

CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION

RESOLUTION No. 2023-03

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING ACCESS IN CARDIFF FORK

WHEREAS, Cardiff Fork is the most popular winter trailhead in Big Cottonwood Canyon, with the public accustomed to the historical access it provides to the public lands contained within and around the confusing mosaic of public and private that is Cardiff Fork; and

WHEREAS, the public strongly desires to access to public lands in and about Cardiff Fork, and the only reasonable access to the public lands high in the canyon requires crossing the intervening private lands; and

WHEREAS, the public's use of the public lands in and about Cardiff Fork often results in unknowing trespasses by the public onto private lands due to the difficulty of identifying property boundaries in the complex geography, leading to disputes and confrontations between the naïve trespassers and the private landowners; and

WHEREAS, to address that conflict, in about 2012 the United States Forest Service (“*USFS*”) granted a ten-year special use permit (the “*SUP*”) to the Cardiff Canyon owner's association (the “*Owners Association*”), allowing those private landowners to use motorized vehicles to travel across a very rough historic mining road on USFS lands in exchange for the private landowners allowing the public to cross private lands to access the adjacent public lands; and

WHEREAS, the SUP expired in May 2022 and the Owner's Association chose not to apply for reissuance of it, resulting in USFS's current ban of all motorized use in Cardiff Fork and renewed disputes between the private landowners and the public concerning public entry on private lands; and

WHEREAS, the current situation in Cardiff Fork hampers both the private landowners, whose access would be enhanced if limited use of motorized vehicles was permitted as under the SUP, and the public, whose access to public lands would be enhanced if they were permitted to freely cross private lands as under the SUP; and

WHEREAS, consequently, CWC's Board of Commissioners (the “*Board*”) met in regular session on 9 January 2023 to consider, among other things, encouraging all stakeholders—including USFS, the Owners Association, Salt Lake County (as the local governmental authority with jurisdiction over Cardiff Fork) and Salt Lake City (by right of the perennial flow of Cardiff Fork water into the Big Cottonwood watershed and its ownership of adjacent parcels)—to promptly engage in diligent, good-faith efforts to resolve the current impasse in order to restore public access as under the SUP;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Central Wasatch Commission that the CWC encourages all the aforementioned stakeholders to promptly engage in diligent, good-faith efforts to resolve the current impasse in order to restore public access within Cardiff Fork as under the SUP.

This Resolution, assigned no. 2023-03, shall take effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 9th day of January 2023.

ATTEST:

CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION

By: _____
Jeff Silvestrini, Secretary

By: _____
Christopher F. Robinson, Chair of the Board

VOTING OF THE BOARD:

Roger Bourke	Yea ___ Nay ___
Dan Knopp	Yea ___ Nay ___
Erin Mendenhall	Yea ___ Nay ___
Christopher Robinson	Yea ___ Nay ___
Jeff Silvestrini	Yea ___ Nay ___
Michael Weichers	Yea ___ Nay ___
Nann Worel	Yea ___ Nay ___
Monica Zoltanski	Yea ___ Nay ___

DEPOSITED in the office of the Secretary this 9th day of January 2023.

FILED AND RECORDED this 9th day of January 2023.