

Dear County Commissioners and Dave Whittekiend,

I'm a resident of Utah County (Alpine, UT) and have been participating in local grass roots meetings (i.e. Fox Hollow Golf Course gathering w/ local citizens and Snowbird CEO) regarding "potential" expansion of Snowbird into Utah county. In the meeting I attended recently there appears to be a lot of fear, uncertainty and doubt being raised by local citizens with respect to Snowbird "taking over" American Fork Canyon.

As an avid outdoorsman who rides his bike weekly in AF Canyon and who has skied at Snowbird for 20+ years, I believe there is common ground that can be found to support the many residents who want to protect the environment of the canyon AND continue to have easy access to lift served ski terrain in our mountains.

Tomorrow, a number of UT county citizens will be coming to the county commissioners to argue AGAINST Snowbird acquiring 416 acres connecting property very far from American Fork canyon. I am out of town on business and cannot attend these meetings so I would like to express my opinion to you that these land swap between existing land that Snowbird owns has nothing to do with impeding on recreation or the environment of American Fork Canyon, nor on any plans to build some tram 5 miles from Tibblefork to Snowbird. The current desire is for Snowbird to link existing lands they own to enable a better skiing experience for all of us.

I don't believe Snowbird wants to "take over" American Fork canyon in any way. My experience has been the opposite with respect to Snowbird. I have never been banned to hike, ride my bike or recreate on their land in Mineral Basin. I have found that since the expansion of their resort, there has been "less" motorized vehicles in the area and erosion has diminished by the improvements Snowbird has made on these lands. Having a responsible steward of these lands has gone a long way to prevent environmental damage to these lands by weekend 4 wheeler recreationalists who damage trails.

Having the ability to access Snowbird (if is available by future plans and approved environmental impact studies) would be a great thing for people who want to access Snowbird via American Fork canyon. It would cut down on pollution in both Utah and Salt Lake Counties by enabling fewer cars on the highways and would resemble other beautiful linked ski areas in Europe that have gondolas or trams that connect canyons. We cannot burry our heads in the sand that more people want/need access to the mountains and just ban Snowbird from expansion.

I would rather have an gondola connecting our canyons than 4-wheel drive vehicles scarring up our land—which is currently happening on UT county lands in AF canyon due to the current hands-off approach to our mountains in the area. I would encourage each of you to participate in the Mountain Accord meetings where you will see a balanced approach to development and preservation of our lands.

If you would like to discuss further this issue feel free to call me at your convenience. I have a wealth of knowledge from both perspectives on this issue.

Sincerely,