

Subject: FW: RESTATEMENT AND RECOMMITMENT OF THE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE MOUNTAIN ACCORD comment - Alta Ski Area
From: Mike Maughan <mikem@alta.com>
To: "comments@cw.utah.gov" <comments@cw.utah.gov>
Cc: Ben McAdams <ben@cgileader.com>
Date Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 5:03:23 PM GMT-06:00
Date Received: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 5:03:27 PM GMT-06:00
Attachments: Comments regarding the draft Central Wasatch Compact.eml

Dear CWC Staff and Commissioners,

In response to the draft, Central Wasatch Compact which was released for public comment on February 15, 2022, Alta Ski Area responded with the attached email. In our response, we indicated that while we support elements of the proposed compact that promote sustainable recreation, environments, and watersheds, we cannot support the compact as currently drafted. Carryover language from the Mountain Accord and new language added to the compact did not reflect the changes in positions, conditions, and circumstances, as well as learnings that have occurred during the last seven years

Since then we have been contacted by Ralph Becker. He requested that we provide more specificity as to why we cannot support the language of the proposed RESTATEMENT AND RECOMMITMENT OF THE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE MOUNTAIN ACCORD. While this list may not be complete, some of the issues we have with the language and positions of the current document are as follows:

1. The Mountain Accord had specific negotiated outcomes, of which some had specific conditions. Many of those negotiated outcomes are no longer achievable or supported by signers of the accord, but yet the revised language states that "implementation of negotiated outcomes of the Mountain Accord charter remains a priority of the Central Wasatch Commission". This position fails to recognize the changes which have occurred and the learnings of the past seven years. We cannot support language that supports the implementation of the negotiated outcomes of the Mountain Accord since many of the specific conditions tied to negotiated outcomes can not be achieved. We are open to discussions with the relevant agencies with jurisdictional oversight and the stakeholders with holdings in the Little Cottonwood Canyon regarding achievable outcomes, but cannot support the proposed language.
2. The conditional negotiated outcomes in the Mountain Accord included a proposed land exchange between the USFS and ski areas. The proposed land exchange between the USFS and the ski areas was scrapped due to valuation issues, disagreement on what lands the USFS was willing to exchange, and the unwillingness of the federal government to accept lands encumbered with old mines. It should be noted that the inclusion of Alta Ski Area's private lands in Grizzly Gulch was conditional upon a transportation tunnel between Big and Little Cottonwood Canyon, and water and approval for a new 100 room hotel at the base of the ski area. The land exchange as originally proposed and its associated conditions are no longer viable.
3. Negotiations during the Mountain Accord process resulted in the ski areas agreeing to support legislation for a federal land designation and the binding of ski resort boundaries on public land within the federal land designation in exchange for transportation solutions, more snowmaking water, and land exchanges. Given the failure of the land exchanges and their associated conditions, lack of consensus regarding transportation solutions, and lack of clarity and consensus regarding the lands that would be included in a federal designation, Alta Ski Area cannot agree to support legislation for a federal land designation or binding of ski resort boundaries on public lands within the federal land designation. Alta Ski Area is willing to enter into negotiations with the intent to establish the outcomes that can be supported by all the signers of the Mountain Accord.
4. We are concerned that language which requires everything to be interdependent is a recipe for failure. Getting everything to move forward simultaneously is most likely an impossible task. It seems a more successful approach would be to agree on outcomes but allow them to move forward independently so we can make progress.

We recognize that there is more recreational demand to visit Little Cottonwood Canyon than available resources and infrastructure. Alta Ski Area has implemented measures to manage and restrict visitation during the summer and winter months within the ski area to preserve the quality of the recreational experience and mitigate the impact of visitors upon the environment and watershed. We are supportive of and encourage similar actions for the Cottonwood Canyons as a whole.

Sincerely,

Michael R Maughan
General Manager

Alta Ski Area
801-799-2265

Subject: Comments regarding the draft Central Wasatch Compact
From: Mike Maughan <mikem@alta.com>
To: "comments@cw.utah.gov" <comments@cw.utah.gov>
Cc: Ben McAdams <ben@cgileader.com>
Date Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 6:25:39 PM GMT-07:00

To whom it may concern,

We are writing in response to the draft Central Wasatch Compact that was released for public comment on February 15, 2022. As stewards of public and private lands in the Central Wasatch Mountains, Alta has consistently worked in conjunction with the US Forest Service, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Salt Lake City Public Department of Utilities for decades to provide recreational opportunities while minimizing their impact on the ecosystem, forest, and watershed in upper Little Cottonwood Canyon.

We appreciate the collaborative process facilitated by an independent consultant by which the 2015 Mountain Accord was created and are disappointed that the draft Central Wasatch Compact was not drafted through a similar process. While we support elements of the proposed compact that promote sustainable recreation, environments, and watersheds, we cannot support the compact as currently drafted. Carryover language from the Mountain Accord and new language added to the compact do not reflect the changes in positions, conditions, and circumstances, as well as learnings that have occurred during the last seven years.

From our perspective, drafting a compact of this nature requires the involvement of the relevant agencies with jurisdictional oversight and the stakeholders with holdings in the Cottonwood Canyons to achieve the collaborative support that was present in the Mountain Accord.

A compact that has the same level of support as the Mountain Accord can be a powerful and useful guiding document for generations to come. As currently drafted, it lacks consensus, is divisive, and does not reflect the collaboration in the Mountain Accord. It would great to get the parties together and draft a compact that contains language that we can all agree to and is not embedded with positions and concepts unacceptable to key stakeholders and agencies with jurisdictional oversight.

We are willing to engage in discussions with that objective in mind.

Sincerely,

Michael R Maughan

General Manager

Alta Ski Area

801-799-2265

Subject: feedback
From: David Robinson <hoopaut53@gmail.com>
To: comments@cw.utah.gov
Date Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 4:55:58 PM GMT-06:00
Date Received: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 4:56:13 PM GMT-06:00

Good afternoon

to continue to push the agenda from the failed mountain accord process is a waste of time, energy, and money. Mountain Accord was birthed with an entry in the CFR brought forward by the national transportation department to study and resolve the safety issues associated with UT State Road 210 little cottonwood canyon due to its high avalanche exposure. The Mountain Accord process was hijacked by special interests, some who had an obvious anti ski area agenda, some who had an obvious desire to lock down any and all growth in the study area, and some who simply saw a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

two examples:

When the Forest Service Specialist on Wilderness came to make a presentation that was obviously going to go against the wishes of the pro Wilderness advocates, she was Shut Down, and told there was no time for her presentation. Unbelievable. At the last session of the group with which I was a member of, at the main Salt Lake Library, the consultant in charge boldly stated that the Mountain Accord process was no longer a transportation study, but was now a land use and regulatory project. Unbelievable.

And let us not forget the failed legislation that was the output of Mountain Accord that never made it out of committee, as it was so completely biased in its quest to create a new, neverbefore seen federal land use regulation specific, and uniquely aimed at little cottonwood canyon.

UDOT ditched the CWC, and the Mountain Accord.

There may be some value in the CWC, but pushing the Mountain Accord agenda is not it.

Subject: Comments on Restatement and Recommitment of the Values and Principles of the Mountain Accord
From: Dave Fields <DFields@snowbird.com>
To: "comments@cw.utah.gov" <comments@cw.utah.gov>
Date Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 4:21:49 PM GMT-06:00
Date Received: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 4:21:53 PM GMT-06:00
Attachments: 1968_001.pdf

Hello,

Please see the attached document for my comments.

Thank you

Dave

[Dave Fields](#)
President/GM
Snowbird
Office: (801) 933-2041
Cell: (801) 891-3303

March 22, 2022



To whom it may concern,

I am writing in response to the Restatement and Recommitment of the Values and Principles of the Mountain Accord that was recently released for comment. As stewards of public and private lands in the Central Wasatch Mountains, Snowbird remains committed to the health of these precious lands and the water they produce while also serving as a critical recreation resource for Utah's growing population.

Myself and my predecessor have spent nearly 10 years fully committed to the Mountain Accord and Central Wasatch Commission process and goals. While I continue to support the elements of the Mountain Accord that promote sustainable recreation, environments and watersheds, I am not prepared to support some of the legacy language or elements that carry over from the original Mountain Accord despite changing dynamics with critical agencies or learnings since the Mountain Accord was signed.

Areas of concern include:

- Central Wasatch Commission staff have indicated they meet regularly with the U.S. Forest Service and Utah Department of Transportation, but there is no outwardly visible participation in the Central Wasatch Commission, and presumably the drafting of this restatement, by critical stakeholders such as Salt Lake County, the Utah Department of Transportation, U.S. Forest Service, Governor's office or the State Legislature.
- The continued inclusion of land exchanges despite new direction from the U.S. Forest Service effectively eliminating the possibility of resort/Forest Service exchanges given the Cottonwood canyons' mining history.
- "Consensus" has been a foundational element of the Mountain Accord and Central Wasatch Commission but this has proven to be a formidable challenge, especially given the lack of participation from key stakeholders and agencies.
- After a decade of work on these important goals with minimal results I believe the restatement is doubling down on a strategy that needs careful reconsideration. Trying to tie all goals together as an "interdependent package" only further reduces the opportunity for incremental improvement. Is it time to come up with a new approach to achieving these important goals of protecting the natural environment and watershed while continuing to provide a multitude of recreation in the Central Wasatch?

I remain committed to working as hard as necessary to find solutions to the critical challenges Mountain Accord and Central Wasatch Commission have undertaken but hope we do so in a productive manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Fields".

Dave Fields
President/GM
Snowbird

SNOWBIRD RESORT LLC
9385 South Snowbird Center Drive
Snowbird, Utah 84092-9000
(801) 933-2222
snowbird.com

Subject: Comments

From: Jan Striefel <jans1029@icloud.com>

To: comments@cwcc.utah.gov

Date Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 3:45:45 PM GMT-06:00

Date Received: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 3:45:47 PM GMT-06:00

I think this document look good and have only one comment or observation. I wonder if there is a way to acknowledge that the climate is changing and that there will need to be adaptations to how we manage the canyons. It worries me that with reduced snow fall, snow making may become more dominant, and am concerned about this use of water. Is there a way to foretell that change is very likely if not inevitable and we need to find new ways to respond? Thanks. Jan

Subject: Comment on Draft Restatement of Mountain Accord
From: "Amber Broadway (SOL)" <a.broadaway@solitudemountain.com>
To: "comments@cw.utah.gov" <comments@cw.utah.gov>
Date Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 3:40:04 PM GMT-06:00
Date Received: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 3:40:09 PM GMT-06:00

Dear CWC Commission,

Thank you for allowing more time to provide feedback on this important document. Unfortunately, I did not make good use of this additional time. As one of the newer members to the Stakeholder's Council, I feel there is still much I need to learn in terms of the history, goals, wins, and failures of the Mountain Accord and CWC, and even more importantly getting to know the key players involved. As I mentioned in my prior email, I feel strongly an in-person meeting with the resorts and the key players in these canyons such as USFS, UDOT, SLC Public Utilities, Towns of Alta & Brighton, etc. is the next right step in this process. And I would strongly encourage we take this next step before solidifying a governing document. Getting the right people at a table to sit down, face-to-face, to talk openly and honestly about where we've been, where we are, and where we should go is critical to setting the right tone for how we renew a commitment to this important document.

At a high level, my short-term feedback is that the Commission would benefit from supporting solutions on transit/transportation matters and unencumbering them from other items outlined in the document. Big Cottonwood Canyon is positioned well to explore additional parking options and an enhanced bus system. With the right players involved and some dedicated funding, BCC is ripe for improvement in this regard. And the Commission and all relevant stakeholders might benefit from finding and celebrating in a common win. A success of this nature would allow relationships and trust to be rebuilt, and likely set the stage for delving into some of the more complicated matters such as land designations, land exchanges, and/or boundary discussions.

I look forward to getting to know more members of the Stakeholder's Council and the Commission and am eager to meet in person soon.

Thank you for allowing me to participate in this important process.

Kindly,
a.



Amber L. Broadway
President/COO
Solitude Mountain Resort
[12000 Big Cottonwood Canyon Rd, Solitude, UT 84121](https://www.solitudemountain.com/locations/big-cottonwood-canyon)
p: 801.536.5776 / c: 802.299.6202
a.broadaway@solitudemountain.com

Subject: Mountain Accord Recommitment
From: "Doyle, Randy" <rdoyle@brightonresort.com>
To: "comments@cw.utah.gov" <comments@cw.utah.gov>
Date Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 3:13:57 PM GMT-06:00
Date Received: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 3:14:01 PM GMT-06:00

RE: Draft Recommitment and Statement of Values

Dear Central Wasatch Commission,

Thank you for the revisions to the Compact, as many have stated we all love these canyons and consider ourselves good stewards of them. The document does do a good job of expressing those values. However, there are remaining issues with the Restatement. For me the biggest is the removal of the third paragraph of the Accord, which stated

"this Mountain Accord agreement (the Accord) represents the culminating commitment of more than 20 organizations who, through a voluntary, multi-year, public, consensus-based planning process agree to proceed with a suite of actions designed to ensure that future generations can enjoy all the activities we do today".

This paragraph was foundational to the Accord and has been watered down significantly and moved to the back of the Recommitment.

The list of action items is no longer part of the Recommitment except for the land designation with the associated conditions for the land designation gone as well.

As I stated in my previous comments, tying actions together, and not bringing relevant decision makers back into the process greatly reduces the chance of any positive and incremental change.

Sincerely,

Randy Doyle

General Manager

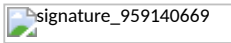
Brighton Resort

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Subject: Re: SOC Comments on Restatement and Recommitment of Values and Principles of the Mountain Accord
From: Jenny Wilson <JWilson@slco.org>
To: Carl Fisher <carl@saveourcanyons.org>, "comments@cw.utah.gov" <comments@cw.utah.gov>
Date Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 6:14:52 PM GMT-06:00
Date Received: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 6:14:57 PM GMT-06:00

Thanks for your thoughtful, well written and relevant comments, Carl. Thanks also for sending the 70s brochure.

Jenny



Mayor Jenny Wilson
Salt Lake County
2001 South State Street
Salt Lake City, UT 84114
(385) 468-7000

From: Carl Fisher <carl@saveourcanyons.org>
Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 2:35 PM
To: comments@cw.utah.gov <comments@cw.utah.gov>, Jenny Wilson <JWilson@slco.org>
Subject: SOC Comments on Restatement and Recommitment of Values and Principles of the Mountain Accord

Dear Central Wasatch Commission, Staff and Stakeholders,

We appreciate the recalibration the CWC's situational assessment afforded our community. As an organization that has been engaged on Wasatch issues for 50 years now, we wanted to not only tender our support for the drafted Restatement and Recommitment of the Values and Principles of the Mountain Accord, but we wish to adopt these organizationally and individually as a part of our mutual commitment to work toward protection of the wildness and beauty of the Wasatch Mountains.

Through the process it has been stated by commissioners and stakeholders, "I wasn't involved in the initial accord." There's no question our region is facing complicated changes - change in climate, the composition of our communities, all the challenges associated with it. What this document says is one thing, but why it was said needs to be understood before proceeding with too many changes. Just like a ledger sheet, as things change on one side of the sheet, it affects the other side, and the bottom line.

Here's an excerpt from the Alexis Kelner's "Skiing in Utah: A History" (1980).

"Is it fair, one may ask, to link these appalling changes in Little Cottonwood Canyon to the legacy of Snowbird? Most certainly!

Change had occurred there in the past, in the future more was inevitable. But past transitions were slow, taking sometimes decades and generations. Snowbird accelerated the metamorphosis, and neither government officials, nor the citizenry they were supposed to represent, were prepared for the onslaught of promotion, public relations, and politics unleashed in Snowbird's quest for tourist dollars.

By successfully opposing attempts of responsible citizens and agencies to establish a limit to development in the fragile canyon Snowbird executives (as conscientious as they are) have inadvertently encouraged "piecemeal planning" and "build-and-see-what-happens" attitudes in other regions of the canyon and in other canyons of the Wasatch."

What happened then is happening now but with greater intensity and greater impact, thus greater cost to our community and our Wasatch.

As it stands today, Parley's canyon is confronted with a 634 acre gravel pit, the quaintness of upper Millcreek canyon is being converted into a highway for more cars and parking, Wilderness is being removed for trails, Little Cottonwood may have a gondola. This is what confronts the Wasatch today, and if nothing changes more will come at this place tomorrow. The impact of these proposals exceeds their footprint.

As we lose wildness, Wilderness, replacing fields of flowers with gondola towers, destroying boulders for expanded shoulders, and putrify our water supply -- we ask how exactly do you intend to uphold the commitments to conservation the Accord espouses? If you

allow a sweater to be unravelled but save the final inch of thread, do you assert you saved the sweater? Will that inch of thread still comfort you from the chill in the air?

We support the recommitment and restatement but urge action to protect a threatened mountain range. We feel a sense of urgency -- how many football fields of destruction and devastation will happen as we talk about consensus and collaboration. As we work to set the table for these idealistic concepts, we must make sure that we are at the table, because it feels as if so many of us are on it, being feasted upon by the commercial and economic interests of the "state".

I trust you will give these comments and sentiments the same contemplation you gave the ski area comments.

Please, help save our canyons.
Save Our Canyons, please and thank you.

Carl Fisher
Executive Director
Save Our Canyons
(801) 363-7283 - Office
(801) 910-7487 - Mobile
www.saveourcanyons.org
www.facebook.com/saveourcanyons

Subject: SOC Comments on Restatement and Recommitment of Values and Principles of the Mountain Accord
From: Carl Fisher <carl@saveourcanyons.org>
To: comments@cwcc.utah.gov, Jenny Wilson <jwilson@slco.org>
Date Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 2:34:58 PM GMT-06:00
Date Received: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 2:35:15 PM GMT-06:00
Attachments: 1975 SOC Brochure.pdf

Dear Central Wasatch Commission, Staff and Stakeholders,

We appreciate the recalibration the CWC's situational assessment afforded our community. As an organization that has been engaged on Wasatch issues for 50 years now, we wanted to not only tender our support for the drafted Restatement and Recommitment of the Values and Principles of the Mountain Accord, but we wish to adopt these organizationally and individually as a part of our mutual commitment to work toward protection of the wildness and beauty of the Wasatch Mountains.

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We support the recommitment and restatement but urge action to protect a threatened mountain range. We feel a sense of urgency -- how many football fields of destruction and devastation will happen as we talk about consensus and collaboration. As we work to set the table for these idealistic concepts, we must make sure that we are at the table, because it feels as if so many of us are on it, being feasted upon by the commercial and economic interests of the "state".

I trust you will give these comments and sentiments the same contemplation you gave the ski area comments.

Please, help save our canyons.
Save Our Canyons, please and thank you.

Carl Fisher

Executive Director
Save Our Canyons
(801) 363-7283 - Office
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HELP SAVE OUR CANYONS



THE WASATCH CANYONS—Our Misused Heritage

The Beginning

In 1847, the first Mormon settlers arrived in the Valley of the Great Salt Lake. To these pioneers, who endured hardships unimaginable today, the nearby Wasatch Mountains were a blessing, providing timber, water, forage, and game.

Precious metals were soon discovered and, overnight, the character of the mountains changed. Brigham Young and other farsighted leaders were opposed to mineral exploitation. They argued that mining would lead to affluence for the few at the expense of future generations. Unfortunately, the dream of instant wealth prevailed. From 1862 to 1877 acres of trees were cut, miles of tunnels were dug, and about \$20 million in silver was recovered from the land.

With the passing of the mining boom, vast areas of tree stumps, rutted roads, and abandoned mine dumps scarred the hillsides.

The barren slopes presented the first major threat to the Salt Lake City water supply. Realizing the importance of the watershed, responsible officials outlawed the cutting of timber and began the slow process of reforestation.

The Canyons Today

Now, a new danger faces the mountains. In recent times, growing numbers of Salt Lake area residents turned to the Wasatch canyons for recreation. Ski facilities were built, picnic and camping areas were established and cabins began to appear. Highways were widened and paved. Parking lots were cleared.

As the skiing boom continued more lodges dotted the hills and canyons. More parking lots were cleared and more cabins and lodges were erected. Skiers from all over the country began to enjoy the unexcelled powder snow of the Wasatch range.

This increasing annual visitation is threatening the basic character of the mountains with extensive commercial development. Today, entire cities of high-rise condominiums are being planned for the Wasatch canyons.

Hope for Tomorrow

Clearly, our watershed and recreational heritage are in danger. Wilderness is fast disappearing. Development of some kind is planned for almost every canyon along the Wasatch front.

With the increasing demand for canyon use by both local and out-of-state residents, overintensive development leading to irreparable damage to some of Utah's most valuable assets becomes a real possibility.

As in the 19th century mining boom, instant wealth has blinded some developers to the wants and needs of future generations. Often, little consideration has been given for those who live in the many communities along the Wasatch Front. High density recreational facilities, multiple dwellings, traffic jams, and pollution are rapidly increasing in the name of "progress." The skiing and tourist dollars, while important, have too often been the only considerations in canyon land use planning.

Many concerned citizens believe this trend toward canyon overdevelopment must be reversed. They are urging area residents to **BECOME INVOLVED AND HELP SAVE THE CANYONS!**



Devil's Castle remains one of the most beautiful areas serviced by a ski lift. The lift is hidden in nearby gullies and the summit is free of manmade structures. Photo courtesy of Alexis Kelner.

High Density Recreation

In 1857 Brigham Young celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Mormon Pioneers' arrival into S.L. Valley at Brighton. The settlers appreciated the nearby alpine areas for recreation and for relief from the summer heat.

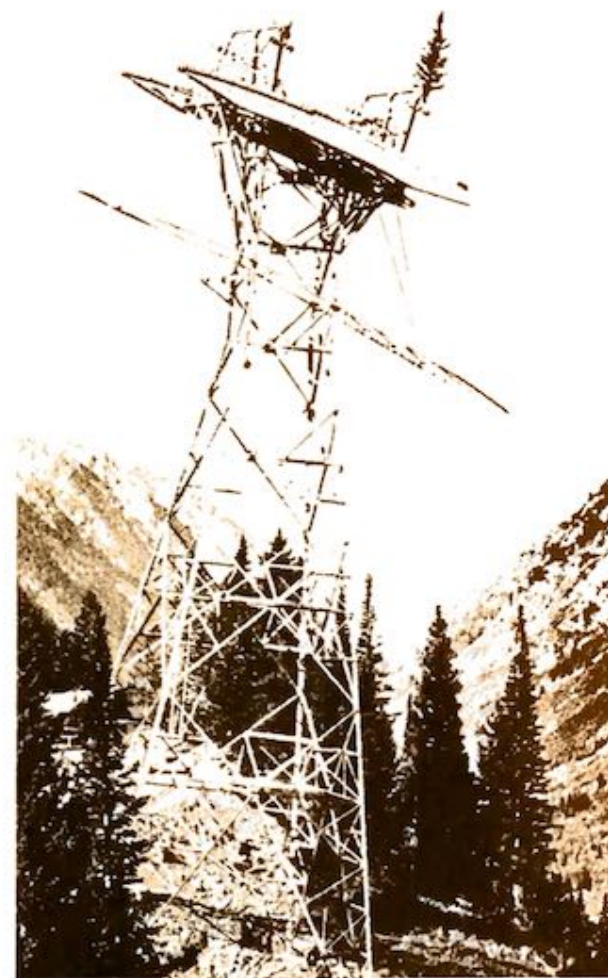
Today, the canyons are used for a wide range of recreational uses including: skiing, sightseeing, picnicking, camping, hiking, scouting, snowmobiling, fishing, and hunting. So popular has been the Wasatch Range for these activities that over 2.5 million visits were made to the Wasatch Mountains in 1971 alone—more than to Yellowstone or Grand Canyon National Parks.

Recent recreational trends, however, have drifted away from such a balanced-use philosophy. Many areas of the Wasatch have become the exclusive domain of skiers. Alta, Brighton, Snowbird, Solitude, Park City, and Park City West comprise a total of almost 20,000 acres. In addition portions of Wasatch State Park, near Heber City will be used for similar types of high density recreation. Yet more skiing areas are planned for American Fork, Millcreek, and other canyons.

Ski developments push aside other forms of recreation. Ski touring and snowmobiling are usually prohibited. Hiking and sight-seeing are less rewarding among lift towers and cleared off ski slopes. Fishing deteriorates when streams are loaded with silt from excavation and construction activities. Hunting is forbidden in the vicinity of commercial developments. Worst of all, large concentrations of people lower the quality of canyon water upon which Salt Lake City depends.

Those who favor a better recreational balance in the nearby canyons have suggested some steps citizens can take:

- **Encourage Forest Service officials to consider study of long-range effects before granting more permits for ski resort construction or expansions or other high density developments.**
- **Let the Forest Service know that many citizens appreciate and use areas now dedicated to low density recreation.**
- **Encourage and support zoning ordinances which would preserve undeveloped canyon areas to provide balanced recreational opportunities.**



According to the Alta/Little Cottonwood Canyon Study—Preliminary report "... major views, vistas, and areas of scenic beauty, including the unbroken profile of the mountains, should be preserved."



PARLEYS
CANYON

MILL
CREEK
CANYON

BIG
COTTONWOOD
CANYON

LITTLE
COTTONWOOD
CANYON

ALPINE

BELL'S
CANYON

NEFF'S
CANYON

EMIGRATION
CANYON

RED BUTTE
CANYON

CITY
CREEK
CANYON

SALT LAKE
CITY

POINT OF THE
MOUNTAIN

There are essentially nine canyons pouring water into Salt Lake Valley. The water resources from two of these canyons (Millcreek and Emigration) have been rendered useless by careless development and poor planning.

Our Endangered Watersheds

The most important role of the Wasatch Mountains is still to provide water for the many communities that lie along its western slopes. Over 80% of Salt Lake City's culinary water comes from four adjacent canyons: City Creek, Parley's Canyon, Little Cottonwood Canyon, and Big Cottonwood Canyon. These canyon watersheds must be protected at all costs. A look at three canyons will illustrate several management alternatives:

Red Butte Canyon, has long been the watershed for Fort Douglas Military Reservation. Access has been rigidly controlled since 1861 and the water of Red Butte Creek thus contains little pollutants of any kind.

Much of Emigration Canyon has had virtually no controls. Indiscriminate development has occurred and the resulting contamination of Emigration Creek water makes it almost untreatable for human consumption.

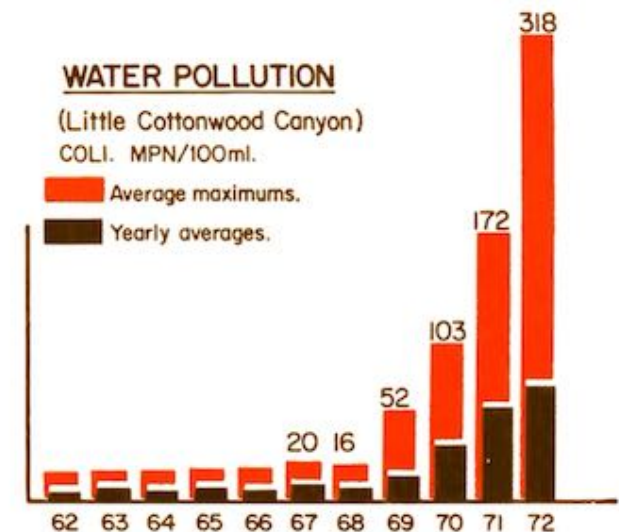
Between these extremes is Little Cottonwood Canyon. The recent surge of canyon housing developments has brought many semi-permanent residents onto this portion of the watershed, resulting in a tremendous rise in bacterial contamination of Little Cottonwood Stream. (See adjacent graph.)

Studies* indicate that the implementation of a sewer system in Little Cottonwood Canyon will not significantly lower the increase in coliform contamination associated with increased usage and development. If more stringent Federal standards for domestic water supplies are implemented, and if the trend of contamination increases at the recent rate, water in Little Cottonwood Creek may no longer be suitable for use as a part of Salt Lake City's water supply by the end of the 1970's.

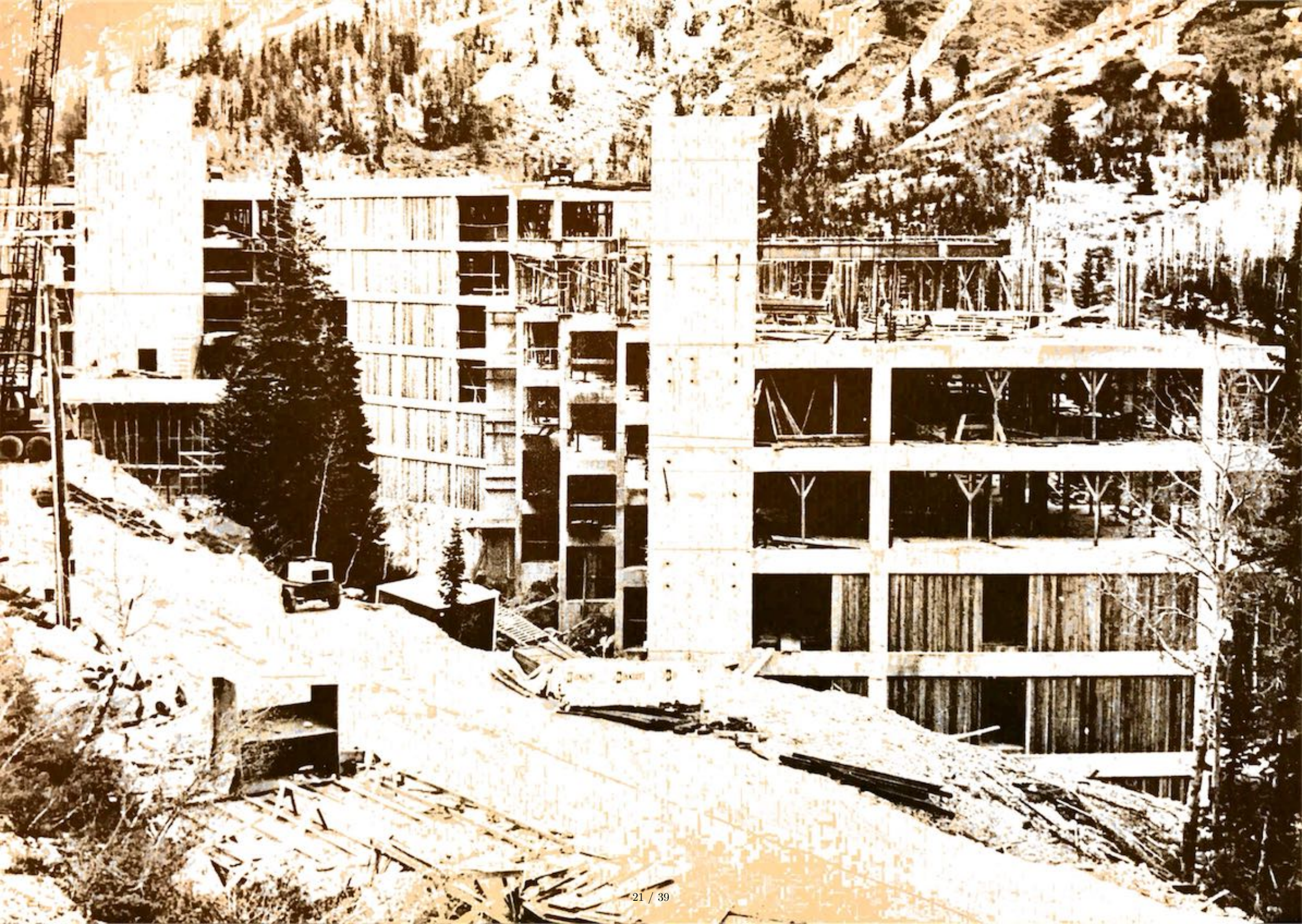
Many believe the following conclusions to be obvious:

- The Wasatch Mountains provide our most valuable resource—water. The rights to this vital resource belong to all of the people and must not be jeopardized for the benefit of any special interest groups.
- We must control carefully canyon development, particularly that which includes overnight and permanent residency.
- The time for long range planning is NOW, before the people of Salt Lake Valley have to pay for higher water treatment costs.

*Alta/Little Cottonwood Canyon Study, Preliminary Report, Ekbo, Dean, Austin & Williams, 1973.



Due to national advertising which has attracted more and more visitors to Little Cottonwood Canyon, water pollution in Little Cottonwood Stream has risen rapidly over the past decade. (The rise in water pollution is almost parallel to the amount of traffic in the canyon. See graph on page 9.) Graph from data furnished by the Salt Lake City Water Department.



"We have to be careful not to put too many people in a small area—like the deep, narrow canyons on the west side of the Wasatch Mountains. That's one reason behind Utah's decision last winter to turn down the next winter Olympics. In a dry country like this, nature doesn't cure depredation as quickly as in a moister area. Out here, we have places where you drive a jeep across and still see the tracks five years later."

CALVIN RAMPTON, Governor, State of Utah
(In an interview by *Sunset Magazine*, May 1973, p. 106)

Mountain Subdivisions and Canyon Condominiums

"Tourists won't come to Utah unless they can live, drink and shop right at the ski facilities." "We have to sell condominiums to pay for ski lifts and to bolster mid-week and off-season business." So go some short-sighted arguments for the urbanization of the canyons.

Large, populated developments in the canyons compromise the majority's needs. A recent Public Opinion Poll by the *Deseret News** showed that local residents are at least 2 to 1 against any further development in the canyon areas.

Overdevelopment is a possible problem in most of the canyons. It is an especially severe problem in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Snowbird is planning 3,200 luxury condominium units. Blackjack Village, adjacent to Snowbird, is planning approximately 1,000 more. Grizzly Resort plans about 330 hotel and condominium units. Another 200 units are planned as expansion of several existing lodges.

According to the *Alta/Little Cottonwood Canyon Study*† commissioned by the Salt Lake County government "If all these proposed developments are brought to completion at their current scale, the number of guest units would increase from the existing total of 452 to 4,757.... Daytime population which rarely exceeds 6,500 now would increase to nearly 20,000 during the peak ski season."† (Logan, Utah's 4th largest city, has a population of about 25,000.)

Our canyons cannot stand many more permanent or transient residents.† Visitors are welcome and tourists are vital to the state's economy, but overdevelopment in the mountains will spoil the very thing that tourists come to Utah for. The risk of canyon overdevelopment is too great to take.

**Deseret News*, October 14, 1972.

† *Alta/Little Cottonwood Canyon Study*.
Preliminary Report. Eckbo, Dean,
Austin, & Williams, 1973

Local residents opposed to such developments are urging that you:

- Support the efforts of county zoning authorities and water managers to prevent overpopulation of the watersheds.
- Encourage developers to select locations in the valley for their sub-divisions.
- Encourage your out-of-state relatives and visitors to use local, valley accommodations rather than those in the canyon areas.
- Ask your congressmen and legislators to work for federal purchase of private land holdings within the national forests.



Many scenic canyon areas, such as this area in Provo Canyon, are threatened by needless and costly highway "improvement projects." Photo courtesy of Hal Rumel.

Traffic

With thousands of cars moving up and down the canyons daily some congestion is inevitable. At Thanksgiving and Christmas, the half hour drive to and from the ski areas sometimes takes an hour or more. On warm July Saturdays, picnic area parking lots overflow up and down the highways. Large construction trucks slow traffic to a crawl and present passing hazards to many motorists.

Highway planners tend to remedy these problems with wider, straighter roads and more parking areas, which only compound the problems. Canyons are ruined for sight-seeing and picnicking by wide, high-speed, super-highways. (Consider Parley's Canyon and I-80, or the proposed 4-lane highway in Provo Canyon.)

Fishing streams are often ruined by careless and unnecessary straightening of stream channels. Old road beds and spoil banks are often abandoned, leaving them susceptible to severe erosion. Parking lots increase runoff and also help contribute to stream pollution.

Large numbers of canyon visitors are a problem, particularly if they must rely on the private automobile for transit. Traffic flow must be studied carefully for its impact on the various canyons in our mountain areas.

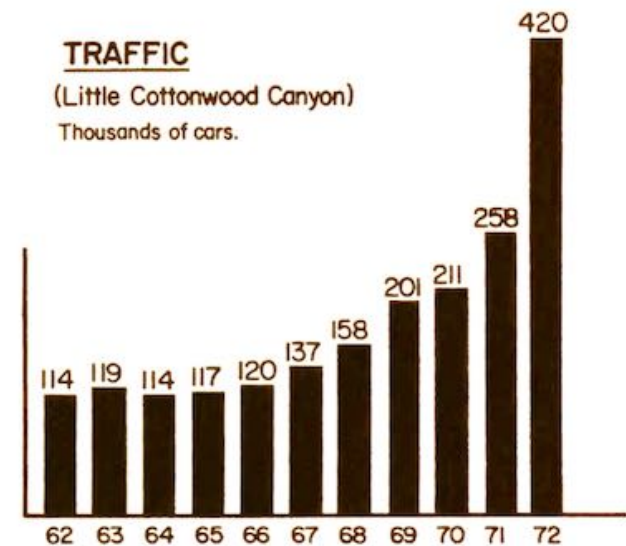
You can help solve some of the problems:

- **Help relieve congestion by sharing rides and car-pooling whenever possible.**
- **Encourage county officials to study the effect and feasibility of limiting the number of cars in the various canyons.**
- **Support study and planning of convenient rapid transit systems for the canyons. (Shuttle buses and an electric, narrow-gauge railway have been suggested as possible alternatives.)**

TRAFFIC

(Little Cottonwood Canyon)

Thousands of cars.



Over the past five years the traffic in Little Cottonwood Canyon has increased a dramatic 270%. Many believe that this great concentration of residents and visitors in this canyon is causing the destruction of Little Cottonwood Stream, a valuable portion of Salt Lake City's watershed. (Graph from Data of Utah Highway Dept. and the United States Forest Service.)



Lone Peak, one of the few unspoiled regions along the Wasatch Front, has been proposed as a National Wilderness Preservation Area. Photo courtesy of Alexis Kelner.

Our Vanishing Wilderness

To maintain a balanced use of our canyon and mountain areas some of our public lands must be kept free of any development. We need to guarantee that some wilderness is left for our children and their future generations.

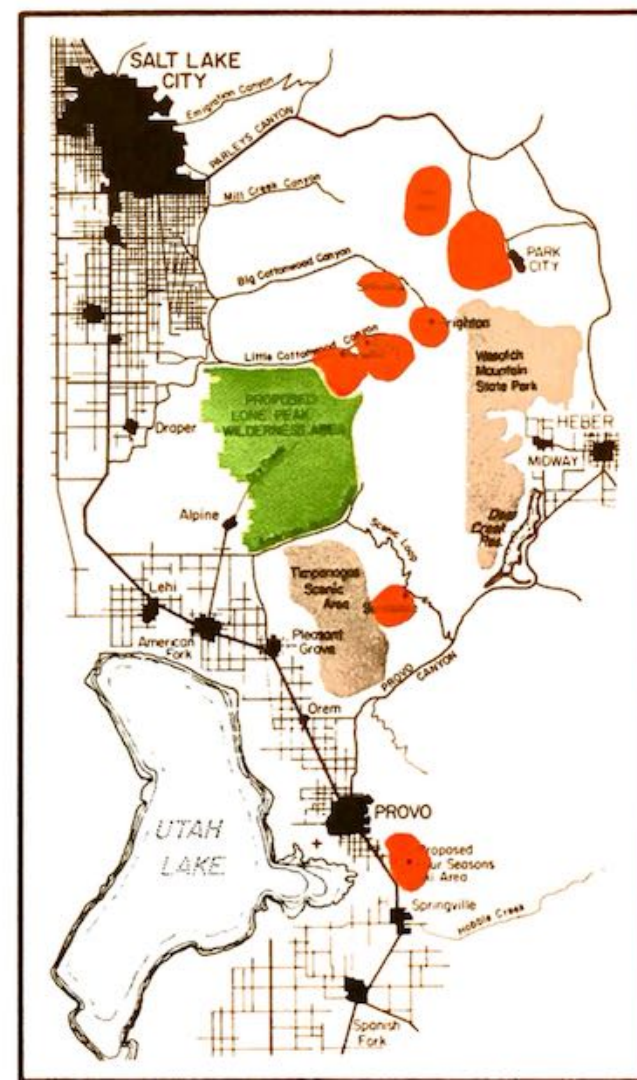
The Forest Service is currently managing some areas in the Wasatch and Uinta National Forests as "primitive, roadless" areas. During 1971, national forest administrators were directed to choose primitive lands within their jurisdictions for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Only one location in the vicinity of Salt Lake City was recommended: The Lone Peak area south of Little Cottonwood Canyon. Several other areas qualified for this study, but were not included.

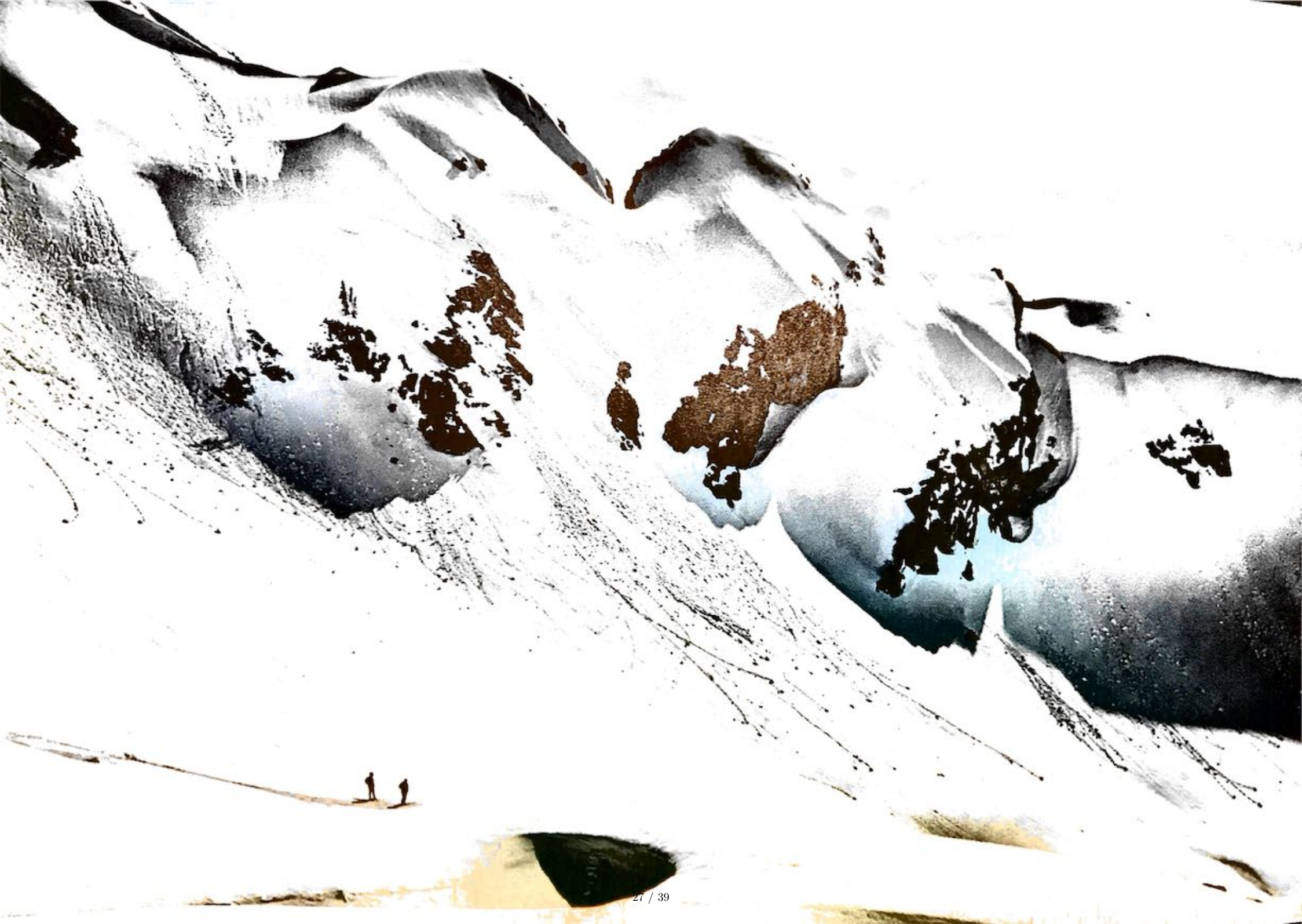
The Lone Peak region has been proposed as a protected wilderness area many times in the past. During public hearings held in July, 1972, a large majority of the witnesses expressed alarm at the rapid pace of commercial canyon developments and supported wilderness designation for the Lone Peak area.

As a result of this hearing legislation has been introduced by Utah Congressman Wayne Owens and Senator Frank Moss to include an area of approximately 35,000 acres of the Lone Peak region in a national wilderness preserve.

Conservationists are writing their legislators in support of the Lone Peak Wilderness bills. Many believe more Wasatch areas should be studied for possible inclusion in the National Wilderness System.

Red areas indicate high density commercial recreation areas. To balance this, Lone Peak Wilderness Area (dark green) has been proposed by Utah legislators.





It's not too late!

There is still time to save what is left of our canyons. But it's up to you. Although most residents of the Salt Lake Valley oppose further development of the canyons, they are unaccustomed to being involved in the political process. Only by communicating directly with local officials and only by appearing and testifying at public hearings can we prevent overintensive development of our canyons and guarantee the integrity and natural beauty of the canyons that we leave to our grandchildren as their heritage.

It's up to YOU!

Save Our Canyons Committee
Alexis Kelner, Chairman
P.O. Box 11852
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Additional copies of this booklet are available at \$1.00 per copy.



Photo courtesy of Utah Travel Council



Printed and Distributed as a Public Service by The Citizens Committtee to SAVE OUR CANYONS

Subject: situational assessment comment
From: Tom Diegel <tom.diegel@gmail.com>
To: comments@cw.utah.gov
Cc: Chris Adams <chris@csadams.net>
Date Sent: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 10:20:46 AM GMT-06:00
Date Received: Tuesday, March 22, 2022 10:20:59 AM GMT-06:00

The Wasatch Backcountry Alliance's board of directors, representing thousands of our members, is writing today to express our support for the Central Wasatch Commission's March 2022 document recommitting to the values associated with the 2015 Wasatch Mountain Accord. Locking in ski resort boundaries and canyon development in order to preserve the existing balance between backcountry terrain and developed terrain; development of efficient and relatively low-impact transportation solutions for all three Central Wasatch canyons that service dispersed use trailheads, enable access to public lands, discourage individual vehicle use, and do not connect the heads of Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons (including protecting/preserving Grizzly Gulch) and/or those canyons to the Wasatch Back; and protection of the watersheds of each of the canyons continue to be top priority goals of the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance. The recommitment document appears to us to also reflect those values.

However, the Wasatch Backcountry Alliance has been very disappointed in the slow pace of even getting started in achieving **any** of the goals outlined in the original Mountain Accord. We appreciate the complexity of the community and the goals, but considering that the entire community has been at the same table for nearly seven years, and the CWC has spent millions of dollars during that time, seemingly very little concrete progress has been accomplished. We are also very concerned that UDOT and the US Forest Service, as the two most important entities that have the vast amount of control over the process, lands and the ultimate outcomes, appear to be operating completely independently of the Mountain Accord. Plus UTA - as the primary public transit operator in the area - seems to be under-resourced and under-appreciated as a key stakeholder/provider, the state legislature doesn't seem to view this process as a state priority, and the federal delegation seems not to have an opinion on it, save perhaps for Rep. Curtis.

We appreciate the opportunity to recommit to the Mountain Accord values, but if the actual potential actions outlined in the Accord are not actively pursued and accomplished as soon as possible, then this seems like an empty effort.

WBA has always been and will continue to be willing to provide our support as appropriate as the process continues, so please let us know how we can help.

Subject: Comment on the Draft Restatement
From: Joan Degiorgio <jdegiorgio360@gmail.com>
To: comments@cw.c.utah.gov
Date Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2022 2:11:00 PM GMT-06:00
Date Received: Sunday, March 20, 2022 2:11:04 PM GMT-06:00

Dear Central Wasatch Commission,

Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on the draft Restatement and Recommitment of Values and Principles (and extending the deadline). I appreciate the years of work to get here, knowing that this type of collaboration can be very challenging and difficult; but, as noted in the draft Restatement, the years of piecemeal efforts HAVE TO BE behind us.

I repeatedly noticed that the draft Restatement seemed to put environment/water supply at the top of the list. This is essential and appreciated. In particular, I noticed a mention of critical habitats and corridors, While, this document does not get too specific - I hope the foundational work of the Environmental Dashboard continues so we can expertly answer the questions of what are key habitats and corridors.

Also of note is that any transportation solution has to be developed with a regional perspective - YES!

Additionally, if I was reading between the lines correctly, I think the draft Restatement also re-affirms that the ski resorts are limited to their existing boundaries; and, important recreational lands that are now private (am I correct in assuming this might be Grizzly Gulch?) are transferred/exchanged into public ownership. If I am reading this correctly - I am in full support.

JUST YES - on so many levels, this is the work that must be done to conserve and preserve these most incredible, amazing lands that support us in so many ways.

Thanks!

Joan Degiorgio

Subject: RESTATEMENT AND RECOMMITMENT OF THE VALUES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE MOUNTAIN ACCORD comments JHK

From: John Knoblock <johnhknoblock@yahoo.com>

To: "comments@cw.utah.gov" <comments@cw.utah.gov>

Cc: Barbara and Bob Cameron <barbaracameron@hotmail.com>

Date Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 10:04:54 PM GMT-06:00

Date Received: Friday, March 18, 2022 10:04:59 PM GMT-06:00

Hi CWC Staff and Common Ground-

For the record, I'll say this one more time. The restatement document is a good summary of the principles of the Accord and it's good to get all of the new players involved to recommit. However, there are a few points to consider-

1. The land exchanges that were sold to the ski resorts in exchange for freezing their boundaries died a swift death. Unless something significant changes in the way that the USFS does business, those exchanges will not ever happen, and therefore serious renegotiation of the Accord may be needed. Continuing to include the land exchange wording as if nothing changed is inappropriate. In the principles and values we say "we recognize that any proposed individual actions may warrant negotiation"; losing the land exchanges is an individual 'inaction' that probably warrants renegotiation.
2. The wording of "we agree to pursue a comprehensive and interdependent package of actions" implies that everything should be tied together and happen at once. That is a recipe for inaction. As Mayor Knopp said, we need to get actions done individually to prevent gridlock. This language should be deleted.
3. On the outcomes section, the roman numerals got duplicated, with a second set of v, vi, vii, viii, after the original viii.
4. On outcomes second item vi., I'd suggest adding the words "well maintained year-round" restrooms. They do no good if they are filthy or locked.
5. What is critical is that we actually get things accomplished. Endless meetings and documents with no action are a waste of everyone's time. Follow up on this restatement document with the list of all of the 'intended actions' from the Accord and document the status and who is doing what when to move each item forward. Include incentives for action and document impediments preventing action.
6. Maybe we need a "Whereas, management and stewardship of the Central Wasatch is very difficult because of the many various public and private landownerships and the overlapping management responsibilities of agencies including the USFS, UDOT, UTA, and SLCPU" and then "we agree to work in a close collaborative effort with the public and private landowners and all of the governmental agencies involved in the management of Central Wasatch lands including USFS, UDOT, UTA, and SLCPU."
7. The sections below seem somewhat redundant. It seems like the message could be said just once in more clear language.

We agree to pursue federal, state, local, and private action for land designations, voluntary land exchanges, conservation easements, and transit/transportation solutions where agreement is reached among stakeholders to support such actions which are consistent with the values and principles of this Restatement and Recommitment. We recognize that action on transit/transportation solutions would likely require corresponding action developed through a public consensus-building process relating to land designations, voluntary land exchanges, or conservation easements in order to maintain the delicate balance of principles and values sought by the public and to protect the future health and viability of the mountains.

We recognize that while certain actions may be pursued, there are related conditions that have been outlined previously in the Mountain Accord or may be subsequently developed that must occur in conjunction with any contemplated federal, state, local, or private action as a condition for support for such action, in order to maintain the delicate balance of principles and values sought by the public and to protect the future health and viability of the mountains.

To achieve the outcomes described above, we agree to pursue a comprehensive and interdependent package of actions including voluntary land exchanges, land designations, transportation improvements, environmental monitoring, visitor use management, and other actions. Because actions relating to the Central Wasatch are often interdependent, we recognize that any proposed individual actions may warrant negotiation, consensus-building, and other associated actions to maintain the balance of priorities desired for the Central Wasatch.

Thanks for listening,

John Knoblock
801-884-8987 cell

4475 S. Zarahemla Dr.
Millcreek, UT 84124

Subject: Fwd: Comments on Draft Restatement and Recommitment

From: Lindsey Nielsen <comments@cw.utah.gov>

To: Kaye Mickelson <kaye@cw.utah.gov>, Blake Perez <blake@cw.utah.gov>, Ralph Becker <ralph@cw.utah.gov>

Date Sent: Monday, March 21, 2022 10:51:25 AM GMT-06:00

Date Received: Monday, March 21, 2022 10:51:25 AM GMT-06:00

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Edward Marshall** <edmarshall246@gmail.com>

Date: Fri, Mar 18, 2022 at 11:54 AM

Subject: Comments on Draft Restatement and Recommitment

To: <Comments@cw.utah.gov>

MEMORANDUM

To: The CWC Commissioners and Staff
From: Edward T. Marshall on behalf of Log Haven
Restaurant & Flying Cloud Enterprises
Re: Comments on Draft Restatement and Recommitment
Date: March 18, 2022

I am a resident of Millcreek Canyon, a member of the Stakeholders Council, and a representative of Log Haven Restaurant. Our specific comments on the draft Restatement and Recommitment are as follows.

Forcible Takings: CGI failed to clarify in its proposed March 2nd draft that the CWC only intends to acquire private properties from *willing* sellers. Assuming the CWC does not intend to forcibly take properties or businesses from sellers who are not willing, please add the words "from willing sellers" after the words "to obtain inholdings" in the third line of section iii on page 4. CGI did add "from willing sellers" in the next line but failed to add it as requested again here. Business and property owners like Ruth's Diner, Log Haven, and Silver Fork Lodge should not have to live in fear of forcible takings being initiated or advocated by the CWC.

Future Development: The term "recreation" is a very subjective one, and its meaning depends upon the viewpoint of the people engaging in the activity. Therefore, since the restaurant/reception centers in the canyons do provide recreation opportunities for thousands of residents and visitors every month, please clarify the words "recreation nodes" in section v on page 4 by changing them to read "ski resort and restaurant nodes."

Ambiguity: In three separate places on page one, the draft attempts to commit the current CWC Commissioners to "implementing the negotiated outcomes" and pursuing the "specific negotiated interrelated actions" of the Mountain Accord. What are these undefined terms supposed to mean now that the negotiated deal between the ski resorts and the environmentalists is no longer viable? Do you know exactly what you would be agreeing to do and to implement as Commissioners? We urge you to review the Mountain Accord and clearly delineate your commitments in light of the current circumstances rather than agreeing to such ambiguous, overbroad and outdated language.

Decision-Making: Shouldn't the current CWC Board of elected local officials be exercising their own collective judgment about the actions they choose to take - rather than binding themselves to pursue actions and deals that were negotiated behind closed doors and rubber-stamped without a public hearing by a committee comprised mostly of non-elected individuals? Shouldn't the CWC Board be a *decision-making* body rather than binding itself to be primarily an *implementing* body? Shouldn't the CWC Board be able to take changed circumstances into account? If so, then this re-evaluation process is the perfect time for the CWC Commissioners to stop pledging undying allegiance to ambiguous "negotiated interrelated actions" and "negotiated outcomes."

Additional Federal Protections: The primary "negotiated interrelated actions" which the current CWC Commissioners should re-examine under the light of current circumstances is the proposed commitment in section ii on page 4 to continue pursuing "additional federal protections" for the local National Forest.

At the time of Mountain Accord, the regional Forest Supervisor informed a group of local residents that neither the 8,000 acres of proposed new "Wilderness" nor the Special Management Zone were in the Forest Service Plan, and they were neither necessary nor desirable. However, because the "architect" of the NCRA did not trust local National Forest officials to make good decisions, he wanted new regulations adopted far away in Washington D.C., where they would be hard to change. So the unnecessary "additional federal protections" were included in the NCRA as inducements not to object to the land exchanges with the ski resorts.

Since the land exchanges have now been determined to be unviable, both the call for 8,000 acres of new "Wilderness" Area in Millcreek Canyon and the proposed "Special Management Zone" are contrary to the interests of the local Central Wasatch governments and their constituents for the following reasons.

- Wildfires & Fuel Reductions: We now live in an age of rampant and destructive wildfires in the West. Such a wildfire in the Central Wasatch would damage the watershed for years and might damage the environment and recreational appeal for a generation. The federal and state governments have just begun to allocate funds for prompt fuel reductions and other fire prevention measures in the National Forests. Yet the Wilderness Act prohibits the use of all mechanical tools and thereby makes it prohibitively expensive to undertake such measures in designated "Wilderness" areas. Therefore, the CWC would unwisely increase the risk of Wasatch Canyon wildfires by continuing to pursue new Wilderness areas.
- Local Management: Under the existing federal regulations, the Forest Supervisor and District Ranger have at least a reasonable degree of flexibility to take local conditions and changing circumstances into account in managing the local National Forest. Imposing rigid new regulations to limit their discretion, based on a distrust of their judgment, would negatively impact their management flexibility and thereby negatively impact the neighboring localities and the residents who use and enjoy the National Forest.
- Access and Cooperation: Elected officials in the local cities and counties have direct access to the District Ranger and the Forest Supervisor to discuss and negotiate desired outcomes on specific issues relating to the local National Forest. Restricting their authority with new rules and regulations made and maintained in Washington D.C. would reduce their ability to cooperate with local governments.
- Opposition to Greater Federal Control of Utah Lands: The new Wilderness Area, the Special Management Zone, and the reduction of local control all directly contradict the principles and objectives of the Utah State Legislature and the Utah Congressional delegation. As long as the CWC continues to embrace these objectives, it will encounter conflicts with those who want more state and local control of the federal lands in Utah rather than less control. The many hours of work by the CWC Board and staff, as well as the many taxpayer dollars spent on lobbying the Legislature and the Congressional delegation to change their views, have not been well spent in the past and will not be well spent in the future.

For the preceding reasons, a recommitment to pursuing additional federal protections, as called for section ii on page 4, should be carefully re-evaluated under current circumstances by the current CWC Commissioners.

That concludes our comments. Thank you in advance for considering them seriously and especially for making the revisions requested in the first two sections above that would protect private property rights.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ed Marshall

--
Lindsey Nielsen, Communications Director
Central Wasatch Commission
lindsey@cwcc.utah.gov
801-706-1004

Subject: Comments on Draft Restatement and Recommitment
From: Edward Marshall <edmarshall246@gmail.com>
To: Comments@cwc.utah.gov
Date Sent: Friday, March 18, 2022 11:54:09 AM GMT-06:00
Date Received: Friday, March 18, 2022 11:54:49 AM GMT-06:00

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To: The CWC Commissioners and Staff
From: Edward T. Marshall on behalf of Log Haven
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Re: Comments on Draft Restatement and Recommitment
Date: March 18, 2022

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Respectfully Submitted,

Ed Marshall

Subject: Draft Restatement and Recommitment to Mountain Accord
From: Steve Achelis <stevea@bruff.com>
To: comments@cw.utah.gov
Date Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2022 7:36:24 AM GMT-07:00
Date Received: Thursday, March 10, 2022 7:37:09 AM GMT-07:00

I want to add my voice to support the Restatement and Recommitment to Mountain Accord. I believe the Central Wasatch mountains are an integral part of the quality of life in Utah.

Steve Achelis

801-560-57ss

Subject: Traffic

From: jeff anderson <altavalanche@gmail.com>

To: comments@cwu.utah.gov

Cc: mikemaughn@alta.com

Date Sent: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 10:00:19 AM GMT-07:00

Date Received: Wednesday, March 9, 2022 10:00:31 AM GMT-07:00

The way traffic upon departure is designed

Between state highway 210 and the private company Snowbird is not fair for people

Above Snowbird on 210. It is also illegal according to State of Utah law.

--

Warmest Regards,

Jeffrey Bronson Anderson

Alta's Rustler Lodge

Alta, Utah 84092