

State Parks Modifications

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Clinton D. Okerlund

Senate Sponsor: Derrin R. Owens

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses the Division of State Parks.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- removes a requirement for the Division of State Parks (division) to comply with the Utah Procurement Code in selecting concessionaires in state parks;
- requires the division to operate, to the extent possible, from money and revenue collected as fees and charges;
- requires the director to implement a comprehensive plan for the long-term use of state parks developed by the division;
- grants rulemaking authority to the division to administer the state parks system;
- renames the State Parks Restricted Account;
- repeals sections related to boating accounts and river enhancement grants; and
- makes technical and conforming changes.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

AMENDS:

76-6-206.2, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 111

79-4-102, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2024, Chapter 507

79-4-201, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 280

28 **79-4-202**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 280
29 **79-4-203**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 68
30 **79-4-206**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 344
31 **79-4-402**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapter 33
32 **79-4-403**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2010, Chapters 256, 391
33 **79-4-603**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 344
34 **79-4-604**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 344
35 **79-4-901**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 344
36 **79-4-1001**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2010, Chapter 391

37 ENACTS:

38 **79-4-207**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

39 REPEALS:

40 **79-4-101**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 280
41 **79-4-401**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2021, Chapter 280
42 **79-4-802**, as renumbered and amended by Laws of Utah 2009, Chapter 344

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

45 Section 1. Section **76-6-206.2** is amended to read:

46 **76-6-206.2 . Criminal trespass on state park lands.**

47 (1)(a) As used in this section:

48 (i) "Authorization" means specific written permission by, or contractual agreement
49 with, the Division of State Parks.

50 (ii) "Criminal trespass" means the elements of the crime of criminal trespass, as set
51 forth in Section 76-6-206.

52 (iii) "Division" means the Division of State Parks created in Section 79-4-201.

53 (iv) "State park lands" means all lands administered by the division.

54 (b) Terms defined in Sections 76-1-101.5 and 76-6-201 apply to this section.

55 (2) An actor commits criminal trespass on state park lands and is liable for the civil
56 damages prescribed in Subsection (5) if, under circumstances not amounting to a greater
57 offense, and without authorization, the actor:

58 (a) constructs improvements or structures on state park lands;

59 (b) uses or occupies state park lands for more than 30 days after the cancellation or
60 expiration of authorization;

61 (c) knowingly or intentionally uses state park lands for commercial gain;

(d) intentionally or knowingly grazes livestock on state park lands, except as provided in Section 72-3-112; or

(e) remains, after being ordered to leave by a person with actual authority to act for the division, or by a law enforcement officer.

(3) A violation of Subsection (2) is a class B misdemeanor.

(4) A person does not commit criminal trespass if that person enters onto state park lands:

(a) without first paying the required fee; and

(b) for the sole purpose of pursuing recreational activity.

(5)(a) In addition to an order for restitution under Section 77-38b-205, an actor who commits any act described in Subsection (2) may also be liable for civil damages in the amount of three times the value of:

(i) damages resulting from a violation of Subsection (2);

(ii) the water, mineral, vegetation, improvement, or structure on state park lands that is removed, destroyed, used, or consumed without authorization;

(iii) the historical, prehistorical, archaeological, or paleontological resource on state park lands that is removed, destroyed, used, or consumed without authorization; or

(iv) the consideration which would have been charged by the division for unauthorized use of the land and resources during the period of trespass.

(b) Civil damages awarded under Subsection (5)(a):

(i) may be collected in a separate action by the division; and

(ii) shall be deposited into the ~~[State Park Fees]~~ State Parks Restricted Account as established in Section 79-4-402.

Section 2. Section **79-4-102** is amended to read:

79-4-102 . Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

(1) "Division" means the Division of State Parks.

(2) "Facility" means the same as that term is defined in Section 51-9-901.

(3) "Outdoor recreation infrastructure" means the same as that term is defined in Section 51-9-901.

Section 3. Section **79-4-201** is amended to read:

79-4-201 . Division of State Parks -- Creation -- Powers and authority.

(1) There is created within the department the Division of State Parks.

(2) The division is under[;]

~~[(a)]~~ the administration and general supervision of the executive director[; and] .

96 ~~[(b) the policy direction of the board.]~~

97 (3) The division is the state parks authority for the state.

98 Section 4. Section **79-4-202** is amended to read:

99 **79-4-202 . Director -- Qualifications -- Duties.**

100 (1) The director is the executive and administrative head of the division.

101 (2) The director shall demonstrate:

102 (a) executive ability; and

103 (b) actual experience and training in the conduct of park systems involving both physical
104 development and program.

105 (3) The director shall:

106 (a) enforce the policies and rules of the ~~[board; and]~~ division;

107 (b) perform the duties necessary to:

108 (i) properly care for and maintain any property under the jurisdiction of the division;
109 and

110 (ii) carry out this chapter~~[-]~~ ; and

111 (c) implement the comprehensive plan for long-term public use of state park resources
112 developed by the division under Subsection 79-4-203(12).

113 (4) The director shall acquire, plan, protect, develop, operate, use, and maintain park area
114 and facilities in accordance with the policies and rules of the ~~[board]~~ division.

115 Section 5. Section **79-4-203** is amended to read:

116 **79-4-203 . Powers and duties of division.**

117 (1) As used in this section, "real property" includes land under water, upland, and all other
118 property commonly or legally defined as real property.

119 (2) The Division of Wildlife Resources shall retain the power and jurisdiction conferred
120 upon the Division of Wildlife Resources by law within state parks and on property
121 controlled by the Division of State Parks with reference to fish and game.

122 (3) The division shall permit multiple use of state parks and property controlled by the
123 division for purposes such as grazing, fishing, hunting, camping, mining, and the
124 development and utilization of water and other natural resources.

125 (4)(a) The division may acquire real and personal property in the name of the state by all
126 legal and proper means, including purchase, gift, devise, eminent domain, lease,
127 exchange, or otherwise, subject to the approval of the executive director and the
128 governor.

129 (b) In acquiring any real or personal property, the credit of the state may not be pledged

- 130 without the consent of the Legislature.
- 131 (5)(a) Before acquiring any real property, the division shall notify the county legislative
132 body of the county where the property is situated of the division's intention to acquire
133 the property.
- 134 (b) If the county legislative body requests a hearing within 10 days of receipt of the
135 notice, the division shall hold a public hearing in the county concerning the matter.
- 136 (6) Acceptance of gifts or devises of land or other property is at the discretion of the
137 division, subject to the approval of the executive director and the governor.
- 138 (7) The division shall acquire property by eminent domain in ~~[the manner authorized by]~~
139 accordance with Title 78B, Chapter 6, Part 5, Eminent Domain.
- 140 (8)(a) The division may make charges for special services and use of ~~[facilities]~~ a facility
141 or outdoor recreation infrastructure, the ~~[income]~~ revenue from which is available for
142 park purposes.
- 143 (b) The division may conduct and operate~~[those]~~ services necessary for the comfort and
144 convenience of the public.
- 145 (9)~~[(a)]~~ The division may set reasonable charges to lease or rent concessions ~~[of all~~
146 ~~lawful kinds and nature in state parks and property to persons, partnerships, and~~
147 ~~corporations for a valuable consideration upon the recommendation of the board]~~ in a
148 state park or on property owned by the division.
- 149 ~~[(b) The division shall comply with Title 63G, Chapter 6a, Utah Procurement Code, in~~
150 ~~selecting concessionaires.]~~
- 151 (10) The division shall proceed without delay to negotiate with the federal government
152 concerning the Weber Basin and other recreation and reclamation projects.
- 153 (11) The division shall, to the extent possible, implement the requirements of this chapter
154 from revenue the division collects from:
- 155 (a) charges for special services, use of a park facility, and use of an outdoor recreation
156 infrastructure; and
- 157 (b) service or regulatory fees.
- 158 (12)(a) The division shall develop a comprehensive plan for the long-term public use of
159 state parks and state park resources related to the:
- 160 (i) acquisition of land and resources;
- 161 (ii) protection of state parks and the public;
- 162 (iii) operation of state parks;
- 163 (iv) maintenance of state parks and division resources; and

(v) development of state parks and division resources.

(b) In developing a comprehensive plan under Subsection (12)(a), the division shall consider:

(i) recreational utility;

(ii) the public benefit in the historical, archaeological, and scientific resources in state parks; and

(iii) the health and wholesome enjoyment of the public.

Section 6. Section **79-4-206** is amended to read:

79-4-206 . Support of a nonprofit corporation or foundation.

The division may provide administrative support to a nonprofit corporation or foundation that assists~~[-the board and]~~ the division in attaining the objectives outlined in the strategic or operational plan.

Section 7. Section **79-4-207** is enacted to read:

79-4-207 . Division rulemaking authority.

(1) The division may make rules to:

(a) govern the use of the state park system, including to:

(i) determine when to close or partially close a state park; and

(ii) establish use or access restrictions within a state park; and

(b) protect a natural or cultural resource in a state park from misuse or damage.

(2) The division shall make rules to:

(a) govern the collection of charges under Subsection 79-4-203(8); and

(b) implement a program for veteran access to state parks as described in Section 79-4-1002.

(3) The division may not make rules that prevent the transfer of livestock along a livestock highway established under Section 72-3-112.

(4) The division shall makes rules under this section in accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act.

Section 8. Section **79-4-402** is amended to read:

79-4-402 . State Parks Restricted Account.

(1) There is created within the General Fund a restricted account known as the ~~[State Park Fees]~~ State Parks Restricted Account.

(2)(a) Except as provided in Subsection (2)(b), the account shall consist of revenue from:

(i) all charges allowed under Section 79-4-203;

(ii) proceeds from the sale or disposal of buffalo under Subsection 79-4-1001(2)(b);

- 198 and
- 199 (iii) civil damages collected under Section 76-6-206.2.
- 200 (b) The account shall not include revenue the division receives under Section 79-4-403
- 201 and Subsection 79-4-1001(2)(a).
- 202 (3) The division shall use funds in this account for the purposes described in Section
- 203 79-4-203.

204 Section 9. Section **79-4-403** is amended to read:

205 **79-4-403 . Golf revenue -- Wasatch Mountain, Palisade, and Green River State**

206 **Parks.**

- 207 (1) The following [~~user fees~~] charges are assessed in the following parks for playing nine
- 208 holes of golf:
- 209 (a) [~~15~~] 30% of the [~~green fees~~] revenue at Wasatch Mountain State Park;
- 210 (b) [~~15~~] 30% of the [~~green fees~~] revenue at Palisade State Park; and
- 211 (c) [~~15~~] 30% of the [~~green fees~~] revenue at Green River State Park.
- 212 (2) [~~The fee~~] A charge in Subsection (1) is:
- 213 (a) in addition to [~~the fee~~] a charge set by the [~~board~~] division; and
- 214 (b) to be used at the park where the money is collected for:
- 215 (i) the upgrade or development of facilities; or
- 216 (ii) the purchase of golf course operation and maintenance equipment and operating
- 217 supplies or materials.

218 Section 10. Section **79-4-603** is amended to read:

219 **79-4-603 . Iron Mission Historical Monument -- Acceptance of gifts from Iron**

220 **Mission Park Corporation.**

221 The [~~board~~] division shall accept on behalf of the state the Gronway Parry collection of

222 horse-drawn vehicles, horses, harnesses, figures, costumes, and horse-drawn machinery of the

223 pioneer era, the Melling log cabin, the Osborne blacksmith collection, and a metal exhibit

224 building, all being gifts to the state from the Iron Mission Park Nonprofit Corporation.

225 Section 11. Section **79-4-604** is amended to read:

226 **79-4-604 . Iron Mission Historical Monument -- Acquisition of property.**

227 The division may:

- 228 (1) acquire, construct, maintain, and operate any land areas, objects, or structures as
- 229 necessary to preserve, protect, display, and enhance:
- 230 (a) the gifts described in Section 79-4-603; and
- 231 (b) other historical objects or collections donated, loaned, or otherwise acquired that

- 232 appropriately contribute to the pioneer heritage of Utah; and
- 233 (2) acquire, directly or through others, by purchase, contract, lease, permit, donations, or
- 234 otherwise, all real or personal property, rights-of-way, approach roads, parking and other
- 235 areas, structures, facilities and services that the division~~[-and board]~~ may consider
- 236 necessary or desirable to accomplish Subsection (1).

237 Section 12. Section **79-4-901** is amended to read:

238 **79-4-901 . Pioneer heritage of Utah -- Acquisitions and operations by division.**

- 239 (1) The division may acquire, construct, maintain, and operate any land areas, objects, or
- 240 structures as necessary to preserve, protect, display, and enhance any gifts and other
- 241 historical objects or collections donated, loaned, or otherwise acquired that appropriately
- 242 contribute to the pioneer heritage of Utah.
- 243 (2) To accomplish Subsection (1), the division may directly or through others, by purchase,
- 244 contract, lease, permit, donation, or otherwise, secure all real or personal property,
- 245 rights-of-way, approach roads, parking and other areas, structures, facilities, and
- 246 services that the division ~~[and board]~~ may consider necessary or desirable to contribute
- 247 to the pioneer heritage of Utah.

248 Section 13. Section **79-4-1001** is amended to read:

249 **79-4-1001 . Purchase, trade, sale, or disposal of buffalo -- Proceeds.**

- 250 (1) In accordance with a plan~~[-]~~ approved by the ~~[board,]~~ division to manage buffalo herds
- 251 on Antelope Island, the division may purchase, trade, sell, or dispose of buffalo obtained
- 252 from Antelope Island through:
- 253 (a) competitive bidding; or
- 254 (b) a means as established by rule.
- 255 (2) Proceeds received from the sale or disposal of buffalo under this section shall be
- 256 deposited as follows:
- 257 (a) the first \$75,000 shall accrue to the division for the management of Antelope Island
- 258 buffalo herds as dedicated credits; and
- 259 (b) proceeds in excess of \$75,000 shall be deposited ~~[in]~~ into the ~~[State Park Fees]~~ State
- 260 Parks Restricted Account created ~~[under]~~ in Section 79-4-402.

261 Section 14. **Repealer.**

262 This bill repeals:

263 Section **79-4-101, Title.**

264 Section **79-4-401, Funds to be appropriated -- Boating account expenses.**

265 Section **79-4-802, Riverway enhancement grants -- Matching funds requirements --**

266 **Rules.**

267 Section 15. **Effective Date.**

268 This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.