

Derrin R. Owens proposes the following substitute bill:

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:

- provides that Gooseberry Narrows State Park become part of the state park system upon the Division of State Parks (division):
 - managing, purchasing, or operating all federally-managed land in the gooseberry narrows;
 - studying and reporting the feasibility and cost of a state park and dam in the gooseberry narrows; and
 - receiving funding from the Legislature;
- authorizes the 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, in coordination with the Public Land Policy Coordinating Office; and
- allows the division to consult with local governments regarding:
 - the construction of a dam at Gooseberry Narrows State Park; and
 - the necessary acquisition or transfer of water rights for a potential dam at Gooseberry Narrows State Park.

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 -- Study -- Report.

(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; and

(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.

(4) The division may, in coordination with the Public Lands Policy Coordinating Office created in Section 63L-11-201:

(a) receive donations of land or facilities in the gooseberry narrows for inclusion in Gooseberry Narrows State Park;

(b) negotiate a transfer or exchange of land in the gooseberry narrows for inclusion in Gooseberry Narrows State Park; and

(c) negotiate the purchase of land or facilities in the gooseberry narrows for inclusion in

64 Gooseberry Narrows State Park.

65 (5)(a) The gooseberry narrows is designated as Gooseberry Narrows State Park and
66 included in the state park system upon:

67 (i) the division managing, purchasing, or operating all federally-managed lands in the
68 gooseberry narrows;

69 (ii) the division reporting the results of the study described in Subsection (6) to the
70 Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee; and

71 (iii) the Legislature appropriating funding for the construction and development of
72 Gooseberry Narrows State Park.

73 (b) The division shall report the designation of the Gooseberry Narrows State Park to the
74 Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee upon the
75 completion of the requirements described in Subsection (5)(a).

76 (6)(a) The division shall study the feasibility of creating the Gooseberry Narrows State
77 Park, including:

78 (i) any necessary requirement for the development or construction of a dam at
79 Gooseberry Narrows State Park;

80 (ii) the expected cost to the state of:

81 (A) transferring, exchanging, or purchasing all federally-managed lands in the
82 gooseberry narrows;

83 (B) constructing and developing infrastructure needed for the state park; and

84 (C) constructing and developing a dam in the gooseberry narrows; and

85 (iii) a recommendation for the Legislature to appropriate funds for Gooseberry
86 Narrows State Park.

87 (b) The division shall report the results of the study described in Subsection (6)(a) to the
88 Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee before
89 November 30, 2026.

90 **Section 2. Effective Date.**

91 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.