

1 **Derrin R. Owens** proposes the following substitute bill:

1 **Gooseberry Narrows State Park Designation**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Derrin R. Owens**

House Sponsor:

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2 **LONG TITLE**

3 **General Description:**

4 This bill addresses the creation of Gooseberry Narrows State Park.

5 **Highlighted Provisions:**

6 This bill:

7 ▶ provides that Gooseberry Narrows State Park become part of the state park system upon  
8 the Division of State Parks (division):

9 • managing, purchasing, or operating all federally-managed land in the gooseberry  
10 narrows;

11 • studying and reporting the feasibility and cost of a state park and dam in the  
12 gooseberry narrows; and

13 • receiving funding from the Legislature;

14 ▶ authorizes the division to:

15 • enter into an agreement with the United States Forest Service (USFS) to operate land  
16 managed by USFS as a state park;

17 • receive donations of land or facilities in the gooseberry narrows; and

18 • engage in transfers, exchanges, or purchases of land in the gooseberry narrows, in  
19 coordination with the Public Land Policy Coordinating Office; and

20 ▶ allows the division to consult with local governments regarding:

21 • the construction of a dam at Gooseberry Narrows State Park; and

22 • the necessary acquisition or transfer of water rights for a potential dam at Gooseberry  
23 Narrows State Park.

24 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

25 None

26 **Other Special Clauses:**

27 None

28 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

30 ENACTS:

31 **79-4-609**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

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

35 **79-4-609 . Gooseberry Narrows State Park -- Study -- Report.**

36 (1) As used in this section:

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

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

- 42 (i) has jurisdictional land located within the gooseberry narrows;  
43 (ii) has a property interest in the gooseberry narrows;  
44 (iii) holds a water right or interest in a water right in Gooseberry Creek; or  
45 (iv) manages land located within the gooseberry narrows.

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

- 47 (a) manage land in the gooseberry narrows;  
48 (b) purchase or exchange land in the gooseberry narrows; and  
49 (c) operate the gooseberry narrows as a state park.

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

- 51 (a) in coordination with the Division of Water Resources created in Section 73-10-18,  
52 provide assistance on the development or construction of a dam at Gooseberry  
53 Narrows State Park; and  
54 (b) in coordination with the Division of Water Rights created in Section 73-2-1.1,  
55 provide information on the acquisition or transfer of a water right needed for the  
56 development of a dam at Gooseberry Narrows State Park.

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

- 59 (a) receive donations of land or facilities in the gooseberry narrows for inclusion in  
60 Gooseberry Narrows State Park;  
61 (b) negotiate a transfer or exchange of land in the gooseberry narrows for inclusion in  
62 Gooseberry Narrows State Park; and  
63 (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.