

Escalante Petrified Forest State Park

ECONOMIC TOOLKIT INFO

Escalante Petrified Forest State Park
PO Box 350
710 North Reservoir Road
Escalante, UT 84726
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Park Manager: Kendall Farnsworth

- In 2009, 39,599 individuals visited Escalante State Park. 2009 Garfield County population was approximately 5,149, according to Governor's Office of Planning and Budget population estimates. So, in 2009, the county, the park, and its staff hosted a number of individuals that equates to about 7.7 times the size of the county's current population.
- Previous visitor survey research shows that Escalante is one stop among many for visitors. In addition, most visitors are from outside of the area, and most (84%) indicated they spend money (about \$149 per group, per visit) within the County during their visit.
- Division Planners estimate the 39,599 visitors to Escalante in 2009 could contribute as much as \$767,000 in local wages, earnings, rents, and tax revenues within Garfield County. Based on this estimate, the County receives about \$94,000 in sales and business taxes from visitor spending. Because Escalante is one visitor destination among many, it would be inaccurate to attribute all of this spending directly to Escalante State Park. However, since about 40 percent of park visitors stay at least one full day or longer at the park, and since a vast majority of these visitors are from outside the area, it can be safely assumed that the park plays a key role in channeling visitor spending within the county's economy.
- In 2008, 1,017 off highway vehicles (OHV) and 65 snowmobiles were registered within Garfield County. These yield revenues to the County (in the form of payments in lieu of taxes) of about \$27,967 for OHV registrations and \$1,788 for snowmobile registrations for a total of \$29,755. More significantly, there are many more OHV and snowmobile enthusiasts who visit Garfield County each year bringing revenues through visitor spending within the County. Utah State Parks is a strong partner with Garfield County in promoting and providing these OHV and snowmobile opportunities.
- In 2009, the Division paid Garfield County \$5,618 in Sales and Use Taxes, \$2,083 in Resort Community Taxes, and \$2,751 in Transient Room Taxes from park operations occurring within the County.
- The Division's Boating Program collects data and information on boating-related activities and opportunities in each county. In 2009, Garfield County had one boat/rafting outfitter and the Division's Boating Program authorized (or listed as current) four Captain/Guide licenses and boat crew permits within the county. The division facilitates economic impacts to the county through the provision of boating opportunities.
- In 2009, the park spent about \$184,000 to maintain and operate the park and to pay for necessary infrastructure.
- Escalante State Park provides a number of essential, community-oriented services and frequently partnerships with the county in providing or sharing resources (PROVIDE EXAMPLES – back up for local law enforcement agencies, education programs to schools, wildland fire support, community event staff support, search and rescue availability, etc.)