

**LITTLE SAHARA STATE PARK DESIGNATION**

2016 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Steve Eliason**

Senate Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill deals with the creation of the Little Sahara State Park.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

▶ authorizes the Division of Parks and Recreation to enter into an agreement with the United States Bureau of Land Management to ~~to~~ **acquire** the Little Sahara Recreation Area

as a state park; and

▶ states that the Little Sahara Recreation Area shall be included within the state park system upon the division entering into the agreement described above.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

ENACTS:

**79-4-605**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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

Section 1. Section **79-4-605** is enacted to read:

**79-4-605. Little Sahara included within state park system.**



28 (1) As used in this section, "Little Sahara Recreation Area" means the area of land in  
 29 the Sevier Desert, approximately 55,905 acres, fully described by the map and legal description  
 30 on file with the division.

31 (2) The division may:

32 (a) enter into an agreement ~~H→~~ **[for the use of] to acquire** ~~←H~~ the Little Sahara  
 32a Recreation Area as a state

33 park with the United States Bureau of Land Management; and

34 (b) receive donations of land or facilities at the Little Sahara Recreation Area for  
 35 inclusion within the state park.

36 (3) In entering the agreement described in Subsection (2)(a), the division may:

37 (a) pursue a land transfer agreement with the United States Bureau of Land  
 38 Management;

39 (b) if a land transfer agreement is not possible, seek to purchase or lease the land from  
 40 the United States Bureau of Land Management through the Recreation and Public Purposes  
 41 Act, 43 U.S.C. Sec. 869 et seq.; and

42 (c) finalize an agreement to receive land by transfer, purchase, or lease, as described in  
 43 Subsections (3)(a) and (b), if:

44 (i) the resulting state park, including the cost of law enforcement, would be financially  
 45 self-sustaining;

46 (ii) all current grazing allotments shall be maintained ~~H→~~ **[in their existing form]** ~~←H~~ ; and

47 (iii) the Legislative Management Committee and the Natural Resources, Agriculture,  
 48 and Environment Interim Committee approve the plan to expand the state park system by  
 49 including the Little Sahara Recreation Area.

50 (4) If the division successfully enters into the agreement described in Subsection (2)(a),  
 51 the division shall negotiate in good faith with the School and Institutional Trust Lands  
 52 Administration to attempt to:

53 (a) purchase parcels of school and institutional trust land located within the boundaries  
 54 of the Little Sahara Recreation Area; or

55 (b) ~~H→~~ **[trade] exchange** ~~←H~~ parcels of school and institutional trust land located  
 55a within the boundaries of

56 the Little Sahara Recreation Area for other parcels of state land ~~H→~~ **or other lands administered**  
 56a **by the United States Government** ~~←H~~ .

57 (5) The Little Sahara Recreation Area shall be included within the state park system  
 58 upon the division entering into the agreement described in Subsection (2)(a).

59           (6) (a) Upon the division entering into the agreement described in Subsection (2)(a),  
60 the division shall rename the approximately 9,000-acre area known as the Rockwell  
61 Outstanding Natural Area to the "Bill Orton State Wilderness Area."

62           (b) The director shall recommend the Bill Orton State Wilderness Area to the governor  
63 for designation as a protected wilderness area, as described in Section [63L-7-105](#).

64           (7) Upon its inclusion in the state park system, the state shall be responsible for the  
65 cost of law enforcement within the Little Sahara Recreation Area.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**