

Pando Protection Project

[Edit Request](#)

Requester Information

Legislator: Albrecht, Carl R.

Creation Date: 2024-01-04

Submission Date: 2024-01-05

Section 1: Request Details

Description:

Pando is the world's largest tree by weight and land mass and is the largest aspen in the world. Today, fencing and cattle guards are used to control deer and elk who eat away at the tree faster than it can repair itself. Funds would pay for installation of cattle guards and protective fencing systems to bring 76 acres of the botanical wonder into permanent protective care while also making Utah Highway 25 safer for motor vehicle traffic, recreationist and grazers. The project has public support of land managers, small businesses, scientists and community leaders.

Legislative designee contact information:

- Name: David Ogden
- Organization: Friends of Pando
- Position: Board President

Section 2: Funding Information

How will the appropriation be used?

	One-time	Ongoing
Personnel Services	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
In-State Travel	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Out-of-state Travel	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies and Equipment	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$116,300.00	\$0.00
Technology Purchases	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Infrastructure/Capital Investments	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$370,000.00	\$0.00
Other Charges/Pass Thru	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Expenditure Total		

One-time 2024
\$0.00

One-time 2025
\$486,300.00

Ongoing 2025
\$0.00

Funding Sources:

Transportation Fund

- Amount Requested 2024 (One-time) \$0.00
- Amount Requested 2025 (One-time) \$370,000.00
- Amount Requested 2025 (Ongoing) \$0.00

General Fund

- Amount Requested 2024 (One-time) \$0.00
- Amount Requested 2025 (One-time) \$116,300.00
- Amount Requested 2025 (Ongoing) \$0.00

Revenue Total

One-time 2024
\$0.00

One-time 2025
\$486,300.00

Ongoing 2025
\$0.00

Should unused funding be returned to the state at the end of the fiscal year?

Yes

Is this project scalable if the Legislature does not fund the full requested amount?

No

Section 3: Agency Information

Subjects:

Infrastructure and Mobility
Tourism and Recreation

Agency:

810 / Transportation

Type of entity to receive pass-through funding

- State Government

Section 4: Performance Outcome Measurement

Who would benefit from this request (who is the target audience)?

1. The people of the State of Utah who share their homeland with the world's largest aspen, largest tree by weight and land mass, Pando. 2. Tourists. 300,000 people visit Fish Lake each year with another estimated 1,700-5,000 who come to visit Pando alone. 3. Local businesses who profit from Pando tourism in Fish Lake, Loa, Fremont, Koosharem, Torrey, Richfield, Salina and Monroe. 4. Grazers who rely on cattle guards to manage herds. 5. Motorists who regularly have dangerous encounters with deer and elk on the Utah Highway 25 as they move through Pando. 6. Local property owners as Pando forms a natural fire break and flood control barrier that spans 0.66 miles long by 0.43 miles wide.

What is this project or program intended to accomplish?

Establish a protective corridor to force deer and elk around Pando's 106 acre land mass and to keep them out of the tree and, the Utah Highway 25 corridor. Today, cattle guards and fencing are used to protect 53 acres of Pando from deer and elk. This effort would protect an additional 23 acres bringing 76 acres of Pando's 106 acre expanse into permanent protective care. Unlike other special trees, Pando health and vitality can be managed and promoted once protective barriers are in place to sustain the benefit of such efforts.

How will the Legislature know whether the project or program achieved its intended purpose?

In the immediate, we expect to see lower animal-related traffic incidents and improved herd management for grazers. Based on success of previous efforts, within a year, we should expect new growth in newly protected areas. Where additional restoration cannot get underway without protections, we expect to see healthier and more productive Pando within 3-5 years based on successes of past efforts. Friends of Pando, Fishlake National Forest and Utah DWR are engaged in long term efforts and welcome the opportunity to provide regular updates.

Section 5: Other Supporting Documents**Intent Language****Previous State Funding**