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Concurrent Resolution Regarding State Parks

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Steve Eliason

Senate Sponsor:

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LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This resolution encourages the Division of State Parks to work with federal agencies to transfer ownership or management of properties suitable for a state park, monument, or campground, back to the state.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- requests that the Division of State Parks (division) petition the Bureau of Land Management to transfer title to the state of Utah for the creation of the Little Sahara State Park;
- requests that the division negotiate with the United States Forest Service to transfer the Antelope Flat Campground for the creation of the Flaming Gorge State Park;
- encourages the division to work with federal agencies to acquire, lease, or manage any other properties considered suitable for a state park, monument, or campground;
- urges the division to study the feasibility of a Davis County Skyline Drive state park or state campground; and
- requests that the division update the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee on the division's progress.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

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

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

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31 WHEREAS, Utah's state parks provide recreational opportunities for residents, contribute
32 to tourism and local economic development, and protect areas of cultural and historical
33 significance;

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

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

39 WHEREAS, if a land transfer agreement is not possible, the division may seek to purchase
40 or lease the land from the BLM under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, 43 U.S.C. Sec.
41 869;

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

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

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

50 WHEREAS, the state of Utah has signaled the state's intent to collaborate with the BLM
51 and United States Forest Service to create state park management agreements for Little Sahara
52 and Flaming Gorge; and

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

56 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
57 Governor concurring therein, encourages the division to once again petition the Bureau of
58 Land Management to transfer title to the state of Utah all land necessary for the creation of the
59 Little Sahara State Park.

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

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor encourage the
64 division to work with federal agencies to acquire, lease, or manage any other properties

65 considered suitable for a state park, state monument, or state campground.

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

71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature and the Governor request that the
72 division submit an annual report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment
73 Interim Committee regarding the division's progress before the November interim meetings in
74 2025, 2026, and 2027.