

## PERFORMANCE NOTE: AGENCY FORM

# H.B. 160

**SHORT TITLE:** Utah Wilderness Act

Joint Rule 4-2-404 requires a Performance Review Note anytime the legislature significantly increases funding for:  New agency  New services or benefits  Serving a new or larger population

**DUE TO THE FISCAL ANALYSIS:** Thursday, February 27, 2014

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### HOW WILL THE PUBLIC BENEFIT?

**1 What is the purpose and the duties of the new program, agency, services, or population served?** JR4-2-404(4)(c)(i)

The program envisioned in HB 160 would require the Public Lands Office to survey lands acquired from the federal government for potential classification as conservation lands or wilderness. This review would occur within one year of acquisition. PLPCO would then have up to 5 years to review the lands for possible designation as "protected wilderness," which lands would thereafter become part of the Utah Wilderness Preservation System. The process of review would require extensive coordination with local government and the public, and the review and correlation of a great deal of data.

**2 What services are provided by the funding increase?** JR4-2-404(4)(c)(ii)

Staff at PLPCO, in coordination with DNR agencies, SITLA, Dept of Agriculture, and others, would be required to implement the required review process for lands acquired from the federal government. This would require staff time at the time of such an acquisition, but not until then. Remote lands may require a significant review, requiring a great deal of time and effort. Data resources, such as a searchable database and GIS capability would be required as well. In addition, PLPCO is required to implement a program to acquire land within wilderness areas, subject to available funds. This may be part of another state program, such as the Leray McAllister conservation program.

**3 What are the expected outcomes of the new or expanded program and how will the public benefit?** JR4-2-404(4)(c)(iii)

The direct outcome would be an extensive review of acquired lands for possible addition to the wilderness preservation system, followed by various management activities related to the wilderness system. Some management activities would be implemented by the Department of Natural Resources, some at the Department of Agriculture and Food, and some implemented by the Public Lands Office.

**4 How will the bill be implemented and what resources are available to achieve the expected outcomes?** JR4-2-404(4)(c)(iv)

Currently, lands which may qualify as conservation lands might be acquired from the federal government by the Department of Natural Resources, and possibly the Department of Agriculture and Food. Other agencies, such as UDOT, would only acquire lands for a specific purpose, which would, in all likelihood, not qualify as conservation lands. Current acquisitions are small in number and acreage, so the required process could, within reasonable expectations, be covered by existing budgets and staff. At the time of any larger acquisitions, from whatever source, the implementation requirements could require the investment in additional resources.

**5 How will the proposed agency activities cause the expected outcomes and public benefit in 3?**

The expected outcomes, discussed in question 3 above, are a process of review of acquired lands for possible addition to the proposed Utah Wilderness Preservation System. Agency activities would be designed, at the appropriate time, to achieve the required review. The results of the required review would be available to the Governor, the Legislature, local government, and the public for possible further action.

## 2. PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

What measures will managers and policymakers use to know if the new or expanded program is providing the expected outcomes and public benefits? Provide one, two, and three year goals or targets, actual results and measures if available to serve as a baseline, and outcomes.

**Goal (public benefit):** Review of acquired lands for conservation status

**Measure Title:**

**Description:**

The Public Lands Office would review all lands acquired from the federal government against the statutory definition of conservation lands. The definition requires information upon size of the parcel, naturalness of the parcel and others. Designation as conservation lands also requires compliance with an identified procedure. The Public Lands Office would make various reports about the process, and the conclusions for each parcel of land.

<b>Fiscal Year:</b>	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
<b>Target or Benchmark:</b>					
<b>Baseline:</b>					

**How will program managers collect this performance information and ensure its reliability?**

PLPCO staff will work with other agencies, local government and interested parties to gather the information, and provide the requested results. Baseline information is not possible at this time.

**Goal (public benefit):** Management Provisions for Acquired Lands

**Measure Title:**

**Description:**

Management actions for conservation lands and protected wilderness would be prepared and implemented by the Department of Natural Resources, and the Department of Agriculture and Food. These would authorize and regulate activities, such as grazing, recreation and mineral development within these areas.

<b>Fiscal Year:</b>	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
<b>Target or Benchmark:</b>					
<b>Baseline:</b>					

**How will program managers collect this performance information and ensure its reliability?**

The Departments would initiate a process to identify and start a management regime for each of the resource uses within the conservation/wilderness areas. The breadth and scope of this process is not known at this time. Baseline data is not available at this time.

**Goal (public benefit):** Recommendations for Protected Wilderness

**Measure Title:**

**Description:**

The Public Lands Office would review all lands acquired from the federal government against the statutory definition of protected wilderness areas. The definition requires information related to its conservation value and other possible uses for the land. The Public Lands Office would make various reports about the process, and the conclusions for each parcel of land.

<b>Fiscal Year:</b>	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
<b>Target or Benchmark:</b>					
<b>Baseline:</b>					

**How will program managers collect this performance information and ensure its reliability?**

PLPCO staff will work with other agencies, local government and interested parties to gather the information, and provide the requested results. Baseline information is not possible at this time.