

**CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON PUBLIC LANDS**

**STRATEGY**

2019 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: David P. Hinkins**

House Sponsor: Keven J. Stratton

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This resolution directs the state to pursue strategies for ensuring sound public lands management policies.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This resolution:

- ▶ recognizes Utah as a public lands state and the state's commitment to perpetually remain a public lands state;
- ▶ recognizes that state officials should be involved in the creation and implementation of public lands policies; and
- ▶ directs state legislative bodies and agencies to work with federal legislative bodies, agencies, and other like-minded states to pursue strategies that outline the state's laws, principles, values, priorities, and willingness to work with federal agencies to manage the state's public lands.

**Special Clauses:**

None

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*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the state of Utah, the Governor concurring therein:*

WHEREAS, the state of Utah is a public lands state and is committed to perpetually remaining a public lands state;

WHEREAS, Utah's public lands are unparalleled in their beauty, solitude, ecosystems,

abundant natural resources, and productivity;

WHEREAS, Utah's public lands are for all those who visit and recreate in the state, but the decisions made regarding public lands management and use directly impact the people of Utah;

WHEREAS, public lands policies and issues implicate vital constitutional principles, such as state sovereignty and the right to self-governance;

WHEREAS, in recent years, state and local officials have advocated for the transfer of federal public lands to state ownership;

WHEREAS, the position of state and local officials has often been misunderstood or mischaracterized, which has led to unproductive contention, conflict, and gridlock;

WHEREAS, from the beginning, the state has desired effective, efficient, and predictable public lands stewardship strategies, which are vital to Utah's sovereignty, economy, and quality of life;

WHEREAS, to account for and protect local and state interests, state officials should be involved in both the creation and implementation of public lands policies;

WHEREAS, gridlock does not serve the interests of the state, the people of Utah, or the millions of people who visit Utah every year;

WHEREAS, the challenges in public lands management can be overcome by strengthening partnerships with federal agencies and exploring practical changes to federal laws and regulations;

WHEREAS, in today's political climate, renewing a partnership between the state and the federal government will likely be the most effective method for ensuring practical legislative reform and sound land management practices;

WHEREAS, the state desires to pursue strategies that would outline the state's laws, principles, values, priorities, and willingness to work with federal agencies in a more effective and cooperative manner;

WHEREAS, the National Forest Management Act of 1976 requires the Secretary of

56 Agriculture to develop resource management plans for units of the National Forest System in  
57 coordination with state and local resource management planning processes; and

58 WHEREAS, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) requires  
59 the Secretary of the Interior to provide for meaningful involvement of state and local  
60 government officials in the development of land use plans and requires those land use plans to  
61 be consistent with state and local land use plans to the maximum extent that the Secretary of  
62 the Interior finds consistent with federal law and the purposes of FLMPA:

63 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Legislature of the state of Utah, the  
64 Governor concurring therein, directs state legislative bodies and agencies to work with federal  
65 legislative bodies, agencies, and other like-minded states to pursue strategies that outline the  
66 state's laws, principles, values, priorities, and willingness to work with federal agencies to  
67 manage the state's public lands.