

**State Parks Amendments**  
2025 GENERAL SESSION  
STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Kathleen A. Riebe**

House Sponsor:

---



---

**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill addresses the creation of the Big Cottonwood Canyon State Park and Little Cottonwood Canyon State Park.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

▸ authorizes the Division of State Parks to:

- receive donations of land or facilities in Big Cottonwood Canyon and Little Cottonwood Canyon;
  - engage in transfers, exchanges, or purchases of land in Big Cottonwood Canyon and Little Cottonwood Canyon; and
  - enter into agreements with the United States Forest Service to manage and use land within Big Cottonwood Canyon and Little Cottonwood Canyon as a state park; and
- provides that Big Cottonwood Canyon State Park and Little Cottonwood Canyon State Park are part of the state park system.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

ENACTS:

**79-4-609**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**79-4-610**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

---



---

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

Section 1. Section **79-4-609** is enacted to read:

**79-4-609 . Big Cottonwood Canyon State Park.**

(1) As used in this section, "Big Cottonwood Canyon" means the land:

- 31        (a) located in the area within the Wasatch Mountains known as Big Cottonwood  
32           Canyon; and
- 33        (b) fully described by the map and legal description on file with the division.
- 34        (2) The division may enter into an agreement with the United States Forest Service to:
- 35           (a) manage land within Big Cottonwood Canyon; and  
36           (b) operate Big Cottonwood Canyon as a state park.
- 37        (3) If the division enters into an agreement as described in Subsection (2), Big Cottonwood  
38           Canyon is:
- 39           (a) designated as Big Cottonwood Canyon State Park; and  
40           (b) included within the state park system.
- 41        (4) The division may:
- 42           (a) receive donations of land or facilities in Big Cottonwood Canyon for the creation of,  
43           and inclusion within, Big Cottonwood Canyon State Park;
- 44           (b) engage in land transfers and exchanges for land in Big Cottonwood Canyon for  
45           inclusion in Big Cottonwood Canyon State Park; and
- 46           (c) purchase land or facilities in Big Cottonwood Canyon for inclusion in Big  
47           Cottonwood Canyon State Park.
- 48        (5) The division shall make land acquisitions and capital investments under this section that  
49           allow Big Cottonwood Canyon State Park to remain financially self-sustaining.

50        Section 2. Section **79-4-610** is enacted to read:

51        **79-4-610 . Little Cottonwood Canyon State Park.**

- 52        (1) As used in this section, "Little Cottonwood Canyon" means the land:
- 53           (a) located in the area within the Wasatch Mountains known as Little Cottonwood  
54           Canyon; and
- 55           (b) fully described by the map and legal description on file with the division.
- 56        (2) The division may enter into an agreement with the United States Forest Service to:
- 57           (a) manage land within Little Cottonwood Canyon; and  
58           (b) operate Little Cottonwood Canyon as a state park.
- 59        (3) If the division enters into an agreement as described in Subsection (2), Little  
60           Cottonwood Canyon is:
- 61           (a) designated as Little Cottonwood Canyon State Park; and  
62           (b) included within the state park system.
- 63        (4) The division may:
- 64           (a) receive donations of land or facilities in Little Cottonwood Canyon for the creation

- 65            of, and inclusion within, Little Cottonwood Canyon State Park;
- 66            (b) engage in land transfers and exchanges for land in Little Cottonwood Canyon for
- 67            inclusion in Little Cottonwood Canyon State Park; and
- 68            (c) purchase land or facilities in Little Cottonwood Canyon for inclusion in Little
- 69            Cottonwood Canyon State Park.
- 70            (5) The division shall make land acquisitions and capital investments under this section that
- 71            allow Little Cottonwood Canyon State Park to remain financially self-sustaining.

72            Section 3. **Effective Date.**

73            This bill takes effect on May 7, 2025.