

1 **Goshen Bay Waterfowl Management Area**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

Chief Sponsor: Doug Welton

Senate Sponsor: Derrin R. Owens

2
3 **LONG TITLE**

4 **General Description:**

5 This bill addresses creation of a waterfowl management area.

6 **Highlighted Provisions:**

7 This bill:

- 8 ▸ provides for the creation of the Goshen Bay Waterfowl Management Area; and
9 ▸ makes technical and conforming amendments.

10 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

11 None

12 **Other Special Clauses:**

13 None

14 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

15 AMENDS:

16 **23A-6-403**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 97

17 **23A-12-301**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 140

18
19 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

20 Section 1. Section **23A-6-403** is amended to read:

21 **23A-6-403 . State-owned lands authorized for use as wildlife management areas,**
22 **fishing waters, and for other recreational activities.**

23 (1) The Wildlife Board may use any and all unsurveyed state-owned lands below the 1855
24 meander line of the Great Salt Lake within the following townships for the creation, operation,
25 maintenance and management of wildlife management areas, fishing waters, and other
26 recreational activities:

27 Township 2 South, Range 5 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 2 South, Range 4 West,
28 S.L.B. and M.; Township 1 South, Range 5 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 1 South, Range 4
29 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 1 South, Range 3 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 1 North,
30 Range 3 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 1 North, Range 2 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 2

31 North, Range 3 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 2 North, Range 2 West, S.L.B. and M.;

32 Township 2 North, Range 1 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 3 North, Range 3 West, S.L.B.

33 and M.; Township 3 North, Range 2 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 3 North, Range 1 West,

34 S.L.B. and M.; Township 4 North, Range 3 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 4 North, Range 2

35 West, S.L.B. and M.; Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, and 24, Township 4 North, Range 4

36 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 5 North, Range 3 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 5 North,

37 Range 4 West, S.L.B. and M.; Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 11, and 12, Township 5 North, Range 5

38 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 6 North, Range 5 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 6 North,

39 Range 4 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 6 North, Range 3 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 7

40 North, Range 5 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 7 North, Range 4 West, S.L.B. and M.;

41 Township 7 North, Range 3 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 7 North, Range 2 West, S.L.B.

42 and M.; Township 8 North, Range 5 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 8 North, Range 4 West,

43 S.L.B. and M.; Township 8 North, Range 3 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 8 North, Range 2

44 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 9 North, Range 5 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 9 North,

45 Range 4 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 11 North, Range 11 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township

46 11 North, Range 10 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 11 North, Range 9 West, S.L.B. and M.;

47 Township 11 North, Range 8 West, S.L.B. and M.; North 1/2 of Township 10 North, Range 10

48 West, S.L.B. and M.; North 1/2 of Township 10 North, Range 9 West, S.L.B. and M.; North

49 1/2 of Township 10 North, Range 8 West, S.L.B. and M.

50 (2)(a) The Wildlife Board shall establish a wildlife management area known as the

51 "Willard Spur Waterfowl Management Area" on the unsurveyed state-owned lands

52 below the 1855 meander line of the Great Salt Lake in Sections 26, 35, 36 of

53 Township 8 North, Range 4 West, S.L.B. and M.; Township 8 North, Range 3 West,

54 S.L.B. and M.; Sections 1, 2, 11, 12 of Township 7 North, Range 4 West, S.L.B. and

55 M.; Township 7 North, Range 3 West, S.L.B. and M.; Sections 20, 21, 29, 30, 31 of

56 Township 8 North, Range 2 West, S.L.B. and M., except for the following:

57 (i) lands within the May 14, 2019, boundaries of the Bear River Migratory Bird

58 Refuge;

59 (ii) lands within the May 14, 2019, boundaries of Harold Crane Waterfowl

60 Management Area;

61 (iii) lands within the May 14, 2019, boundaries of Willard Bay Reservoir; and

62 (iv) lands within the May 14, 2019, boundaries of state mineral leases.

63 (b) The division shall execute a memorandum of understanding with the Division of

64 Forestry, Fire, and State Lands recognizing the division's use of the state-owned

- 65 lands described in Subsection (2)(a) as a wildlife management area.
- 66 (c) The division shall manage the state-owned lands described in Subsection (2)(a) as a
67 wildlife management area and consistent with:
- 68 (i) the beneficial purposes identified in Subsection (2)(d); and
69 (ii) a management plan created consistent with the procedures in this chapter for a
70 management plan.
- 71 (d) The division shall manage the Willard Spur Waterfowl Management Area for the
72 following beneficial purposes:
- 73 (i) propagating and sustaining waterfowl, upland gamebirds, desirable mammals,
74 shorebirds, and other migratory and nonmigratory birds that use the Great Salt
75 Lake ecosystem and the Great Salt Lake ecosystem's surrounding wetlands;
76 (ii) preserving and enhancing the natural function, vegetation, and water flows under
77 existing or acquired water rights to provide productive habitat for the species
78 listed in Subsection (2)(d)(i);
79 (iii) providing recreational opportunity for traditional marsh-related activities,
80 including hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife viewing; and
81 (iv) providing public access in the Willard Spur Waterfowl Management Area for
82 purposes of hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife viewing, including access with
83 airboats and other small watercraft.
- 84 (e) The division shall provide the habitat, recreational opportunities, and public access
85 described in Subsection (2)(d).
- 86 (f)(i) The division may construct a structure within the Willard Spur Waterfowl
87 Management Area only after the division forms and meets with an advisory
88 committee concerning the structure.
- 89 (ii) The advisory committee formed by the division under this Subsection (2)(f) shall
90 include representatives of users of airboats, users of other small watercraft,
91 hunters of waterfowl, and other stakeholders in the Willard Spur Waterfowl
92 Management Area.
- 93 (3)(a) The Wildlife Board shall establish a wildlife management area known as the
94 "Bear River Bay Waterfowl Management Area" on the unsurveyed state-owned lands
95 below the 1855 meander line of the Great Salt Lake in Bear River Bay or as mutually
96 determined by the division and the Division of Forestry, Fire, and State Lands.
- 97 (b) The division shall execute a memorandum of understanding with the Division of
98 Forestry, Fire, and State Lands recognizing the division's use of the state-owned

- 99 lands described in Subsection (3)(a) as a wildlife management area.
- 100 (c) The division shall manage the state-owned lands described in Subsection (3)(a) as a
101 wildlife management area and consistent with:
- 102 (i) the beneficial purposes identified in Subsection (3)(d); and
103 (ii) a management plan created consistent with the procedures in this chapter for a
104 management plan.
- 105 (d) The division shall manage the Bear River Bay Waterfowl Management Area for the
106 following beneficial purposes:
- 107 (i) propagating and sustaining waterfowl, upland gamebirds, desirable mammals,
108 shorebirds, and other migratory and nonmigratory birds that use the Great Salt
109 Lake ecosystem and the Great Salt Lake ecosystem's surrounding wetlands;
110 (ii) preserving and enhancing the natural function, vegetation, and water flows under
111 existing or acquired water rights to provide productive habitat for the species
112 listed in Subsection (3)(d)(i);
113 (iii) providing recreational opportunity for traditional marsh-related activities,
114 including hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife viewing; and
115 (iv) providing public access in the Bear River Bay Waterfowl Management Area for
116 purposes of hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife viewing, including access with
117 airboats and other small watercraft.
- 118 (e) The division shall provide the habitat, recreational opportunities, and public access
119 described in Subsection (3)(d).
- 120 (4)(a) The Wildlife Board shall establish a wildlife management area known as the
121 "Goshen Bay Waterfowl Management Area" on the surveyed and unsurveyed
122 state-owned lands below the settled boundary lines or otherwise determined line of
123 Utah Lake in Goshen Bay as mutually determined by the division and the Division of
124 Forestry, Fire, and State Lands within:
- 125 (i) Township 9 South, Range 1 West, Sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24, S.L.B. and M.;
126 and
- 127 (ii) Township 9 South, Range 1 East, Sections 7, 18, S.L.B. and M.
- 128 (b) The division shall execute a memorandum of understanding with the Division of
129 Forestry, Fire, and State Lands recognizing the division's use of the state-owned
130 lands described in Subsection (4)(a) as a wildlife management area.
- 131 (c) The division shall manage the state-owned lands described in Subsection (4)(a) as a
132 wildlife management area and consistent with:

- 133 (i) the beneficial purposes identified in Subsection (4)(d); ~~§~~ → [and]
 133a (ii) multiple-use sustained yield principles as described in Section 65A-2-1; and
 134 [~~(ii)~~] (iii) ←~~§~~ a management plan created consistent with the procedures in this
 134a chapter for a
 135 management plan.
- 136 (d) The division shall manage the Goshen Bay Waterfowl Management Area for the
 137 following beneficial purposes:
- 138 (i) propagating and sustaining waterfowl, upland gamebirds, desirable mammals,
 139 shorebirds, and other migratory and nonmigratory birds that use the Utah Lake
 140 ecosystem and the Utah Lake ecosystem's surrounding wetlands;
- 141 (ii) preserving and enhancing the natural function, vegetation, and water flows to
 142 provide productive habitat for the species listed in Subsection (4)(d)(i);
- 143 (iii) providing recreational opportunity for traditional marsh-related activities,
 144 including hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife viewing; and
- 145 (iv) providing public access in the Goshen Bay Waterfowl Management Area for
 146 purposes of hunting, fishing, trapping, and wildlife viewing, including access with
 147 airboats and other small watercraft.
- 148 (e) The division shall provide the habitat, recreational opportunities, and public access
 149 described in Subsection (4)(d).

150 Section 2. Section **23A-12-301** is amended to read:

151 **23A-12-301 . Definitions.**

- 152 (1) The definitions in Section 23A-4-1201 apply to this part.
- 153 (2)(a) As used in this part, "waterfowl management area" means real property owned or
 154 managed by the division that is:
- 155 (i) primarily used for the conservation, production, or recreational harvest of ducks,
 156 mergansers, geese, brant, swans, and other waterfowl; and
- 157 (ii) designated as a waterfowl management area by the Wildlife Board in accordance
 158 with Section 23A-12-303.
- 159 (b) "Waterfowl management area" includes the following referenced in Section
 160 23A-6-403:
- 161 (i) Willard Spur Waterfowl Management Area;
- 162 (ii) Harold Crane Waterfowl Management Area;~~[and]~~
- 163 (iii) Bear River Bay Waterfowl Management Area~~[-]~~ ; and
- 164 (iv) Goshen Bay Waterfowl Management Area.

165 Section 3. **Effective Date.**
166 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.