

## **MAJOR CITIES AND THEIR POPULATION- 2000-2010**

<b><u>CITY</u></b>	<b><u>2000 POPULATION</u></b>	<b><u>2010 POPULATION</u></b>	<b><u>% CHANGE</u></b>	<b><u>ALTITUDE</u></b>
Antimony	122	122	0	6,460
Boulder	180	226	25.6	6,580
Bryce Canyon City		198		7,700
Cannonville	148	167	12.8	6,100
Escalante	818	797	-2.6	5,750
Hatch	127	133	4.7	6,998
Henrieville	159	230	44.7	6,100
Tropic	508	530	4.3	6,235
Panguitch	1,623	1,520	-6.3	6,720

## **LAKES AND WATER STORAGE**

The biggest lake in the county is Panguitch Lake, 15 miles southwest of Panguitch. It is estimated that there are 50 or 60 small lakes on the Boulder and Escalante Mountains in the central part of the county. In addition, there are the following water storage reservoirs: Tropic Reservoir- west of Bryce Canyon, Wide Hollow – west of Escalante, Spectacle Lake- northwest of Boulder, Jacob’s Reservoir- Boulder Mountains, Bench Irrigation Co. Reservoir- Antimony, North Creek Reservoir- northwest of Escalante, Dog Valley Reservoir- northwest of Panguitch, Pine Lake- east of Panguitch, Upper and Lower Bounds Reservoirs- east of Boulder Mountain. They are used for the enjoyment of sportsmen and to supply water for livestock grazing in that area as well as for irrigation and culinary purposes.

## **IRRIGATION**

Securing sufficient water and using it for irrigation of crops is a major problem of this area. In 1892, one fork of the Sevier River was taken over the rim of the “Great Basin” to water the area of Tropic. This is unique in that it is the only place that water is diverted from the Great Basin into another drainage area.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

U.S. Highway 89 is a major highway serving this area, and carries the majority of Utah’s freight by truck and transport from Salt Lake City to Arizona. It is closely connected to Utah’s other important north-south highway, Highway I-15, by way of Bear Valley’s Highway 20 (10 miles north of Panguitch) and Highway 14 (south of Hatch). Another important route is newly designated National Scenic Byway 143, Utah’s Patchwork Parkway, connecting Panguitch via Panguitch Lake and Cedar Breaks to Cedar City or Brian Head Ski Resort. This is a beautiful

scenic drive where various tourist attractions and opportunities can be accessed. Garfield County is also home to National Scenic Byway 12-Utah's All-American Road. This road has been given the All-American Road because it is one of the most scenic routes in all of the United States. The route bears National Parks, State Parks, National Forests, the National Monuments and many other scenic attractions.

### **ECONOMIC STATUS**

Livestock, lumber, tourist services and employment by government agencies contribute the largest percent of income to the county. Of the 3,338,880 acres of land in the county, only 4.4% is privately owned- and this includes all farming and pasture land. The remaining 95.6% is owned and managed by the U.S. Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Utah Division of Parks and Recreation and the Utah Division of State Lands.

### **AGRICULTURE**

The average size farm is 502 acres, compared to the State average farm size of 713 acres. There are 2165,415 acres of tillable land in the county.

### **FOREST AND TIMBER**

National Forest land in Garfield County includes some 1,008,487 acres. Timber sales each year are an important source of income. In 1992, there was enough lumber milled to build 1,745 new homes. At the present time there are two sawmills operating in Garfield County; however, because of environmental issues and lack of timber available from the Forest Service, both sawmills have scaled back their operations considerably.

### **CONSERVATION**

In recent years there have been projects developed to reduce soil erosion and increase production of timber and forage on the land within the forest areas. The largest grass re-seeding project in the world has been carried out in the Dixie National Forest. Approximately 58 thousand acres have been re-seeded.

The forest development road system in Garfield County consists of approximately 1,000 miles of primitive and improved roads. The Forest Service maintains 500 miles of road each year. The timber people have built many of the roads in the timber producing areas. The trail system contains about 500 miles of trail.

### **SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF RAINFALL**

There are great variations in rainfall from year to year. The season of least rainfall- April to June- is the growing season for most crops, so they must be irrigated. Most of our rainstorms are violent local showers. Showers of 20 to 30 minutes' duration may result in a heavy downpour. The precipitation for a month may be the result of an hour's rain. Such showers pour great quantities of water on the ground; and during their progress, the flat surfaces become lakes, dry washes are converted into torrents, and cliff faces take the form of sheeted waterfalls. This type of climate accounts for the unusual and rough terrain of the county.

## **TEMPERATURE**

Temperatures fluctuate widely within the year and within each day. A daily range of up to 40 degrees is common to the entire area; ranges of 50 degrees have frequently been experienced. A person in this region soon learns that however hot the day may be, an ample supply of blankets may be required at night. At altitudes about 5,000 feet, temperatures of 70-80 degrees may be followed by nights when ice will form on standing water.

The first killing frost of autumn can come as early as August 25<sup>th</sup> in Panguitch and Hatch. The last killing frost can come as late as June 20<sup>th</sup>.

## **SOIL**

Most of the soil in this region, other than the mountains, is transported soil. It has been brought into its present position by streams and wind. In some areas, scanty vegetation, the absence of sod, the sudden showers, and the rapid run-off cause removal of the soil as rapidly as it is formed.

Cottonwood trees grow within the lowest canyons at 3,125 feet and also in dry washes above 6,000 feet. In places, yellow pine constitutes forests between 7,000 and 9,000 feet, but is absent from large areas between 7,000 and 8,000 feet and appears here and there below 5,000 feet. Sagebrush, willow, and water-loving grasses, reeds and ferns are distributed regardless of altitude.

In eastern Garfield County, there is a large area which is uninhabited by people. Most of the area is controlled and worked by the federal and state governments and is known as public lands. Approximately 98% of Garfield County is public land. Trappers and prospectors come and go, but neither whites nor Indians have chosen these regions for more than temporary use. During recent years, many people have gone into this area for recreational purposes. Garfield County road Department has done considerable work to improve the roads.

## **MINING AND OTHER RESOURCES**

Studies have indicated the county is rich in oil, coal, copper, bentonite and uranium. Since 1989, there are 23 wells producing oil.

## **MOUNTAINS**

The Henry Mountains, in the eastern part of the county, are the youngest mountains known to exist in the world. They are referred to as a geologist's paradise. The last herd of free-moving buffalo lives in the Henry Mountains.

## **SCENIC ATTRCTIONS**

Within the boundaries of the county can be found some of nature's richest treasures of scenic beauty- from thickly forested areas high on Boulder and Escalante Mountains to nature's most fantastic, unbelievable creations made from sandstone, coaxed and carved by wind, rain and

elements of nature. Of the five National Parks located in the great state of Utah, portions of three of them lie in Garfield County, as well as two National Scenic Byways, three State Parks, the Grand Staircase Escalante-National Monument, the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, national forests, recreational activities and our claim to fame, no stoplights and only one attorney! Whatever this area lacks in resources it makes up for in scenic beauty.

In recent years, more and more people from all parts of the world have visited this area, which has led tourism to become a major source of income for Garfield County. There are several motels, bed and breakfasts and campgrounds; totaling roughly 1,895 rooms throughout the area. There are ample food establishments, shopping, hiking, ATV riding, horseback riding, bird watching and several other recreational activities to keep tourists entertained for days.

On September 18, 1996, former President Bill Clinton designated 1.7 million acres of public land in Garfield and Kane Counties as the Grand Staircase/Escalante National Monument. The monument has been characterized as a vast sandstone wonderland comprised of the multi-hued cliffs of the Grand Staircase, the serpentine stone canyons of the Escalante River, and the lonely, remote and silent Kaiparowitz Plateau. This austere and starkly beautiful region was the last place in the continental United States to be mapped.

Beautiful campgrounds can be found at Panguitch Lake, Red Canyon, Bryce Canyon, Pine Lake, Posey Lake, King Creek, Petrified Forest near Escalante, Kodachrome Basin State Park near Cannonville and Calf Creek about halfway between Escalante and Boulder.

Lake Powell forms Garfield County's eastern boundary. This lake offers unlimited recreation in the form of boating, water skiing and fishing. Those who like to explore the remote areas surrounding the lake can travel to very interesting areas by boat. Lake Powell has a shoreline 1,800 miles long.

In addition to the scenic attractions, the county's climate is conducive to vacation enjoyment. The cool, refreshing nights at a high altitude are most enjoyable and a welcome to the weary traveler, as are the pure, cold, clear, spring water and excellent tourist accommodations.

Fishing, in both summer and winter, has proven to be a popular sport on the lakes and streams throughout the county.

Many of Garfield County's annual events have become very popular in summoning travelers to the area. Some of the most popular events include; The Bryce Canyon Half Marathon and 5K Run/Walk, Panguitch Valley Balloon Rally, Quilt Walk Festival, Bryce Canyon Rim Run, Escalante Canyons Art Festival-Everett Ruess Days, Boulder Heritage Festival, Birding in Boulder and much more. For a full list you can visit our website at [www.brycecanyoncountry.com](http://www.brycecanyoncountry.com)

## **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

After the occupation of Central Mexico by Spaniards in 1514, several exploratory trips were made to the north. Marco de Niza, accompanied by three priests and others, made a successful trip and returned to interest Coronado- then President of new Spain- in this area. He then dispatched expeditions into this and surrounding regions.

Garcia Lopez de Gardenas was undoubtedly the first man to see any part of the Colorado Canyon. Many expeditions followed; and on July 29, 1776, a party headed by Silvestre Valdez Escalante made a memorable trip. From the descriptions left by that party, their route is easily traced. Their records give the first information about the part of Garfield County near Cannonville, Boulder and Escalante. On September 26<sup>th</sup>, they reached the Colorado River; and after 12 day's search, a point was found where a crossing was made. This spot has since been known as "The Crossing of the Fathers".

Therefore, as far as is known, Father Escalante was the first white man to traverse Southern Utah and the only explorer to enter the Glen Canyon before Powell's memorable trip a century later.

Major J. W. Powell, a scientific explorer, was engaged by the Smithsonian Institute in 1867-69 to explore Western Colorado and Eastern Utah; due to his several expeditions, we have much geographic knowledge of this area.

Thompson, one of Powell's associates, describes eastern Garfield County with this statement:

"A large portion of this area is naked sandstone rock, traversed in all directions by perfect labyrinth of narrow gorges, sometimes seeming to cross each other, but finally uniting in a principal one...the Colorado"

In 1870 Southeastern Utah, comprising about a quarter of the state, was unknown land. Powell had marked the course of the Colorado, but found no feasible route leading from it except those already known. Explorations by scouts of the Mormon Church had resulted in locating small tracts of land that could be irrigated at the east base of the high plateaus, along the Paria River, and at places south of the Colorado Canyons. Paria was founded in 1871; Cannonville and Escalante in 1875.

The entire area is rich in pioneer heritage and several celebrations take place honoring the settlements of each community. A popular story is the settlement of Panguitch and the story that later became known as the Quilt Walk. Close to starvation eight men set out on a trek over the mountain to nearby Parowan, to retrieve supplies. On their way back they had to abandon their wagons due to the deep snow. They laid out their quilts to kneel and have a prayer circle and discovered that they would not sink in the snow using the quilts. For the remainder of the trip they set one quilt in front of the other, retrieving the end quilt and bringing it to the front of the line, becoming known as the Quilt Walk.

Paria (Pah-water, reah-deer) on the Paria River is the oldest settlement in South Central Utah. Paria, Adairville, Rockhouse, Georgetown and Clifton have been abandoned because of the scarcity of water and the destruction by floods. Only three county communities exist in this area today- Cannonville, Tropic and Henrieville.

The Mormon expeditions played an important role in the exploration and settling of this area, and a study of Church records tell of early settlers and their experiences here; most notable in the trek of a group of 200 men, women and 50 children, with 200 horses and 1,000 cattle who left Iron County and crossed Garfield County. This became known as the Hole-in-the-Rock Expedition. This group was in search of a shorter route to San Juan County. After reaching the rim of the canyon of the Colorado River, one of Utah's greatest pioneering feats was accomplished. Rocks were blasted away, wagons, cattle and pioneers laboriously made their way to the bottom of the Colorado, where the river crossing was made in February. The Hole-in-the-Rock road has become a popular destination in itself. Viewing where the crossing was made, makes one realize that this feat would seem an utter impossibility. Recently in the town of Escalante near the beginning of the road, a new Heritage Center has been built to help acquaint individuals with the story of the Hole-in-the-Rock pioneers.

In 1880, another site to cross the Colorado was located to satisfy the need for a more convenient crossing of the river. The spot selected is known as Hite. For many years a ferry was operated there. A bridge now connects the roads on each side of the Colorado River. About 50 miles downstream from Hite, a ferry crosses the river to connect Garfield and San Juan Counties.

The area was known for being very remote. The last pony express route in America traveled between Escalante and Boulder.

Garfield County is an area fabulously wealthy in scenic beauty, providing the nature lover, explorer, geologist, prospector and historian with a great challenge to read and understand the character of Mother Nature.

