Utah Division of Parks and Recreation

State Park Closures
Why Are We Here?

It is the intent of the Legislature that the State Parks Board, in coordination with the division director, analyze the costs and benefits of each state park, and by December 1, 2002 recommend parks for closure to meet the $500,000 reduction in the state parks budget. It is further the intent of the Legislature that the reduction may be covered by both the operating and capital budgets of the state parks. (2002 Utah State Legislature)
Where State Park Fits

Other State Agencies
99.4%

Utah State Parks
0.6%

General Fund
42%

Park Funds
58%
What’s Been Cut?

- $6.4 million in reductions
- Cuts already in place
  - Capital $5,030,000
  - Grants $800,000
  - Personnel $400,000
  - Other $170,000
What Parks Has Done?

* Eliminated ten employees
* Decreased the use of state general funds
  - Fee increases
  - Maximized alternative funding sources
* Increased employee productivity
* Reduced services
* Reduced seasonal wages
* Froze salary increases
* Left vacancies unfilled
Why This Park?

- Park evaluation process
  - Mandated by the legislature
  - Nine major criteria considered
- Cost of operation vs. Revenue
- Management alternatives
- Legal responsibilities
- Meet legislature’s requirement
Park Rating Criteria

* Positive Environmental Qualities
  - Topographic Qualities
  - Geographic Characteristics
  - Aesthetic Qualities
Park Rating Criteria

* Positive Social Qualities
  – Socio-Economic Qualities
  – Political Congruency
  – Health, Safety, and Welfare Qualities
Park Rating Criteria

* Positive Administrative & Management Qualities
  - Resource Protection and/or Conservation
  - Site Design
  - Achievement of Board/Administration Policy
Funding Sources

- Collections: 8,824,000
- General State Revenue: 9,434,000
- Other funds: 160,000
- OHV funds: 1,649,000
- Boating funds: 2,706,000
Expenditure Categories

- Personnel: 14,183,000
- Operating Expenses: 6,220,000
- Pass Through: 1,025,000
- Capital: 959,000
- Travel: 185,000