



RECREATION

Let's Talk Outdoor Rec: Plans, Funds, Trails, and More!

Presented by:

Emily Meadows- Statewide Recreation Planning Coordinator
Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation
emeadows@utah.gov



Agenda

- Introduction
- History of the Division of Outdoor Recreation (DOR)
- PLANS
 - Overview of Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan
 - Outdoor Recreation Initiative
 - Central Region Long-Range Plan
- FUNDS
 - Grants Crash Course
 - Highlight ORPA
- TRAILS
 - Technical Trails Training
 - Trails Conferences
 - Utah Trails Handbook- coming soon!
 - Trail Crews
 - E-bikes
- DOR Resource Poll
- Q&A

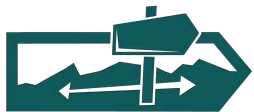


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The Division of Outdoor Rec History

- **2013** Utah becomes first state to create Office of Outdoor Recreation
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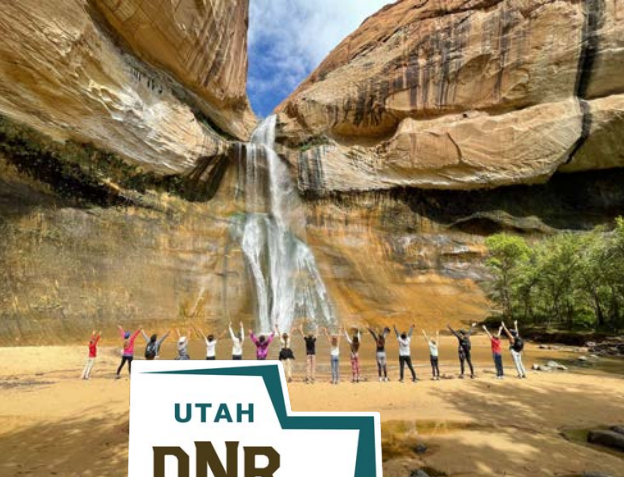
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What does DOR do?

- The Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation (DOR) is the state's leading authority on outdoor recreation, working to enhance, promote, and ensure safe, sustainable access to Utah's vast outdoor resources.
- We serve as a central hub for outdoor education, infrastructure support, grant funding, and trail stewardship, collaborating with local communities and land managers across the state.

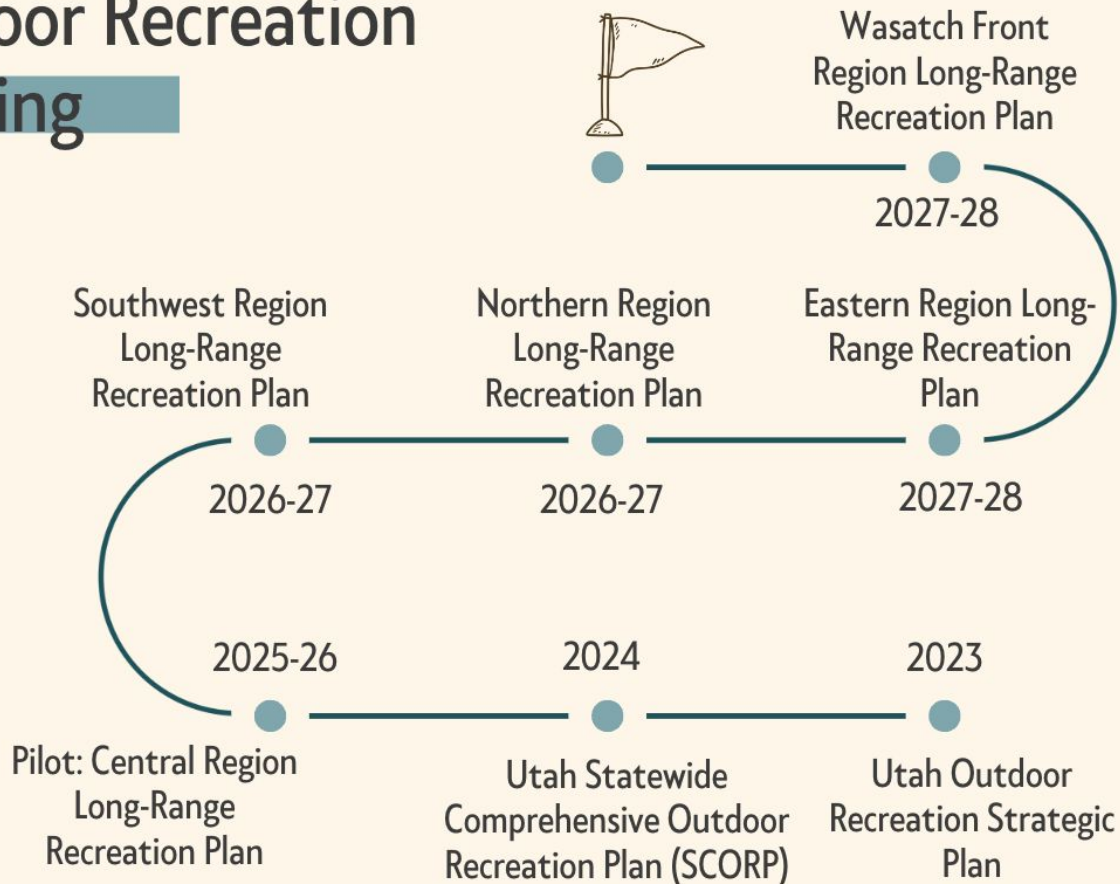




Plans: Outdoor Recreation Planning

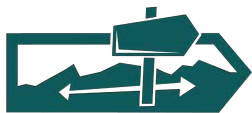
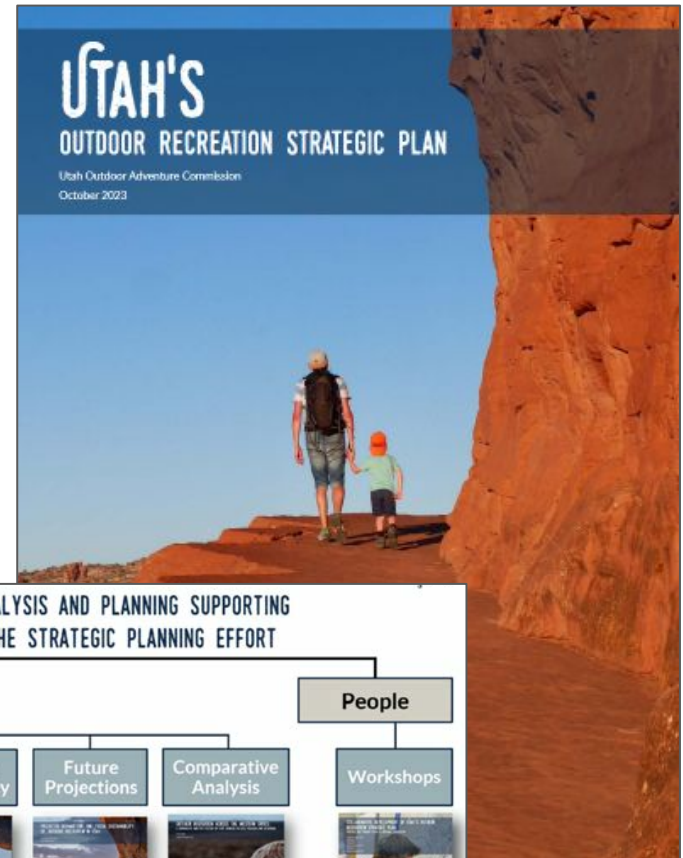


Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation Planning



Utah's Outdoor Recreation Strategic Plan

- Developed by USU and the Outdoor Adventure Commission
- Hosted 14 workshops over two years
- Produced Asset Inventory, Funding assessment, Comparative analysis, Future Projections, and general population survey.
- Produced 4 Cardinal Directions



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BUILD AND SUPPORT COLLABORATIVE PROCESSES



IMPROVE AWARENESS AND EDUCATION ABOUT SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE RECREATION



INCREASE ACCESS TO OUTDOOR RECREATION WHILE PROTECTING NATURAL AND SCENIC



INCREASE THE ECONOMIC AND HEALTH BENEFITS



The Outdoor Recreation Initiative

The Outdoor Recreation Initiative was created in the [2023 General Session by H.B. 224 - Outdoor Recreation Initiative](#).

Through partnership agreements and local input and collaboration, the initiative aims to **support the state's partners in planning, managing, maintaining, expanding, restoring, and improving 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.

Funded through:

- appropriations made to the initiative by the Legislature, including any appropriation from the Outdoor Adventure Infrastructure Restricted Account created in Section 51-9-902.



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Regional Recreation Councils

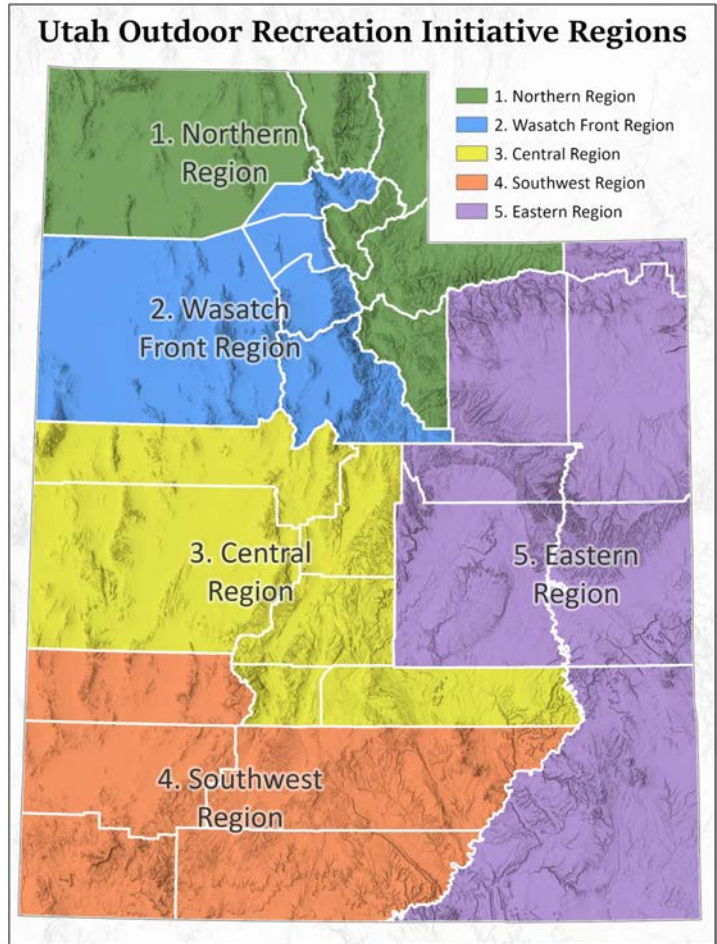
After many discussions, AOGs are now kept as intact as possible:

- Uintah Basin and SEUALG have been combined to make the Eastern Region,
- Five County and Six County will make up their own regions, Central and Southwest,
- BRAG and MAG are combined to make the Northern Region, with the addition of Morgan County.
- WFRC makes up the Wasatch Front region, pulling in Utah County from MAG.



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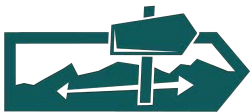
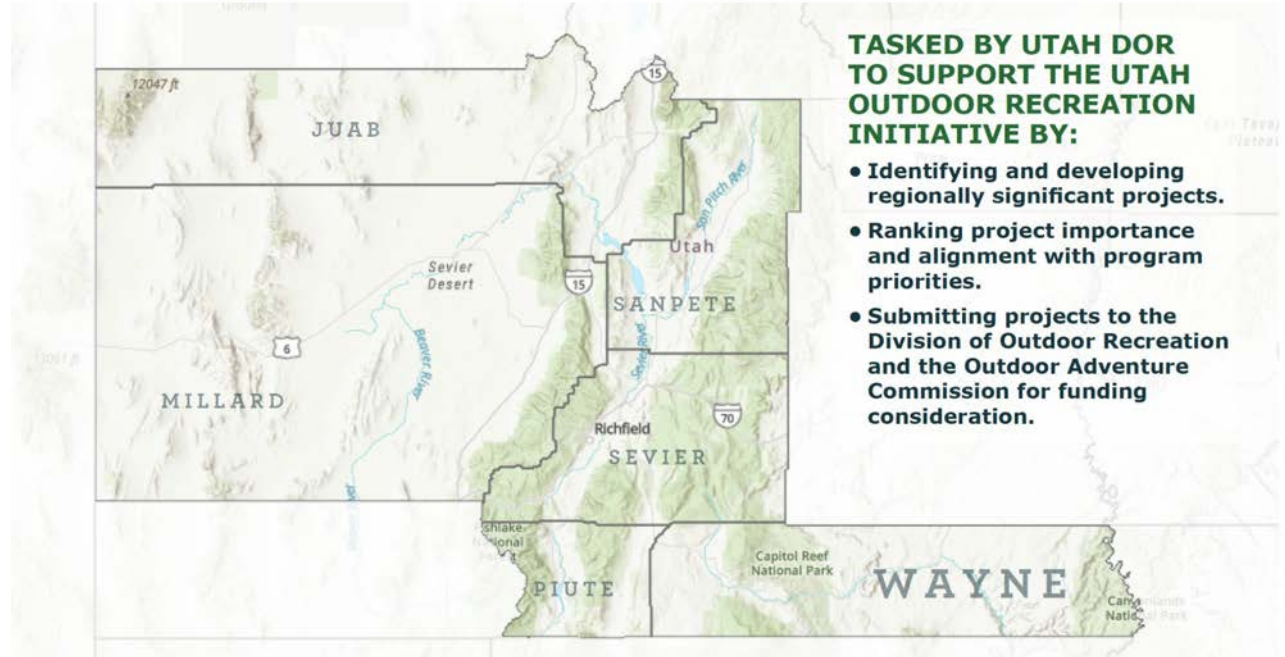
Regional Long-Range Recreation Planning

Pilot: Central Region/R6

2026 Summer- Southwest

2026 Fall- Northern

Central Region Recreation Council: ROLES & FUNCTIONS



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Regional Long-Range Recreation Planning

Planning Process To-Date:
Summer '25 - Winter '26



1,500+ survey responses.



Intensive 1 week site visit.



Detailed research & building a database.

- Region-wide asset inventory and mapping.
- Outdoor recreation business inventory.



Stakeholder Meetings

- Six County-based stakeholder meetings.
- 1-1 meetings with land management agencies (NPS, USFS, BLM, DWR, TLA).



Regional Long-Range Recreation Planning

[Utah Central Region Outdoor Recreation Plan](#)

Sanpete County Profile

Key Takeaways | Central Utah Outdoor Recreation Plan | February 2026

This document presents Key Takeaways of the Sanpete County Profile. The profile was informed by state and federal data, local stakeholders and the Sanpete County community. You can view the entire profile online [here](#).

Recreation Assets

Sanpete County has a diverse and extensive outdoor recreation network. With more than 1,100 miles of motorized and non-motorized trails, 27 parks, 23 campgrounds, major water-based recreation sites (Palladise State Park, Yuba State Park, Gunnison Reservoir), and the most published rock climbing routes in the Central Region, the county offers one of the Central Region's broadest mixes of motorized, non-motorized, and water-based recreation.

Residents strongly value camping, fishing, and motorized recreation. This reflects a community that relies on multi-season, multi-type recreation supported by both developed facilities and abundant dispersed-use areas. Sanpete County has some of the most prominent snow-based recreation opportunities in the Central Region and is seeing a boom in mountain biking participation and infrastructure.



Palladise State Park

Local partners are working together to expand the County's outdoor recreation assets. The creation of the Ephraim Canyon mountain bike trail system has been a collaborative effort between local mountain bike groups, Manti-La Sai National Forest, and the County's Travel and Tourism Office. Snowland Ski Area, a free, non-profit-operated ski area, will have an initial opening in winter 2025 following a sustained partnership between the Snowland Foundation, local and county governments, and educational institutions.

This research was conducted as part of the Central Region Outdoor Recreation Plan. Learn more about the project at <https://www.orep.utah.gov/>.

Sanpete County Profile

Key Takeaways | Central Utah Outdoor Recreation Plan | February 2026

Businesses

A strong outdoor recreation business community. Sanpete County has the highest number of outdoor recreation-related businesses of any county in the Central Region, with at least 48 outdoor recreation businesses, 43 lodging facilities, and 64 food and beverage establishments. This may be partially driven by Sanpete County having the highest population of all counties in the Central Region.

Smaller relative outdoor recreation and tourism employment. Outdoor recreation and tourism employment makes up a smaller percentage of overall employment in Sanpete County compared to the rest of the Central Region, accounting for 9% of local jobs, compared to 14% region-wide.



Maple Canyon

This research was conducted as part of the Central Region Outdoor Recreation Plan. Learn more about the project at <https://www.orep.utah.gov/>.



Kraspeen Trail System

Communities

Significant funding for outdoor recreation. The Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation has awarded over \$5 million in grant funding to outdoor recreation projects in Sanpete County since 2019, including over \$1 million towards the establishment of Snowland Ski Area. In total, there have been 36 grant awards to a mix of municipal, federal, nonprofit, school, and county partners.

Amongst respondents to a region-wide outdoor recreation survey, there was more disagreement about the role of outdoor recreation in supporting tourism and economic development in Sanpete County. Compared to 81% of all Central Region respondents, 71% of Sanpete County respondents agreed that outdoor recreation tourism strongly contributes to the economy, and 29% of Sanpete County respondents "strongly disagree" that attracting more visitors should be a priority, compared to 21% region-wide.

Wayne County Profile

Key Takeaways | Central Utah Outdoor Recreation Plan | February 2026

This document presents Key Takeaways of the Wayne County Profile. The profile was informed by state and federal data, local stakeholders and the Wayne County community. You can view the entire profile online [here](#).

Recreation Assets

National parks and iconic landscape assets define Wayne County's recreation identity. Wayne County is unique in the Central Region for its concentration of nationally significant destinations—Capitol Reef National Park, Canyonlands (Maze District and Horseshoe Canyon), and Glen Canyon NRA—which drive visitation and support a wide range of high-quality non-motorized and backcountry recreation opportunities.



Capitol Reef National Park

Extensive trail network with strong motorized and non-motorized offerings. With over 900 miles of trails across multiple systems (Paute, Robbers Roost, Great Western Trail), Wayne County supports both motorized and non-motorized use, while also hosting the region's highest number of hiking-only trails.

Recreation assets are largely public and close to communities. With 96% public land ownership, recreation opportunities are abundant and generally accessible, contributing to higher-than-average recreation participation frequency among residents and reinforcing Wayne County's role as a regional recreation hub.



Thousand Lakes Mountain

This research was conducted as part of the Central Region Outdoor Recreation Plan. Learn more about the project at <https://www.orep.utah.gov/>.

Wayne County Profile

Key Takeaways | Central Utah Outdoor Recreation Plan | February 2026

Businesses

Wayne County has the most tourism-dependent economy in the Central Region. Travel and tourism account for nearly one-third of all employment—more than any other county in the Central Region, reflective of the large economic influence of outdoor recreation and national park visitation.

Strong presence of guiding and experiential businesses. Wayne County has the highest number of organizer businesses in the region, including guides and outfitters serving hiking, canyoneering, climbing, fishing, camping, and motorized recreation, aligned with visitor demand for landscape-based experiences.

Lodging and short-term rentals are highly concentrated near Capitol Reef. Wayne County has the most overnight accommodations and short-term rentals in the Central Region, largely clustered around Torrey and Teasdale, supporting extended stays but also increasing seasonal visitation pressures.



Fremont River

Communities

Gateway communities experience high visitation and capacity challenges. Small towns such as Torrey, Hanksville, and Teasdale play an outsized role in serving millions of visitors annually, leading to heightened concerns about crowding, parking, infrastructure capacity, and quality-of-life impacts compared to other counties.

Residents strongly value recreation benefits alongside resource protection. Survey results show strong support for the outdoor recreation economy paired with clear expectations for managed access, protection of scenic and cultural resources, dark skies, and coordination with land managers.

Significant grant funding. Federal, municipal, and non-profit partners have received a significant amount of Division of Outdoor Recreation grant funding for recreation infrastructure development, including \$7,500,000 in Outdoor Recreation Initiative (ORI) grant funding for two campgrounds on public land.



Factory Butte

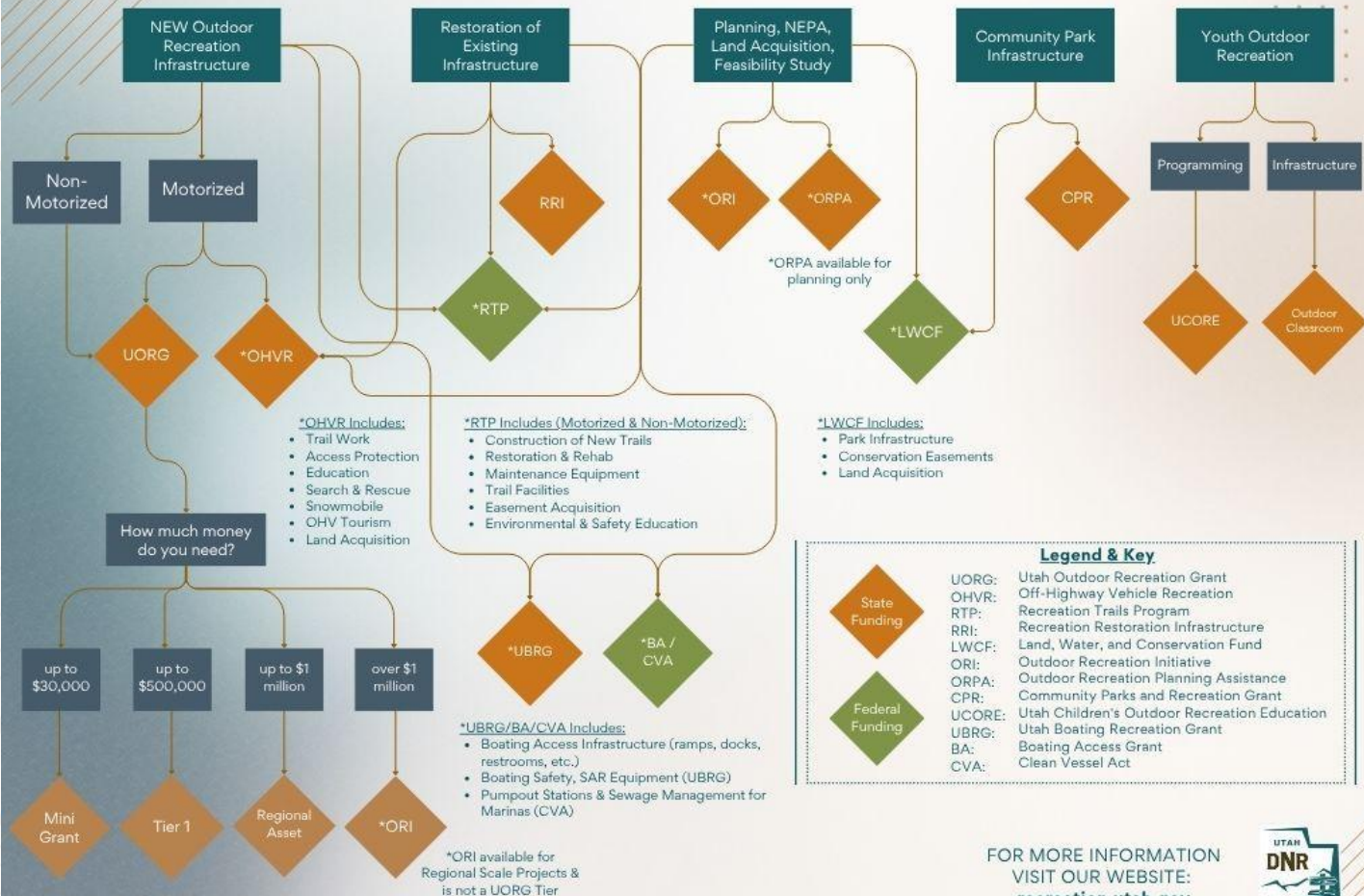
This research was conducted as part of the Central Region Outdoor Recreation Plan. Learn more about the project at <https://www.orep.utah.gov/>.



Funds: How to fund your next Outdoor Recreation Project



Find the Right Funding for Your Project



FOR MORE INFORMATION
VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
recreation.utah.gov



GRANT NAME	ELIGIBILITY	AMOUNT	APPLICATION DATES
UORG	New outdoor recreation infrastructure	\$5,000- \$1 Million	January 12 - March 13 (Closed)
RRI	Restoring old outdoor recreation infrastructure	Up to \$250,000	
CPR	Community parks & recreation infrastructure	\$5,000- \$200,000	
OHVR	OHV infrastructure, education, access protection, search and rescue, land acquisition, tourism development, and snowmobile-related needs.	Varies by category 4+ Million available	2 Cycles January 15 - March 2 July 15 - August 31
BOATING	Boating recreational infrastructure Search and rescue equipment	1.6 - 2 Million Available	September 1st- October 31st
RTP	Development and maintenance of motorized and non-motorized trails.	\$ 5,000 - \$200,000	February 14 - April 1 (Closed)
LWCF	Acquisition and development of outdoor recreation spaces.	\$200,000 - \$2 Million	Closed
ORPA	Recreation master planning or pre-construction work	Up to \$200,000	April 6- May 15
UCORE/Outdoor Classroom	Youth Engagement- programming & Classroom Infrastructure	Up to \$15,000	Aug 31- Oct 16

Outdoor Recreation Planning Assistance (ORPA)

Recognizing the growing importance of outdoor recreation to Utah's economy and quality of life, the Utah State Legislature established the Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation (DOR) was created in July 2022. Previously ORPA offered technical assistance through DOR staff time.

Vision: Facilitate and encourage strategic planning to develop, maintain, and fund future outdoor recreation opportunities in Utah.

Mission: The Outdoor Recreation Planning Assistance program (ORPA) provides planning and technical support to encourage a robust, responsible, and sustainable recreation economy.



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ORPA Application Details

Application Dates	April 6 - May 15 (closes at 5pm)
Eligible Applicants	Municipalities, Counties, Tribal, Federal governments, and Nonprofits <i>(State entities are no longer eligible to apply, but may partner with eligible applicants.)</i>
Funding Amount	up to \$200,000
Match Requirement	No financial match is required. *With the exception of engineering projects <i>A meeting with DOR planning coordinator is recommended but is no longer required before submitting an application.</i>



ORPA Eligibility

**All project/services must be directly related to outdoor recreation.*

- Feasibility/Trail Alignment Study
- Community Outreach strategies & execution
- Plan development assistance (i.e. Master Trails Plan)
- Conceptual Trail & Site Design
- Mapping Services
- Land-use recommendations and scenarios
- Engineering services/construction design (up to 50% of cost)
- NEPA/Environmental Assessment (Cultural, Biological Survey)
- Stakeholder/Steering Committee facilitation (Process collaboration)
- Wayfinding strategies and/or design
- Visitor Use Mitigation Strategies
- User conflict/trail etiquette strategies
- Transportation Planning including active transportation plans
- Architectural plans/designs for buildings or indoor facilities
- Non-profit/Organizational strategic plan
- Marketing/promotion resources
- Education resources or programs
- Site plans for non-recreation related projects

Best Practices: Applying to DOR Grants

- **Start Early**- Reach out to DOR Staff for early review & Office Hours
- Consider who should be the applicant?
- Letters of Support
- Maintenance plan
- Accessibility- Universal Design
- **Shovel-Ready/Timeline**- be able to communicate plan from start to finish
- **Project abstract vs. description**- be able to quickly communicate the goal of the project.
- Use correct language- include eligible expenses i.e. don't call a trail a sidewalk
- Economic/Tourism Development
- Connectivity

Best Practices: Make Use of Our Resources!

Website:

recreation.utah.gov

Grant Tour Resources Folder:

Program Guides
Grant Tour Slides
DOR Grants One-Pager
DOR Grants Flowchart
Post-Award Process Guide

The BEST Resource - Our Staff!

Noemi Molina - nmolina@utah.gov - UORG/RRI/CPR
Rachel Toker - racheltokerk@utah.gov - OHVR
Evan Beitsch - ebeitsch@utah.gov - LWCF/RTP
Jorge Vazquez - jvazquez@utah.gov - Boating Grants
Caroline Weiler- cweiler@utah.gov- UCORE/Outdoor Classroom
Emily Meadows - emeadows@utah.gov - ORPA





RECREATION

Trails: How to build and maintain your trails



Trail Skills Workshops

In partnership with the USU Extension and the Utah Trails Forum and thanks to a Recreational Trails Program grant, we are excited to support a new series of technical trail skills workshops that will take place over the next two years.

The program will have eight classes ranging from an introductory trail maintenance class all the way to more advanced skills like trail design and dry-stone masonry. The first two classes of "Fundamentals of Trail Maintenance" happened in the fall of 2025 and we are planning now for our trail construction classes taking place in the first half of 2026.

Upcoming Trails Training Classes


- **April 7-8, 2026:** Fundamentals of Trail Construction in High Desert Environments
- **July 13-16, 2026:** Fundamentals of Trails Construction in Mountain Environments
- **TBD, 2026:** Intro to Trail Layout, Design and Cost Estimation in Mountain Environments
- **TBD, 2026:** Intro to Trail Layout, Design, and Cost Estimation in Desert Environments



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DOR has *FOUR* Regional Trail Crews!

Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation Trail Crews



TRAIL CREW
UTAH OUTDOOR RECREATION

Program Manager
Mike Thomas
801-503-4188

Operations Coordinator
Mike Innes
385-501-9840

Northern Region
Austin Hasna
*Acting Supervisor

Central Region
Nathan Conder
385-408-7949

Southeast Region
Carson Trader
*Acting Supervisor

Southwest Region
Ron Cooper
435-690-9345

DATA SOURCES: DOR, UORC, USRI
5/23/2025
NAD 1983 Zone 12 N

CHECK OUT OUR MID-SEASON RECAP!

Keep an eye out for the end of season newsletter coming soon!

Last Season's Stats:

- 512.5 miles of trail work completed
- 397 miles on motorized trails
- 115.5 miles on non-motorized trails
- 436 volunteer hours contributed



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DOR has *FOUR* Regional Trail Crews!

**Request trail work for next season
by filling out this form:**



<https://forms.gle/bdUiQFfhQSMUcimPZ>



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Eligible entities include:

- State government agencies
- US Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park Service
- County governments
- Municipal governments
- Non-profit groups whose mission directly relates to trail work and stewardship.

Private property owners and for-profit businesses are encouraged to contact a partner from the list of eligible entities.

DOR's trail crews primarily focus on trail maintenance, not building new trail, and typically work at a project site for one week at a time.



e-bikes



E-bikes: You love them, you hate them, or you have so many Q's about them.



[Visit our Website!](#)

General Guidelines for Electric Mountain Bike Access:

- **Motorized Trails:** All classes of electric mountain bikes are generally allowed on trails open to motorized vehicles (e.g., OHV trails). **Examples include:** Slickrock Trail in Moab is open to motorcycles and, therefore, open to all classes of e-bikes.
- **Non-Motorized Trails:** On trails specifically designated as non-motorized (e.g., traditional mountain bike trails, hiking trails), eMTBs are generally NOT allowed unless explicitly permitted by the land manager. **Examples include** Utah State Park non-motorized singletrack trails like WOW Trail in the Heber Valley.
- **Paved Paths/Bike Lanes:** All classes of electric mountain bikes are generally allowed on paved bike paths and lanes; however, some exceptions do exist, so be sure to research ahead of time, check with the land manager and keep an eye out for signage.



2026 Update

- CEDAR CITY, UT- BLM opened all trails to Class 1 e-bikes on all current and future bike trails within Cedar City Field Office. (Jan 31, 2026)
- MOAB, Utah – The Bureau of Land Management officials have announced that they will open more than 200 miles of mountain bike trails around Moab to class 1 e-bikes, beginning March 1, 2026.

E-Bike Access Expanded

E-bikes now authorized on all current and future mountain bike trails within the Cedar City Field Office.

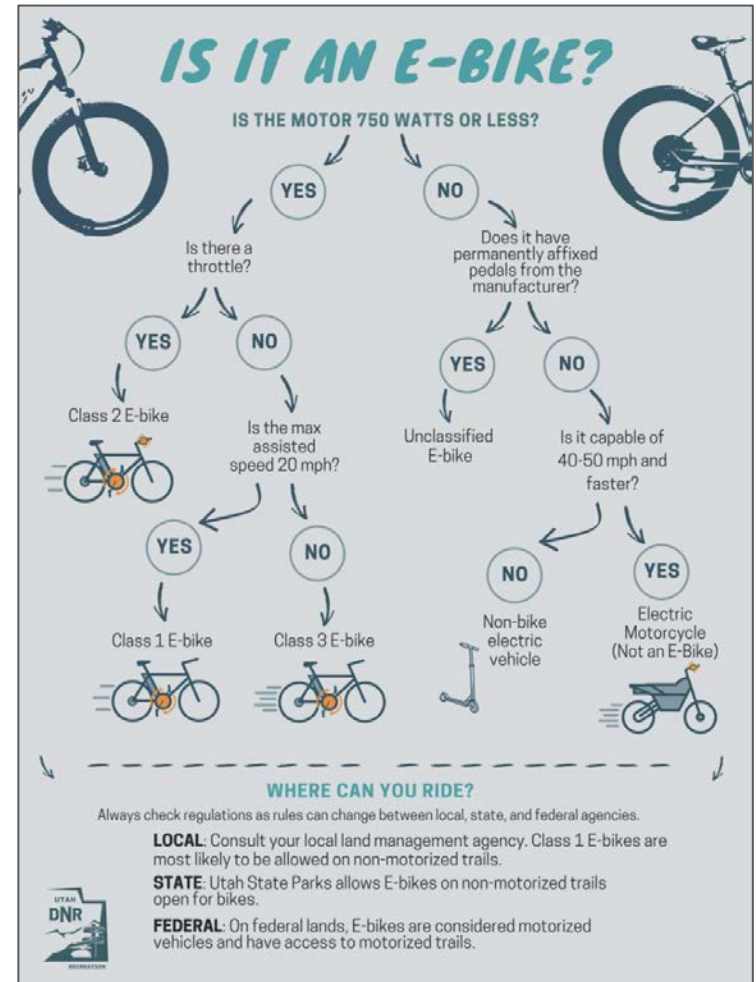
Starting today, Class 1 e-bikes are officially welcome on all current and future bike trails within the Cedar City Field Office! This includes favorites like Three Peaks, Iron Hills, Beaver Bench, and more.

Other BLM Utah field offices are currently evaluating e-bike access, so stay tuned for more updates!

maloneyglobalmedia 7w
Good to know.....
Like Reply

January 31

Log in to like or comment.



[Visit Our Website!](#)

- E-bike vs. E-moto interactive flow chart.
- If it is a e-moto, must complete OHV education course, registration may be required, only allowed where motorized vehicles are permitted.

WHAT IS IT?

E-Bike vs. E-Motorcycle

A quick side-by-side comparison to help riders, parents, and dealers understand the basic difference.



E-bikes have affixed, operable cranks, installed by the manufacturer, and fall within Utah's e-bike classification limits.



Electric motorcycles often resemble dirt bikes, do not have operable cranks installed by a manufacturer, and may require registration and education.



E-Bike (Class 1, 2, or 3)

- Permanently affixed and **operable cranks**
- Motor **750 watts or less**
- Lower speeds, typically **20–28 mph** depending on class
- **No registration required**
- Often allowed on bike paths and non-motorized trails where permitted

[View the E-Bike vs. E-Moto Flowchart](#)



E-Motorcycle

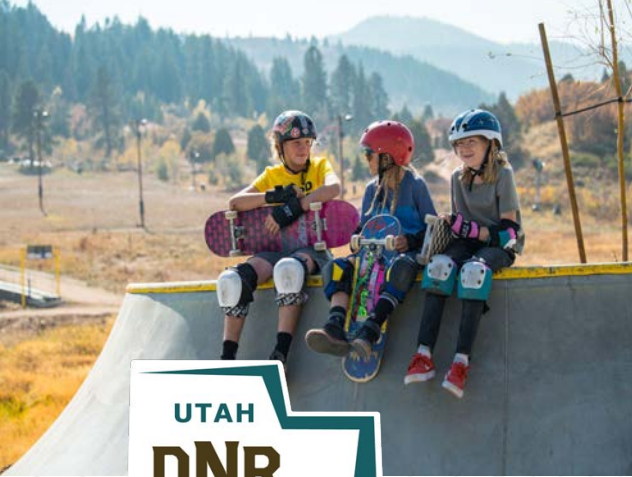
- **No manufacturer-installed cranks**
- Higher power and speeds **faster than 28 mph**
- **Throttle-controlled acceleration**
- **Registration may be required**
- **OHV Education Course required**
- Only allowed where **motorized vehicles are permitted**

[View the Different Classes of E-Bikes](#)



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What are we missing?





What type of planning resources would be helpful for recreation planning?

Q&A

