

Fremont Indian State Park and Museum

Fremont Indian State Park and Museum
3820 West Clear Creek Canyon Road
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Park Manager: Bob Hanover

ECONOMIC TOOLKIT INFO

- In 2009, 82,486 individuals visited Fremont Indian State Park.¹ 2009 Sevier County population was approximately 20,773, according to Governor's Office of Planning and Budget population estimates.² So, in 2009, the county, the park, and its staff hosted a number of individuals that equates to about 4 times the size of the county's current population.
- Division Planners estimate the 82,486 visitors to Fremont Indian in 2009 could contribute as much as \$2.4 million in local wages, earnings, rents, and tax revenues within Sevier County.³ This equates to about \$29 of total impact per visitor.⁴ Based on this estimate, the County receives about \$129,000 in sales and business taxes from visitor spending. Because Fremont Indian is one visitor destination among many, it would be inaccurate to attribute all of this spending directly to Fremont Indian State Park. However, it can be safely assumed that the park plays a key role in helping to channel visitor spending within the county's economy.
- In 2008, 4,817 off highway vehicles (OHV) and 349 snowmobiles were registered within Sevier County. These yield revenues to the County (in the form of payments in lieu of taxes) of about \$133,952 for OHV registrations and \$9,598 for snowmobile registrations for a total of \$143,550. The park is a major OHV area for visitors. Moreover, there are many more OHV and snowmobile enthusiasts who visit Sevier County each year bringing revenues through visitor spending within the County. Utah State Parks is a strong partner with Sevier County in promoting and providing these OHV and snowmobile opportunities.
- In 2009, the Division paid Sevier County \$7,586 in Sales and Use Taxes and \$695 in Transient Room Taxes from park operations occurring within the County.⁵
- The Division's Boating Program collects data and information on boating-related activities and opportunities in each county. In 2009, Sevier County had three boat dealers and the Division's Boating Program authorized (or listed as current) three Captain/Guide licenses and boat crew permits within the county.⁶ The division facilitates economic impacts to the county through the provision of boating opportunities.
- In 2009, the park spent about \$362,000 to maintain and operate the park and to pay for necessary infrastructure.⁷
- Fremont Indian 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.)

Footnotes:

¹ Utah State Parks Public Use Statistics (Visitation Database), Fremont Indian State Park, 2009.

² Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, Utah Population Estimates, Population by County, 1940 – 2009.

³ Estimated wages, earnings, rents and tax revenues (wages, proprietor's income, rents, leases, and tax revenues) were developed using estimates from D.K. Shifflet and Associates, as well as visitor survey information from other state park museums. This information was entered

into the IMPLAN Professional Version 2.01.1025 model. IMPLAN provides estimates of how much economic value is created directly within Sevier County. IMPLAN is widely-used software that estimates county-wide economic and employment impacts associated with land and resource management planning. Data sets used in this analysis were developed by IMPLAN and represent the county's economy as the study area.

⁴ To assess the reasonableness of this estimate, a study completed by Virginia State Parks using a widely accepted economic modeling methodology developed by the National Park Service indicates that the 7.5 million who visited parks in the Virginia system in 2009 spent approximately \$175 million during their visit. This equates to a \$23.33 expenditure per visitor (see Richmond Times-Dispatch, Outdoors Section, January 22, 2010, "Public sees value in parks, why don't politicians?").

⁵ Utah Division of State Parks, Fiscal Management Section, Sales, Use, Transient Room, and Resort Tax Reports by County, 2009.

⁶ Utah State Parks, Boating Program, 2009 statistics on county boat dealers, liveries, outfitting companies, and captain/guide license and boat crew permits.

⁷ Utah Division of State Parks, Fiscal Management Section, State Parks Financial Trends.