recognizes impacts will result from use and enjoyment of the site; (2) defines how much and what types of impacts may be accommodated while providing reasonable protection of the resources for future visitors; (3) incorporates values of resource sustainability, quality facilities, education and interpretation for visitors; and (4) seeks to determine the conditions under which this can be attained.

In March 2000, Division representatives met with community stakeholders to familiarize them with the proposed process and the need for creating an RMP for Palisade State Park. During this meeting the Division solicited the names of community members and various users with an interest and expertise in the park to serve as members of a Resource Management Planning Team. Team members were selected for a variety of reasons ranging from technical expertise to interest in the park. All team members participated on a voluntary basis and expressed a willingness to sacrifice a significant portion of their time and expertise to the process. Ten individuals were selected to serve on the planning team and three representatives from the Division served as staff to the team.

ABOUT THE PARK

Park History

Daniel B. Funk, an early settler of the surrounding Sanpete Valley, is credited as the park's founder. In the 1860s, Funk envisioned a recreational resort for summer and weekend activities and gatherings. With support from Brigham Young, Funk acquired the property from Chief Arapeen of the resident Sanpitch Indians, a Ute group from which Sanpete County derives its name. Following the purchase, Funk initiated the laborious task of diverting water to the area by damming the adjacent Sixmile Creek and constructing a canal to the present reservoir site. By 1873, Funk succeeded in creating Funk's lake - a reservoir about twenty feet in depth.

Upon completing the reservoir, Funk planted shade trees, constructed a dance hall, cabins and facilities to accommodate bathing, fishing, rowboating, picnicking, and other related activities. A steam-powered boat provided excursion rides around the lake (unfortunately, the first steam launch capsized in 1881, drowning eleven passengers). The park was so popular that by 1894, the Sanpete Valley Railway Company built a branch line to bring passenger train service to the site. A second steam boat was launched after World War I and remained in service for several years.



Ownership of the lake changed hands on several occasions following Funk's death in 1887. One of these owners noted similarities between the cliffs and hills on the park's eastern boundary and the Palisades of New York's Hudson River. Accordingly, the owner changed the name to Palisades in the 1920s.

Palisade's popularity began to wane with the onset of the Great Depression and World War II. The dance hall was destroyed by fire in the 1930s and World War II gasoline rationing put a crimp on the motoring public's ability to reach the site. Eventually, the railroad line was abandoned.

As World War II ended and as more people began to engage in outdoor recreational activities, the lake again reclaimed some of its earlier popularity. With increased recreational demand and a need to stimulate economic activity in the local area, the impetus was found to reestablish Palisade as a viable recreational area.

In its 1959 blue ribbon report, the Utah State Parks and Recreation Commission identified Palisades as a potential State Park. The Commission noted that at the time Palisades provided the only substantial recreational water surface available in Sanpete County. Furthermore, it suggested that development of the area would help shore up the declining local economy while providing recreation opportunities to residents and visitors. The Commission recommended development of a boat dock, campgrounds, restrooms and picnic areas. In 1964, Sanpete County donated sixty-two acres of lakeshore to the Utah Division of Parks and Recreation. The county constructed a nine hole golf course in the mid-1970s with a grant from federal Land and Water Conservation funds. In 1986, the golf course was acquired by the Division of Parks.



Physical Setting and Facilities

Palisade State Park is situated - virtually in the center of the state - just east of Sterling, a small farming community six miles south of Manti, the Sanpete County seat. The park is bounded on the eastern side by the Wasatch Plateau near Six-Mile Canyon. Six-Mile Canyon is but one of the several nearby access points to the scenic Skyline Drive, which runs north and south along the 10,000-foot summit of the Wasatch Plateau. Here, visitors may experience beautiful scenic vistas - especially in the autumn months - small mountain lakes, reservoirs and streams in addition to several Forest Service campgrounds.

The park contains a wide array of recreational activities. Seventy-acre Palisade Reservoir draws swimmers, anglers and non-motorized watercraft enthusiasts. There is also an 18-hole golf course, driving range, professional golf shop and snack bar. Six-Mile Canyon provides excellent hiking, biking and off-highway vehicle riding areas just outside the park. Park facilities include 53 individual campsites, an open beach area for swimmers, modern rest rooms with hot showers, a group camping area and covered group-use pavilions. Canoe and paddle boat rentals are also available.

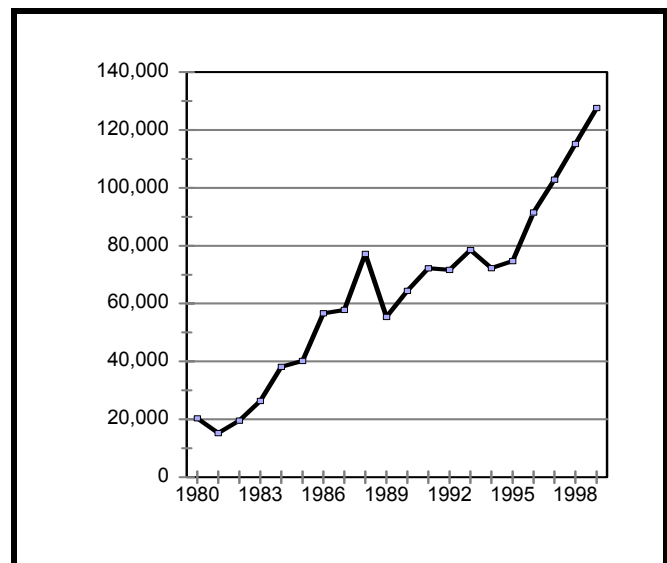
Climate

Palisade is “sandwiched” between north-trending mountain ranges and valleys of the Great Basin and the deep narrow canyon, buttes and mesas of the Colorado Plateau. As a consequence, Palisade’s climate has elements common to a high, semidesert environment that is marked by well-defined climatological “seasons.” Maximum daytime temperatures range from about 86 degrees in July to about 37 degrees in January. Average minimum temperatures range from about 54 degrees in the summer to about 15 degrees in winter. Average annual precipitation is about 13 inches per year. Average annual snowfall is about 54.5 inches per year with almost half of that amount occurring in the months of January and February.

Park Visitation

Palisade has experienced continual increases in visitor growth over the past two decades. However, visitation trends have been more pronounced since 1995. In 1980, 20,238 individuals visited Palisade. By 1999, visitation jumped to 127,547, an increase of about 530 percent above the 1980 levels. While visitation rates leveled off somewhat in

Figure 1: Total Visitation, Palisade State Park, 1980 -1999



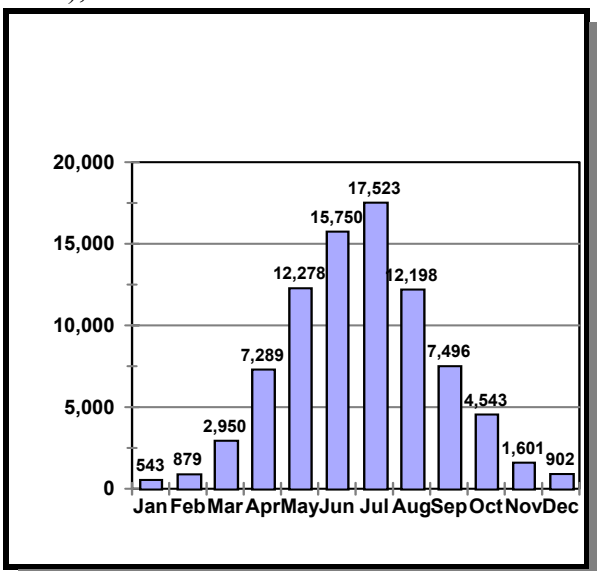
the late 1980s, it increased rapidly after 1995. These recent increases may be attributed to the golf course expansion in 1996 that added another nine holes of play. Visitation rates continue to increase. During the summer months, demand for campground facilities almost always exceeds available space - particularly on the weekends.

Most visitation occurs between May and August with June and July being the peak visitor months. More than two-thirds of average annual visitation occurs between May and August. There is a good deal of “symmetry” regarding visitation in the spring and fall shoulder seasons. While campground visitation drops off after Labor Day and does not pick up again until May, many visitors still appear to enjoy playing golf in the early spring or late fall months. After October, visitation drops dramatically and does not pick up again until March.

Historical Relationship to the Community and Surrounding Areas

Palisade is located two miles east of Sterling in southern Sanpete County. Its location is also in close proximity to Manti, the county

Figure 2: Average Monthly Visitation (1994 - 1998), Palisade State Park



seat. The county name - Sanpete - is thought to be derived from the name of a local Indian tribe, the Sanpitch. The area’s original inhabitants were most likely Fremont-Sevier agriculturalists. Artifacts from their inhabitation date back more than 700 years. Later, the Utes became the dominant inhabitants of the area. It was the Ute leader, Wakara, who welcomed Mormon settlers to the area in the fall of 1849. This was the first Mormon migration south of Provo as Wakara invited the settlers to live alongside his own encampments. The Mormon settlers were drawn to the Manti area because of its abundant water resources, arable soils and mineral deposits, limestone in particular. Sanpete County was officially founded in 1850.

In spite of the cordiality between the Mormons and the local Indian tribes, the rapid expansion of settlements in the area heightened tensions between the two groups. Open conflict erupted in what became known as the Walker War of 1853. During this period, the Mormons erected forts and were forced to abandon some of their earlier settlements. A second and ultimately much larger conflict - the Black Hawk War - broke out in the Sanpete area in 1865. Conflict ceased with the conclusion of the Black Hawk War in 1868. It was during this period that Daniel Funk initiated construction on the area that would eventually become known as today’s Palisade State Park.

Demographics and Socioeconomic Impact

Sanpete County is among the fastest growing counties in the state. Population grew by an average of 3.5 percent from 1990 to 1998 - a rate that is higher than the overall state average. Population reached 21,452 in 1998 making Sanpete Utah’s 12th largest county in terms of population. Ephraim with a population of 4,486 is the county’s largest city followed by Manti with a population of 2,643. Sanpete’s economy is agriculturally based.

Grain crops and cattle were important early on, and sheep dominated the local economy from 1880 through the 1920s. Turkey production became a cooperative integrated industry during the Great Depression, and has grown such that Sanpete ranks among the top turkey-producing counties in the country. Sanpete is also Utah's leading sheep producing county, is home to a large fish hatchery and is a leading state producer of barley and milk cows. Wheat, corn, hay and cattle are also significant agricultural outputs.

Accordingly, agricultural-based Moroni Feed Company is Sanpete County's largest single employer. As a group, education-related employers including the North and South Sanpete County School Districts, Snow College and Sodexo Marriot account for the majority of county employment. Ephraim's new Wal-Mart store will also impact employment and income in the county's retail sector.

Trade, services and manufacturing are also significant. It is estimated that output from the rapidly growing service and trade sectors will become the dominant economic sectors in Sanpete's economy by 2020.

PARK RESOURCES

It is essential that an inventory and analysis of Palisade's natural resource base be conducted prior to any management action associated with physical impact of the area. Clearly, management decisions affecting the park's natural environment must be made upon the foundation of reliable scientific information about park resources. This section provides a summary of Palisades's geological, biological, and archeological/cultural resources. The results reflect the work of experts - internal and external to the division - in each of the unique resource areas listed. A risk management/hazards analysis is also included.

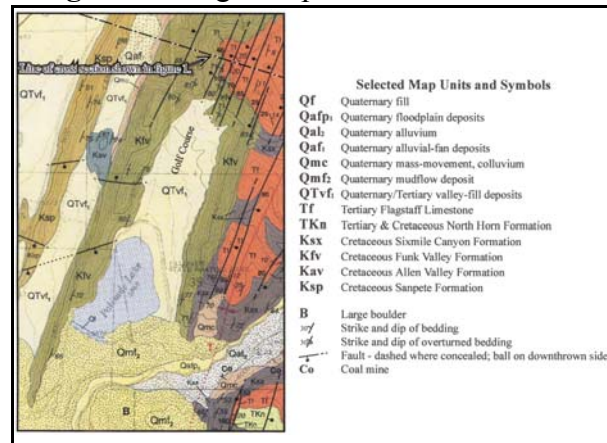
Geological Resources

Geologically, Palisade State Park lies in the transition zone between the Basin and Range and the Colorado Plateau physiographic provinces. To the west, steep, narrow, north-trending mountain ranges separated by wide, flat, sediment-filled valleys characterize the topography of the Basin and Range Province. To the east, buttes, mesas, and deep narrow canyons exposing flat-lying layers of sedimentary rock characterize the Colorado Plateau. The transition zone exhibits elements of both provinces.

Three primary geological formations are found in the immediate vicinity of the park: Funk Valley Formation, Sixmile Canyon Formation, and Flagstaff Limestone. The rock outcrops surrounding the golf course and the east side of the reservoir are part of the Funk Valley Formation. In this area the originally horizontal beds or layers of the Funk Valley Formation have been tilted to near vertical. This formation consists of a lower interval of interlayered sandstone and shale that weathers to a rusty orange color, a middle interval of easily weathered muddy sandstone and shale, and an upper interval of friable sandstone with minor mudstone and shale beds. The

sediments that compose this formation were originally deposited during the Cretaceous Period (approximately 93 to 85 million years ago) on the shoreline and bottom of an ancient sea.

Image 1: Geologic map of Palisade Lake area



Glimpses of one other near-vertical Cretaceous formation appear near the uppermost cliff immediately east of the reservoir. Called the Sixmile Canyon Formation, it lies parallel to and was originally deposited on top of the Funk Valley beds. It is generally coarser than the Funk Valley Formation, consisting mainly of gray sandstone with pebbly beds, stringers, and lenses. The sediments of this formation were originally deposited on alluvial plains and deltas near a coastal margin and contain coal seams. Approximately three quarters of a mile east of the park is the Morrison Mine, the first of several coal mines in Sixmile Canyon. Though currently inactive, these mines have produced coal from the Sixmile Canyon Formation since 1888.

Flagstaff Limestone can be readily seen capping the cliff east of the golf course. This formation lies horizontally across the top of the near vertical Cretaceous formations. A contact between formations whose beds are not parallel is called an angular unconformity.

This angular unconformity indicates that the originally horizontal beds of the Funk Valley and Sixmile Canyon Formations were uplifted, tilted, and plained off by erosion before the Flagstaff Limestone was deposited. This unconformity represents approximately 30 million years of missing geologic record. The Flagstaff Limestone was deposited during the Eocene Epoch (55 to 34 million years ago). During the Eocene a fresh water lake (or lakes) covered much of central Utah. In this location immediately east of the park, sandy and silty limestone alternating with thin layers of silty and sandy shale were deposited near the shore of ancient Lake Flagstaff.

Although the Flagstaff Limestone is the youngest formation near the park, it is not the youngest geologic unit in the park. Weathering and erosion of bedrock produces new sediment and soil that are redistributed and redeposited. Such geologically young material has been and is being deposited during the Quaternary Period of geologic history, which includes the past 1.6 million years. Quaternary deposits within the park can be lumped into two categories, general valley fill and earthflow deposits. The valley fill consists of the unconsolidated material that forms the gently sloping surface of the valley floor. This material is derived from surrounding bedrock that has weathered and eroded onto the valley bottom. The valley fill has been substantially modified by golf-course and campground landscaping.

The southern most part of the park including the earthen dam and a portion of its reservoir, are located on top of an earthflow deposit. This deposit consists of a mud and sand matrix with angular rock and earth fragments. This mass of debris was deposited in a single, or perhaps series of catastrophic events. The earthflow extends for nearly 3 miles (4.8 km) from the upper reaches of Forbush Cove (southeast of the park entrance, across Sixmile

Creek) into Sanpete Valley (southwest of the park entrance). Except where modified by grading and landscaping, its surface forms an irregular, hummocky surface.

It is important to note that the park does lie within the Intermountain seismic belt, a zone of intense earthquake activity. The closest known potentially active fault lies approximately two miles west of the park. Since 1876, eight magnitude 5.0 or greater earthquakes have been recorded within a 50-mile radius of the park. The complete geological analysis of Palisade State Park can be found in Appendix A of this document.

Biological Resources

Palisade is home to a broad array of native and nonnative plant and animal species. In terms of flora, grass, cottonwood and spruce trees dominate the campground areas and the golf course providing shade and cover for campers, golfers and picnickers. The surrounding area is of a semiarid terrain that accommodates juniper and pinyon pine trees. Sage brush, rabbit brush and low-growing cactus species are also found within the park's immediate area while native grasses and wild flowers fill in the open spaces.

The park likewise contains a diversity of animal species. Small mammals such as Townsend ground squirrels, common squirrels and hares are often seen within the park. Birds include flickers, kingfishers, hawks, jays and swallows. Even the beautiful Western tanager - a favorite among bird watchers - may be sighted at the park. During the fall, winter and early spring months, mule deer, bald eagle, great blue heron and other migratory waterfowl species may inhabit the park and adjacent areas.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources indicated that there are no species of special concern in the immediate area of Palisades

State Park. Consequently, proposed development projects should not conflict with critical wildlife habitat.

Archeological Resources

A cultural and paleontological resources inventory was conducted in March, 2000 by a Division of Parks and Recreation archeologist from Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum. The objective of the inventory was to locate and document any cultural and paleontological resources that may exist within potential development areas. Also, the research team was charged with developing recommendations as needed to ensure compliance with the Utah Antiquities Act and the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act. Any findings would also be evaluated to determine if they meet the eligibility criteria to be included in the National Register for Historic Places (NRHP).

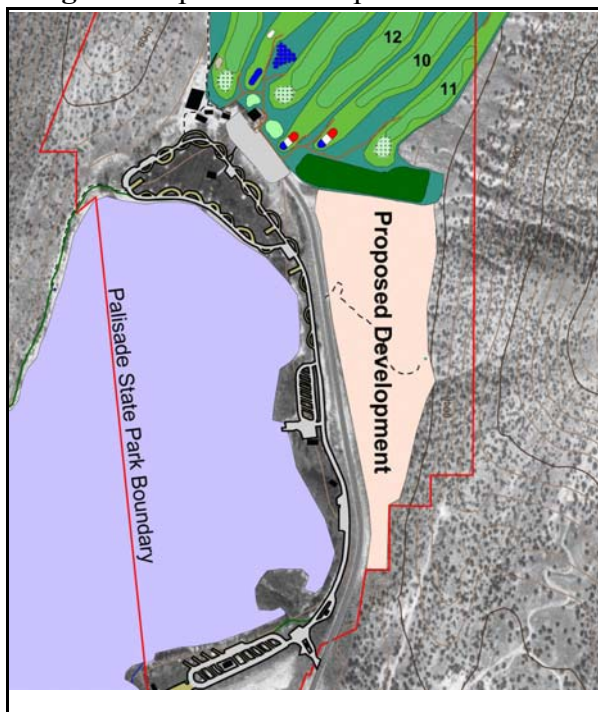
The primary area of study was approximately 38 acres of undeveloped land east of the existing campground and south of the golf

course (see Image 2). This area is the most geographically appropriate for potential development projects.

Researchers located and documented one isolated lithic artifact - a purplish-tan quartzite interior core reduction flake - possible evidence of tool-making activities by prehistoric people. However, the flake exhibits no use-wear and lacks diagnostic attributes. Consequently, a determination of “no effect” was recommended on the stipulation that work on any development project cease and appropriate notification be provided if buried cultural resources are encountered during construction.

Previous archeological research indicates that the area was inhabited by groups affiliated with the Archaic and Fremont cultural traditions. Documented archeological sites occur within nearby Sixmile Canyon and along the western rim and slopes of the Wasatch Range southeast of the park. Subsequent occupants, including Numic-speaking groups such as the Ute and Paiute, are known to have inhabited the area as well. The reader may find the complete cultural and paleontological resources inventory in Appendix B.

Image 2: Proposed Development Area



Risk Management Analysis

An analysis of various man-made and natural hazards analysis was conducted during the fall of 1999 by the Division of Risk Management. The study identified several various hazards that may pose a risk to visitors or staff. The major recommendations issued by division analysts are summarized below (see Appendix C for the complete report).

C Protect the park from adjoining property development

Risk Management analysts indicated concern about the increasing development of adjacent

Key Risk Management

Recommendations:

- U Protect the park from adjoining property development
- U Develop overflow parking areas
- U Provide representative experience accessibility for the disabled
- U Control diving activities on shoreline rocks and cliffs
- U Improve lake water quality to better accommodate swimmers

residential property. Of specific concern is the use of barbed wire as a park perimeter barrier. Risk Management recommends that the use of barbed wire should be discontinued and that management actions - easements, property acquisition - be taken to discourage further encroachment.

C Develop overflow parking areas

It is recommended that the park consider development and implementation of a long range vehicle parking plan to accommodate peak visitor use. Spillover parking along the main access road should be avoided due to increased hazards to pedestrians.

C Provide representative experience accessibility for the disabled

It was noted that many of the park's facilities meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, particularly in the campground areas. However, Risk Management recommends that additional ADA opportunities be provided, especially with respect to paths and trails.

C Control diving activities on shoreline rocks and cliffs

Submerged rocks pose a severe danger to divers in such areas. Continued vigilance with respect to signage and enforcement is necessary to mitigate these hazards.

C Improve lake water quality to better accommodate swimmers

The presence of Schistosomiasis (a microorganism that causes skin irritation known as "swimmer's itch") in the lake, while not harmful, has a negative impact on the quality of visitor experience. Risk Management recommends that, if possible, steps be taken to eradicate the organism. At a minimum, signage recommending immediate toweling for swimmers should be implemented until the situation can be improved.

VISITOR SURVEY RESULTS

Visitor Survey Findings:

- U Most visitors live within Utah and tend to be either local or Wasatch Front residents
- U Most survey participants were "day users"
- U A vast majority of survey participants listed Palisade as their primary destination
- U Picnicking, swimming, fishing and golf are the top recreational activities of community residents
- U The community is supportive of proposals to expand the facilities

An on-site survey was administered during the summer of 1995 by Brigham Young University (BYU). The survey was conducted among visitors entering and exiting the park. A total of 106 visitors participated in the survey over a two day period. Participants included golfers as well as those using the lake and its surrounding camp and picnic grounds.

Another random survey was administered to residents of Sanpete and upper Sevier Counties. The primary goal of this random survey was to assess these residents' awareness of Palisade State Park. The random surveys were conducted with persons living in the communities of Fairfield, Mt. Pleasant, Spring City, Fountain Green, Moroni, Ephriam, Manti, Salina and Gunnison. Survey participants were asked to identify their primary concerns about the park and suggest improvements. These participants

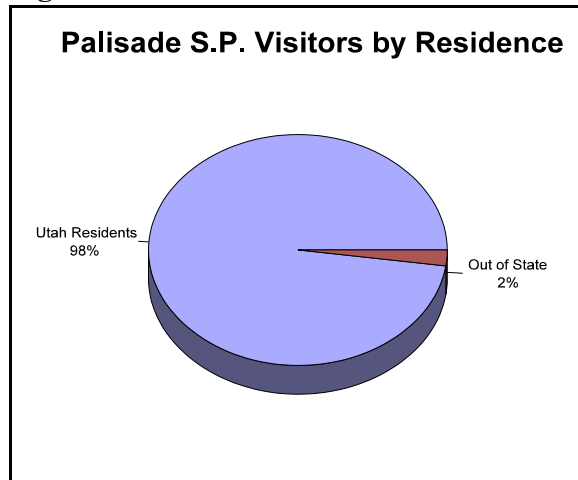
were also queried about how frequently they used the park and to list their primary recreation activities at the park.

Visitor Survey Highlights

- C **Most visitors live within Utah and tend to be either local or Wasatch Front residents**

According to the BYU on-site survey, the vast majority of Palisade survey participants

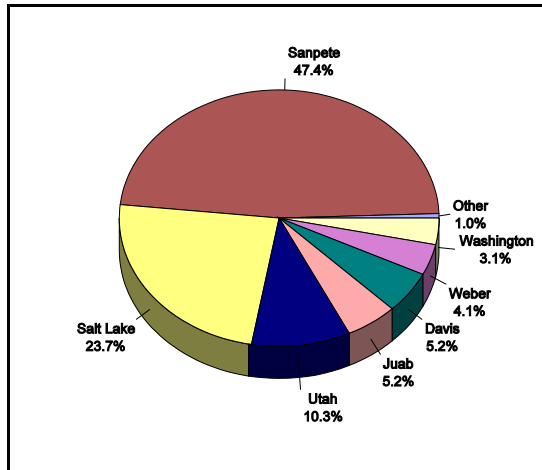
Figure 3: State of Residence



were resident Utahns. Park managers note this conforms to their general observations about visitor origins. Furthermore, as is shown in Figure 4, almost half of the in-state respondents were from Sanpete County. However, the next largest block of visitors represented in the survey were from the Wasatch Front. Almost 43.3 percent of the survey participants were from Salt Lake, Utah, Davis and Weber counties.

Survey participants listed the park's close proximity to their place of residence as the number one reason for why they chose to visit Palisade. This may help explain the relatively large contingent of Wasatch Front

Figure 4: County of Residence for In-State Visitors



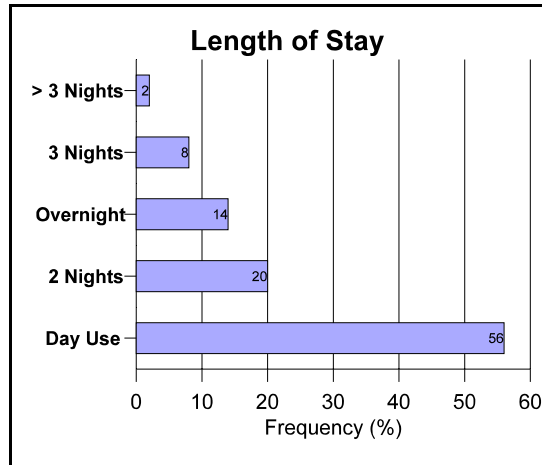
visitors in the survey. Most survey

participants were in the lower-middle income categories and typically visited the park more than once each year.

C Most survey participants were “day users”

Results show that most of the survey participants were day users (see Figure 5). Approximately 56 percent stayed for one day or less. Among those who stay more than one day, the majority said they stayed two nights. Fishing, golfing and picnicking were listed as the top three preferred activities among survey

Figure 5: Length of stay at Palisade S.P.



participants (it should be noted that about half of the available campsites were open and only 9 holes were open on the golf course at the time of the survey).

C A vast majority of survey participants listed Palisade as their primary destination

About 93 percent of those participating in the survey indicated that Palisade was their primary destination point. If such data accurately represents the visitor population in general, this means that linkages with local communities over issues such as visitor spending or visitor impact upon local infrastructure are more directly attributable to the park.

C Overall visitor satisfaction appears to be high among park users

Visitor satisfaction regarding facilities was high among survey participants. About 88 percent of the respondents indicated that the facilities were at least “good.” Of these, 47 percent listed park facilities as “very good” while another 17 percent listed them as excellent (see Figure 6).

Figure 6: Visitor Satisfaction With Palisade Facilities



Survey participants were asked to rate their

overall feelings about the park. BYU researchers used the following categories: poor, average, good, very good and excellent. A majority (57 percent) of survey respondents felt that their experience was “very good” while 11 percent gave it the highest satisfaction level of “excellent.” On the other hand, only one percent felt that the experience was “poor” while another 10 percent felt it was “average.”

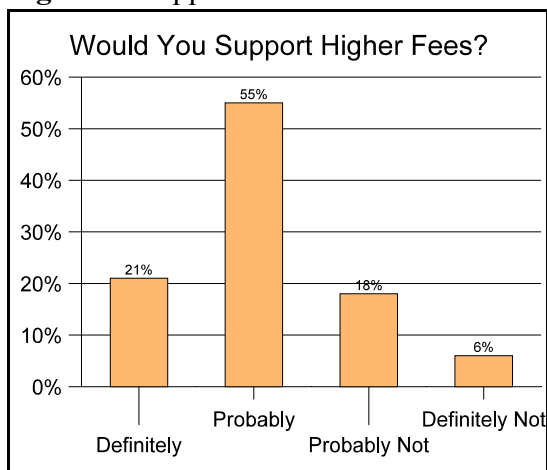
A vast majority of respondents did not feel that the park was crowded or that fees were too high. Almost 83 percent indicated that the camping fees were “just right” while about 15 percent felt they were too high (two percent thought they were too low). Similarly, 90 percent of the golfers within the survey said that the fees were appropriate. A majority of survey participants (55 percent) indicated that they would “probably” support increases in park fees (see Figure 7). Almost 21 percent indicated they would “definitely” support fee increases. On the other hand, about 24 percent appear to oppose fee increases.

Community Survey Highlights

C Picnicking, swimming, fishing and golf are the top recreational activities of community residents

Among those included in the random survey

Figure 7: Support for fee increases



issued to community residents, picnicking, swimming, fishing and golf are the preferred activities at Palisade. It appears that most of these local survey participants were “day users.” As an interesting side note, a vast majority - about 80 percent - favor the current park policy to allow only non-motorized boating on the lake.

C The community was supportive of proposals to expand the golf course and other facilities

Approximately three quarters of the community respondents approved of the 1996 golf course expansion. Although they were predominantly “day users”, most community respondents indicated that more campsites should be constructed. Finally, about 70 percent of the survey participants felt that large increases in visitation would be viewed as positive.

Economic Impact

There were approximately 127,547 visitors to Palisade State Park in 1999. In the 1995 BYU survey, participants indicated they spent about \$38.96 per group/per visit within Sanpete County on average. Average group size at Palisade is approximately 3.2 individuals. Hence, local expenditures would be approximately \$12.18 per person/per visit.

Table 1 Visitor Expenditures per Person, per Day (by Expenditure Type)

Expenditure Category	Amount
Food/Beverage	\$3.17
Lodging	\$3.17
Transportation	\$2.92
Misc. Retail Purchases	\$2.07
Entertainment	\$0.85
Total	\$12.18

Assuming that Palisade visitors spend this amount in general, total visitor impact during 1999 is calculated as follows:

- C 127,547 visitors multiplied by \$12.18 visitor expenditure per person/visit amounts to about \$1,553,522 in total expenditures within the county.

To put total impact in perspective, we may look at how these expenditures compare to total annual sales within Sanpete County. In 1998, gross taxable sales within Sanpete County amounted to \$117,860,224. Consequently, Palisade's total 1999 visitor expenditures (\$1,553,522) would account for about 1.3 percent of the county's gross taxable sales for that year.

This \$1.5 million in visitor expenditures is only part of the picture however. This *direct* spending creates additional rounds of *indirect* and *induced* spending within Sanpete County. When these "multiplied" impacts are taken into account, Palisade visitors may contribute more than \$2 million to Sanpete County's *total* income (i.e., direct, indirect and induced wages, rents, interest, profits). Similarly, Palisade visitor spending may be associated with the generation of more than 65 jobs in Sanpete County.

An input-output model (IMPLAN - Palisade) was developed to evaluate the total impact that Palisade's visitor expenditures may have on the economy of Sanpete County. The model examines visitor trip expenditures to analyze the direct, indirect and induced impacts in terms of income and employment.

Using 1999 park visitation data (127,547 visitors) and visitor spending patterns from the above visitor survey (\$12.18 per person/per visit), we were able to construct a basic regional model to estimate the park's economic impact on Sanpete County for 1999.

It is assumed that Palisade's 127,547 visitors spent approximately \$12.18 per person per visit within the Sanpete County area. Recreational studies show that on average, visitor spending is allocated among five major expenditure categories: food and drink (about 26 percent of recreation expenditures); lodging (about 26 percent); transportation (about 24 percent); miscellaneous retail sales (about 17 percent) and entertainment (about 7 percent). Assuming that these assumptions accurately represent the Palisade visitor spending, the IMPLAN-Palisade model estimates the park may contribute more than \$2 million in total income and about 65 jobs to Sanpete County's economy. Put another way, every visitor dollar spent in the local economy generates an *additional* \$0.39 in county income. Similarly, every 2000 park visitors generate approximately one *additional* job for Sanpete County (IMPLAN-Palisade model output is provided in appendix D).

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A number of issues ranging from natural resource management to facilities, policies, operations and funding were identified and addressed in this plan. Each of these issues were identified by various sources including input from planning team members as well as the public-at-large through public meetings and opinion surveys. Team members and the general public identified 21 issues which were aggregated into six distinct categories. An analytical technique used to determine the park's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and future threats (otherwise known as a "SWOT" analysis) was used to help develop these issues. A specific description or statement summarizing each issue or problem was constructed to clearly identify and articulate the problem at hand.

A number of constraints (e.g., available funding, sufficiency of staff, existing water supplies, etc.) will need to be addressed prior to issue resolution. Team members, planning staff and division experts identified some of the limiting factors that may hinder implementation of a specific team recommendation.

From these issues, and with the constraints in mind, the planning team developed specific recommendations. The team's recommendations were arrived at by consensus of opinion. Furthermore, team members agreed to ensure that recommendations are consistent with the vision elements listed within the mission and vision statements.

The six issue areas forming the basis of the team's recommendations include: (1) natural resource management; (2) education and information; (3) facilities development; (4) staffing, operations and funding; (5) land acquisition and use; and (6) collaborative

partnerships. A key recommendation that should be mentioned here involves the formation of a Palisade State Park Advisory Committee. Team members felt that such a group will be needed to help implement several of the recommendations listed in the plan and provide continuity to the process (the specific recommendation to form this group can be found in the following Collaborative Partnerships section). This committee will be referenced in many of the various recommendations. A discussion of specific team issues and recommendations under each issue area follows.

Facilities Development

Overview

While a need exists to accommodate increasing visitation and maximize economic benefits, the planning team recommends that designs should preserve the mission and vision of the park. Facility design should incorporate low maintenance features, minimal environmental impact, avoid overdevelopment and maintain its aesthetic appeal. Demand for recreation opportunities may exceed supply even with the additional facilities; however, preserving positive recreation experiences is essential to the mission of the park. Since detailed facility designs are unavailable at the time of document printing, they will be incorporated into the plan as an addendum. Funding for all the facility development projects is discussed in the section on Funding.

Issue: Clubhouse Renovation

The Palisade clubhouse is in need of renovation. The sales area is inadequate and revenue could be maximized with increased space for various sales items. The displays need to be upgraded as well. The dining area and concession area is likewise of insufficient size. It is difficult for the concessionaire to offer a greater selection on their menu due to limited space. Park staff is in need of an improved and more efficient office configuration.

< Recommendations

Team members recommend the following actions be implemented to improve economic benefits and visitor experiences while meeting park staff needs:

1. Renovate the clubhouse to meet existing and future needs of visitors and park staff.

- C Layout and design should incorporate efficient use of staff time, square

Issue Area: Facilities Development

Key Issues:

- Clubhouse Renovation
- Trail Development
- Day Use with Parking
- Playground
- Campground Expansion
- Putting Course
- Additional Facility Development and Renovation

footage, energy efficiency and elements of access and flow of travel within and around the building.

- C Building designs should be developed by the Facilities and Construction section in coordination with the Park Manager and DFCM. Some necessary components are listed as follows:
 - < Pro shop should be increased in size and possibly relocated to allow better views of the course and/or carts for management purposes.
 - < Additional kitchen space should be provided to meet the current and future needs of the concessionaire.
 - < Outside patio area with tables, etc. for eating should be included in the design.
 - < Dining area for patrons of the concessionaire should be increased.
 - < The inclusion of a basement for golf cart storage should be evaluated for cost effectiveness and included if appropriate.
 - < Other additions and components of the renovation should be included

at the discretion of the Park Manager and Facilities and Construction staff.

2. Use revenue increase projections to justify expansion costs and sell the concept.

Issue: Trail Development

The park has the opportunity to provide increased recreational opportunities to visitors by developing walking, hiking and biking trails around the park and interconnected with Forest Service lands, state lands and other surrounding areas. A major constraint is land ownership by various entities in areas surrounding the park. This constraint is addressed in the team's recommendations.

< Recommendations

Team members identified potential sites for new trails. It was also determined that the use of volunteers would be beneficial in the construction of new trails. The following recommendations were identified:

1. Develop and improve several trails with varying levels of development and difficulty including the following:

- C Make surface improvements and remove hazardous obstructions (such as rocks, low-hanging branches or vegetation, etc.) on the trail around the lake.
- C Develop a trail along the east side of the park near the base of the hills, but away from the threat of stray golf balls.
- C Develop a trail along the ridge on the west side of the park.
- C Explore opportunities to connect park trails to trails on surrounding lands.
- C Provide ADA accessible trails as the budget allows.

2. Use volunteer labor to construct trails where feasible. The following includes a partial list of potential participants:

- C Boy Scouts
- C Youth Groups
- C College Clubs

3. Develop partners to help secure grants; coordinate with State Trails Coordinator on funding and grants to develop the trails.

4. Explore use agreements and/or purchase of adjacent lands with surrounding landowners, including the Manti Irrigation Company, Division of Wildlife Resources, Sanpete County, and private landowners.

Issue: Day Use with Parking

Day use facilities and parking are currently insufficient to meet the demand of visitors seeking day use recreational opportunities. While demand may still exceed supply, following the implementation of teams recommendations with regard to day use, additional visitors will have positive recreational experiences.

< Recommendations

The team recommended balancing day use facilities with provision of camping opportunities to maximize recreation and economic benefits while protecting the aesthetic quality of the recreation experience.

1. Determine appropriate placement for day use areas considering other needs, improvements, and terrain. Potential day use development should include the following actions:

- C Position day use areas on the lake side

of the existing entrance road to provide lake access opportunities while maintaining a safe experience.

- C Consider placement of parking area and day use facilities in current northwest section of campground.
- C Consider placement of some day use parking and facilities near the Pioneer restroom.
- C Consider converting some existing campsites to day use.

- 2. Develop additional parking and day use facilities where feasible.**
- 3. Coordinate with DFCM to pave additional parking areas in conjunction with overlay projects of existing blacktop.**
- 4. Coordinate development of day use, specifically conversion of existing campsites, with the development of new campsites on the newly acquired 20 acres.**

Issue: Playground

A playground is needed to provide children with additional recreational activities. Children's recreational needs often differ from adults. A playground will meet these divergent needs.

< *Recommendations*

Team members identified a need for a playground to increase the recreational opportunities available to children. Specific recommendations were developed as follows:

- 1. Build a playground in the northwest area of the campground near the Arapeen restroom, specifically in the large grassy area.**
- 2. Utilize volunteer labor and funding acquisition methods discussed in the**

Funding section to implement the first recommendation.

Issue: Campground Expansion

Visitor demand for camping is higher than the current facilities can accommodate. Increasing day use areas will decrease existing camping areas creating a need for additional camping sites in a separate location. Trends indicate that many campers are traveling with trailers and RVs. The current campsites do not provide any hook-ups for those vehicles.

A need also exists for more group camping areas.

< **Recommendations**

Team members recommended additional overnight facilities be developed. The appropriate facilities, based on cost efficient placement and design, should be constructed on the newly acquired 20 acres. It was noted that additional design work will be needed to minimize pedestrian hazards due to adjacent roadway.

1. Determine appropriate and feasible placement of additional campsites on the newly acquired 20 acres. Base the feasibility analysis on terrain, cost and benefits, and the need to provide a public service:

- C Coordinate analysis and design of campground and land use with Facilities and Construction staff and the Park Manager. Incorporate the following elements as appropriate in the site plan:
 - < Group camping areas
 - < Individual campsites with utility hook-ups
 - < Evaluate different campsite and layout options to maximize economic returns and visitor opportunities while protecting a positive aesthetically enjoyable experience.
 - < Consider yurts/cabins based on cost effectiveness, including operations and maintenance costs.

Issue: Putting Course

Current levels of use on the golf course demonstrate a need for a putting course. A putting course would provide a family golf experience suitable for children and other non-golfers. Development of a putting course would help Palisade fill a market niche as an outstanding family/golf experience. It would

also serve as a practice area for serious golfers and provide a place to golf if tee times are not readily available.

< **Recommendations**

Team members determined the addition of a putting course joined to the recreational opportunities available at Palisade would be a welcome and useful addition. The team outlined the following recommendations:

1. Construct an 18-hole putting course near the existing driving range.

- C Design of the putting course should be a collaborative effort including the Park Manager, Greens Superintendent, Facilities and Construction staff, and DFCM.
- C Maintenance concerns, specifically irrigation and mowing, should be addressed in the design.

Issue: Additional Facility Development/Renovation

Many of the existing buildings are old and deteriorating. Specific needs include renovation/replacement of the Arapeen and Pioneer restrooms, the maintenance facility and compound, boat launching facilities, a fish cleaning station, replacement of the fee station as necessitated by the other facility development recommended by the team, and renovation of the amphitheater to increase interpretive opportunities.

< **Recommendations**

The teams recommendations addressed the six main areas of need listed above, and can be seen in the following list:

1. Renovate and expand the Arapeen restroom to meet the needs of the current and future users.

- C Seek funding for needed expansion and renovation of the Arapeen restroom.

2. Complete the maintenance facility and compound:

- C Move or construct a new shop.
- C Pave and landscape the compound.
- C Obtain/construct barriers for loading sand (sand bunkers).
- C Construct a wash area/station.

3. Develop new boat launching facilities, specifically the following:

- C Single lane ramp with sufficient length to allow launching at low water.
- C Docks.
- C Explore the possibility of Wallop-Breaux money and DWR funding/cooperation.

4. Build or purchase fish cleaning station

- C Explore the possibility of Wallop-Breaux money and DWR funding/cooperation.

5. Replace fee station as needed by campground development and management of traffic and visitor flow; perform a transportation study to evaluate traffic/pedestrian hazards.

6. Renovate the existing amphitheater to provide a safe, enjoyable area for campfire programs.

Policies, Programs and Funding

Issue: Need for Adequate Funding

Implementation of the resource management plan is largely contingent upon the Division's ability to obtain capital development funds, personnel funding, grants, partnership monies, private sponsorships or other funding sources. Such funding is constrained by legislative priorities, Division of Facilities, Construction and Maintenance priorities, Departmental priorities and the availability of external funding.

Issue Area: Policies, Programs and Funding

Key Issues:

- Need for Adequate Funding
- Expand Recreation Programs
- Golf Course Management
- Need for Adequate Park Staff
- Plan Implementation

< ***Recommendations***

Team members noted that development should be done in the most cost efficient manner possible and should maximize economic returns. Two caveats to maximizing economic returns are: (1) a need exists to provide a service in opportunities that are not typically cost efficient (e.g. campground); and (2) that maximization of economic returns should be in the context of maintaining the visual and aesthetic qualities of the park. Therefore, any justifications for needed funding cannot be strictly on an economic basis. A variety of recommendations were developed by the team to increase available funding to implement the facility development recommended in this plan and are as follows:

1. **Seek capital facilities monies for major facility and construction projects through State Parks prioritization, budget and funding procedures.**
2. **Utilize alternative methods of obtaining and generating funds for projects, programs and facilities not included in the capital facilities funding package.**
 - C Hold a park fund raiser to generate funding for some of the projects not included in the capital facility package. Follow appropriate procedures that will allow fund raiser money to remain for park use only.
 - < Consider utilizing a sponsor to facilitate a fund raiser and donate the receipts to the park for specific, stipulated purposes.
 - C Seek in-kind donations.
 - C Place a donation box with specific information about upcoming projects.
3. **Develop partnerships and support for program and facility expansion with counties, cities, Sanpete County Office of Economic Development, private organizations, foundations, and other individuals and organizations as appropriate.**
4. **Prepare a presentation on park benefits and park needs for presentation to those with the potential to provide funding.**
5. **Hold a legislative golf tournament to familiarize state legislators with the park.**
6. **Develop and utilize an advisory council, friends group, stakeholders, or the Planning Team to seek and obtain funding.**

Issue: Expand Recreation Programs

Visitors to Palisade State Park come for a variety of reasons and recreational opportunities. Additional recreational opportunities will provide the diverse population of visitors with activities that will enhance their experience. One specific population the additional programs would provide for is families with children. Another section that also addresses components of program expansion is Facilities Development.

< Recommendations

Team recommendations include possible shoulder season events, new programs, new equipment and coordination of activities with surrounding towns, counties and organizations. The recommendations are as follows:

1. Develop shoulder season events and market those events appropriately.

- C Some events that should be considered for implementation and evaluated for feasibility include a biathlon, fishing contest, OHV ride, snowmobile activities, 10K runs, bicycle events, event for people with disabilities, and other events as appropriate.
- C Whenever possible, outside agencies should be sought to organize and sponsor special event activities.
- C Outside expertise should be used when available to expand the opportunities available within the park.

2. Develop new programs and obtain new equipment to meet user needs.

- C Potential programs include but are not limited to a junior ranger program, interpretive opportunities, and Division-wide courses (e.g. OHV use) offered through Palisade State Park.
- C Additional equipment should be obtained as funding allows to provide opportunities for more visitors

- simultaneously (ie. additional canoes).
- C Utilize staff skills and expertise to provide additional recreation opportunities.

3. Coordinate park activities to correspond with county and local activities.

4. Coordinate activities and events with the Heritage Highway Coalition.

Issue: Provide more efficient management and operation of the golf course

Staff recognizes a need for management actions aimed at improving the golfing experience at Palisade. For example, during winters of little or no snow, the golf course has remained open. Turf damage is extensive during this time of the year when grasses are dormant. The result has been a poorer course condition during the busy spring. Secondly, little additional revenue is generated during December/January as most of the play is from season pass holders. Course etiquette is also a concern with the increasing number of players with varying skill levels. It is clear that management policies need to be instituted to improve the golfing experience. Other issues such as adding new course features, enforcement of course rules and enhancing the selection of merchandise offered at the pro shop also require attention.

< Recommendations

A subcommittee of the planning team was formed to deal with the issues identified. The 12 member subcommittee members included several experienced golfers, the course Professional, the course Greens Superintendent and other division staff. It is important to note that many of the subcommittee's recommendations can be implemented immediately as funding is available through the current park/region budget. The subcommittee's

recommendations are as follows:

|

1. Close the golf course in December and January.

- C Closing the course during December/January will:
 - < give management much greater flexibility in scheduling staff for overtime during peak summer months and will allow personnel to take the time off in the winter when the course is closed
 - < achieve the aforementioned agronomic benefits.

2. Improve play and aesthetics by enhancing course attributes.

- C Because of divots, the tee boxes are sometimes in poor condition. Sand and/or seed mix needs to be available on the course tee boxes so golfers can apply the mix to their divots.
- C On busy weekends, every effort should be made to place the pin in the easiest locations possible to speed play (the team acknowledges that protection of the greens is the first priority and “easy” pin placement may not always be possible).
- C With installation of additional sprinkler lines staff could increase the attractiveness of the course by expanding roughs, in particular, holes number 8 and 9.
- C The team recommends improving the appearance of the course by adding a pond on hole 5, just to the right of the bunker.
- C Palisade has very low quality sand in the bunkers and it is recommended that better quality sand be installed. The Greens Superintendent will research costs and develop a plan to address this recommendation.
- C The team recommended that more drinking water be available on the course. Staff will investigate the addition of new fountains on the

course and commit to maintaining the existing fountains in working order.

- C Add more signs directing golfers to the next hole.
- C Provide a mobile (wheeled) scoreboard located near the pro shop; A scoreboard on wheels will assist with the administration of tournament play.
- C Add/plant trees to the right of hole 11 to enhance course attractiveness and provide additional safety by blocking errant shots.
- C Post signs on tee box to suggest that lower handicap players use the closer tees; Tee designation indicated by handicap (rather than gender) could speed play.
- C Develop closer tee boxes for higher handicap players to help speed play.
- C Continue the ongoing project of paving cart paths.

3. Institute a Golf Association volunteer day.

- C The park should sponsor a golf association volunteer day to perform enhancement projects on the course. It is recommended that a dinner and fund raising auction could be held as part of the event.

4. Improve course marshaling.

- C The team recommends the park improve the marshaling efforts to speed up play. The marshals need to be more visible and tactfully approach slow groups to encourage faster play.

5. Make educational materials available for slow players.

- C New players and large groups should be provided with information on golf course etiquette that emphasizes the impacts slow play has on following players.

6. Recruit more women to the Women's (golf) Association.

- C The Women's Association needs to coordinate with the Men's Association to encourage their spouses' participation in the Women's Association.

7. The Pro Shop needs to offer a wider variety of merchandise.

- C The team recommended a larger variety of merchandise to be available for sale in the Pro Shop. Staff concurs with this assessment, but would need a new clubhouse to facilitate it.

8. Improve seasonal greens crew etiquette

- C Individuals have observed poor etiquette on the part of some seasonal greens crew employees. Park management will address this issue directly.

9. Attract more "junior" golfers.

- C The team recommended a lower fee (\$5) for Juniors to help recruit new golfers to the sport. Management will present this recommendation to the Division Golf Team to assess support for this concept.
- C The team encouraged staff to expand the existing program of junior and school lessons.

10. Expand food and beverage service on the course.

- C It is recommended that park staff negotiate with the concessionaire to promote the sale of beverages on the course via a golf cart.
- C Provide a phone near hole number 9 so players may order food and receive their orders as they arrive at the clubhouse.

11. Staff should post the times of high school play and practice to enable golfers to plan accordingly.

Issue: Need for Adequate Park Staff

As programs and facilities increase, so too will the demand on park staff. This will create a need for additional staff to carry out the increased responsibilities and still meet the needs of visitors in a positive manner.

< Recommendations

Additional personnel will be needed to fulfill increasing responsibilities as the facilities and programs outlined in this document are implemented. Recommendations were developed as follows:

1. Acquire Division approval to fill necessary positions as responsibilities increase with facility and program development.

- C Demonstrate a need for requested position through a needs analysis.
- C Positions needed immediately include:
 - < An accounting technician.
 - < An irrigation specialist.
- C Acquire sufficient seasonal time to fulfill boating and OHV responsibilities outside the park and fulfill campground needs.

2. Utilize volunteer labor whenever possible for the implementation of various plan elements, specifically for development of trails and the playground. Possible volunteer groups include, but are not limited to the following:

- C Boy Scouts
- C Church Groups
- C Youth Groups
- C College Groups
- C Inmates

Issue: Plan Implementation

Implementation of the plan will require the combined efforts of park and division employees in conjunction with interested citizens. It is essential that the park enhance its relationship with its neighbors to effectively communicate and coordinate important issues and implement the recommendations contained within this plan.

< Recommendations

The planning team recognized the need for an advocacy group to assist with plan implementation and provide proper coordination with private landowners, government agencies, and other organizations and individuals who interact with the park in some way. One constraint is determining the most appropriate format for the group and obtaining 401(c)(3) designation if that is the most appropriate. The recommendations were listed as follows:

- 1. Establish an Advisory Council to assist in implementation of the RMP and in supporting the park.**
 - C Evaluate the appropriateness and feasibility of establishing a group of interested citizens to aid in the implementation of the RMP.
 - C Determine the most appropriate format for organizing that group. Consider the benefits and cost of a friends group and an advisory council.
 - C Implement the most appropriate group utilizing the planning team as the primary members.
 - C The group will be guided by the Palisade mission/vision statements.
 - C The group will advocate for park needs with local/state/federal governments and private stakeholders.

Natural Resource Management

Issue: Adequate Water Supplies

As development and expansion occurs at Palisade to meet the needs of visitors, adequate water will be essential. Current water needs are being met by obtaining culinary water from the park well and irrigating with water from the reservoir. Increasing the amount of irrigated lawn (putting green) and facilities using culinary water creates a need to consider a variety of solutions to the issue of obtaining adequate water supplies. Major constraints with obtaining adequate water are that it is a finite resource, water rights are not always readily available for acquisition and funding is not always available when the water rights become available.

C Recommendations

Team members noted that an analysis of the current water supply and storage facilities would greatly aid in determining future needs. Specifically:

- 1. Evaluate current water usage for both culinary water and irrigation.**
 - C Facilities and Construction Section determine current flow of water from the well, recharge rates, and storage capabilities for culinary water supplies.
 - C Park staff determine irrigation water usage rates.

- 2. Increase available water supplies as the need and opportunities arise.**
 - C Complete an analysis of future water needs as a component of facility development design.
 - C Increase culinary water storage capabilities by expanding the storage tank if and when it is deemed necessary and appropriate.

*Issue Area: Natural
Resource Management*

Key Issues:

- Adequate Water Supplies*
- Wildlife Management*
- Lake Level Fluctuations During the Summer Season*

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CONCLUSION

This plan is a blueprint to help implement the planning team's recommendations. As such, it outlines the initial steps to be taken in concert with users, local communities and other interested users to preserve park resources, effectively educate visitors, enhance customer service and properly develop facilities to meet the park's wide ranging user needs.

The recommendations contained in this plan conform to the team's mission of providing visitors a wide variety of safe and satisfying recreational experiences, preserving park resources, increasing visitor appreciation of park heritage and more fully integrating the park with the community at large. This mission statement was considered with the development of each recommendation.

The plan's recommendations effectively deal with current trends concerning day use, facility needs and enhancement of education/interpretation efforts. However, it is crucial that adequate funding be received to implement these goals and accommodate visitor needs. As stated earlier, the plan's success is dependent upon the continued support of park stakeholders. Stakeholders must continue their efforts to preserve park resources, interact with local communities and strive to meet the expectations of park visitors in the midst of a rapidly growing community of recreation-oriented citizens. The recommendations contained within this plan were based upon an open and collaborative process. It is imperative that this collaborative spirit continue as the plan's components are implemented.

It is also imperative that the document be reviewed on a regular basis to ensure its viability, relevance and usefulness. This document has sufficient flexibility to be

amended in response to changing resource conditions, visitor needs and expectations, community needs and agency priorities. Such amendments may occur under the auspices of The Utah Division of Parks and Recreation working in conjunction with the proposed Palisade State Park Advisory Committee. Any such changes will include input from park visitors, local citizens, community leaders, park management or other stakeholder with interests relevant to the operations and maintenance of the park.

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