

Summary of USFS Quarterly Meeting

June 6, 2024

TRANSPORTATION. The USFS intends to eliminate most roadside parking and promote a By-Reservation-Only System for entry into BCC and LCC in the next few years. Other proposals such as summer buses, tolls, shuttles, and parking garages are costly and have too many problems that haven't been resolved in over 40 years.

TOILETS. There are no funds to improve the restrooms at Mill D South Fork (Cardiff), so porta-potties will remain indefinitely. The partnership for restroom maintenance is going very well.

TRAILS. The Tri-Canyon Trails Plan will be finished in 2025. The Bonneville Shoreline Trail from Big Cottonwood to Furgeson Canyon was finished. The Silver Lake Boardwalk restoration is almost finished. Trails Utah was awarded a grant to complete the upper natural trail portion this year. The boardwalk between the Visitors' Center and the restroom cannot be completed due to a lack of funds. It could cost an additional \$30,000 - \$50,000 to finish the boardwalk in that area, but it is currently a swamp with no money left to finish the job.

USER FEES. Silver Lake is now charging an entrance fee. Cardiff and Spruces Winter Trail will begin charging an entrance fee in the winter. 90% of fee revenues will remain with the Salt Lake Ranger District, and are expected to bring in over a million dollars each year.

- Wasatch National Forest 3-day pass: \$10
- Wasatch National Forest 7-day pass: \$20
- Wasatch National Forest Annual Pass: \$60
- America the Beautiful Pass: \$80

FUELS MITIGATION. Cutting and chipping will continue this summer. Please warn residents and visitors that there will be some pile burning and smoke in late fall.

WEED MITIGATION. The Cottonwood Canyons Foundation has a robust volunteer program for invasive weed removal. Please call them to volunteer or report problem weeds.

STAFFING. Bekee referred to the large graphs placed on the walls, one of which depicts the SLRD's current staffing. Some areas are lacking in staff, due to funding and a hiring freeze.

GRAFFITI. The combination of Wasatch Graffiti Busters and UPD has almost eliminated graffiti problems in the Wasatch, and along with its gang problems and illegal camping. Future problems will be taken on by the Busters, UPD, and USFS Trails group. The Graffiti mitigation program has been wildly successful. Bekee advised that it's time to spread out responsibilities for graffiti abatement due to changes with UPD personnel (the split with the Sheriff's office/overtime funds no longer available). Cottonwood Canyons Foundation's (CCF) Emily Salle indicated an interest in providing volunteers to help.