

Budget Brief – Division of Parks and Recreation

NUMBER: NRAS-BB-07-14

SUMMARY

The Division of Parks and Recreation is responsible for management and development of all state parks, statewide boating safety and off-highway vehicle safety. Utah has 42 state parks that are a combination of heritage, scenic, and recreation parks. The newest State Park is the Flight Park in Draper, established in 2006 and is known worldwide as one of the best training sites for both paragliding and hang gliding. For detailed information on this line item, please see Compendium of Budget Information for the 2007 General Session, pages 75-85.

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The major issues for the division are: the increasing fixed costs (utilities, garbage collection), reduced ability to cover the variable operating costs, low employee morale, pressure to expand recreational activities without additional funding.

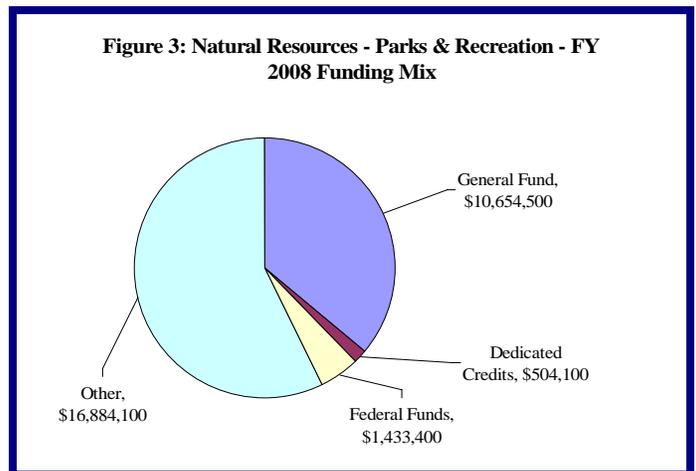
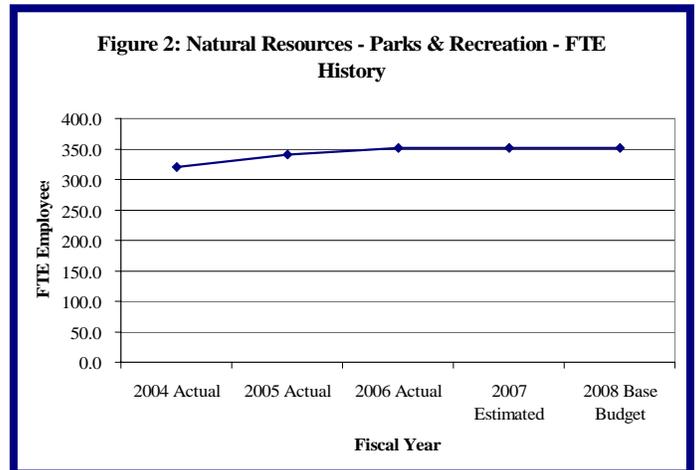
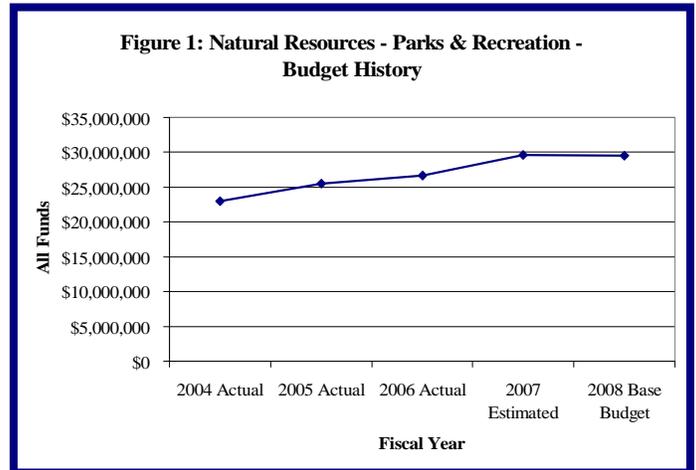
Renovation and Repairs

The Division is requesting funding to provide four additional journey maintenance positions, as well as ongoing funding for the parks’ maintenance and emergency repair needs. This funding will provide manpower and materials to assist the regional maintenance crews in keeping up with the increasing parks’ maintenance needs. The Analyst recommends the Committee place on its priority list a request for ongoing appropriation of \$300,000 from the General Fund, as well as to provide ongoing appropriations from Parks’ restricted funds as follows:

- \$160,000 from the GFR—Boating and
- \$160,000 from the GFR—Off Highway Vehicle

Capital Facilities Improvements

The Division is requesting for FY 2008 a one-time appropriation of \$317,300 from the GFR—State Park Fees for its incentive program for increased revenue collections. The Division Administration offers to parks that exceed their revenue goals a percentage of the extra funds for specific one-time park improvements or programs, such as construction of interpretive kiosks or development of a nature program. The Analyst recommends the Committee fund this request.



Parks Automated Entry System

The Division is requesting for FY 2008 a one-time appropriation from the GFR—State Park Fees to purchase and install automated gates at some of its parks. This will be a pilot project and the anticipated benefits are quicker visitor access to the parks, increased revenue collections, potential personnel savings, and gaining a better understanding of who parks' customers are. The return on investment (ROI) for this project was estimated to be 14-28%, with payback time of four to seven years. The Analyst recommends the Legislature provide a one-time appropriation of \$100,000 from the GFR—State Park Fees for the purchase of automated entry systems and recommends the Subcommittee require a report on the ROI in the 2008 General Session.

Golf Tournament Promotion

The Division is requesting for FY 2007 a supplemental appropriation of \$15,000 from the GFR—State Park Fees to partner with Heber Valley Chamber of Commerce to promote and solicit golf tournaments for state park golf courses. Those tournaments will generate additional revenues by filling the available time slots during the weekdays and introduce those courses to new clientele. The Analyst recommends the Committee fund this request.

County Economic Development Partnership

With the attempt to increase park visitation and stimulate local economies, the Division is requesting funding for advertising and promotions. The funding will be matched with donations from private and public sponsors. The Analyst recommends the Committee provide for FY 2008 a one-time appropriation of \$68,000 from the GFR—State Park Fees restricted funds.

This Is The Place Heritage Park

The new management of the This Is The Place Foundation has requested an ongoing appropriation of \$100,000 from the General Fund to restore the state funding to the level of the original agreement between the State and the Foundation. The Analyst recommends the Committee place this request on its priority list for the Executive Appropriations Committee.

BUDGET DETAIL

In 2006 the Division management restructured the programs in Parks Operations line item. The total number of programs was reduced, and staff and resources were reorganized. This restructuring does not affect the total expenditures of the Operations line item but it does have an impact on the historical trends of the individual programs. The FY 2007 Appropriated figures are based on the old structure because they came directly from the 2006 appropriations, which took place before the restructuring.

Budget Recommendation

The Analyst recommends for the Parks and Recreation Operation line item for FY 2008 a base budget appropriation of \$29,476,100, with \$10,654,500 from the General Fund (see Budget Detail Table).

The Analyst also recommends the following increases from Parks' restricted funds:

- an ongoing appropriation of \$160,000 from the GFR—Boating and \$160,000 from the GFR—Off Highway Vehicle for Renovation and Repairs
- a one-time appropriation of \$100,000 from the GFR—State Park Fees for Automated Entry System
- a one-time appropriation of \$317,300 from the GFR—State Park Fees for Capital Facilities Improvements
- a supplemental appropriation of \$15,000 from the GFR—State Park Fees for Golf Tournament Promotions
- a one-time appropriation of \$68,000 from the GFR—State Park Fees for County Economic Development Partnerships

At this time the Executive Appropriations Committee (EAC) has not allocated any General Funds beyond the agencies' base budgets. The Analyst recommends the Appropriations Subcommittee consider the following recommendations for General Fund increases be placed on the funding priority list for the EAC:

- an ongoing appropriation of \$300,000 from the General Fund for Renovation and Repairs
- an ongoing appropriation of \$100,000 from the General Fund for This Is The Place Foundation

None of the requests for funding increase are built in the tables and charts of this Budget Brief.

BUDGET DETAIL TABLE

Natural Resources - Parks & Recreation						
Sources of Finance	FY 2006 Actual	FY 2007 Appropriated	Changes	FY 2007 Revised	Changes	FY 2008* Base Budget
General Fund	9,636,300	10,654,500	0	10,654,500	0	10,654,500
General Fund, One-time	200,000	(20,800)	0	(20,800)	20,800	0
Federal Funds	755,100	879,000	0	879,000	554,400	1,433,400
Dedicated Credits Revenue	481,800	498,500	0	498,500	5,600	504,100
GFR - Boating	3,537,200	3,718,900	0	3,718,900	500	3,719,400
GFR - Off-highway Vehicle	2,956,200	3,085,500	0	3,085,500	2,100	3,087,600
GFR - State Park Fees	9,672,300	10,274,700	0	10,274,700	(262,500)	10,012,200
Transfers	32,900	64,900	0	64,900	0	64,900
Beginning Nonlapsing	371,500	0	443,300	443,300	(443,300)	0
Closing Nonlapsing	(443,300)	0	0	0	0	0
Lapsing Balance	(577,500)	0	0	0	0	0
Total	\$26,622,500	\$29,155,200	\$443,300	\$29,598,500	(\$122,400)	\$29,476,100
Programs						
Executive Management	1,253,100	285,700	950,900	1,236,600	2,600	1,239,200
Board	0	16,700	(16,700)	0	0	0
Park Operation Management	19,211,200	22,313,700	(479,700)	21,834,000	(141,200)	21,692,800
Planning and Design	622,400	297,100	528,000	825,100	5,700	830,800
Support Services	2,098,100	757,200	1,407,800	2,165,000	6,700	2,171,700
Recreation Services	2,725,300	511,300	2,304,900	2,816,200	3,800	2,820,000
Reservations	0	266,300	(266,300)	0	0	0
Law Enforcement	0	309,700	(309,700)	0	0	0
Fiscal and Accounting	0	962,700	(962,700)	0	0	0
Boating	0	1,018,400	(1,018,400)	0	0	0
OHV	0	1,379,600	(1,379,600)	0	0	0
Grants and Trails	0	315,000	(315,000)	0	0	0
Park Management Contracts	712,400	721,800	(200)	721,600	0	721,600
Total	\$26,622,500	\$29,155,200	\$443,300	\$29,598,500	(\$122,400)	\$29,476,100
Categories of Expenditure						
Personal Services	16,295,800	18,992,800	(722,700)	18,270,100	138,000	18,408,100
In-State Travel	164,100	215,300	2,200	217,500	0	217,500
Out of State Travel	34,100	35,500	4,200	39,700	0	39,700
Current Expense	7,048,900	5,889,500	1,998,800	7,888,300	(260,400)	7,627,900
DP Current Expense	258,000	558,300	(297,100)	261,200	0	261,200
Capital Outlay	614,200	1,271,100	(521,300)	749,800	0	749,800
Other Charges/Pass Thru	2,207,400	2,192,700	(20,800)	2,171,900	0	2,171,900
Total	\$26,622,500	\$29,155,200	\$443,300	\$29,598,500	(\$122,400)	\$29,476,100
Other Data						
Budgeted FTE	351.7	373.0	(21.5)	351.6	0.0	351.6

*Does not include amounts in excess of subcommittee's state fund allocation that may be recommended by the Fiscal Analyst.