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Mr. Downen's recent projects include an analysis of a transfer of federal lands to the State of Utah, including analyzing the flow of federal land-based funds to the state of Utah and the state's 29 counties as well as calculating the economic and fiscal impacts of various oil and gas, coal, and grazing scenarios.

Mr. Downen earned a B.A. in English with a minor in Physics from Georgetown University before earning his M.A. in Economics from Tulane University.