**Discussion Items on Land Tenure**

**3/20/2020 Meeting**

The Central Wasatch Commission is exploring options to achieve the objective of beneficial public and private land ownership re-alignment in the Central Wasatch Mountains. The proposed land exchanges from the Mountain Accord agreement, subsequent work on federal legislation, and Forest Service analysis has resulted in major obstacles to pursuing the land exchanges as envisioned.

The Legislation/Land Tenure Committee was formed by the Central Wasatch Commission to explore issues remaining in the proposed Congressional legislation, starting with determining if an approach to achieve land ownership realignment should be pursued and seek a feasible solution.

The Central Wasatch Commission will use its 3/20/2020 meeting to begin an exploration of whether to continue to explore the underlying objective in Mountain Accord to provide land ownership reconfiguration so that public-use lands can largely move into public ownership while ski-area private lands are consolidates in their base areas. Other private lands in the Central Wasatch Mountains could also be considered for change, pending the willingness of private property owners and a commitment from government or private non-profit organizations to acquire those lands for public benefit.

The Committee will explore pursuit of possibilities, beginning with an initial question:

* Should land ownership re-alignment continue to be pursued in some form?

If the Committee decides this is desirable with the consensus of stakeholders, the participants would brainstorm possible approaches, including:

* A variation on the land exchange proposal of Mountain Accord and Draft Legislation
* Public acquisition of private lands through acquisition by government and/or private non-profits through bonding or other mechanisms
* A legislatively authorized program of ski-area acquisition of public lands in their developed base areas and commitment to use proceeds to acquire private lands in the Central Wasatch Mountains on a willing-seller basis
* Other Options?

The 3/20/2020 meeting would be the starting point for a process to further explore this issue and options, engage the public and stakeholders more broadly, and make any recommendations to the Central Wasatch Commission Board to further pursue.

Other Congressional legislative topics may be pursued in future meetings.