



**CENTRAL
WASATCH
COMMISSION**

Central Wasatch Commission
CWNCRA Informational Slides

A background image of a ski lift chair carrying two people over a snowy mountain landscape with evergreen trees. The image is dark and serves as a backdrop for the text.

SkiLink

In 2012, the Utah State House of Representatives and Senate both passed a resolution in support of a plan to connect four ski areas in Park City with three ski resorts in Cottonwood canyon.

Then Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker and then Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon opposed the plan as did environmental groups including Save our Canyons. The Forest Service found the SkiLink proposal to be inconsistent with its management plan for the area.

H.R.3452 was then introduced to the 112th Congress. It would have required the U.S. Forest Service to sell 30 acres of land in Big Cottonwood Canyon to Taliskier (the owners of The Canyons ski resort) so that Taliskier could build an 8-person gondola between The Canyons ski resort & Solitude ski resort in Big Cottonwood Canyon. That bill failed to make it out of Committee.

By 2013, the SkiLink effort appeared to be without sponsorship or support from the Utah Congressional delegation.



Mountain Accord

Mountain Accord was initiated in 2013 (Some will say, in response to SkiLink) to make critical decisions and implement solutions to preserve the Central Wasatch and ensure its long-term vitality.

This unprecedented collaboration of diverse groups sought to create a collaborative solution for the future of the Central Wasatch. The goal was to create and build a consensus that would include responsible stewardship of natural resources, preservation of quality recreation experiences, establish an environmentally sustainable transportation system, and contribute to a vibrant economy.



Mountain Accord

The Mountain Accord process brought together more than 20 organizations and nearly 200 stakeholders to discuss a plan for future that preserved the legacy of the Wasatch.

The two-year process, named the Mountain Accord, culminated in the Mountain Accord charter, which proposed plans to address the four major issues: transportation, economy, recreation, and environment. The Mountain Accord charter also called for the creation of a governmental entity to coordinate among the many stakeholders in the Central Wasatch Mountains, and to carry out the plans for each of the four issue areas, identified in the Mountain Accord charter. The Mountain Accord charter, signed in August 2015, is the consensus position of the Executive Board members and over 150 signatories.

Included in the Mountain Accord Charter was a directive to introduce and pass the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act.



H.R.5718

Introduced in the 114th Congress on July 11, 2016, by then Representative Jason Chaffetz, the original bill called for a 79,109-acre federal designation called the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area in the Wasatch Front and Back.

The 114th Congress expired without H.R. 5718 moving out of the Natural Resource Committee.



Andrew Dibble
Photography

Hallmarks of H.R.5718

- Creation of an 79,109-acre federal designation for already-federal lands in the Cottonwoods, Millcreek, and Parley's corridor.
- Dollar-for-dollar land exchanges between the U.S.F.S and the Cottonwood Canyon ski resorts
- The catalyst for a new management plan for the area
- Creation of the White Pine Special Management Area
 - Helicopter and mechanized travel was originally prohibited in the White Pine Special Management Area
- Permanently fixing the ski area permit boundaries



Hallmarks of H.R.5718

Mount Olympus Wilderness boundary adjustment – striking sixteen thousand acres and inserting fifteen thousand eight hundred and eighty-three acres.

Twin Peaks Wilderness boundary adjustment—striking thirteen thousand one hundred acres and inserting thirteen thousand and ninety acres.

Lone Peak Wilderness addition and boundary adjustment -- striking twenty-nine thousand five hundred sixty-seven acres and inserting thirty-two thousand one hundred and thirty acres.

Creation of the GRANDEUR PEAK–MOUNT AIRE WILDERNESS -- comprising approximately 6,158 acres.

8/2/2018 CWNCRA

Alta Ski Lifts removed from the Bill in the permit boundary adjustment section and the land exchange, but the permit area remain in the boundaries of the CWNCRA. Essentially Alta Ski Lifts retained the status quo of its present rights if they are removed from the legislation.

Language has been added throughout to the bill to further clarify that:

- Non-federal lands within the boundary of the NCRA are excluded from the NCRA
- Management of National Forest System lands does not apply to non-federal lands within or outside of the NCRA boundary
- The Act does not affect water rights and use of water
- Water systems are included under existing water infrastructure

Language has been added to the bill for a Forest Service appropriation for the NCRA.





10/26/2018 CWNCRA

The 10/26/18 draft removes Alta Ski Lifts from the land exchanges and holds their private lands harmless in CWNCRA. The language in the updated draft explicitly gives Alta Ski Lifts the ability to apply to the USFS for resort expansion within the “ASL Resort Boundary Adjustment Area.”

Additional Lands in Exchange

The 10/26/18 draft adds a provision that would allow for ski areas to include other private lands in their exchanges not identified on existing maps. This provision provides the option for ski areas involved in the exchange to acquire other private properties within the CWNCRA boundary and add them to their proposed exchanges to consolidate more of their base areas in private ownership while preserving additional mountain lands.

10/26/2018

CWNCRA

Assurance of Protecting Private Property Rights

The 10/26/18 draft includes additional provisions to the White Pine Special Management Area to clarify protection for the South Despain Ditch Company's water rights and use.

Little Cottonwood Canyon Transportation Corridor

In earlier versions of the proposed legislation, a sliver of land was removed from the Lone Peak Wilderness Area to accommodate an expanded potential transportation corridor in Little Cottonwood Canyon. UDOT analysis has concluded that no foreseeable need exists for an expanded corridor. The sliver removal has been removed from the draft legislation.



8/19/19 CWNCRRA

FACILITY

Added a definition to clarify that facility includes systems for water resources, flood control, electric energy, pipelines, and recreation. [Note: there is a section on facilities in the Bill: Sec. 3(m) provides for existing and new facilities.]

MOUNTAIN TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

Changes definition to clarify that a mountain transportation system is intended to move people between “developed” destinations. [Note: a separate definition exists for ski lifts; sections authorizing transportation improvements and management occur throughout the Draft Bill.]

SKI LIFT

The definition has been modified to clarify that ski lifts would occur in a permitted ski area and includes use by all recreational users.

Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area. (Section 3)

PURPOSES

Changed “wildlife” to “biological” to broaden the definition.

INCORPORATION OF PLANS

Added reference to the Forest Service Travel Management Plan. Deleted “Cottonwood Canyons Transportation Action Plan” because that effort has been terminated by UDOT.

INCORPORATION OF ACQUIRED LANDS

Added language to indicate that inholdings and adjacent lands acquired after the designation would become part of the Area. Needed because in map changes the Forest Service boundary has been removed to clarify the lands included in the Area are only Forest Service lands.

SKI LIFTS

Changed language to reinforce policy that ski lifts would only be allowed within permitted ski areas, consistent with the definition.

8/19/19 CWNCRA

“Area Fees”

Added authorization for the Forest Service to apply area fees to Wilderness Areas and White Pine Watershed Management Area.

White Pine Watershed Management Area

This section was added to clarify that Forest Service closures apply to White Pine, not just the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area.



Hallmarks of the 10.27.20 CWNCRA

The proposed land exchanges between the Cottonwood Canyon ski resorts and the U.S. Forest Service were removed in the 10.27.20 draft.

Creation of the National Conservation and Recreation Area designation, placing permanent protection on the Forest-Service lands within the study area.

Creation of the White Pine Watershed Management Area.

Creation of the Grandeur Peak/Mount Aire Wilderness Area, and an addition to the existing Lone Peak Wilderness Area.

Realignment of existing Wilderness to allow for multi-uses on the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

Limitation of existing ski-area boundaries and direction to the Forest Service to create a management plan for the study area within 3 years after the adoption of the bill.



Transportation solutions and the CWNCRRA

The CWNCRRA provides specifically for a 4f exemption, meaning that any transportation improvements proposed for the study area that interact with 4f property would not be impeded by the CWNCRRA.

If there were specific transportation improvements decided on, there could be provisions added to the CWNCRRA to include that language in the future.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF

THE CWNCR

SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 5718, THE CWNCR HAS BEEN THROUGH SIX RE-DRAFTS.

114TH CONGRESS 2015/2016

Jason Chaffetz introduces H.R. 5718 Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act to the House Natural Resources Committee. The Congress expires without movement for the bill.

7/17/2018

The CWC releases the first redraft of the CWNCR.

8/2/2018

The CWC releases the second redraft of the CWNCR.

10/26/2018

The CWC releases the third redraft of the CWNCR. Most notable change in this draft was the removal of Alta Ski Lifts from the land exchanges between the ski resorts and the U.S. Forest Service.

8/19/2019

The CWC releases the fourth redraft of the CWNCR with the release of the 8/19/2019 discussion draft. The most notable change in this draft allows for the inclusion of split-estate land exchanges.

11/1/2019

The CWC releases the fifth redraft of the CWNCR.

10/27/2020

The CWC releases the sixth redraft of the CWNCR. Notably, the land exchanges between the ski resorts and the U.S. Forest service have been completely removed, as well as the Town of Alta jurisdictional boundaries.



CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION

Questions?

