

1-1-2007

Planning and zoning around Bear Lake, Utah

Patsy Palacios

SJ & Jessie E Quinney Natural Resources Research Library, Utah State University, Logan

Chris Luecke

Watershed Sciences, Utah State University, Logan

Justin Robinson

Watershed Sciences, Utah State University, Logan

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/nrei>

Recommended Citation

Palacios, Patsy; Luecke, Chris; and Robinson, Justin (2007) "Planning and zoning around Bear Lake, Utah," *Natural Resources and Environmental Issues*: Vol. 14, Article 5.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.usu.edu/nrei/vol14/iss1/5>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Quinney Natural Resources Research Library, S.J. and Jessie E. at DigitalCommons@USU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Natural Resources and Environmental Issues by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@USU. For more information, please contact becky.thoms@usu.edu.



PLANNING AND ZONING AROUND THE LAKE

Communities in the Bear River basin are presently encountering various intensities of growth and development due to new residential, commercial, and agricultural development. In general, the development is distributed unevenly throughout the basin with much heavier concentration occurring south of Grace, Idaho and continuing into Garden City. Around the Bear Lake area, development is sprawling outward from the lakeshore and up the sides of the foothills. The west and south shores are primarily privately owned with summer home development, while the east shore is mostly state owned with multiple access points. See figure 4 for development around Bear Lake. The residential development is expressed in both permanent housing and an equal amount of seasonal (summer and winter) residential construction. The commercial and service growth in the area is directed more toward the tourist/ recreational growth of the region as opposed to support services for either the agricultural or full residential activities (Toth, 2005).

Culinary water sources for the communities of Laketown, Pickleville, and Garden City are supplied by springs in the basin. Swan Creek Spring provides water not only to Garden City but also the area along the lakeshore from Garden City to the Idaho boarder (BLRC, 1979).

For the rural communities of Laketown and Garden City, whose economies have revolved around farming and ranching, growth is becoming more dependent upon tourism, recreation, wildlife habitat, and other public purposes. Planning for the future in the face of a changing and diverse public perception depends upon their ability to merge traditional uses with new economic opportunities.

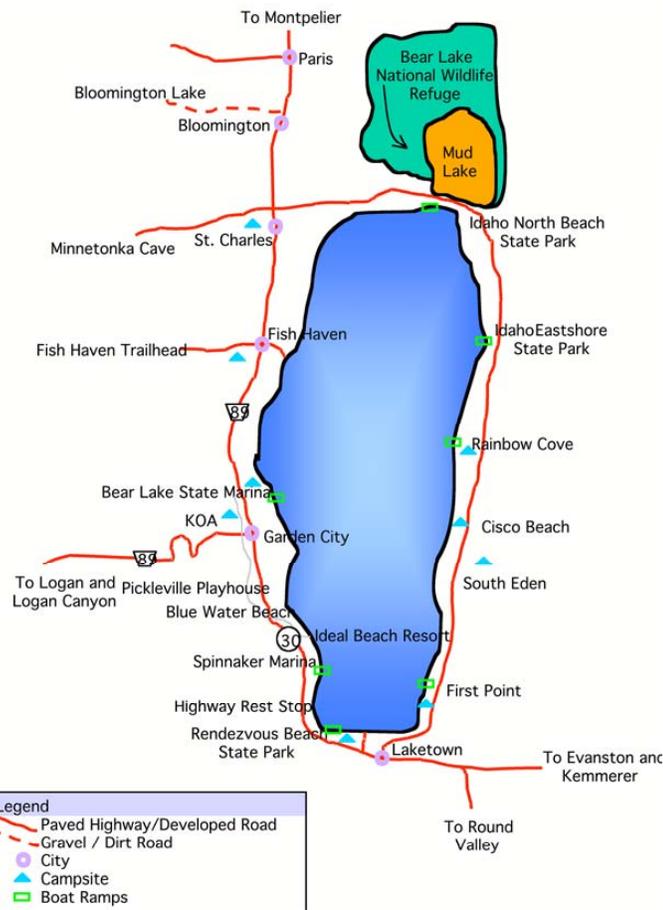


Figure 4. Bear Lake Development Areas (recreated from Lamarra, 1997).

Andrews and Dunaway conducted a survey to assess the current and future development of Bear Lake County, Idaho and Rich County, Utah. The objective of the study was to determine possible sources of conflict over land management practices and water use. Interviews and mailed questionnaires were assessed to identify the greatest problems facing property owners in the Bear Lake area. The greatest problems expressed by local farmers and year round residents were too many recreationists and pollution of the lake. Many of the property owners stated they were concerned about high property taxes forcing them out of the area. Absentee property owners reported being concerned with increasing pollution of the

Natural Resources and Environmental Issues

14

lake, high sewage costs, and fluctuating water levels. With respect to changing land uses, farmers valued having the land use remain as it is with very little development while non-farmers favored more business coming into the area.