



For Immediate Release

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New Director Appointed to the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation

SALT LAKE CITY (Dec. 12, 2022) – Utah Department of Natural Resources Executive Director Joel Ferry has named Jason Curry as the new director for the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation (DOR), effective Dec. 10. Curry comes from the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands where he has been serving as the deputy director.

“Jason has a wealth of expertise that will help drive the division’s mission forward,” Ferry said. “It’s vital that we continue to grow a strong, sustainable outdoor recreation economy, with opportunities that enhance Utahn’s quality of life by providing the best outdoor experiences possible.”

In his new role, Curry will work to expand and improve Utah’s outdoor recreational opportunities and assets by promoting the economic, mental and physical health benefits that come with outdoor activity. He’ll collaborate with land managers and industry partners to represent the state’s outdoor recreation interests to inspire all Utahns to engage in outdoor recreation.

“Utah tops the charts for our variety of recreational opportunities. Outdoor recreation is not only a key pillar of Utah’s economy, but it’s part of who we are. More than anything, it’s central to the amazing outdoor lifestyle we enjoy here,” Curry said. “I am thrilled to join the team and work with Utah’s amazing communities, user groups, outdoor companies and nonprofit organizations.”

A 24-year resident of Bountiful with his wife and two children, Curry enjoys mountain biking, skiing, OHV and snowmobile riding, rock climbing, camping, sailing and just about any other form of outdoor recreation.

Most recently, Curry served as deputy director of the Division of Forestry Fire and State Lands, overseeing six state area offices, the division’s law enforcement program, public affairs, and its safety program. Before being promoted to deputy director, he was the division’s public information officer and chief investigator. He also served many years on the Davis County Search and Rescue Team.

Curry started his career with the DNR in 1999 as a public affairs coordinator, where he served for eight years orchestrating public information and branding for the department. He graduated from the University of Utah with a bachelor's degree in economics.

As part of DNR, DOR combines the nation's first Office of Outdoor Recreation with other state recreation management programs, including Utah's Boating Program, Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Program, and recreation rangers. DOR's focus areas include recreational access; safety and education; stewardship and sustainable visitation; and economic growth and opportunity through outdoor recreation.

"There is enough of Utah for all who call it home to enjoy and for the many visitors who come each year. I'm excited to be part of the state's effort to expand opportunities and increase access to outdoor recreation for all Utah's citizens and visitors," said Curry.

For more information, visit recreation.utah.gov.

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About Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation

In 2022, the Utah State Legislature recognized the growing importance of the outdoors to Utah's economic prosperity and quality of life and created the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation (DOR). As part of the Utah Department of Natural Resources, DOR combines the nation's first Office of Outdoor Recreation with other state recreation management programs, including Utah's Boating Program, Off-Highway Vehicle Program, and recreation law enforcement officers. DOR is committed to ensuring every Utahn can live a healthy and active lifestyle through outdoor recreation and access to natural space. DOR's focus areas include recreational access; safety and education; stewardship and sustainable visitation; and economic growth and opportunity through outdoor recreation. For more information, visit recreation.utah.gov.