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House Concurrent Resolution on Federal Lands

2025 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Steve Eliason

Senate Sponsor:

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LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This resolution urges Congress to establish a framework for states to voluntarily assume operational responsibility for federal public lands within a state's borders.

Highlighted Provisions:

This resolution:

- ▶ urges Congress to enact legislation establishing a framework for state operation of federal public lands;
- ▶ requests that the framework maintain federal management while allowing state operational control;
- ▶ outlines key requirements for participating states, including capital investment and maintenance responsibilities; and
- ▶ urges implementation of this framework to improve public land management and reduce federal expenditures.

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

WHEREAS, the state voluntarily assuming operational responsibility, under a joint management agreement, of federal lands within the state's borders, allows the state to improve

31 management efficiency and visitor experiences while reducing federal expenditures;

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

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

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

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

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

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