

Memorandum

December 5, 2025

To: Jordan Schwanke, Local Entity Specialist, Office of the Lieutenant Governor
From: Megan Rabe, Demographic Research Associate, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute
CC: Mallory Bateman, Dir. of Demographic Research, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute
Subject: Coal Creek Modified Feasibility Review

Introduction

The Utah Population Committee, at the request of the Utah Lieutenant Governor’s Office on December 2, 2025, reviewed the area of Coal Creek in Iron County to determine whether it meets the population, population density, and contiguity requirements for incorporation as a town as defined in Utah Code 10-2a-201.5.

Coal Creek does not meet the contiguity requirement and as such a population estimate and density estimate were not made.

Table 1: Initial Feasibility Requirements for Coal Creek Incorporation

Criteria	Meets Criteria?	Requirement by Statute	Coal Creek Details
Population	NA	To incorporate as a town, the population must be at least 100.	Estimate not made, contiguity requirement not met.
Population Density	NA	Density must be 7 people per square mile or higher	Estimate not made, contiguity requirement not met.
Contiguity	No	Area is contiguous, does not have strip of land connecting geographically separate areas	Proposed boundary does not cover a contiguous area.

Note: Requirements are summarized; Full statutory requirements are delineated in Utah Code 10-2a-201.5.

Detail on Contiguity of Proposed Boundary

The proposed boundary of Coal Creek does not meet the requirements for contiguity. A contiguous boundary does not include a circumstance where “two areas of land are only connected by a strip of land between geographically separate areas; and the distance between the geographically separate areas... is greater than the average width of the strip of land connecting the geographically separate areas,” ([Utah Code 10-2a-102](#)).

The current boundary contains a strip of land where the distance between geographically separate areas is greater than the average width of those strips (see Figure 1). The approximate dimensions of the strip in question are as follows:

- **Strip A:** 511 feet long by an average width of 498 feet

The calculation for average width depends on the shape of the polygon. To approximate the average width at Strip A, we used the following equation:

$$\text{average width (ft)} = \frac{\text{area (ft}^2\text{)}}{\text{length (ft)}}$$

The area of Strip A is approximately 254,590 ft² and the length is 511 ft, resulting in an average width of approximately 498 ft.

Figure 1: Proposed Coal Creek Boundary

