



# STATE OVERVIEW: UTAH



- **Office Created:** 2013, amended 2022
- **Created by:** Legislation
- **Signed Confluence Accords:** 2018
- **Agency:** Department of Natural Resources
- **Funding:** General Funds and Transient Room Tax
- **Advisory Board:** 27 members
- **Population:** 3.337 million

- **Top Outdoor Industries:** Snow Activities, Boating/Fishing, RVing
- **Outdoor Destinations:**
  - 5 National Parks
  - 8 National Monuments
  - 15 world class ski resorts
  - 32 million acres of public land

## BRIEF HISTORY

Governor Gary Herbert created the Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation in 2013 – the first in the nation – after recognizing the significant contribution to Utah's economy. The office was placed in the Governor's Office of Economic Development to help Utahns live healthy and active lifestyles through outdoor recreation. In 2022, Utah's legislature recognized the growing importance of the outdoors to Utah's economic prosperity and quality of life. The office was combined with other state recreation management programs and the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation was created.

## STATE SUCCESSES

**Outdoor Investment:** Utah created the Recreation Coordinated Investment Initiative to improve & expand outdoor recreation infrastructure on the 35 million acres of public lands in the state, especially on large cross-jurisdictional projects to address increased usage and to minimize overcrowding & overuse. To assist in these efforts, they have designated 1% of all state sales tax to fund large outdoor recreation projects.

**Outdoor Infrastructure:** The Division helped distribute more than \$30 million to local communities for outdoor recreation infrastructure around the state, increasing opportunities and access to recreation and open space for residents and visitors.

**Strategic Plan:** The Division developed their first strategic plan to ensure Utah has the nation's most well-funded and well-managed outdoor recreation system in the country.

### The Outdoor Recreation Economy Impact in Utah

**Direct Jobs: 71,677**

**Wages and Salaries: \$3.6 billion**

**Total Outdoor Recreation Value  
Added: \$8.1 billion**



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