

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.

- (1) As used in this section:
- (a) "Gooseberry narrows" means the land on Gooseberry Creek between the Lower Gooseberry Dam and Fairview Lakes described by the map and legal description on file with the division.
- (b) "Impacted local government" means a local government, as that term is defined in Section 63G-16-201, that:
- (i) has jurisdictional land located within the gooseberry narrows;
- (ii) has a property interest in the gooseberry narrows;
- (iii) holds a water right or interest in a water right in Gooseberry Creek; or
- (iv) manages land located within the gooseberry narrows.
- (2) The division may enter into an agreement with the United States Forest Service to:
- (a) manage land in the gooseberry narrows;
- (b) purchase or exchange land in the gooseberry narrows; and
- (c) operate the gooseberry narrows as a state park.
- (3) The division may consult with an impacted local government to:
- (a) in coordination with the Division of Water Resources created in Section 73-10-18, provide assistance on the development or construction of a dam at Gooseberry Narrows State Park;
- (b) in coordination with the Division of Water Rights created in Section 73-2-1.1, provide information on the acquisition or transfer of a water right needed for the development of a dam at Gooseberry Narrows State Park; and
- (c) resolve a dispute regarding the development of a dam at the Gooseberry Narrows State Park between:
- (i) two or more landowners;
- (ii) a landowner and an impacted local government; or
- (iii) two or more impacted local governments.
- (4) If the division enters into an agreement as described in Subsection (2), the gooseberry narrows is:
- (a) designated as Gooseberry Narrows State Park; and
- (b) included in the state park system.
- (5) The division may:
- (a) receive donations of land or facilities in the gooseberry narrows for the creation of, and inclusion within, Gooseberry Narrows State Park;
- (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.