

OUTDOOR RECREATION INITIATIVE

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Jeffrey D. Stenquist

Senate Sponsor: _____

LONG TITLE**General Description:**

This bill addresses coordinated investment in outdoor recreation infrastructure.

Highlighted Provisions:

This bill:

- defines terms;
- creates the Recreation Coordinated Investment Initiative;
- grants rulemaking authority;
- requires reporting; and
- addresses funding of the initiative.

Money Appropriated in this Bill:

None

Other Special Clauses:

None

Utah Code Sections Affected:

ENACTS:

79-7-501, Utah Code Annotated 1953**79-7-502**, Utah Code Annotated 1953**79-7-503**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:

Section 1. Section **79-7-501** is enacted to read:

79-7-501. Definitions.

As used in this part:

(1) "Initiative" means the Recreation Coordinated Investment Initiative created in this part.

(2) "Outdoor recreation infrastructure" includes:

(a) a trail, trail head infrastructure, signage, and crossing infrastructure for both nonmotorized and motorized recreation;

(b) a campground or day-use recreation site;

(c) water recreation infrastructure, including a pier, dock, or boat ramp; and

(d) outdoor recreation facilities that are accessible to visitors with disabilities.

(3) "Public lands" includes local, state, and federal lands.

Section 2. Section **79-7-502** is enacted to read:

79-7-502. Recreation Coordinated Investment Initiative.

(1) There is created within the division an initiative known as the "Recreation Coordinated Investment Initiative."

(2) The initiative is to manage, maintain, expand, restore, and improve outdoor recreation infrastructure on public lands within the state, including building new or expanding existing outdoor recreation infrastructure to address increased usage and to minimize overcrowding or overuse.

(3) Consistent with this part, the division may enter into:

(a) a partnership agreement to accomplish the objectives listed in Subsection (2) for outdoor recreation infrastructure, such as a shared stewardship agreement, a challenge cost-share agreement, or other formal agreement; and

(b) a recreation management agreement to maintain outdoor recreation infrastructure, including motorized or nonmotorized trails, trail networks, or trails across multiple jurisdictions.

(4) In accordance with Title 63G, Chapter 3, Utah Administrative Rulemaking Act, the division may make rules, after notifying the commission, establishing procedures consistent with Subsections (2) and (5) for entering into an agreement described in Subsection (3).

(5) To accomplish the objectives listed in Subsection (2), the initiative shall develop

and oversee a project proposal process to:

(a) develop statewide priorities that reflect eligibility criteria established under this section, including projects that:

(i) are of interest and benefit to recreation users;

(ii) offer the advantages and effectiveness of participation between state and other land management agencies;

(iii) would benefit local communities; and

(iv) can be completed in a timely manner; and

(b) address funding amounts allocated in the agreements described in Subsection (3).

(6) The director of the division shall designate staff with relevant expertise or experience to administer the initiative.

(7) (a) The initiative staff shall compile data and provide a performance report to the Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment Interim Committee on or before November 1 of each year.

(b) An annual performance report under this Subsection (7) shall include for a fiscal year:

(i) by source, the initiative's total annual resources, including partner funds;

(ii) the total amount of outdoor recreation infrastructure project areas that are benefited by the initiative during the fiscal year;

(iii) the total amount of trail miles that receive maintenance;

(iv) the total amount of state funding or in-kind resources that are used to leverage non-state partner resources; and

(v) other performance metrics that demonstrate the effectiveness of the initiative.

Section 3. Section **79-7-503** is enacted to read:

79-7-503. Funding of initiative.

The initiative is funded from the following sources:

(1) appropriations made to the initiative by the Legislature, including any appropriation from the Outdoor Adventure Infrastructure Restricted Account created in Section [51-9-902](#); and

(2) contributions, including in-kind assistance, from public and private sources, including a federal agency, state agency, local government, or private entity.