

1 **JOINT RESOLUTION ON THE FORMATION OF PUBLIC**
2 **LAND MANAGEMENT PLANS**

3 2019 GENERAL SESSION

4 STATE OF UTAH

5 **Chief Sponsor: Keven J. Stratton**

6 Senate Sponsor: David P. Hinkins

7
8 **LONG TITLE**

9 **Committee Note:**

10 The Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands recommended this bill.

11 Legislative Vote: 6 voting for 1 voting against 1 absent

12 **General Description:**

13 This joint resolution expresses support for a process of forming land use plans for
14 certain federally controlled public lands in the state.

15 **Highlighted Provisions:**

16 This resolution:

- 17 ▶ affirms the state's commitment to its public lands;
- 18 ▶ asserts that the state should form legislatively approved land use plans for federally
19 controlled public lands in the state to better ensure that the land management
20 reflects state and local interests;
- 21 ▶ recognizes the Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands as the appropriate
22 legislative entity to oversee the formation of the land use plans;
- 23 ▶ identifies certain areas of federally controlled public lands that are of heightened
24 concern to the state; and
- 25 ▶ supports the Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands issuing a request for
26 proposals to hire a consultant to form land use plans for federally controlled public
27 lands that are of heightened concern to submit to the Legislature for its approval.



28 **Special Clauses:**

29 None



31 *Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

32 WHEREAS, the state of Utah is a premier public lands state and is committed to
33 remaining a public lands state;

34 WHEREAS, Utah's public lands provide unique opportunities for outdoor recreation
35 including skiing, camping, hunting, fishing, biking, rock climbing, and spelunking in addition
36 to economic opportunities like responsible timber harvesting, mineral development, wind and
37 solar energy development, and livestock grazing;

38 WHEREAS, the federal government controls more than 66% of all land in the state of
39 Utah;

40 WHEREAS, the federal government has managed Utah's federally controlled public
41 lands without meaningful state or local consultation or input;

42 WHEREAS, the federal government's failure to meaningfully consider state or local
43 input has resulted in mismanagement and jeopardized Utah communities, forests, wildlife,
44 economies, recreational opportunities, and air quality;

45 WHEREAS, the mismanagement of federally controlled public lands in the state has
46 infringed upon and undermined the jurisdiction and duties of the state of Utah to protect the
47 health, safety, and welfare of its citizens;

48 WHEREAS, there are certain areas of federally controlled public lands that are of
49 heightened concern to the state, including the Bears Ears National Monument, the Grand
50 Staircase-Escalante National Monument, certain areas in Emery County, and certain areas of
51 the central Wasatch Range;

52 WHEREAS, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) requires the
53 Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to form land use plans for federally controlled public lands;

54 WHEREAS, the Secretary's land use plans must be "consistent with State and local
55 plans to the maximum extent [the Secretary] finds consistent with Federal law and the purposes
56 of [FLPMA].";

57 WHEREAS, the state of Utah has not formed legislatively approved land use plans for
58 the state's federally controlled public lands;

59 WHEREAS, the state is committed to improving the way public lands are managed in
60 the state;

61 WHEREAS, in 2018, the Legislature adopted a statewide resource management plan
62 that addresses natural resources on federally controlled public lands and was the result of
63 significant public input and a collaborative effort between the state and each of Utah's 29
64 counties;

65 WHEREAS, the Utah Public Land Management Act, enacted in 2016, and the Utah
66 Wilderness Act, enacted in 2014, provide a legislative framework for caring for Utah's public
67 lands;

68 WHEREAS, local jurisdictions have done significant work regarding the management
69 of federally controlled public lands based on extensive public input;

70 WHEREAS, the state of Utah, not the federal government, is in the best position to
71 form land use plans that ensure appropriate conservation, secure public access, encourage
72 multiple use, grow the economy, and sustain proper land management;

73 WHEREAS, forming land use plans for federally controlled public lands will give the
74 state greater and more appropriate control over the land use plans used to manage federally
75 controlled public lands in the state;

76 WHEREAS, in 2014 the Utah Legislature established the Commission for the
77 Stewardship of Public Lands, in part, to make recommendations regarding the state's sovereign
78 right to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens as it relates to public lands; and

79 WHEREAS, the Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands has the expertise to
80 oversee the formation of land use plans for federally controlled public lands in the state:

81 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of the state of Utah
82 recognizes the importance of the state forming legislatively approved land use plans for
83 federally controlled public lands in the state, especially those of heightened concern.

84 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the land use plans draw upon and integrate work
85 already completed in the area of public land management, including the efforts of local
86 jurisdictions, the statewide resource management plan, and existing state law.

87 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature supports the Commission for the
88 Stewardship of Public Lands issuing a request for proposals to hire a consultant to form land
89 use plans for federally controlled public lands that are of heightened concern to submit to the

90 Legislature for its approval.