

Outdoor Recreation Amendments
 2025 GENERAL SESSION
 STATE OF UTAH
 Chief Sponsor: Paul A. Cutler

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses the Division of Outdoor Recreation.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- modifies the lands that the governor may keep open and operational during a fiscal emergency;
- changes the reporting subcommittee for the Division of Outdoor Recreation report on recreation restoration infrastructure grants; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

79-7-602 (Effective 05/07/25) (Repealed 07/01/29), as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 88

79-8-203 (Effective 05/07/25), as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 280

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **79-7-602** is amended to read:

79-7-602 (Effective 05/07/25) (Repealed 07/01/29). Governor's duties -- Priority of federal property.

(1) During a fiscal emergency, the governor shall:

- (a) if financially practicable, work with the federal government to open and maintain the operation of one or more national parks, national monuments, national forests, ~~and~~ national recreation areas, and lands managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife

- 32 Service in the state, in the order established under this section; and
- 33 (b) report to the speaker of the House of Representatives and the president of the Senate
- 34 on the need, if any, for additional appropriations to assist the division in opening and
- 35 operating one or more national parks, national monuments, national forests, [~~and~~]
- 36 national recreation areas, and lands managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife
- 37 Service in the state.
- 38 (2) [~~The~~] In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the
- 39 director of the Division of Outdoor Recreation, in consultation with the executive
- 40 director of the Department of Natural Resources, shall [~~determine, by rule,~~] make rules to
- 41 determine the priority of national parks, national monuments, national forests, [~~and~~]
- 42 national recreation areas, and lands managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife
- 43 Service in the state.
- 44 (3) In determining the priority described in Subsection (2), the director of the Division of
- 45 Outdoor Recreation shall consider the:
- 46 (a) economic impact of the national park, national monument, national forest, [~~or~~]
- 47 national recreation area, and lands managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife
- 48 Service in the state; and
- 49 (b) recreational value offered by the national park, national monument, national forest, [~~or~~]
- 50 national recreation area, and lands managed by the United States Fish and
- 51 Wildlife Service.
- 52 (4) The director of the Division of Outdoor Recreation shall annually review the priority set
- 53 under Subsection (2) to determine whether the priority list should be amended.
- 54 Section 2. Section **79-8-203** is amended to read:
- 55 **79-8-203 (Effective 05/07/25). Award of recreation restoration infrastructure**
- 56 **grants.**
- 57 (1) In determining the award of a recreation restoration infrastructure grant, the advisory
- 58 committee shall prioritize projects that the advisory committee considers to be high
- 59 demand outdoor recreation amenities or high priority trails.
- 60 (2) The division may give special consideration to [~~projects from qualified applicants~~] a
- 61 project from a qualified applicant within rural counties to ensure geographic parity of
- 62 the awarded money.
- 63 (3)(a) An applicant shall use a recreation restoration infrastructure grant to leverage
- 64 private and other nonstate public money [~~and the division may give priority to~~
- 65 ~~projects that exceed a 50% match from the applicant~~] , including cash, resources,

- 66 goods, or services necessary to complete a project.
- 67 (b) The division may give priority to a project from an applicant that contributes a 50%
68 or greater financial match from the applicant or other private and nonstate public
69 money.
- 70 ~~[(b) Leverage includes cash, resources, goods, or services necessary to complete a~~
71 ~~project.]~~
- 72 (c) The division shall apply money from a cooperative agreement entered into with the
73 United States Department of Agriculture or the United States Department of the
74 Interior as a portion of the applicant's match.
- 75 (4) A recreation restoration infrastructure grant may only be awarded by the executive
76 director after consultation with the director and the advisory committee.
- 77 (5) A recreation restoration infrastructure grant is available for rehabilitation or restoration
78 projects for high demand outdoor recreation amenities and high priority trails that relate
79 directly to the visitor including:
- 80 (a) a trail, trail head infrastructure, signage, and crossing infrastructure, for both
81 nonmotorized and motorized recreation;
- 82 (b) a campground or picnic area;
- 83 (c) water recreation infrastructure, including a pier, dock, or boat ramp; and
84 (d) recreation facilities that are accessible to visitors with disabilities.
- 85 (6) The following are not eligible for a recreation restoration infrastructure grant:
- 86 (a) general facility operations and administrative costs;
- 87 (b) land acquisitions;
- 88 (c) visitor facilities, as defined by the division by rule made in accordance with Title
89 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act;
- 90 (d) water and utility systems; and
91 (e) employee housing.
- 92 (7) The division shall compile data and report to the ~~[Business, Economic Development,~~
93 ~~and Labor Appropriations Subcommittee]~~ Natural Resources, Agriculture, and
94 Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee on the:
- 95 (a) effectiveness of the grant program in addressing the deferred maintenance and repair
96 backlog of trails, campgrounds, and other recreation amenities on public lands;
- 97 (b) estimated value of the rehabilitation or restoration projects;
- 98 (c) number of miles of trails that are rehabilitated or restored; and
99 (d) leverage of state money to federal and private money and in-kind services such as

100 volunteer labor.

101 Section 3. **Effective Date.**

102 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.