

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to summarize the comments collected on post-it notes and newspaper templates at the July 7 vision workshop in Moab. The comments are organized by vision question (below) and grouped into themes. The numbers in the parentheses (3) indicate the number of individual comments collected at the workshop that were the same or similar to that particular comment or topic. The newspaper editions are also summarized beginning on page 14.

Background

Grand County hosted a vision workshop on July 7 that more than one hundred community members attended to help planners create the general plan vision statements, the first step in developing an up-to-date general plan for Grand County. The vision workshop was an interactive, energetic event with small and large group discussions structured on these questions:

- What do we treasure about Grand County that you don't want to change?
- What concerns do we have about living in Grand County and for the future?
- What would we like to see change/different in Grand County in the future?
- What do we want Grand County to be like in twenty years?

Questionnaires have also been available on the general plan website (see below) and as mail-back/drop off surveys. County staff and consultants have collected dozens of written comments and responses to the vision questions and integrated those into this summary.

Next steps

Since the workshop, planners have been drafting a vision statement for Grand County. The vision statement will be the foundation for the general plan update as the process evolves and the plan's subject matter becomes more detailed and action-oriented. Additional comments will be integrated as they come in until the end of July when the draft vision statements are released.

We will convene a Vision Verification community opinion polling session to ask the community "Did we get it right?" on Thursday July 22, 2010 at the Grand Center in Moab from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

For information and the community meeting schedule go to the general plan website:
http://www.grandcountyutah.net/grand_county_general_plan.htm

What concerns do we have now and for the future?

Community/Quality of Life

Cleanliness/Trash (7): old cars, old trailers, open dumpsters in residential areas, dump sites in residential and open county areas; junk in yards reflects on our image to the rest of the world.

Develop community pride, both public and private (2)

Keep neighborhoods with unique characters

Law enforcement: What is the future? We need community oversight firmly a part of the process

Meeting needs of all citizens

Respect and inclusion of human beings of all diversities; respect across cultures, race, generations (7)

- Concern that minority communities do not have voice on community decisions, are not respected for who they are and what they contribute
- More low-income Latino and Navajo families are moving into town all the time; how is the county doing at integrating them socially, culturally and economically? Town is beginning to feel a bit ghettoized...

Disempowerment of local officials by the people to determine safety of our water, air, wildlife, quality of life in Grand County, city council, town of Castle Valley, etc.

Health care (2)

Low voter turnout; engaged young people

We have a chance to shape our county – let's not blow it

Economy

Diversity/balance/over-dependence on tourism (15): only one main industry (tourism); all county eggs in one basket (recreation) – this is low-paying and low tax base; too much energy given to promoting tourism

Gradual loss of backcountry tourism asset essential to economy (2): proliferation of visible homes on isolated parcels (hub and spoke tourism is dependent on backcountry close to Moab); loss of rec land to oil and gas, potash-mining, uranium-mining and tar-sands-mining

Jobs/wages (8): Loss of population/jobs; more full-time jobs; lack of cooperation by county officials with other land-use agencies to bring development and higher-paying jobs; livable wages; too much poverty

Lack of industry (5): implementation of heavy and light industry; lack of county enthusiasm for encouraging industrial development

- Heavy industry – Cisco?
- Zoning of heavy industry in Thompson
- Heavy industrial areas

Locally owned business growth (2)

Sustainability/year-round economy – not boom/bust (5); reduce money leaving Grand County; import substitution (ID money leaving, generate locally);

Ecologically and economically sustainable development (17)

That those at the bottom of the economic ladder are not listened to

Big Box stores (4): The threat of Big Business, Big Box, oil and gas, etc., from other places impacts local community negatively; no Big Box stores

Commercial development (2) – need to be more open-minded and real – don't push commerce to San Juan County; too much NIMBYism

Support of locally grown food (4): agricultural sustainability; food security if/when financial crisis worsens; keeping ag lands and production of food close to home; less need for outside resources

Increase number of shops in south valley

concerns

Solar project in Crescent Junction to help county taxes

Lack of economic engine to drive economy and appropriate growth; the inability of the tax base to provide revenue necessary to fund the desired level of development (schools, hospitals, etc.); paying for all the new buildings in Grand County (schools, hospital, library, rec center)

Recruit a wealthy movie star or football player to take Moab under their wing and fund it

Education

High-quality local education system (9)

- Education quality is suffering and will impact our community vitality
- To maintain a vibrant economy we need people with critical-thinking skills – we need families with school-age children. Service-economy workers are often too tired to give back to their community. If we raised our education level and opportunities people would be available to participate in building a dynamic economy.

Support/funding for public education (8) (building and operating county-wide)/expanding our local tax base to benefit schools and local government

College campus; bring in four-year university (15); grow USU to 10,000 students

Community college

Lack of child/youth support (schools, abuse, foster care, medical) (3)

Addressing substance abuse

Environment/Natural Resources

Water quality and protection of aquifer (35)

- Degradation of the hydrologic function of our sole-source aquifer watershed.
- Water quality and efficiency – more communal efforts to conserve this precious commodity
- Water quality in northern part of county.
- USGS – study forest watershed management.
- Need comprehensive watershed planning.
- Concern that water quality of unconsolidated aquifers and Glen Canyon aquifer are at great risk of contamination.
- Not knowing how building on our aquifer will affect the quality in the future; all development on top affects aquifer
- Contamination of groundwater of Castle Valley and Moab/Spanish Valley
- Integration of SITLA, BLM, Forest Service and private property to protect water resources

Water supply/availability to support population growth (14); plentiful clean water for people and wildlife; not knowing how much water is available; water management is not well coordinated between water and land agencies and governments – may lead to water crisis; “use it or lose it” water waste

Flooding/preservation of natural drainage

Regulations on septic/sewer?

Air quality (23): ozone; visibility/haze; sand storms

- Need more healthy vegetation cover and fewer impermeable surfaces.
- Air quality is declining, which affects the tourist economy.
- Air quality declining due to oil/gas development and off-road vehicle use; pollution – much of it is not from here.

concerns

- Chem trails, dust from Colorado, fires in California – how do we monitor and affect what comes in? Increasing frequency of high-intensity dust storms having potential to lower quality of life and economy.

Noise/preserve quiet (7) – highway traffic and motorized recreation

Dark skies/not too much night lighting (4)

Increase in lands dominated by invasive plants (knapweed, Russian olive, etc.)

SITLA and tar sand development stressing air and water

Managing our resources to help local business/people; responsible with resources (water, energy, electric, petroleum, gas)

Energy development's impacts (14)

- Lack of industrial regulation/energy development (2).
- Grand County refusal to take SITLA to court for allowing outside companies to build facilities on their property that damage our watershed and air quality.
- Not become energy sacrifice area (waste dumping, oil and gas, tar sands, shale oil, nuclear).
- Oil-shale extraction (2) – short-term gain, long-term devastation.
- Green River nuclear power plant
- Implications of the federal energy corridor proposed for Moab, Grand County (4)

Climate change (8); impacts on water resources and environment

Danger of ban on county sewage harming water quality, i.e., lack of sewer lines in upper Spanish Valley

Tourism impact – amount of folks utilizing our land – it can't last

County cancer rates and effects of living in a “hot” community (white elephant in the room)

Forest Service fire “protection” plan – destruction of habitat, watershed, water and airshed

Sustainability – any area or entity has a limited carrying capacity – we must define ours and live to it in regard to potable water, landfill vs. recycle, resource extraction

Promoting county-wide recycling at all county properties

Wildlife corridors (2)

Control of off-road vehicle usage

Energy

More alternative energy vs. oil/gas (8)

- Energy independence = solar/wind – the “localer” the better. One house, one block, one city
- Energy consumption

Government

Lower taxes (2)

Return to a partisan representation. People now run for election and we have no idea where they stand politically.

Growth/Planning

Density

- Increase density near towns (2).
- Allow more density for housing, then have open space on the side (parks) – not one acre/one home.
- Do not move toward higher density in the city and allow for sprawl.
- Where to put population growth when private land is limited.
- When development is done in the county more open land requirements.

concerns

Sprawl (3)

- Large lots create more traffic.

Too many cookie-cutter subdivisions sitting empty most of the time

The general plan seems disconnected from what gets built – example: can't get narrower roads

Sustainable residential growth

Unplanned, unregulated growth (2); over-development that stresses infrastructure, increases debt and taxes

Moab and Grand County ordinances should have an addition at the bottom stating that all extractive or induction industries need to use the best technology and science available, that any investigation into their operations be carried out by an independent firm.

Main St.: keep it beautiful and to code

Maintain rural and/or small-town character (4): Don't want to turn into Vail, Park City, etc.; small-town, clustered, energy-efficient feel

Losing quirky local landmarks (Matrimony Springs)

Incorporate south end of Spanish Valley into Grand County for more complete planning

Lack of sound and good planning principles. Need to develop and enforce design standards and criteria (architecture, landscaping, sustainability, connectivity)

Fewer restrictions on housing and building in county (though still too many restrictions on trailers, fence heights, etc.)

Private property rights (3): too much county regulation over what owners can do on their own land

Spanish Valley (5):

- Collaboration with San Juan County planning for Spanish Valley;
- San Juan County wants to develop Spanish Valley without concerns for quality of life here;
- Get land in Spanish Valley from San Juan County so we control our area
- Public lands close to Spanish Valley (no trading to the state)

Lack of long-term protective management for high-value federal lands crucial to Grand County's tourism economy

Land-use code enforcement (9):

- Grand County has codes and laws to maintain safety and health hazards, so why must citizens file a legal complaint to enforce issues the county should enforce?

Allow "tasteful" Big Box stores for affordable shopping

Increase number of neighborhood (pocket) parks

Preserve open-space areas (4); preservation of open space to be preserved or "naturally" maintaining for multiple use

Good-quality recreational opportunities

Combining city-county boundaries to help facilitate growth

- Preserving agricultural lands (12):
- Protect best agricultural land.
- Encourage local agriculture.
Are losing arable lands that can help sustain a self-reliant food-producing area.
- Remove sections of code which restrict making a living with agriculture.

Community sustainability (12):

- Includes food, power, manufacturing, tourism.
- Should be a department to coordinate county practices re sustainability, resource protection and financial responsibility (i.e., recycle rather than landfill)

Deteriorating infrastructure and cost of maintaining

concerns

Cost of fixing past development mistakes

The average person is not well-represented in planning efforts

More flexible planning and zoning – rural can be costly and not very efficient

Housing

Affordable housing (42):

- Make it truly affordable so people do not need to commute to in-town jobs.
- Not enough decent, safe homes for low-income earners.
- Balance between income and housing; rentals and purchases both needed.
- Need more multi-family and one-bedroom studio units.
- Workforce housing that is integrated into quality development.
- The less than median income will be forced out of valley.
- Needed close to town.
- Land-use codes tend to benefit higher real estate prices at the expensive of affordable housing – too restrictive of low-income housing.
- Affordable monthly rentals
- Top 40% can afford housing, never made living here. Bottom 60% made living here, 56% low or 30% very low income.
- Be aware of where affordable housing makes sense – location, location, location
- Not friendly to family development

How we compassionately respond to the growing homelessness; no facility especially in winter for overnight housing

Over-valuation of people's property and economics over people's welfare

Relationships

Coordination with BLM, USFS, SITLA re ecosystem and other issues (5)

How do we coordinate with the state, fed, and city plans?

Polarized groups need to work together

SITLA is a rogue entity driven by profits of selling land – they don't answer to the community

SITLA should have to follow more restrictions

SITLA (2); need working relationship that works for the benefit of both

Cooperation and coordination with San Juan County re water/sewer/air quality, etc.

Relationship of county to public and federal land management

Transportation/Infrastructure

More alternative (bike and pedestrian paths, etc.) (14)

- Need for group/mass transit for Spanish Valley, Moab and Castle Valley
- Need paved path on Spanish Valley Drive and Murphy Lane.
- Marked space for bikes on Spanish Trail; Murphy Lane bike trail
- Transportation/travel plan/alternative transportation – bike and pedestrian-friendly/smaller cars, power wheelchairs, rollerblades (3)

Highway 191 corridor – noise, pollution

Roads leading to and from San Juan County

Transportation federal funding for trains from SLC to Phoenix

concerns+treasures

More public transportation (utilizing trains) if possible (3)
 Transportation that would support industry
 Transportation to and from Spanish Valley
 Traffic, particularly on river road and 191 – keep it down! Also, development along these corridors
 Keeping semi-truck traffic and pedestrians apart
 ADA accessibility
 Minimizing increasing traffic impacts
 Create a crossroad across the valley in addition to Spanish Valley Drive and Mill Creek
 Roads need more maintenance – not enough money allocated for this purpose
 Commute trails throughout the valley not being given high enough priority
 Create a county recreation department, especially for trail maintenance. Combine with equestrian center and county softball fields.
 Future traffic lights – where?

What do you treasure and want to preserve about Grand County?

Cultural resources

Community radio, newspaper and TV (4)
 Theater, music (2), non-profits
 Visual arts
 Grand County library (2)
 Moonflower, Wabi-Sabi and the fashion show
 Good coffee and good books
 Protect historical areas/old buildings (2)

Community/Quality of Life

Small-town/rural character (25): We are like Mayberry with scenery; ranchers and Old Moab people – give them their due and appreciate that it's not all condos and T-shirts
 Healthy lifestyle (4)
 Cultural diversity; diversity of the population across racial, cultural and economic lines (17)
 Recycling/conservation attitude (3)
 Cooperative spirit/close-knit sense of community/friendliness (6)
 Independent living/individuality/uniqueness (4)
 Local businesses; keeping Big Boxes out (6)
 Strong nonprofit sector – culture, theater, multicultural center, youth garden, art work, etc. (2)
 Lack of crowding/small population (8): only 26 per square mile
 Our backyard backcountry “feel” that makes Grand County an attractive place to live and also an attractive visitor destination
 Non-industrial clean environment
 Quiet (13); quiet winter; quiet space “not in Moab”
 Low crime and safety (4)
 Old City Park – lands and availability of park services
 Trees and wide streets
 Lack of interstate through town

treasures

Narrow, low-speed roads (2)
 Bike trails and walking paths (2)
 Mill Creek Parkway (from river to BLM)
 Zoning balance
 Individuality: not a bunch of deed-restricted cookie-cutter development
 Uniqueness! – not just another county
 Creative citizens – the eclectic nature of people and how they manage to make a living
 Living close to work
 Our momentum to addressing affordable housing
 Open space (18); in community, not just nearby federal lands
 Non-motorized access to public lands/wilderness (9): single-use instead of multiple use
 Motorized access to public lands (2)
 Good trails; hiking and bike trails; plentiful and diverse (5)
 Recreational opportunities and close access (6)

Parks (2)
 Ag lands/green space/open space (16)
 Organic food store and CSAs and local garden
 Recreation
 Preserve the right to build/use land/pursue economic dreams (4)

Economy

Tourism – their money
 Economic diversity (2)
 Strong local business (2) and shopping diversity so we don't have to travel for stuff
 Farmers' market (2)
 Historical restoration of downtown Thompson, Utah, to include the old train station
 Our continued spatial separation of our amenity economy and our commodity economy (e.g., oil and gas separated from tourism)

Environment/Natural Resources

Clean water/watersheds (28)
 Clean air (22)
 Adequate water (3)
 Colorado River (5) and creeks (Mill, Park, N. Bill)
 Natural beauty; views; blue skies, red rocks, keeping the areas around rivers as open as possible (18)
 Low ridgeline development (5); keeping the Moab rims free of development; no high buildings or towers, etc.
 Dark skies (13)
 Wild lands; access to public lands (7); wild Cisco desert
 Preserve crypto soil
 Control use of our scenic resource (discourage overuse)
 Solitude (3)
 Diverse land uses (bike, hike, boat, ATVs, horses, etc.)
 Wildlife; preserve species diversity
 Mountains and pristine quality of the La Sal connection (Castle Valley-Ken's Lake area); Ken's Lake (2)

treasures+changes

Matrimony Springs

The Colorado River Canyon and nearby areas from Colorado state line to Canyonlands National Park
 Immediate access to open, natural lands; access to public land via roads and trails (2)
 The phreatophytes along the creeks and around springs

Housing

Remaining inexpensive rentals – a little bit of lack of total gentrification
 Sanity of the real-estate market relative to other places
 Modestly sized houses and buildings
 Building department is supportive of green building

What would you like to see different or change in Grand County?

Community/Quality of Life

No junk dump or deceased vehicles on private property (15)
 Enforcement of existing codes re trash clean-up, old junk, etc. (2)
 Sustainability officer (high level) county-wide (5)
 Intolerance, passions and opinions to the point of hatred; less bickering over little stuff/less blaming the government – taking responsibility (5)
 Appreciation across cultures
 More sharing (lawn mowers, trucks, rafts, houses)
 One river trip mandatory per person per year
 Radio, local entertainment
 Fair and balanced community
 Work for the common good; improved sense of community
 Minimize police force (2)
 Attitudes that value “my, me, mine” over community health and cooperation
 Improvement of “cultural norms” re attitudes about the “other”
 Drinking, drug use, apathy
 Responsible elder care
 More sports facilities for youth (basketball, baseball)
 Remove the tram on the north end of town
 Recycling (curbside) (2)

Economy

Shops that really cater to local needs
 Much more sustainable county
 Shift values from money to quality of life
 Economic diversity (8): increase diversity but have activity that is sustaining and non-polluting
 Broader tax base/ more developments/more industry (7)
 Less dependence on tourism (4): tourism economy perpetuates poverty; have tourist impact tax that gives back to schools and nonprofits
 Pro-active visitor management
 More viable local business – keep out Walmart! Better restaurants and sound local biz environment

changes

Would like to integrate tourist trade more into the town – attract them to art walk and cultural events to support local efforts

More open attitude regarding open-air markets (arts, for example) so they are not thought of as threats by merchants

Year-round economy; more sustainable economy (less reliance on outside supply)

Clothing and shoe stores for year-round residents

Restore small business in Thompson

More shopping opportunities in valley

Encouragement of local agriculture (6):

- Include value-added products.
- Farmers' market and co-ops to expand and become more sustainable/economically viable.
- Support of arable land back into sustainable food growth/more real agriculture (2)

Less industry and mining (5)

Renewable/alternative/green energy development (18)

Living wages for all workers

Education

Better-funded schools (6)

Four-year/higher-ed college campus (15)

Junior college to attract young people (2)

Adequate financing for local schools (2)

Resolve school problems without creating so much animosity and raising taxes

Grand County schools need more money from Utah state and federal government to upgrade teachers' salaries

Better education at lower levels (4)

Improved education program for our youth and young adults

Vocational programs

A sense of respect for all this education and leadership

Teach the Constitutional law in the schools

Environment

Protection against locally generated dust and air pollutants/better air quality and visibility/lower ozone levels (6)

No more alfalfa – sucks up water

Comprehensive watershed planning/protection (10):

- Work with Forest Service, BLM and SITLA on aquifer protection (2).
- County exchange or purchase of key SITLA land, especially land essential to watershed protection.

Examination of water delivery systems/county irrigation

Better protection of our sole-source aquifer; management of sole source aquifer recharge area to maximize hydrologic function

Comprehensive energy planning

Drought-management plan

Address flooding issues in county

Aggressive control of invasive plants

changes

Resolution of long-term public-land issues (wild and scenic river, wilderness, national conservation areas)
 Protective federal legislation for Colorado River Canyon and related areas
 Emphasis on preservation of natural drainage
 Higher standards for oil/gas/mining
 Reject regional fossil-fuel sacrifice area: land/leasing closures, no toxic waste
 More wilderness and adjacent public-lands protection; county support for wilderness designation
 Control open burning
 More respect and protection for wildlife
 Programs to protect ecosystem services
 Recycling and conservation (3); more education, recycling at all county facilities and events; excessive cemetery watering; 24-hour lights in courthouse
 Sustainability coordinator who works with city/county (3)
 Building requirements that protect water/view
 Curbside recycling as part of trash pick-up (2); recycling charge on non-residents; closed-loop system
 No storage of toxic produced water from Colorado gas and oil wells
 More affordable/better access to health care (Hospital is so expensive and it's hard to get a doctor appointment at times)

Government/Politics

Back to three-person commission; council back to a commission; review of seven-man council system
 Change to at-large elections
 Greater education and involvement of county council members
 Lower taxes
 A welcoming, friendly inclusive county political process
 County seems to be run by big outside money – investments in third and fourth homes, development of the land for non-sustainable and destructive uses
 Brave, bold, out-of-the box political action
 Less contentious politically – less polarization – angst is warranted; direct it into better cooperation
 Fewer divisions artistically and culturally along political lines. Don't we all want good food and good culture?

Housing

More affordable housing (15):

- More active verbs in addressing affordable housing/comply with plan.
- Housing affordable to and occupied by Grand County residents.
- Affordable housing that is affordable.
- Affordable housing for service workers and others.
- Need affordable housing then we need to rezone – example, Thompson presently you can't build under 10 acres
- Give building incentives for building small energy-efficient homes – also, more affordable!
- High-density apartments
- Allow private landowners to live in alternative housing (yurts, RVs, pre-1976 trailers, hogans)

Control new housing – keep empty space

changes

Transitional housing

Less building of second homes (3)

Grandfather property taxes for older people so they are not forced to sell and move tax losses to be paid when sold or after death

Protections/tax breaks for trailer parks and resident RV parks

Non-resident maximum occupancy rule

Substandard housing

County needs to have a policy to prevent expansion of energy corridor into housing developments

County needs to look to San Juan County for affordable housing on SITLA property

Growth/Planning

Zoning enforcement/consistent application of land-use code (8)

Friendlier attitude toward development, industry (2)

Protect ag lands (9):

- Funding an initiative to protect ag lands.
- Create an agricultural zone.
- Do not allow agricultural zoning to be changed. . .ever

Senior housing more logically (centrally) placed

More common sense – big is not always better

More hotels

No more motels and no more overnight rentals

Land-use rules that truly protect the character of our communities

Mitigate/eliminate conflict land management (inter-agency)

Less county regulation of private property; different rules apply to families who want to share land with children than for developers

No McMansions to drive up property taxes

Zone district – HC commercial clean up

Noise-abatement ordinance (5); ordinance for mufflers on all ATVs and dirt bikes; noise ordinance especially related to energy/industrial development

Lighting and/or sign ordinance (3)

A vision with city

Better utilization of infill properties to protect hillsides and usable open space

Smaller lots to slow down sprawl

More density in the city and much less development in Spanish Valley

More density for housing development with large green space; identify land for high density to keep land affordable and create employee housing (3)

Stricter development controls

Prohibit permanent development and roads in Mill Creek Canyon

Development of the Atlas property into a multi-purpose riverside park with rec facilities, convention center, walking trails and event center

Incorporate quality-of-life concerns expressed at this meeting into the land-use code

Time limit for approval of PUDs – if project not built in specified time must go through approval under future land-use code

Plans for gradual changes

Adopt long-term precautionary principle as basic tenet of land-use decision-making

Implement architectural control on commercial structures

changes

Positive assistance with planning and zoning
 Stop the Aspen-type growth trend
 Remodeling of public buildings instead of taxing to build new ones
 Create a county recreation department to deal with all those issues, including maintenance
 Matrimony Springs at both ends of town
 Unified political control of Moab/Spanish Valley
 Better planning and zoning process (quicker, more understandable)
 More support for community-wide and curbside recycling
 Energy-efficient, sustainable development (2)
 Plan for healthy lifestyle – bike trails, parks, sports fields, human activity of broad spectrum plus plan for clean economic development – increase tax base
 More parks in housing developments
 Sustainability officer for county – high-level position with broad coverage. Build sustainability into county job description.
 Performance reviews include sustainability
 Connect planning and zoning to the general plan vision – right now plan is ignored!
 Architecture that matches the landscape

Relationships

Relationships with SITLA, BLM, state, San Juan County
 Closer working relationship with SITLA
 Better inter-agency collaboration
 Less bickering over jurisdiction by law-enforcement agencies
 Work with San Juan County (esp. sewer)
 Involve the Grand Conservation District in planning process

Transportation

More/better pedestrian and bike routes/alternative transportation (15):

- Reduction in need to use private cars between communities
- Multi-modal pathways along collectors
- Bike path completed to Negro Bill Canyon and eventually Castle Valley
- Bike path on Kane Creek Blvd. downriver; bike paths to Spanish Valley
- More cross-valley transportation routes, motorized and non-motorized
- More biking/hiking trails in Spanish Valley (safe routes for kids and parents)
- Incentives to large land owners to allow trails across private land

Convert county vehicles to non-petroleum

County work on the roads in Spanish Valley

- More public transportation (5)
- Public transportation between Castle Valley and Moab.
- Public transportation to Spanish Valley.
- Railroad! A public transportation plan to give people more choice to get out of cars – little golf carts for around town

Change so Spanish Valley residents can haul trash to Klondive??? – no transfer station

Transportation system for valley and surrounding areas

Fewer big trucks on Main St. (2)

Amtrack station in Thompson

changes+newspaper

Too much off-road vehicle use (3): including bicycles; eliminate ORVs in town and off designated roads
 Fewer motorized-recreation events
 No big semi trucks driving through neighborhoods!; remove big semi trucks from Main St.!

Miscellaneous

A dunking pond for the gossips!

The Times Independent: Wednesday, July 7, 2030

Headlines

Grand County reaches 100% renewable energy self-sufficiency
 Grand County communities among most livable small towns – health care, schools, recreation, affordable, sustainable
 Grand County first in the nation; Grand County ranked #1 greatest place to live
 Grand County boasts largest solar energy technology center in the country
 Citizens united for clean air, pure water, no crime!
 Moab voted No. 1 in nation for quality of life and innovative train transportation
 Moab dubbed the restaurant capital of the Southwest for fourth year in a row
 Grand County awarded President's prize for most self-reliant, sustainable watershed community in Southwest
 Grand and San Juan counties named most sustainable communities in the world
 Moab area wins worldwide sustainability award
 First graduating class from Grand County College
 Grand opening of Riverside Parkway Amphitheater on site of old tailings

Photos

See Colorado River from Arches turnoff
 No junk cars illustration
 Old tailings pile/new riverside parkway
 Glen Canyon restored
 Six people who turned 120 this week, dancing
 25 new teachers hired this week, also dancing
 Frog (increase in frog population)
 Kids play on pristine land
 Award-winning green trailer
 Grand County Quiz Bowl Team wins national championship

Cover stories

Grand County's rural electrical co-op exports first kilowatt
 First peach train rolls out of town
 Moab #1 small town in America because of emphasis on sustainability, low crime rate, walkways, awesome schools and local university
 Professor from Moab University wins Nobel Prize for contributions in renewable energy
 USU Moab campus alumni gather for 10-year reunion
 Moab city and Grand County have balanced budget – no new taxes

newspaper

Valley full of organic personal, community and market gardens. Majority of food sourced within 100-mile radius

Grand County exports food to Salt Lake

Local cooperative community garden greenhouse canning and preserving center

Valley full of houses and commercial buildings built or retrofitted to Energy Star, energy-efficient standards

Integrated housing - some smaller, far less affluent mixed with larger, more affluent

Valley full of houses with solar hot water and photovoltaic panels installed

100% of local power and energy driven by wind and solar

Locally owned solar energy company posts record profit

Moab's diversified business plan wins top award

A valley inter-connected with non-motorized trail/lane infrastructure. A majority of daily trips made by muscle- and electric-powered vehicles

Jeep Safari is carbon-neutral!

Dan O'Laurie Museum accepts last ATV

Co-op-owned fueling stations

Last link in county-wide alternative transportation system celebrates grand opening

Grand County in 20 years: Car-sharing

Local building-code official honored for lifetime contributions to green building code

Consensus reached on wilderness bill

Fewer streets – planted with gardens instead and small bike paths and walkways

Truck traffic re-routed around Grand County

Electric train opened

Number of bikes exceeds number of cars

Watershed managed to maximize quality and quantity of precipitation captured in the recharge area of our sole source aquifer

Water quality maintained in Grand County. At a time when many communities in the U.S. have moved to bottled water for drinking, Grand County's water is an exception.

Pure water held for all citizens

Cleanest H₂O in country

Potable water plan of 2010 pays dividends

Economic diversification provides living wages for 100% of county population with clean jobs

Model schools thrive due to community support

New grades are born, raised in SE Utah – bring knowledge and good jobs

Average housing price is affordable to average income

Clustered affordable housing built without subsidies

Lower carbon footprint/person in nation

Hospital wing closes due to healthy citizens

Grand County has some of the best ordinary water in country

Local students capture local professional jobs

Grand County schools among nation's top 1%

Atlas site converted to solar/wind electrified light-rail transfer station

Local solar and wind farms and locally distribution grid generate \$5 billion in revenue for schools and services, and power 100% of county facilities, homes and cars

Grand County purchases all SITLA lands in county; money returned to local schools

Environmental and cultural quality tops

newspaper

Tourism drops to 25% - balanced economy achieved; broad-based economy not dependent entirely on tourism

Grand County governance transferred to canyon country watershed council

Grand County first smart-energy county with total energy independence

Sidebar stories

Rail yard at Cisco

Graduate of Grand County Community College perfects cold fusion

Two hikers lost for 2 weeks found safe due to clean water source of Colorado River

100% of county is xeriscaped

Millionth passenger rides light rail to Denver

I-70 corridor making money for the county and schools

Healthy, safe community maintains small-town atmosphere

Tailings gone

South Spanish Valley annexed into Grand County

Grand County's population grows by 10% since 2010 – The population of Grand County has now reached nearly 11,000

Moab area grows 50% of local produce, keeps \$1 million

Non-motorized transportation outpaces motorized

Diversity in population continues to grow

High-school debate team at nationals for 20th year in a row

USU celebrates 20 years in Moab

1,000 gather for star-gazing event at City Park

Local researcher patents process to make biofuel from tumbleweeds

Middle-school garden provides organic produce to assisted living

Farmers' market named best in state 15 years in a row

Arches National Park tops 3 million visitors

Tramway on north end of town restored to natural state

Schools that teach sustainable-living skills

Grand County has best small-town health care in country

Moab schools offer different ethnic meals daily, prepared by the community; Moab schools offer ethnic cooking classes (parents welcome, too)

Community schools some of the nation's best

Neighborhood sharing of supplies, work, equipment

Moab senior citizens live independent, high-quality lives

Another dry hole: Maybe there is just no sense in drilling in Grand County

The Sidebar Star Diner reopens

Sam Sturman retires from Moab University

UMPTRA project completed

Every home has solar panels (2)

All old trailers gone!

Enough shopping opportunities so we don't have to drive to Grand Junction

100 miles of biking/ped. trails within 20 miles of Spanish Valley; biking and walking paths everywhere, including safe routes to schools

All trucks rolling through town are silent because they have electric motors

Dust-free sunsets

newspaper

Four-year/junior college celebrates 18 years of success

Affordable housing of sufficient numbers at much lower cost than currently available – 500 units, less than \$700 a month, under \$200,000

Sterling scholars prevail!

Higher-education stabilizes year-round economy

A canyon country National Conservation Area with wilderness and wild and scenic river components stretching from the Colorado border to Canyonlands National Park

8 generations of Knutson family live, work in Moab

Social services no longer needed

Moab regional transit ribbon-cutting – all wind-powered!

100% of Grand County powered by solar energy

Back stories

More shopping – grow retail farm

Self-sufficient in fuel, food, water

County feeds itself

County finally granted a zone change!

Last tamarisk cut down

Miss Grand County delivers calf (“It’s her specialty,” says mayor)

(To diversified business plan award) A tour through Moab’s diverse, locally oriented businesses

(For railroad) The history of the new Moab train depot (established 2015 and renovated this year)

Community cooperation breeds success

90%+ recycling rate reported

New electric buses added to Spanish Valley/Moab loop

Permanent year-round farmers’ market celebrates 15 years of success

City and county work together with federal agencies to convert tailings area to solar field. Shuttles and cars park in shade of solar panels

Smooth creative governance due to drum circles

Zero-waste community: Success of recycling closes landfill

Supreme Court rules that grazing on the Colorado Plateau is cruel and unusual punishment for cows

New solar array opening in Cisco desert

HMK elementary students score 20% above national average