

**RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNING BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

2015 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Keven J. Stratton**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill requires a county to develop a resource management plan.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ requires a county to develop a resource management plan as a part of the county's general plan;
- ▶ establishes content requirements for a county's resource management plan;
- ▶ requires the state to provide information and technical assistance to a county;
- ▶ requires a county planning commission to coordinate with other counties;
- ▶ establishes a county's general plan as a basis for coordinating with the federal government;
- ▶ establishes administrative duties of the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office with regard to county resource management plans; and
- ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**



28 AMENDS:

29 **17-27a-401**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2005, Chapter 254

30 **17-27a-403**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2014, Chapter 176

31 **17-27a-404**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2010, Chapter 90

32 **17-27a-405**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2005, Chapter 254

33 **17-27a-409**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2005, Chapter 254

34 **17-34-6**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2005, Chapter 254

35 ENACTS:

36 **63J-4-607**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

37 REPEALS AND REENACTS:

38 **17-27a-402**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2008, Chapter 382



40 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

41 Section 1. Section **17-27a-401** is amended to read:

42 **17-27a-401. General plan required -- Content -- Resource management plan --**

43 **Provisions related to radioactive waste facility.**

44 (1) ~~[In order to]~~ To accomplish the purposes of this chapter, each county shall prepare  
45 and adopt a comprehensive, long-range general plan ~~[for]~~:

46 (a) ~~for~~ present and future needs of the county; ~~[and]~~

47 (b) ~~for~~ growth and development of all or any part of the land within the unincorporated  
48 portions of the county~~[-]; and~~

49 (c) as a basis for communicating and coordinating with the federal government on land  
50 and resource management issues.

51 (2) The general plan may provide for:

52 (a) health, general welfare, safety, energy conservation, transportation, prosperity, civic  
53 activities, aesthetics, and recreational, educational, and cultural opportunities;

54 (b) the reduction of the waste of physical, financial, or human resources that result  
55 from either excessive congestion or excessive scattering of population;

56 (c) the efficient and economical use, conservation, and production of the supply of:

57 (i) food and water; and

58 (ii) drainage, sanitary, and other facilities and resources;

- 59 (d) the use of energy conservation and solar and renewable energy resources;
- 60 (e) the protection of urban development;
- 61 (f) the protection or promotion of moderate income housing;
- 62 (g) the protection and promotion of air quality;
- 63 (h) historic preservation;
- 64 (i) identifying future uses of land that are likely to require an expansion or significant
- 65 modification of services or facilities provided by each affected entity; and
- 66 (j) an official map.

67 (3) (a) The general plan shall contain a resource management plan to provide for the  
68 protection, conservation, development, and managed use of resources that are critical to the  
69 health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the county and of the state.

70 (b) The resource management plan shall:

71 (i) be centered on the following core resources:

72 (A) energy;

73 (B) air; and

74 (C) water; and

75 (ii) contain detailed plans regarding:

76 (A) mining;

77 (B) land use;

78 (C) livestock and grazing;

79 (D) irrigation;

80 (E) agriculture;

81 (F) fire management;

82 (G) noxious weeds;

83 (H) forest management;

84 (I) water rights;

85 (J) ditches and canals;

86 (K) water quality and hydrology;

87 (L) flood plains and river terraces;

88 (M) wetlands;

89 (N) riparian areas;

- 90           (O) predator control;
- 91           (P) wildlife;
- 92           (Q) fisheries;
- 93           (R) recreation and tourism;
- 94           (S) energy resources;
- 95           (T) mineral resources;
- 96           (U) cultural, historical, geological, and paleontological resources;
- 97           (V) wilderness;
- 98           (W) wild and scenic rivers;
- 99           (X) threatened, endangered, and sensitive species;
- 100          (Y) land access;
- 101          (Z) law enforcement; and
- 102          (AA) economic considerations.

103          (c) For each item listed under Subsection (3)(b), a county's resource management plan

104 shall:

- 105           (i) establish any relevant findings pertaining to the item;
- 106           (ii) establish clearly defined objectives; and
- 107           (iii) outline general policies and guidelines on how the objectives described in
- 108          Subsection (3)(c)(ii) are to be accomplished.

109           ~~[(3)]~~ (4) (a) The general plan shall include specific provisions related to any areas  
110 within, or partially within, the exterior boundaries of the county, or contiguous to the  
111 boundaries of a county, which are proposed for the siting of a storage facility or transfer facility  
112 for the placement of high-level nuclear waste or greater than class C radioactive nuclear waste,  
113 as these wastes are defined in Section 19-3-303. The provisions shall address the effects of the  
114 proposed site upon the health and general welfare of citizens of the state, and shall provide:

- 115           (i) the information identified in Section 19-3-305;
- 116           (ii) information supported by credible studies that demonstrates that the provisions of
- 117          Subsection 19-3-307(2) have been satisfied; and
- 118           (iii) specific measures to mitigate the effects of high-level nuclear waste and greater
- 119          than class C radioactive waste and guarantee the health and safety of the citizens of the state.

120           (b) A county may, in lieu of complying with Subsection ~~[(3)]~~ (4)(a), adopt an ordinance

121 indicating that all proposals for the siting of a storage facility or transfer facility for the  
122 placement of high-level nuclear waste or greater than class C radioactive waste wholly or  
123 partially within the county are rejected.

124 (c) A county may adopt the ordinance listed in Subsection [~~(3)~~] (4)(b) at any time.

125 (d) The county shall send a certified copy of the ordinance [~~under~~] described in  
126 Subsection [~~(3)~~] (4)(b) to the executive director of the Department of Environmental Quality by  
127 certified mail within 30 days of enactment.

128 (e) If a county repeals an ordinance adopted [~~pursuant to~~] under Subsection [~~(3)~~] (4)(b)  
129 the county shall:

130 (i) comply with Subsection [~~(3)~~] (4)(a) as soon as reasonably possible; and

131 (ii) send a certified copy of the repeal to the executive director of the Department of  
132 Environmental Quality by certified mail within 30 days after the repeal.

133 [~~(4)~~] (5) The general plan may define the county's local customs, local culture, and the  
134 components necessary for the county's economic stability.

135 [~~(5)~~] (6) Subject to Subsection 17-27a-403(2), the county may determine the  
136 comprehensiveness, extent, and format of the general plan.

137 Section 2. Section 17-27a-402 is repealed and reenacted to read:

138 **17-27a-402. Information and technical assistance from the state.**

139 (1) A county may request that the state, including any agency, department, division,  
140 institution, or official of the state, provide the county with information that would assist the  
141 county in creating the county's general plan.

142 (2) The state or an agency, department, division, institution, or official of the state from  
143 which a county has requested information under Subsection (1) shall provide the county with:

144 (a) the information requested by the county, unless providing the information is  
145 prohibited by Title 63G, Chapter 2, Government Records Access and Management Act; and

146 (b) any other technical assistance or advice the county needs with regards to the  
147 county's general plan, without any additional cost to the county.

148 Section 3. Section 17-27a-403 is amended to read:

149 **17-27a-403. Plan preparation.**

150 (1) (a) The planning commission shall provide notice, as provided in Section  
151 17-27a-203, of its intent to make a recommendation to the county legislative body for a general

152 plan or a comprehensive general plan amendment when the planning commission initiates the  
153 process of preparing its recommendation.

154 (b) The planning commission shall make and recommend to the legislative body a  
155 proposed general plan for the unincorporated area within the county.

156 (c) (i) The plan may include planning for incorporated areas if, in the planning  
157 commission's judgment, they are related to the planning of the unincorporated territory or of  
158 the county as a whole.

159 (ii) Elements of the county plan that address incorporated areas are not an official plan  
160 or part of a municipal plan for any municipality, unless it is recommended by the municipal  
161 planning commission and adopted by the governing body of the municipality.

162 (2) (a) At a minimum, the proposed general plan, with the accompanying maps, charts,  
163 and descriptive and explanatory matter, shall include the planning commission's  
164 recommendations for the following plan elements:

165 (i) a land use element that:

166 (A) designates the long-term goals and the proposed extent, general distribution, and  
167 location of land for housing, business, industry, agriculture, recreation, education, public  
168 buildings and grounds, open space, and other categories of public and private uses of land as  
169 appropriate; and

170 (B) may include a statement of the projections for and standards of population density  
171 and building intensity recommended for the various land use categories covered by the plan;

172 (ii) a transportation and traffic circulation element consisting of the general location  
173 and extent of existing and proposed freeways, arterial and collector streets, mass transit, and  
174 any other modes of transportation that the planning commission considers appropriate, all  
175 correlated with the population projections and the proposed land use element of the general  
176 plan; ~~and~~

177 (iii) an estimate of the need for the development of additional moderate income  
178 housing within the unincorporated area of the county, and a plan to provide a realistic  
179 opportunity to meet estimated needs for additional moderate income housing if long-term  
180 projections for land use and development occur[-]; and

181 (iv) before July 1, 2016, a resource management plan detailing the findings, objectives,  
182 and policies required by Subsection 17-27a-401(3).

183 (b) In drafting the moderate income housing element, the planning commission:  
184 (i) shall consider the Legislature's determination that counties should facilitate a  
185 reasonable opportunity for a variety of housing, including moderate income housing:  
186 (A) to meet the needs of people desiring to live there; and  
187 (B) to allow persons with moderate incomes to benefit from and fully participate in all  
188 aspects of neighborhood and community life; and  
189 (ii) may include an analysis of why the recommended means, techniques, or  
190 combination of means and techniques provide a realistic opportunity for the development of  
191 moderate income housing within the planning horizon, which means or techniques may include  
192 a recommendation to:  
193 (A) rezone for densities necessary to assure the production of moderate income  
194 housing;  
195 (B) facilitate the rehabilitation or expansion of infrastructure that will encourage the  
196 construction of moderate income housing;  
197 (C) encourage the rehabilitation of existing uninhabitable housing stock into moderate  
198 income housing;  
199 (D) consider county general fund subsidies to waive construction related fees that are  
200 otherwise generally imposed by the county;  
201 (E) consider utilization of state or federal funds or tax incentives to promote the  
202 construction of moderate income housing;  
203 (F) consider utilization of programs offered by the Utah Housing Corporation within  
204 that agency's funding capacity; and  
205 (G) consider utilization of affordable housing programs administered by the  
206 Department of Workforce Services.  
207 (c) In drafting the land use element, the planning commission shall:  
208 (i) identify and consider each agriculture protection area within the unincorporated area  
209 of the county; and  
210 (ii) avoid proposing a use of land within an agriculture protection area that is  
211 inconsistent with or detrimental to the use of the land for agriculture.  
212 (d) In drafting the resource management plan required under Section 17-27a-401, the  
213 planning commission shall:

214 (i) identify any common interests the county shares with any other proximate county  
215 with regards to the elements of the resource management plan as described in Subsection  
216 17-27a-401(3)(b); and

217 (ii) coordinate with the other proximate county to establish, to the greatest extent  
218 possible, consistent objectives and policies with regards to the common interests identified  
219 under Subsection (2)(d)(i).

220 (3) The proposed general plan may include:

221 (a) an environmental element that addresses:

222 (i) to the extent not covered by the county's resource management plan, the protection,  
223 conservation, development, and use of natural resources, including the quality of air, forests,  
224 soils, rivers and other waters, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals, and other natural resources;  
225 and

226 (ii) the reclamation of land, flood control, prevention and control of the pollution of  
227 streams and other waters, regulation of the use of land on hillsides, stream channels and other  
228 environmentally sensitive areas, the prevention, control, and correction of the erosion of soils,  
229 protection of watersheds and wetlands, and the mapping of known geologic hazards;

230 (b) a public services and facilities element showing general plans for sewage, water,  
231 waste disposal, drainage, public utilities, rights-of-way, easements, and facilities for them,  
232 police and fire protection, and other public services;

233 (c) a rehabilitation, redevelopment, and conservation element consisting of plans and  
234 programs for:

235 (i) historic preservation;

236 (ii) the diminution or elimination of blight; and

237 (iii) redevelopment of land, including housing sites, business and industrial sites, and  
238 public building sites;

239 (d) an economic element composed of appropriate studies and forecasts, as well as an  
240 economic development plan, which may include review of existing and projected county  
241 revenue and expenditures, revenue sources, identification of basic and secondary industry,  
242 primary and secondary market areas, employment, and retail sales activity;

243 (e) recommendations for implementing all or any portion of the general plan, including  
244 the use of land use ordinances, capital improvement plans, community development and

245 promotion, and any other appropriate action;

246 (f) provisions addressing any of the matters listed in Subsection 17-27a-401(2); and

247 (g) any other element the county considers appropriate.

248 Section 4. Section 17-27a-404 is amended to read:

249 **17-27a-404. Public hearing by planning commission on proposed general plan or**  
250 **amendment -- Notice -- Revisions to general plan or amendment -- Adoption or rejection**  
251 **by legislative body.**

252 (1) (a) After completing its recommendation for a proposed general plan, or proposal to  
253 amend the general plan, the planning commission shall schedule and hold a public hearing on  
254 the proposed plan or amendment.

255 (b) The planning commission shall provide notice of the public hearing, as required by  
256 Section 17-27a-204.

257 (c) After the public hearing, the planning commission may modify the proposed  
258 general plan or amendment.

259 (2) The planning commission shall forward the proposed general plan or amendment to  
260 the legislative body.

261 (3) (a) As provided by local ordinance and by Section 17-27a-204, the legislative body  
262 shall provide notice of its intent to consider the general plan proposal.

263 (b) (i) In addition to the requirements of Subsections (1), (2), and (3)(a), the legislative  
264 body shall hold a public hearing in Salt Lake City on provisions of the proposed county plan  
265 regarding Subsection 17-27a-401~~(3)~~(4). The hearing procedure shall comply with this  
266 Subsection (3)(b).

267 (ii) The hearing format shall allow adequate time for public comment at the actual  
268 public hearing, and shall also allow for public comment in writing to be submitted to the  
269 legislative body for not fewer than 90 days after the date of the public hearing.

270 (c) (i) The legislative body shall give notice of the hearing in accordance with this  
271 Subsection (3) when the proposed plan provisions required by Subsection 17-27a-401~~(3)~~(4)  
272 are complete.

273 (ii) Direct notice of the hearing shall be given, in writing, to the governor, members of  
274 the state Legislature, executive director of the Department of Environmental Quality, the state  
275 planning coordinator, the Resource Development Coordinating Committee, and any other

276 citizens or entities who specifically request notice in writing.

277 (iii) Public notice shall be given by publication:

278 (A) in at least one major Utah newspaper having broad general circulation in the state;

279 (B) in at least one Utah newspaper having a general circulation focused mainly on the  
280 county where the proposed high-level nuclear waste or greater than class C radioactive waste  
281 site is to be located; and

282 (C) on the Utah Public Notice Website created in Section 63F-1-701.

283 (iv) The notice shall be published to allow reasonable time for interested parties and  
284 the state to evaluate the information regarding the provisions of Subsection 17-27a-401~~(3)~~(4),  
285 including:

286 (A) in a newspaper described in Subsection (3)(c)(iii)(A), no less than 180 days before  
287 the date of the hearing to be held under this Subsection (3); and

288 (B) publication described in Subsection (3)(c)(iii)(B) or (C) for 180 days before the  
289 date of the hearing to be held under this Subsection (3).

290 (4) (a) After the public hearing required under this section, the legislative body may  
291 make any revisions to the proposed general plan that it considers appropriate.

292 (b) The legislative body shall respond in writing and in a substantive manner to all  
293 those providing comments as a result of the hearing required by Subsection (3).

294 (5) (a) The county legislative body may adopt or reject the proposed general plan or  
295 amendment either as proposed by the planning commission or after making any revision the  
296 county legislative body considers appropriate.

297 (b) If the county legislative body rejects the proposed general plan or amendment, it  
298 may provide suggestions to the planning commission for its consideration.

299 (6) The legislative body shall adopt:

300 (a) a land use element as provided in Subsection 17-27a-403(2)(a)(i);

301 (b) a transportation and traffic circulation element as provided in Subsection  
302 17-27a-403(2)(a)(ii); ~~and~~

303 (c) after considering the factors included in Subsection 17-27a-403(2)(b), a plan to  
304 provide a realistic opportunity to meet estimated needs for additional moderate income housing  
305 if long-term projections for land use and development occur~~[-]; and~~

306 (d) before January 1, 2017, a resource management plan as provided by Subsection

307 [17-27a-403\(2\)\(a\)\(iv\)](#).

308 Section 5. Section **17-27a-405** is amended to read:

309 **17-27a-405. Effect of general plan -- Coordination with federal government.**

310 (1) Except for the mandatory provisions in Subsection [17-27a-401](#) ~~[(3)]~~(4)(b) and  
311 Section [17-27a-406](#), and except as provided in Subsection (3), the general plan is an advisory  
312 guide for land use decisions, the impact of which shall be determined by ordinance.

313 (2) The legislative body may adopt an ordinance mandating compliance with the  
314 general plan, and shall adopt an ordinance requiring compliance with all provisions of  
315 Subsection [17-27a-401](#) ~~[(3)]~~(4)(b).

316 (3) (a) As used in this Subsection (3), "coordinate with" means an action taken by the  
317 federal government on a given matter, pursuant to a federal law, rule, policy, or regulation, to:

318 (i) work with a county on the matter to achieve a consistent outcome;

319 (ii) make resource management plans in conjunction with a county on the matter;

320 (iii) make resource management plans consistent with a county's plans on the matter;

321 (iv) integrate a county's plans on the matter into the federal government's plans; or

322 (v) follow a county's plans when contemplating any action on the matter.

323 (b) If the federal government is required to coordinate with a county or a local  
324 government on a matter, the county's general plan is the principle document through which the  
325 coordination shall take place.

326 (c) The federal government is not considered to have coordinated with a county or a  
327 local government on a matter unless the federal government has:

328 (i) kept the county apprised of the federal government's proposed plans, amendments,  
329 policy changes, and management actions with regard to the matter;

330 (ii) worked with the county in developing and implementing plans, policies, and  
331 management actions on the matter;

332 (iii) treated the county as an equal partner in negotiations related to the matter;

333 (iv) listened to and understood the county's position on the matter to determine whether  
334 a conflict exists between the federal government's proposed plan, policy, rule, or action and the  
335 county's general plan;

336 (v) worked with the county in an amicable manner to reconcile any differences or  
337 disagreements, to the greatest extent possible under federal law, between the federal

338 government and the county with regards to plans, policies, rules, or proposed management  
339 actions that relate to the matter;

340 (vi) engaged in a good-faith effort to reconcile any conflicts discovered under  
341 Subsection (3)(c)(iv) to achieve, to the greatest extent possible under federal law, consistency  
342 between the federal government's proposed plan, policy, rule, or action and the county's general  
343 plan; and

344 (vii) given full consideration to a county's general plan to the extent that the general  
345 plan addresses the matter.

346 Section 6. Section 17-27a-409 is amended to read:

347 **17-27a-409. State to indemnify county regarding refusal to site nuclear waste --**

348 **Terms and conditions.**

349 If a county is challenged in a court of law regarding its decision to deny siting of a  
350 storage or transfer facility for the placement of high-level nuclear waste or greater than class C  
351 radioactive waste or its refusal to provide municipal-type services regarding the operation of  
352 the storage or transfer facility, the state shall indemnify, defend, and hold the county harmless  
353 from any claims or damages, including court costs and attorney fees that are assessed as a result  
354 of the county's action, if:

355 (1) the county has complied with the provisions of Subsection 17-27a-401~~(3)~~(4)(b)  
356 by adopting an ordinance rejecting all proposals for the siting of a storage or transfer facility for  
357 the placement of high-level nuclear waste or greater than class C radioactive waste wholly or  
358 partially within the boundaries of the county;

359 (2) the county has complied with Subsection 17-34-1(3) regarding refusal to provide  
360 municipal-type services; and

361 (3) the court challenge against the county addresses the county's actions in compliance  
362 with Subsection 17-27a-401~~(3)~~(4)(b) or 17-34-1(3).

363 Section 7. Section 17-34-6 is amended to read:

364 **17-34-6. State to indemnify county regarding refusal to site nuclear waste --**

365 **Terms and conditions.**

366 If a county is challenged in a court of law regarding its decision to deny siting of a  
367 storage or transfer facility for the placement of high-level nuclear waste or greater than class C  
368 radioactive waste or its refusal to provide municipal-type services regarding the operation of

369 the storage or transfer facility, the state shall indemnify, defend, and hold the county harmless  
370 from any claims or damages, including court costs and attorney fees that are assessed as a result  
371 of the county's action, if:

372 (1) the county has complied with the provisions of Subsection 17-27a-401~~(3)~~(4)(b)  
373 by adopting an ordinance rejecting all proposals for the siting of a storage or transfer facility for  
374 the placement of high-level nuclear waste or greater than class C radioactive waste wholly or  
375 partially within the boundaries of the county;

376 (2) the county has complied with Subsection 17-34-1(3) regarding refusal to provide  
377 municipal-type services; and

378 (3) the court challenge against the county addresses the county's actions in compliance  
379 with Subsection 17-27a-401~~(3)~~(4)(b) or 17-34-1(3).

380 Section 8. Section 63J-4-607 is enacted to read:

381 **63J-4-607. Resource management plan administration.**

382 (1) The office shall consult with the Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands  
383 before expending funds appropriated by the Legislature for the implementation of this section.

384 (2) To the extent that the Legislature appropriates sufficient funding, the office shall  
385 procure the services of a non-public entity in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 6a, Utah  
386 Procurement Code, to assist the office with the office's responsibilities described in Subsection

387 (3).

388 (3) The office shall:

389 (a) assist each county with the creation of the county's resource management plan by:

390 (i) consulting with the county on policy and legal issues related to the county's resource  
391 management plan;

392 (ii) helping the county ensure that the county's resource management plan meets the  
393 requirements of Subsection 17-27a-401(3); and

394 (iii) facilitating coordination between counties as required by Subsection  
395 17-27a-403(2)(d);

396 (b) to the greatest extent possible, promote consistent quality standards among all  
397 counties' resource management plans; and

398 (c) calculate the estimated cost of providing the services described in this section to  
399 each county.

400 (4) (a) A county shall cooperate with the office, or an entity procured by the office  
401 under Subsection (2), with regards to the office's responsibilities under Subsection (3).

402 (b) A county that receives assistance from the office under this section shall place a  
403 deposit with the office in an amount equal to 50% of the estimated cost calculated under  
404 Subsection (3)(c).

405 (c) To the extent that the Legislature appropriates sufficient funding, the office shall  
406 reimburse a county in the amount described in Subsection (4)(d) when a county's resource  
407 management plan:

408 (i) meets the requirements described in Subsection [17-27a-401\(3\)](#); and  
409 (ii) is adopted under Subsection [17-27a-404\(6\)\(d\)](#).

410 (d) The office shall reimburse a county under Subsection (4)(c) in an amount equal to  
411 the lesser of:

412 (i) the cost estimated under Subsection (3)(c); or  
413 (ii) \$50,000.

414 (5) To the extent that the Legislature appropriates sufficient funding, after the deadline  
415 established in Subsection [17-27a-404\(6\)\(d\)](#) for a county to adopt a resource management plan,  
416 the office shall:

417 (a) obtain a copy of each county's resource management plan; and

418 (b) create a statewide resource management plan that:

419 (i) meets the same requirements described in Subsection [17-27-401\(3\)\(a\)](#); and

420 (ii) to the greatest extent possible, coordinates and is consistent with any resource  
421 management plan or land use plan established under Title 63J, Chapter 8, State of Utah  
422 Resource Management Plan for Federal Lands.

423 (6) To the extent that the Legislature appropriates sufficient funding, the office shall  
424 provide legal support to a county that becomes involved in litigation with the federal  
425 government over the requirements of Subsection [17-27a-405\(3\)](#).