

Federal Government Shutdown

IMPACT ON UTAH

As of Jan. 14, the partial federal government shutdown's impact on Utah remains primarily to state national park access and support services. No other significant fiscal or operational impacts are anticipated through the end of January. The Governor's Office of Management and Budget will continue to monitor the partial federal government shutdown and provide weekly updates until it concludes.

Utah National Parks Update

The State of Utah is working on defining a long-term strategy for national parks funding in case the shutdown continues for several months. In the meantime, below is an update on the current status of Utah's national parks. The additional expenditure at Zion brings the total state expenditures for all parks to \$66,000 of the \$80,000 authorized.

- **Zion:** The Utah Office of Tourism agreed to an additional expenditure of \$4,375 to keep Zion National Park open through January 16. However, it is expected private funding will continue, and the state can evaluate participating, to keep Zion open through the end of the month.
- **Bryce:** The Bryce Canyon Natural History Association is underwriting all costs for the next several days for Bryce, and the association intends to provide another \$5,000 to keep the park open another 10+ days. However, the state may also need to begin making nominal contributions to keep the park open through the end of January.
- **Arches and Canyonlands:** The Utah Dept. of Transportation (UDOT) plowed the roads at Arches and Canyonlands on Jan. 10 to allow for visitor access. The Canyonlands Natural History Foundation has committed to underwrite both Arches and Canyonlands (Island in the Sky District) visitor services for 30 days.
- **Capitol Reef:** The Fruita campground will be open, but restrooms will be closed except for the vault toilet. The scenic drive will be closed.

Other Program Updates

- **Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Program:** Dept. of Health received a Grant Award Document from the United States Dept. of Agriculture adding monies to the current year food funding. This allows WIC families to redeem their checks throughout the month of February 2019. There is sufficient Nutrition Services Administration (NSA) monies to reimburse local health departments for February, supporting the performance of critical public health assessments, nutrition education and other services families receive through WIC.
- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):** The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture has advised states that benefits for SNAP, the nation's food stamps program, will be funded through the end of February 2019.
- **Child Nutrition Programs:** The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) announced the child nutrition programs, including school meals and after-school programs, have funding available to continue operations through March.
 - The Child Nutrition Programs cost an average of \$16 million per month in federal funds. The schools fund the programs up front and then get reimbursed from federal funds on a monthly basis. The USDA has funding to reimburse schools at the end of January and February; but, as of March schools will be funding these programs with no guarantee of reimbursement at the end of the month.
- **National Guard:** No significant impact through Jan 30. Most of the funding for the National Guard comes through the Defense Budget which was already passed. The National Guard has three contracts with the Department



of Justice that will be delayed in getting reimbursed. By the end of January, the unreimbursed costs for these three contracts will be \$1.4 million. This is not a problem because the state is only in the middle of the fiscal year.

- **Unemployment Compensation:** The Dept. of Workforce Services (DWS) experiences a much higher volume of Unemployment Compensation for Federal Employees (UCFE) claims when federal furloughs occur. UCFE follows the same rules as Unemployment Insurance and DWS determines claim eligibility. DWS will issue payments on UCFE claims by January 12, 2019 to meet the first payment timeliness requirements. If federal employees are paid for the weeks they were furloughed (which is likely), they will have to pay back the overpayment as they would have received both the unemployment benefit and pay.

