

Gooseberry Narrows State Park Designation

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Derrin R. Owens

House Sponsor:

LONG TITLE

General Description:

This bill addresses the creation of Gooseberry Narrows State Park.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- authorizes the Division of State Parks (division) to:
 - enter into an agreement with the United States Forest Service (USFS) to operate land managed by USFS as a state park;
 - receive donations of land or facilities in the gooseberry narrows; and
 - engage in transfers, exchanges, or purchases of land in the gooseberry narrows;
- allows the division to consult with local governments regarding:
 - the construction of a dam at Gooseberry Narrows State Park;
 - the necessary acquisition or transfer of water rights for a potential dam at Gooseberry Narrows State Park; and
 - resolving disputes related to the development of Gooseberry Narrows State Park; and
- provides that Gooseberry Narrows State Park is part of the state park system upon the division entering into an agreement with USFS.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

79-4-609, 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 . Gooseberry Narrows State Park.

31 (1) As used in this section:

32 (a) "Gooseberry narrows" means the land on Gooseberry Creek between the Lower
33 Gooseberry Dam and Fairview Lakes described by the map and legal description on
34 file with the division.

35 (b) "Impacted local government" means a local government, as that term is defined in
36 Section 63G-16-201, that:

37 (i) has jurisdictional land located within the gooseberry narrows;
38 (ii) has a property interest in the gooseberry narrows;
39 (iii) holds a water right or interest in a water right in Gooseberry Creek; or
40 (iv) manages land located within the gooseberry narrows.

41 (2) The division may enter into an agreement with the United States Forest Service to:

42 (a) manage land in the gooseberry narrows;
43 (b) purchase or exchange land in the gooseberry narrows; and
44 (c) operate the gooseberry narrows as a state park.

45 (3) The division may consult with an impacted local government to:

46 (a) in coordination with the Division of Water Resources created in Section 73-10-18,
47 provide assistance on the development or construction of a dam at Gooseberry
48 Narrows State Park;
49 (b) in coordination with the Division of Water Rights created in Section 73-2-1.1,
50 provide information on the acquisition or transfer of a water right needed for the
51 development of a dam at Gooseberry Narrows State Park; and
52 (c) resolve a dispute regarding the development of a dam at the Gooseberry Narrows
53 State Park between:
54 (i) two or more landowners;
55 (ii) a landowner and an impacted local government; or
56 (iii) two or more impacted local governments.

57 (4) If the division enters into an agreement as described in Subsection (2), the gooseberry
58 narrows is:

59 (a) designated as Gooseberry Narrows State Park; and
60 (b) included in the state park system.

61 (5) The division may:

62 (a) receive donations of land or facilities in the gooseberry narrows for the creation of,
63 and inclusion within, Gooseberry Narrows State Park;
64 (b) engage in land transfers and exchanges of land in the gooseberry narrows for

65 inclusion in Gooseberry Narrows State Park; and
66 (c) purchase land or facilities in the gooseberry narrows for inclusion in Gooseberry
67 Narrows State Park.

68 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

69 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.