

28 been on the decline;

29 WHEREAS, participation in these activities is a major contributor to Utah's economy;

30 WHEREAS, there are also concerns that many of our younger generation are becoming
31 disconnected from nature;

32 WHEREAS, youth are shunning the great outdoors in favor of sedentary activities ~~§~~→ [such
33 as video games, television, the Internet, and movies] ←~~§~~ ;

34 WHEREAS, numerous studies have shown that there are many health, physical,
35 emotional, and educational benefits to playing in and experiencing Utah's outdoors;

36 WHEREAS, outdoor experiences are critical components to the development of the
37 next generation of Utah's conservation stewards and recreationists;

38 WHEREAS, childhood obesity rates in Utah and the nation are epidemic and outdoor
39 activities can be an effective means to combating this major health concern;

40 WHEREAS, Utahns should work together to help create a healthy environment that
41 will not threaten outdoor activities through effective policy and public awareness;

42 WHEREAS, every child in Utah should have the opportunity to visit a national park, sit
43 beneath a tree that is at least 100 years old, boat a river, climb a mountain, cook dinner over a
44 campfire, go fishing, hike a trail, plant a native flower, shrub, or tree, listen to a spring bird
45 song or chorus of frogs, gaze at the stars, and follow animal tracks in the snow; and

46 WHEREAS, it is through these and many other activities that Utahns can feel and pass
47 on to the next generation a connection with nature that refreshes the body, mind, and soul for
48 facing life's challenges and opportunities:

49 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the
50 Governor concurring therein, express support for increased participation by children in outdoor
51 activities and support policies that promote outdoor activities for Utah's children.

52 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Utah
53 Department of Natural Resources, the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the Utah
54 State Office of Education, the Utah Department of Health, the Utah League of Cities and
55 Towns, and the Utah Association of Counties.