



CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION

Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area

Representatives from local government, Utah Governor's office and state legislature, private business, environmental organizations and recreation interests, and residents worked together over the course of two years to reach consensus on a bill that will resolve decades of conflict over how the Central Wasatch mountains are used and enjoyed. In 2016, Congressman Jason Chaffetz (R-UT) introduced bill H.R.5718, the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act that proposed the creation of The Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area. The bill's objectives were to balance the need to protect drinking water, preserve recreational opportunities and traditions, enhance access, and accommodate future population growth.

While H.R.5718 failed to make it out of committee, stakeholders persisted by engaging the public for comment and have made changes to the legislation. The CWC staff and board are working with the Utah Federal Delegation to set a timeline for reintroduction of the legislation, with changes implemented.

This bill preserves approximately 80,000 acres of land including critical watershed, scenic ridgelines, treasured landscapes and recreation areas while facilitating ski resorts to own more land in their established base areas. In this bill:

- All existing recreational uses and permits will continue;
- Natural resources and watersheds will be protected;
- Existing Wilderness Area boundaries will be adjusted for the Bonneville Shoreline Trail alignment and for transportation improvements.
- Approximately 8,000 acres of wilderness will be added;
- The U.S. Forest Service will maintain ownership and management of the lands;
- Land exchanges between the U.S. Forest Service and the participating Cottonwood Canyons ski resorts are authorized;
- Ski resort permit boundaries on U.S. Forest Service land will be fixed permanently after some adjustments through the existing permitting process;
- New roads for automobiles will be prohibited on U.S. Forest Service land;
- No restrictions will be placed on U.S. Forest Service management for fire suppression, vegetation maintenance, avalanche control or other emergency measures;
- Private land within the area or adjacent to the NCRA will not be affected;
- Future transportation improvements are anticipated. The legislation enables transportation improvements to meet growing demand;
- The U.S. Forest Service will be directed to complete a management plan for the NCRA within three years of the bill passing.

Find more information, and a visual representation of the legislation at cwc.utah.gov