East Carbon Coke Ovens Land Purchase

Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environmental Quality

Requester Information

Legislator Name: Watkins, Christine F.

Created Date: January 20th 2026 **Submitted Date:** January 22nd 2026

Section 1: Requester Details

Description:

This RFA will buy 181.4 acres in the East Carbon/Sunnyside area. The area will be preserved for public use and to save the historic Coke Ovens. Coking is the process of burning out impurities from the extracted coal to create a more pure fuel product. Built during World War II near the Horse Canyon coal mine, the beehive shaped coke ovens honor the area's rich coal mining history and are a popular attraction for history enthusiasts and photographers.

Legislative designee contact information:

Name: Scott Strong

Organization: Division of State Parks

Position: Director

Section 2: Funding Information

How will the appropriation be used?

Category	One-time		Ongoing
Personnel Services	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00
In-State Travel	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00
Out-of-State Travel	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00

Category	One-time		Ongoing
Supplies and Equipment	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00
Technology Purchases	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00
Infrastructure/Capital Investments	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $242,700.00	$0.00
Other Charges/Pass Thru	2026: 2027:	$0.00 $0.00	$0.00

Expenditure Total

One-time 2026	One-time 2027	Ongoing 2027
$0.00	**$242,700.00**	**$0.00**

Funding Sources:

General Fund

Amount Requested:

2026 (One-time)	$0.00
2027 (One-time)	$242,700.00
2027 (Ongoing)	$0.00

Revenue Total

One-time 2026	One-time 2027	Ongoing 2027
$0.00	**$242,700.00**	**$0.00**

Is this a multi-year project?

No

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

No

A short explanation describing how the project might be scaled?

Section 3: Agency Information

Subjects:

Land and Environment

TOUREC

Agency:

560 / Natural Resources

Type of entity to receive pass-through funding:

State Government

Grant recipient

No

Requested Direct Award Grant Recipient

Section 4: Performance Outcome Measurement

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

The people of Utah. Expecially the people in southeastern Utah. The site is a valuable historoical site, it could also be a national tourist destination. The history of World War II and the importance of these Coke Ovens. This a unique and timely oppportunity to purchase this property. Without this purchase the land will be sold to the highest bidder for private use.

What is this project or program intended to accomplish?

Besides the preservation of the Coke Ovens and the railroad building, the Coke Ovens will provide another tourist destination. Camping and recreation will also be a part of the plan.

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

With the assistance of the State Park Department and the local communities the area will be cleaned and restored (building). There will also be the beginning of campsites and recreation areas. This will also preseve the area that is now deteriotating.

Section 5: Other Supporting Documents

Intent Language Documents

Previous Funding Documents

Full Time Employees

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