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Adam T. Stewart
Utah State University

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**Business Honors Internship Final Report:
U.S. House of Representatives**

by

Adam T. Stewart

**Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree**

of

**HONORS IN UNIVERSITY STUDIES
WITH DEPARTMENTAL HONORS**

in

**Economics
in the Department of Economics and Finance**

Approved:

Thesis/Project Advisor
Dr. Randy Simmons

Departmental Honors Advisor
Associate Dean Frank Caliendo

Director of Honors Program
Dr. Nicholas Morrison

**UTAH STATE UNIVERSITY
Logan, UT**

May 2014

Adam Stewart
Honors Program
April 1st, 2014

Honors Business Internship Final Report

From May 6th through August 9th of 2013, I had the choice opportunity to intern for Congressman Rob Bishop in the United States House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. I consider this experience monumental in my undergraduate career. No other experience has allowed me to utilize all of the knowledge and skills gained in my dual economics and political science degrees.

I first became interested in interning on Capitol Hill after my freshmen year when I had my first internship with then Senator Gregory Bell (he later went on to serve as Lieutenant Governor) at the state capitol in Salt Lake City. That experience was also very formative for me. In contrast to members of Congress in Washington D.C., state legislators do not have any full-time staff. That meant that for the 2009 legislative session, I was the scheduler, communications director, constituent liaison, legislative assistant, and chief-of-staff to Senator Bell. I experienced a small taste of almost every aspect of working for an elected public servant. Senator Bell was also serving in leadership at the time as Assistant-Whip, which granted me access to yet another aspect of the legislative process. After the end of the short six week legislative session, I knew that I wanted more experience working in public policy.

When I returned back to Utah State from a two-year LDS mission, I applied and was accepted into the Koch Scholars Program. This was my first serious exposure to economics. Despite being intimidated by the unparalleled intelligence of the professors and students in the program, I fell in love with economics and knew I wanted to add it as a major. After taking additional economics courses, I became more and more interested in the intersection of

economics and politics, political economy, as well as public choice economics. Through a number of professors in both political science and economics departments, I developed an especially strong interest in the principles of federalism, especially how it relates to public land issues. Congressman Bishop works very heavily in these issues, so interning in his office was a natural choice.

Attached are two projects that I worked on during my internship. The first document, a draft report entitled “A Toolkit to: Keep Government Local,” was the cooperative effort of the Federalism in Action project and our congressional office. Congressman Bishop is the chairman of the 10th Amendment Task Force, a House caucus that encourages the adoption of federalism as a solution to public policy problems. As part of this position, Congressman Bishop was responsible for weekly reports on federalism to the House Republican Study Committee. I was assigned to help prepare these reports. An extension of this task was assisting the State Policy Network and State Budget Solutions to create a federalism toolkit for policy makers. I was tasked with assisting in the language of the document, finding case studies and examples to be used, and editing the document. The final report is now online.

The second document entitled “Eastern Utah Land-use Snapshot” is a graph and data about acreage allocation in six Utah counties. I used federal and state agency websites to gather and compile the data into a report that was used by Congressman Bishop and his legislative director in their efforts to build a coalition of the disparate interest groups involved with public lands, including environmentalists, recreationalists, developers, and local governments. The ultimate goal of this effort is to craft federal legislation that will swap public and private lands in a hope to improve both environmental protection and energy development. This effort is called

“The Grand Bargain” in the media and has generated great publicity and excitement. This document is just one of many projects I worked on regarding public land issues.

The final document is a PDF of a poster I presented to state legislators at Research on Capitol Hill. Much of the research I presented at this conference stemmed from my time in this internship.

I was very pleased with my efforts in my internship. I was able to apply thinking like an economist to public policy problems, including knowledge of incentive structures, institutions as rules that govern behavior, property rights, externalities, supply and demand, sunk costs, and thinking on the margin. My time at Utah State in the Finance and Economics Department, Honors Program, and Political Science Department have well equipped me with tools for success in my future personal life, family life, and professional life.

Carbon County

Federal	451,149
Private	371,613
State	127,015
Existing Conservation (29%)	131,271
Red Rock	137,016
Red Rock + Conservation (34%)	154,286

Grand County

Federal	1,686,179
Private	101,664
State	370,778
Existing Conservation (26%)	443,021
Red Rock	847,843
Red Rock + Conservation (50%)	849,738

Uintah County

Federal	1,702,987
Private	434,000
State	271,436
Existing Conservation (25%)	420,799
Red Rock	384,997
Red Rock + Conservation (38%)	645,244

Total

Federal	10,583,853
Private	1,610,121
State	1,555,883
Existing Conservation (37%)	3,878,989
Red Rock	5,104,549
Red Rock + Conservation (64%)	6,727,018

Emery County

Federal	2,277,132
Private	234,528
State	348,345
Existing Conservation (37%)	839,871
Red Rock	1,580,695
Red Rock + Conservation (75%)	1,696,985

San Juan County

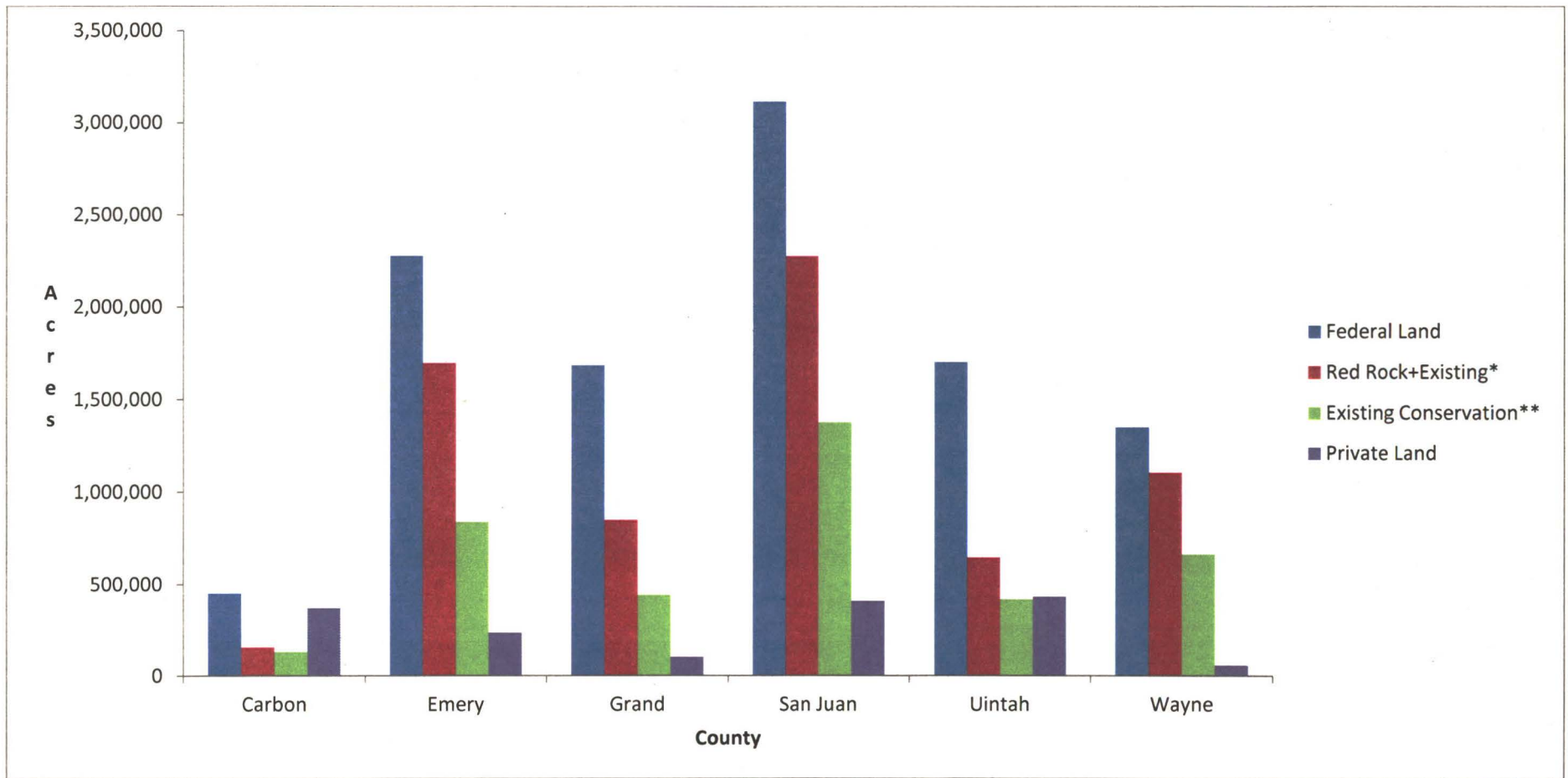
Federal	3,116,527
Private	410,590
State	268,348
Existing Conservation (44%)	1,379,714
Red Rock	1,464,465
Red Rock + Conservation (73%)	2,276,049

Wayne County

Federal	1,349,879
Private	57,726
State	169,961
Existing Conservation (49%)	664,313
Red Rock	689,533
Red Rock + Conservation (82%)	1,104,716

Oil and Gas Leases

Vernal	1,238,614
Moab	698,016
Price	540,466
Monticello	231,686
Total	2,708,782
Ratio (Oil: Conservation)	1:1.4



Sources: State of Utah, BLM

*Assumes WSA, ACEC and Natural Areas acres are included in Red Rock Proposal

**WSA, NPS, NRA, Roadless, Natural Area, ACEC, National Monument, Wilderness

Eastern Utah Land-use Snapshot