

**PRELIMINARY REPORT OF
THE UTAH CONSERVATION
COMMISSION, 1909**

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Preliminary Report of the Utah Conservation Commission, 1909 by Utah State Conservation Commission

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UTAH STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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Preliminary Report

OF THE

UTAH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

1909



SALT LAKE


1909

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CALIFORNIA

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Word of Governor Spry.

HE wanton waste of our national resources; the improvident drafts on Nature's store-houses, carried on for these many years by the voracious few and countenanced by the thoughtless many, have at last been forcibly brought to the attention of the American people. Condemnation of this waste has found utterance in every section of the country, and scientific remedial measures are being developed in the great National and State Conservation movements inaugurated during the administration of President Roosevelt.

Rich with the gifts of Nature beyond any other section of the country, Utah should be deeply interested in these movements. Fortunately the ruthless hand of the public resource pillager has rested lightly on our State, and restoration is less a problem than conservation.

The Utah State Conservation Commission is engaged in the task of making an inventory of the state's resources, developed and unde-

veloped, and issuing a report which shall establish a sure and substantial foundation for economically drawing on our natural resources for the needs of the present generation, and husbanding them for the needs of future generations. The labor such a report involves is great, and I earnestly urge all State, County and City Officials, and the people of Utah generally to co-operate with and support these public spirited gentlemen in the work which they have undertaken.

WILLIAM SPRY,

Governor of Utah.

Submitted

To His Excellency, William Spry,

Governor of Utah.

Sir: We, the members of the Utah Conservation Commission, have the honor to submit the following preliminary report. It is always more difficult to make a beginning than to proceed later. We have tried to present a statement of present conditions, with some comments, and such suggestions as have been tendered with a purpose of getting the largest possible measure of utility from these resources for the people of Utah—now and for all time. And while we cheerfully concede some of the imperfections to this report, we take the liberty to express the belief that later numbers will more completely answer the demands of the time.

Permit us, in this connection, to acknowledge our obligation to Mr. J. E. Pettit, State Coal Mine Inspector; Mr. Fred W. Chambers, fish and game warden; Mr. Clyde Leavitt, District Forrester; Mr. Willard Hansen, state dairy and food commissioner, and other state and government officials, whose assistance in contributing data has been invaluable.

We have the honor to remain,

THE UTAH CONSERVATION COMMISSION.

UTAH STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION.

GOVERNOR WILLIAM SPRY, Chairman.

O. J. SALISBURY, Vice-Chairman.
Felt Building, Salt Lake

JOSEPH F. MERRILL, Secretary
University of Utah, Salt Lake.

JOHN A. WIDTSOE, Agricultural College, Logan.

THOMAS L. ALLEN, Coalville.

GEORGE AUSTIN, Salt Lake.

LEROY ARMSTRONG, Salt Lake.

B. B. MANN, Clerk, Salt Lake.

Charter One Hundred and Three

The following law, enacted by the Legislature of Utah in 1909, is the charter under which the Utah Conservation Commission operates:

SECTION ONE. That a commission to be known as the Utah State Conservation Commission is hereby created, to consist of not less than three members, citizens of the State of Utah over the age of 21 years.

SECTION TWO. That the Governor of the State of Utah shall be ex-officio a member and chairman of said commission, which shall serve for a term of four years, without compensation.

SECTION THREE. That it shall be the duty of said commission to adopt and carry out such policies and measures as will prevent waste of the natural resources of Utah and to co-operate with the National Conservation Commission and with the conservation commissions of other states in any way that shall have for its object the conservation of the natural resources of Utah.

The Act further provides that the commission is to:

1. Collect and publish statistics and data relative to the natural resources of the State of Utah.
2. To place before the legislative and executive departments of the United States, including the National Reclamation Service, data and facts showing the great value of the arid lands in Utah when subjected to irrigation, and facts and information for the guidance of the legislative and executive departments of the United States in establishing dams, reservoirs and irrigation systems for the reclamation of arid land in the State of Utah.
3. To aid the Forestry department of the United States in the protection of the timber lands and water sheds in the State of Utah, and also to procure equitable privileges to the users of national forest reserves in the State of Utah.