



RECREATION

# Outdoor Recreation Initiative

*Prepared for Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environmental Quality Appropriations Subcommittee*



# Agenda



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# Timeline - First Year of the Program

## July 1 - October 1, 2023

- Exploratory meetings with Federal, State, and local partners
- Solicitation of potential projects for FY2024 - **over \$60 million identified**
- Consult local regions for project support
- Update Outdoor Adventure Commission

## November

- DOR Staff refines list of projects.
- Collect detailed project information for those on the final list - schedule presentations
- Applicants present projects to Outdoor Adventure Commission

## December

- Applicants present projects to Outdoor Adventure Commission

## January - March - 2024

- Applicants present projects to Outdoor Adventure Commission.
- Outdoor Adventure Commission members score and evaluate projects using prioritization model
- Outdoor Adventure Commission votes to recommend projects for appropriation request
- Legislative appropriation request submitted for approved projects.

## April - July - 2024

- Contracts sent out and projects can be started



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# Recommended Projects for FY 2024

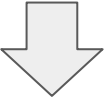
Project Title	Applicant	Project County	Urban/Rural	Amount Awarded	Total Project Cost
<b>Recommended for Funding</b>					
Wasatch Trail Feasibility Study	Wasatch Trails Foundation	Wasatch Range Counties	Urban	\$111,060.00	\$111,060.00
Guacamole Mesa - NEPA and Trailhead Infrastructure	Zion Regional Collaborative	Washington	Rural	\$182,700.00	\$203,000.00
House on Fire Access Improvements	Bears Ear National Monument - BLM	San Juan	Rural	\$230,000.00	\$330,000.00
Spruces Campground	Dixie Ranger District - USFS	Kane	Rural	\$412,150.00	\$2,000,000.00
Duck Creek Campground	Dixie Ranger District - USFS	Kane	Rural	\$764,090.00	\$3,500,000.00
McCoy Flats New Campground	Vernal Field Office - BLM	Uintah	Rural	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,500,000.00
Sherman Hills Property Acquisition	Wellsville City	Cache	Rural	\$2,000,000.00	\$8,000,000.00
Completing the Colorado River Pathway	Moab Field Office - BLM	Grand	Rural	\$2,500,000.00	\$15,000,000.00
Calf Creek Recreation Site Improvements	Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument - BLM	Garfield	Rural	\$3,300,000.00	\$5,500,000.00
Puffer Lake Property Acquisition	Beaver County	Beaver	Rural	\$3,500,000.00	\$8,000,000.00
Experiential Corridor for the Zion National Park Discovery Center	Zion Forever Project	Kane	Rural	\$5,000,000.00	\$52,799,030.00
Meeks Mesa Campground	Fishlake Ranger District - USFS	Wayne	Rural	\$4,500.00	\$4,879,000.00
				\$19,000,000.00*	



# Future Project Approval Flow

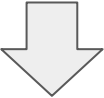
## Solicitation Phase

General Public submits projects through Project Interest Form + Division staff solicit projects from partners + Regional Councils plan and organize local projects



## Ranking Phase

Division staff organize all project submissions → Outdoor Adventure Commission reviews project submissions for rankings → Regional Councils discuss and rank local projects.



## Approval Phase

Outdoor Adventure Commission approves projects



## Funding Phase

Legislature approves appropriation for approved projects → Division staff create contracts and work begins



# Project Prioritization

*To be considered for funding, projects will be ranked by how well they address the following prioritization criteria:*

**Significant Scope:** Projects are expected to have a regionally significant scope. With the Division of Outdoor Recreation offering funding programs covering all types of outdoor recreation, Outdoor Recreation Initiative projects should be large enough in scope that existing grants cannot cover the project costs.

**Benefit to Local Utah Communities:** With the expectation that federal partners will be active participants, projects should have the support of the local region and be of clear benefit to Utahns.

**Addresses Overcrowding:** Considering the recreation experience, projects should attempt to solve overcrowding issues through expanded infrastructural offerings to increase asset capacity, or through disbursement in adjacent areas or within the same area.

**Addresses the Underserved:** Whether population type or activity type, projects should look to support underserved communities.



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# Project Prioritization (continued)

**Cross-Jurisdictional:** Through state involvement as facilitator, projects suffering from complexities of cross-jurisdictional planning and management will benefit from the State's active role in project management, procurement, contracting, and on-the-ground support through the Outdoor Recreation Initiative.

**Addresses backlogged maintenance:** Restoration projects of significant sizes on public land including state, federal and local, that cannot be supported by existing Division of Outdoor Recreation funding programs.

**Aligns with the Outdoor Adventure Commission Strategic Plan:** Projects should look to follow state investment guidelines established in this strategic plan: **1.** Build and support collaborative processes. **2.** Increase the economic and health benefits generated by outdoor recreation. **3.** Improve awareness and education about safe and responsible recreation. **4.** Increase access to outdoor recreation while protecting natural and scenic landscapes.

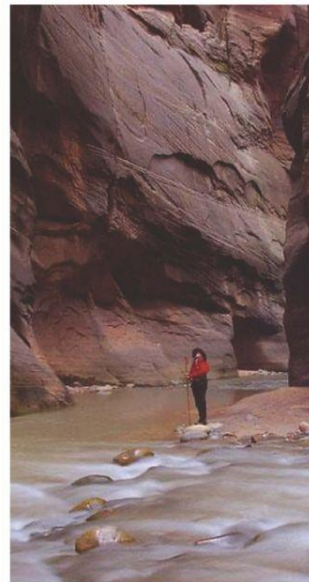
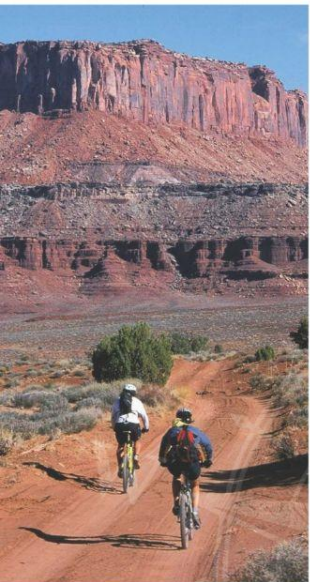
**Shovel-ready:** Planned projects that can be completed in a timely manner.



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# UTAH'S OUTDOOR RECREATION STRATEGIC PLAN

Four cardinal directions to guide the future of outdoor recreation in Utah







**BUILD AND SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE PROCESSES**



**IMPROVE AWARENESS AND EDUCATION ABOUT SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE RECREATION**



**INCREASE ACCESS TO OUTDOOR RECREATION WHILE PROTECTING NATURAL AND SCENIC LANDSCAPES**

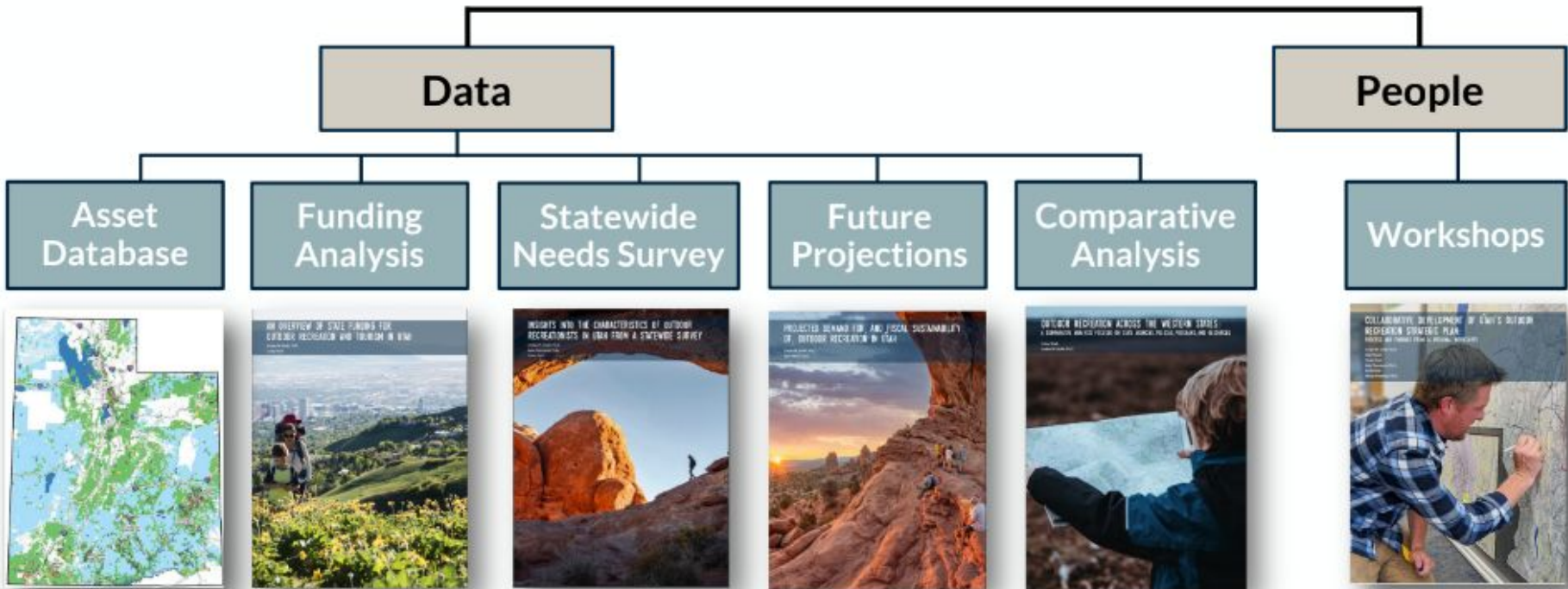


**INCREASE THE ECONOMIC AND HEALTH BENEFITS GENERATED BY OUTDOOR RECREATION**





## ANALYSIS AND PLANNING SUPPORTING THE STRATEGIC PLANNING EFFORT





# Outdoor Recreation Day on the Hill

ENJOY BREAKFAST AND MEET WITH LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND BRANDS.  
LEARN ABOUT THE OUTDOOR INDUSTRY'S IMPACT ON  
UTAH'S ECONOMY AND QUALITY OF LIFE.

STICK AROUND FOR AN UNVEILING OF THE UTAH OUTDOOR RECREATION  
STRATEGIC PLAN AT 10:30AM IN THE HALL OF GOVERNORS.

February 16, 2024  
8:00-9:30 a.m. | Utah Capitol Rotunda

