

# Utah Lake State Park

Utah Lake State Park  
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Park Manager: Ty Hunter

## ECONOMIC TOOLKIT INFO

- 336,952 individuals visited Utah Lake State Park in 2009.<sup>1</sup> 2009 Utah County population was approximately 531,442 according to Governor's Office of Planning and Budget population estimates.<sup>2</sup> So, in 2009, the county, the park, and its staff hosted a number of individuals that is roughly equivalent to about 63 percent of Utah County's current estimated population.
- Past survey research suggests that most visitors are Utah County residents (about 65.4% of respondents), with the remainder coming primarily from Salt Lake County.<sup>3</sup> Survey respondents were predominantly day users, with an average group size of about 7.5.<sup>4</sup>
- In 2009, division planners estimated the economic impacts that the park has on the County's economy. They estimated that Utah Lake State Park generated about \$2,989,801 in total economic impact to Utah County in 2009.<sup>5</sup> This equates to about \$8.87 per visitor.<sup>6</sup>
- Through its operations at Utah Lake State Park, the division paid the county \$17,615 in sales and use taxes, and \$3,007 in transient room taxes in 2009.<sup>7</sup>
- The Division's Boating Program collects data and information on boating-related activities and opportunities in each county. In 2009, Utah County had 18 boat dealers, 6 boat liveries (providing boat rentals) and 5 boating outfitters.<sup>8</sup> Also in 2009, the Division's Boating Program authorized (or listed as current) 26 Captain/Guide licenses and boat crew permits within the county. Undoubtedly, the park and the division play a key role facilitating economic impacts to the county through the provision of boating opportunities.
- Staff at Utah Lake are responsible for maintaining a significant amount of area open to off-highway vehicles (OHVs) and snowmobiles in Utah County. In 2008, 31,357 OHVs and 4,479 snowmobiles were registered within Utah County. These yield revenues to the county (in the form of payments in lieu of property taxes) of about \$862,318 for OHV registrations and \$123,173 for snowmobile registrations for a total of \$985,491.<sup>9</sup> More significantly, the park and the Division facilitate the provision of OHV and snowmobile opportunities that undoubtedly bring even more economic impact to the county.
- Utah Lake 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:

<sup>1</sup>Utah State Parks Public Use Statistics (Visitation Database), Utah Lake State Park, 2009.

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

<sup>3</sup>Utah State Parks, Utah Lake State Park Visitor Survey Results, October 2000, p. 30.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid, pp. 7-8.

<sup>5</sup>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, other similar park surveys, and the visitor survey

information referenced above. 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 Uintah 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.

<sup>6</sup>Note this impact is relatively low, as much of the spending is from Utah County residents which means that their spending consists of dollars that already are within the County. In other words, the analysis considers only "new" dollars created from out of county visitor spending, or from indirect or induced spending that results from new dollars brought into the county.

<sup>7</sup>Utah Division of State Parks, Fiscal Management Section, Sales, Use, Transient Room, and Resort Tax Reports by County, 2009.

<sup>8</sup>Utah State Parks, Boating Program, 2009 statistics on county boat dealers, liveries, outfitting companies, and captain/guide license and boat crew permits.

<sup>9</sup>Utah Division of State Parks, Off Highway Vehicle Program, Historical Off Road Vehicle Registrations by County, 1998 – 2008.