

HCR012 compared with HCR012S01

- 13 ▶ {~~outlines key requirements for participating states, including capital investment and~~
14 ~~maintenance responsibilities; and~~}
- 15 ▶ {~~urges implementation of this framework to improve public land management and reduce~~
16 ~~federal expenditures.~~}
- 17 ▶ requests that the division petition the Bureau of Land Management to transfer title to the
18 state of Utah for the creation of the Little Sahara State Park;
- 19 ▶ requests that the division negotiate with the United States Forest Service to transfer the
20 Antelope Flat Campground for the creation of the Flaming Gorge State Park; and
- 21 ▶ requests that the division update the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment
22 Interim Committee on the division's progress.

23 Money Appropriated in this Bill:

24 None

25 Other Special Clauses:

26 None

27

28 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

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WHEREAS, the state of Utah is committed to protecting and enhancing the state's recreational opportunities, experiences, and facilities for the people of Utah;

WHEREAS, the state's growing population and vibrant tourism industry will require the state to develop new outdoor recreational opportunities and maintain existing state parks, monuments, and campgrounds;

WHEREAS, state parks play a critical role in preserving the state's distinctive natural landscapes and geological features;

WHEREAS, state parks, monuments, and campgrounds provide valuable outdoor recreational opportunities and protect significant natural and cultural resources for the people of Utah;

WHEREAS, the Monte Cristo area located in Cache, Rich, and Weber counties offers unique recreational opportunities that the Division of State Parks (division) may evaluate for designation as a state park, monument, or campground;

WHEREAS, various school and institutional trust lands, including trust lands in the San

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Rafael Swell, may present opportunities for public recreation while generating revenue for trust beneficiaries;

WHEREAS, the federal government manages numerous national parks, Bureau of Land Management lands, and national forest lands within the state;

WHEREAS, many of these federal public lands face significant maintenance backlogs and operational challenges that impact visitor experiences and resource conservation;

WHEREAS, the United States Forest Service has decommissioned campgrounds in the state due to the degradation of campground infrastructure, including the Sunset Campground in Farmington Canyon;

WHEREAS, the state has a demonstrated capability in effectively managing state parks and other public lands;

WHEREAS, state lands and federal public lands could be enhanced and reclaimed for recreation and conservation purposes if put under state control;

WHEREAS, if the state could voluntarily { ~~assuming~~ } assume operational responsibility { ~~, under a joint~~ } of federal lands

{ ~~management agreement, of federal lands~~ } within the state's borders, { ~~allows~~ } under a joint management agreement, the state { ~~to~~ } could improve

management efficiency and visitor experiences while reducing federal expenditures;

WHEREAS, a voluntary framework for state operation of federal public lands could help address maintenance backlogs while preserving federal obligations and environmental protections;

WHEREAS, the state is well-positioned to understand and respond to local needs and conditions affecting public lands within the { ~~state's borders~~ } state;

WHEREAS, a voluntary framework for state operation of federal public lands could help address maintenance backlogs while preserving federal obligations and environmental protections;

WHEREAS, state management has the potential to enhance economic opportunities while ensuring continued public access and resource protection;

WHEREAS, there are several scenic areas within the state that are managed by federal agencies that could be managed by the state, including the Little Sahara Recreation Area, the Antelope Flat Campground near Flaming Gorge Reservoir, and land near Farmington Canyon;

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WHEREAS, the Antelope Flat Campground is located on the scenic shore of the Flaming Gorge Reservoir and within the beautiful Ashley National Forest;

WHEREAS, the division has attempted to enter into an agreement for the management of the Little Sahara Recreation Area as a state park, an area that receives 300,000 visitors annually;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Utah Code Section 79-4-606, the division may enter into an agreement with the United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for the use of the Little Sahara Recreation Area as a state park;

WHEREAS, in accordance with Utah Code Subsection 79-4-203(4), the division may acquire property in the name of the state by legal and proper means;

WHEREAS, if a land transfer agreement is not possible, the division may seek to purchase or lease the land from the BLM under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, 43 U.S.C. Sec. 869;

WHEREAS, there are other opportunities for the transfer of land to state ownership for state parks, monuments, or campgrounds, such as the stretch of land from Farmington Canyon and across Skyline Drive to Bountiful;

WHEREAS, Utah's congressional delegation is uniquely positioned to understand the state's capacity and desire to manage federal public lands within the state's borders; and

WHEREAS, leadership from Utah's congressional delegation on this issue could establish a model framework benefiting all states:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein, urges Utah's congressional delegation to lead the effort in Congress to enact legislation establishing a framework that allows the state to voluntarily assume operational responsibility, under a joint management agreement, for federal public lands within the state's borders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage the division to once again petition the Bureau of Land Management to transfer title to the state of Utah all land necessary for the creation of the Little Sahara State Park.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage the division to negotiate with the United States Forest Service to transfer the Antelope Flat Campground to the state for the creation of Flaming Gorge State Park.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage the division to work with federal agencies to acquire, lease, or manage any other properties considered suitable for a state park, state monument, or state campground.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor urge the division to evaluate recreational and scenic locations in the state, including the Monte Cristo area and trust lands in the San Rafael Swell, for designation as new state parks, monuments, and campgrounds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage the division to conduct a study considering the feasibility of a potential state park or state campground encompassing Davis County Skyline Drive, including Buckland Flats Campground, Bountiful Peak Campground, and the former Farmington Canyon Sunset Campground areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor request that the division submit an annual report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee regarding the division's progress before the November interim meetings in 2025, 2026, and 2027.

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