

1 **River Restoration Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore**

House Sponsor:

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**LONG TITLE****Committee Note:**

5 The Legislative Water Development Commission recommended this bill.

6 Legislative Vote: 7 voting for 0 voting against 7 absent

**General Description:**

8 This bill addresses provisions related to Jordan River improvement projects.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

10 This bill:

11 ▶ modifies how the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands (division) expends money  
12 related to a Jordan River improvement project, including:

13         • allowing the division to expend money for an activity along the entire length of the  
14 Jordan River; and

15         • requiring the division to consult with the Jordan River Commission before expending  
16 money for an improvement project;

17         ▶ creates a matching grant program for counties and municipalities to fund improvement  
18 projects that increase access to a recreational activity on the Jordan River;

19         ▶ directs funding from the Outdoor Adventure Infrastructure Restricted Account to the  
20 matching grant program; and

21         ▶ makes technical and conforming changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

23 None

**Other Special Clauses:**

25 This bill provides a special effective date.

**Utah Code Sections Affected:****AMENDS:**

28 **51-9-902 (Effective 05/06/26) (Superseded 07/01/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah

29 2025, Chapter 498

30 **51-9-902 (Effective 07/01/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 285

31       **65A-2-8 (Effective 05/06/26)**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapters 223, 357

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

33       Section 1. Section **51-9-902** is amended to read:

34       **51-9-902 (Effective 05/06/26) (Superseded 07/01/26). Outdoor Adventure**  
35       **Infrastructure Restricted Account.**

36       (1) There is created within the General Fund a restricted account known as the "Outdoor  
37       Adventure Infrastructure Restricted Account."

38       (2) The account shall consist of:

39           (a) money deposited into the account under Subsection 59-12-103(15); and

40           (b) interest and earnings on money in the account.

41       (3) Subject to appropriation from the Legislature, money from the account shall be used for:

42           (a) new construction of outdoor recreation infrastructure;

43           (b) upgrades of outdoor recreation infrastructure;

44           (c) the replacement of or structural improvements to outdoor recreation infrastructure;

45           (d) the acquisition of land, a right-of-way, or easement used in relationship to outdoor  
46           recreation infrastructure;

47           (e) providing access from state highways, as defined in Section 72-1-102, to outdoor  
48           recreation infrastructure;

49           (f) the costs associated with bringing new construction or upgrades of outdoor  
50           recreation infrastructure into environmental compliance;

51           (g) strategic planning related to the development of outdoor recreation infrastructure;

52           (h) facilitating avalanche safety forecasting to protect the public in relation to outdoor  
53           recreation infrastructure; or

54           (i) clean up or security relating to outdoor recreation infrastructure.

55       (4) For each fiscal year, beginning with fiscal year 2025-2026, the Division of Finance  
56       shall, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, distribute money from the Outdoor  
57       Adventure Infrastructure Restricted Account as follows:

58           (a) at least 15% to the Department of Natural Resources - Division of State Parks -  
59           Capital, to be expended using the department's existing prioritization process for  
60           capital projects in state parks described in Subsection (3);

61           (b) at least 22% to the Department of Natural Resources - Division of Outdoor  
62           Recreation - Capital, to be expended for competitive Recreation Restoration  
63           Infrastructure grants or Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure grants for outdoor

- 65                   recreation capital projects and related maintenance expenses, where maintenance  
66                   expenses do not exceed 15% of the appropriation;
- 67                   (c) at least 53% to the Department of Natural Resources - Division of Outdoor  
68                   Recreation - Capital, to be expended for larger outdoor recreation infrastructure  
69                   projects described in Subsection (3) as recommended to the Legislature by the  
70                   Outdoor Adventure Commission;[-and]
- 71                   (d) at least [10%] 8% to the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity - Utah Fairpark  
72                   Area Investment and Restoration District, created in Section 11-70-201, to be  
73                   expended for the development and operation of the district[-] ; and
- 74                   (e) at least 2% to the Department of Natural Resources - Division of Forestry, Fire, and  
75                   State Lands, created in Section 65A-1-4, to be expended for Jordan River recreational  
76                   access grants described in Subsection 65A-2-8(5)(b)(iii).
- 77                   (5) If the Legislature appropriates money to the Department of Transportation from the  
78                   account, the Transportation Commission, created in Section 72-1-301, shall prioritize  
79                   projects and determine funding levels in accordance with Subsection 72-1-303(1)(a)  
80                   based on recommendations of the Department of Transportation.

81                   Section 2. Section **51-9-902** is amended to read:

82                   **51-9-902 (Effective 07/01/26). Outdoor Adventure Infrastructure Restricted**

83                   **Account.**

- 84                   (1) There is created within the General Fund a restricted account known as the "Outdoor  
85                   Adventure Infrastructure Restricted Account."
- 86                   (2) The account shall consist of:
- 87                   (a) money deposited into the account under Subsection 59-12-103(4)(h); and  
88                   (b) interest and earnings on money in the account.
- 89                   (3) Subject to appropriation from the Legislature, money from the account shall be used for:
- 90                   (a) new construction of outdoor recreation infrastructure;
- 91                   (b) upgrades of outdoor recreation infrastructure;
- 92                   (c) the replacement of or structural improvements to outdoor recreation infrastructure;
- 93                   (d) the acquisition of land, a right-of-way, or easement used in relationship to outdoor  
94                   recreation infrastructure;
- 95                   (e) providing access from state highways, as defined in Section 72-1-102, to outdoor  
96                   recreation infrastructure;
- 97                   (f) the costs associated with bringing new construction or upgrades of outdoor  
98                   recreation infrastructure into environmental compliance;

- 99 (g) strategic planning related to the development of outdoor recreation infrastructure;  
100 (h) facilitating avalanche safety forecasting to protect the public in relation to outdoor  
101 recreation infrastructure; or  
102 (i) clean up or security relating to outdoor recreation infrastructure.

103 (4) For each fiscal year, beginning with fiscal year 2025-2026, the Division of Finance  
104 shall, subject to appropriation by the Legislature, distribute money from the Outdoor  
105 Adventure Infrastructure Restricted Account as follows:

- 106 (a) at least 15% to the Department of Natural Resources - Division of State Parks -  
107 Capital, to be expended using the department's existing prioritization process for  
108 capital projects in state parks described in Subsection (3);  
109 (b) at least 22% to the Department of Natural Resources - Division of Outdoor  
110 Recreation - Capital, to be expended for competitive Recreation Restoration  
111 Infrastructure grants or Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure grants for outdoor  
112 recreation capital projects and related maintenance expenses, where maintenance  
113 expenses do not exceed 15% of the appropriation;  
114 (c) at least 53% to the Department of Natural Resources - Division of Outdoor  
115 Recreation - Capital, to be expended for larger outdoor recreation infrastructure  
116 projects described in Subsection (3) as recommended to the Legislature by the  
117 Outdoor Adventure Commission;[and]  
118 (d) at least [10%] 8% to the Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity - Utah Fairpark  
119 Area Investment and Restoration District created in Section 11-70-201 for the  
120 development and operation of the district[.] ; and  
121 (e) at least 2% to the Department of Natural Resources - Division of Forestry, Fire, and  
122 State Lands, created in Section 65A-1-4, to be expended for Jordan River recreational  
123 access grants described in Subsection 65A-2-8(5)(b)(iii).

124 (5) If the Legislature appropriates money to the Department of Transportation from the  
125 account, the Transportation Commission, created in Section 72-1-301, shall prioritize  
126 projects and determine funding levels in accordance with Subsection 72-1-303(1)(a)  
127 based on recommendations of the Department of Transportation.

128 Section 3. Section **65A-2-8** is amended to read:

129 **65A-2-8 (Effective 05/06/26). Jordan River improvement projects -- Grants.**

130 [(1) As used in this section:]

- 131 [(a) "Commission" means the Jordan River Commission created by interlocal agreement.]  
132 [(b) "Zone" means the Jordan River Reereation Area, the area 250 yards on each side of

133 the Jordan River from the edge of the river between SR-201 and 5400 South.]

134 [(2) The division, subject to applicable federal, state, and local laws and ordinances and  
135 Subseetions (3) through (5), may:]

136 [(a) expend money for the following purposes:]

137 [(i) enhancing safety, recreation, and conservation in the zone;]

138 [(ii) capital improvements within the zone, including:]

139 [(A) lighting along the Jordan River and within the zone;]

140 [(B) completing construction of a paved pathway on both sides of the Jordan  
141 River within the zone;]

142 [(C) building a boat launch, picnic pavilion, bench, restroom, or other amenity  
143 within the zone; and]

144 [(D) supporting Tracy Aviary, a nature area, bike or boat rental concessionaire, or  
145 other partnerships to enhance recreation in the zone;]

146 [(iii) funding programs to clean the zone, remove invasive species, and restore  
147 riparian habitat;]

148 [(iv) hiring or contracting for personnel to perform tasks as directed by the  
149 commission;]

150 [(v) partnering or contracting with an urban ranger or conservation corp operated by a  
151 state institution of higher education or similar service-oriented organizations or  
152 programs:]

153 [(A) to provide trail, river, and parkway maintenance, invasive species removal  
154 and revegetation, emergency care, and environmental education for the area  
155 250 yards on each side of the Jordan River from the edge of the river for the  
156 entire length of the river; and]

157 [(B) to report to the appropriate public official all health, safety, or law  
158 enforcement concerns that the organization encounters, as directed by the  
159 commission; and]

160 [(vi) partnering or contracting with local law enforcement or a certified peace officer  
161 to provide patrol, security, and law enforcement for the area 250 yards on each  
162 side of the Jordan River from the edge of the river for the entire length of the  
163 river; and]

164 [(b) purchase, lease, sell, or dispose of property or an easement within the zone to  
165 achieve the goals in Subseetion (2)(a).]

166 [(3)(a) Before engaging in any activity described in Subseetions (2)(a)(i) through

167 (2)(a)(iii) or Subsection (2)(b), the division shall receive the approval of:]  
168 [(i) the commission;]  
169 [(ii) any relevant governmental entity that owns or is responsible for the maintenance  
170 of real property within the zone, including Salt Lake County Flood Control; and]  
171 [(iii) the relevant municipality within the zone.]  
172 [(b) Before engaging in any activity described in Subsections (2)(a)(iv) through (2)(a)(vi),  
173 the division shall:]  
174 [(i) receive the approval of the commission; and]  
175 [(ii) consult with:]  
176 [(A) any relevant governmental entity that owns or is responsible for the  
177 maintenance of real property within the zone; and]  
178 [(B) the relevant municipality within the zone.]  
179 (1) As used in this section, "commission" means the Jordan River Commission created by  
180 interlocal agreement.  
181 (2) Subject to applicable federal, state, and local laws and Subsections (3) through (5), the  
182 division may expend money for:  
183 (a) enhancing safety, recreation, and conservation along the Jordan River;  
184 (b) a capital improvement project that increases access to a recreational activity on the  
185 Jordan River;  
186 (c) a partnership to increase access to a recreational activity on the Jordan River,  
187 including a bike or boat rental concessionaire, an animal preserve or sanctuary, or  
188 other partnership;  
189 (d) hiring or contracting personnel:  
190 (i) to provide, for the benefit of the Jordan River:  
191 (A) trail, river, and parkway maintenance;  
192 (B) invasive species removal and revegetation;  
193 (C) emergency care; and  
194 (D) environmental education; and  
195 (ii) to report to the appropriate public official a health, safety, or law enforcement  
196 concern along the Jordan River; and  
197 (e) partnering or contracting with local law enforcement or a certified peace officer to  
198 provide patrol, security, and law enforcement along the Jordan River.  
199 (3) Before expending money for an activity described in Subsection (2), the division shall  
200 consult with the commission.

- 201 (4) The commission shall work with the Department of Transportation, created in Section  
202 72-1-201, to:
- 203 (a) have the Department of Transportation post[~~by no later than July 1, 2025~~], as  
204 funding allows, consistent and attractive signs where a highway that is designated as  
205 a state highway under Title 72, Chapter 4, Designation of State Highways Act, but is  
206 not a freeway crosses the Jordan River; and
- 207 (b) advise in the development of methods to provide access from a state highway to the  
208 trails along the Jordan River where the trail can be safely accessed.
- 209 (5)(a) The programs activities described in this section may only be implemented as  
210 appropriations from the Legislature allow.
- 211 (b)(i) Money appropriated to programs an activity in this section is managed by the  
212 division in accordance with this section and may include the division [dispersing  
213 money through] issuing grants.
- 214 (ii) The division shall:
- 215 (A) [before December 31, 2022, ] issue a five-year grant to a zoo, aviary, nature  
216 center, or other educational program located [within the zone] along the Jordan  
217 River; and
- 218 (B) renew the grant described in Subsection (5)(b)(ii)(A) every five years.
- 219 (iii) The division may issue a matching grant to a county or municipality for an  
220 improvement project that increases recreational access on the Jordan River, if the  
221 county or municipality:
- 222 (A) provides an equal amount of matching funds; and
- 223 (B) certifies that the county or municipality will spend the grant funds on an  
224 improvement project that increases recreational access or improves public  
225 safety along the Jordan River.
- 226 (c) Money that the Legislature appropriates to programs an activity or program  
227 described in this section is nonlapsing in accordance with Section 63J-1-602.2.
- 228 **Section 4. Effective Date.**
- 229 (1) Except as provided in Subsection (2), this bill takes effect May 6, 2026.
- 230 (2) The actions affecting Section 51-9-902 (Effective 07/01/26) take effect on July 1, 2026.