



Cottonwoods Commons Trust

Since the inception of the Mountain Accord, growth in Utah has accelerated and systemic pressures have compounded threats to the future of the Cottonwood Canyons as envisioned by the Mountain Accord. A Canyon Trust will secure dedicated funding to help mitigate the unintended consequences of growth in the Cottonwoods, in alignment with the Mountain Accord's mission.

Our Embedded Economy

Currently, **Utah's measured economic engine rides atop the natural wealth of our deserts, Great Salt Lake, and the mountains of the Central Wasatch.** Yet, when it comes to the delicate balance of the developed and undeveloped zones of the Cottonwood Canyons, 100% of the tax revenue generated from these canyons' funnels to the general fund. None of this money is directly allocated for the protection and reparation of the natural wealth we depend on.



Canyon Entanglement

Three of the four ski resorts in the Cottonwood Canyons are now owned by **private equity** investors with tenacious **growth obligations** that clash with the Mountain Accord's vision for balance across the multiple systems of the canyons. Endless growth is not sustainable in these watershed canyons. This is further complicated via the **lack of canyons capacity agreements** needed to inform complex decisions.



Trust 'Concept' Examples

- Great Salt Lake Wetland Enhancement Trust
- Summit Land Conservancy Land Trust
- Patagonia Purpose Trust
- Millcreek Canyon Toll
- Utah State Liquor Tax allocation



Canyon Predicament

The Cottonwood Canyons face an overall predicament, not a set of individual problems. We cannot "fix" the tension between protecting the canyons' natural wealth, open and free to all, and the demand for perpetual economic growth embodied in private, built capital that only provides access to those who can pay. **A predicament demands a thoughtful response, and the Canyon Trust, alongside the Mountain Accord is part of that response.**

PREPARED FOR:

Central Wasatch Commission
Executive Budget Audit Committee
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PREPARED BY:

John Adams
Central Wasatch Commission
Stakeholder Committee Member
Economic System Committee Chair

