



WASATCH CANYONS GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

PARLEYS • MILL CREEK • BIG COTTONWOOD • LITTLE COTTONWOOD • THE FOOTHILLS

ADOPTED JUNE 2020

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BACKGROUND

The Wasatch Canyons General Plan is part of an ongoing Salt Lake County planning effort that began over forty years ago. In 1965, Salt Lake County adopted a General Master Plan for the entire Salt Lake Valley. This plan divided the County into seven large planning districts, one being the Canyon District. In 1989, Salt Lake County adopted the Wasatch Canyons Master Plan. The 1989 Master Plan Area included the following seven major canyons of the Wasatch Front in the planning area: Little Cottonwood Canyon, Big Cottonwood Canyon, Mill Creek Canyon, Parleys Canyon, Emigration Canyon, Red Butte Canyon, and City Creek Canyon. In 2013, the County initiated a planning project to update the 1989 Wasatch Canyons Master Plan. That effort was set aside, as planning for Emigration Canyon was being pursued by a newly created Salt Lake County township. Emigration Canyon is a township with its own planning authority and general plan. The County also participated in the Mountain Accord planning project from 2013 to 2015. The Mountain Accord process entailed a collaborative planning project among Canyon area stakeholders, and resulted in an agreed-upon advisory document for the Wasatch Mountains. Red Butte Canyon is managed by the U.S. Forest Service as a Research Natural Area, and City Creek Canyon is largely located within Salt Lake City's incorporated boundary and managed by Salt Lake City as a Protected Watershed and Nature Preserve. As a result, those canyons were not included in this planning document.

This General Plan is the update to the 1989 Master Plan for the Wasatch Canyons planning area, and covers Parleys, Mill Creek, Big Cottonwood, and Little Cottonwood Canyons. Research and public input that was gathered during the previous Master Plan creation process, subsequent visioning processes, and canyon related-studies have been evaluated and utilized in the creation of this current document.

If the County receives any formal proposal that requires a planning-related decision but is not specifically mentioned in this General Plan, it is generally understood that the applicable County authority should consider the vision statements, goals and strategies set forth in this General Plan in a holistic manner in connection with any formal recommendation or final action regarding such matter.

PLAN AREA

The Wasatch Canyons General Plan, Plan Area (Plan Area) follows the County's Mountainous Planning District area, and includes Parleys Canyon, Mill Creek Canyon, Big Cottonwood Canyon, Little Cottonwood Canyon, and the unincorporated foothills areas between the canyon mouths.

The Plan Area is adjacent to the Salt Lake County metropolitan area on the west (the Wasatch Front), and the Summit County/Wasatch County (the Wasatch Back). It has been said that the Wasatch Mountains and Canyons have become an island of watershed, forest, wilderness and wildlife habitat, surrounded by urban growth.

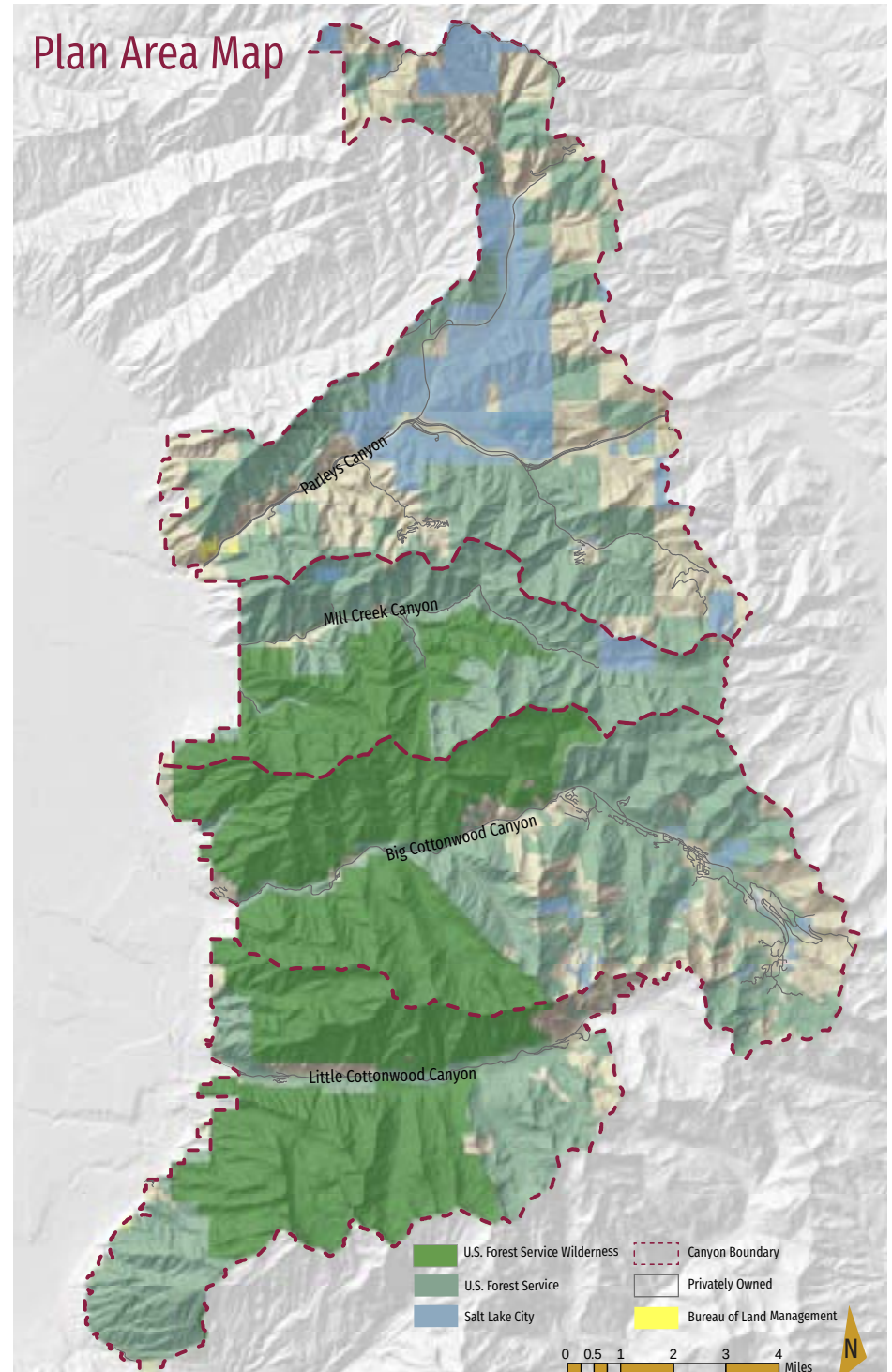


Figure 1: View of the Wasatch Canyons

PLAN CONTEXT

The majority of the land in the Wasatch Canyons is managed by the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (Forest Service) as part of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Salt Lake County is required to have a General Plan for all unincorporated areas, including areas where it doesn't have the primary jurisdictional authority. This Plan recognizes the importance of the Wasatch Canyons for all of Salt Lake County and that County residents are the primary recreation group in the Canyons. Along with General Plan requirements, the County would like to assist the Forest Service, UDOT, and other agencies manage the increasing demands on the Canyons.

A diverse range of agencies share overlapping jurisdiction and regulatory authority within the Wasatch Canyons. Agencies with significant responsibilities providing service in the Wasatch Canyons planning area include:

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

The US Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (the Forest Service) has responsibility for managing forest lands pursuant to the federal National Forest Management Act. Under that authority, the Forest Service adopted the 2003 Revised Forest Plan, Wasatch-Cache National Forest, which guides management and decision-making for forest lands in the Wasatch Canyons study area.

SALT LAKE COUNTY

The County has zoning and land use regulatory jurisdiction over private property in the Canyons. The County also provides emergency management, animal control, public health, and water quality management in the Canyons. In addition, the County provides management and maintenance of the roadway in Mill Creek Canyon.

UTAH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (UDOT)

UDOT operates and maintains the State highways in Big Cottonwood and Little Cottonwood Canyons. UDOT also operates and maintains U.S. Interstate 80 (I-80) through Parleys Canyon. UDOT has authority to make decisions regarding the operation, maintenance, and improvements to I-80 and State Routes.

UTAH TRANSIT AUTHORITY (UTA)

UTA provides winter transit services in its service area, including bus service in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons to service the ski resorts and a route to Park City through Parleys Canyon. UTA also partners with the Forest Service, Salt Lake County, and cities that abut the Canyons planning area to develop and operate transit support facilities, such as Park and Ride lots and bus stops in the Canyons.

SALT LAKE CITY

Pursuant to Section 10-8-15 of the Utah Code, Salt Lake City has extraterritorial jurisdiction over protected watershed areas in the Wasatch Canyons to protect drinking water resources. Additionally, Salt Lake City shares joint authority with the Salt Lake County Health Department. Under that grant of authority, the City has adopted the 1999 Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan and implementing ordinances. Chapter 17 of the Salt Lake City Code contains regulations addressing subdivisions, approval of construction projects, waste disposal, livestock and other animals, water use and sanitary facilities, and water pollution. Salt Lake City's water service area includes: Cottonwood Heights, Holladay, Midvale, Millcreek, Murray and Salt Lake City.

CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION (CWC)

According to the CWC website, "The Central Wasatch Commission is an interlocal governmental entity with jurisdictions in the Town of Alta, Cottonwood Heights, Millcreek City, Park City, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, Sandy City, Summit County, and the Utah Department of Transportation. The area of focus is between I-80 and the Salt Lake County line south of Little Cottonwood Canyon. Its mission is to implement Mountain Accord. Building on the work of Mountain Accord, the Commission seeks to engage the public, build consensus, and coordinate the actions in the Central Wasatch Mountains."

Several adjacent cities also have regulatory authority over private property that borders the Plan Area and lands that extend into environmentally sensitive foothills and canyon areas within their own jurisdictions.

This General Plan broadly considers resources, agency management plans, service providers, and the County's partners in recreation, transportation, and environmental quality across jurisdictional boundaries.

TOWNS

The Town of Brighton was incorporated December 30th, 2019 and consists of approximately the upper half of Big Cottonwood Canyon. The Town of Brighton's input in planning, inter agency collaboration, and management of the Canyons is critical to the success of Big Cottonwood Canyon.

The Town of Alta was incorporated in 1970 and has its own General Plan and land use authority.

THE GREATER SALT LAKE MUNICIPAL SERVICES DISTRICT (MSD)

The Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District (MSD) is a service provider for Unincorporated Salt Lake County and Town of Brighton, among other local jurisdictions. Some of the General Plan related MSD services include: Building Inspections and Permits, Code Enforcement, Engineering Services, Planning and Development, and Public Works.

As a service provider for the County and Town of Brighton, the MSD will be tasked to provide the daily services required for the County to implement the goals, actions and objectives of the General Plan.

WHAT IS A GENERAL PLAN?

A general plan is the long-range plan for the physical development of a community. General plans in Utah are authorized and required by the Land Use Development and Management Act (LUDMA) located in Utah State Code, Titles 10 and 17. Section 17-27a-401 of Utah State Law requires that all counties adopt a comprehensive general plan for the purposes of addressing the present and future needs of the county regarding "growth and development of the land within the county or any part of the county." The general plan should also be considered to be flexible to account for future changes unforeseen at the time of its creation.

The overall intent of a general plan is to make the planning process simple, fair, efficient, and predictable. For each area of the County it identifies what types of development are considered desirable and appropriate.

The General Plan is an advisory, non-binding document. This plan is to be used by the Salt Lake County Council, Mountainous Planning District Planning Commission, Community Councils, Municipal Services District,

developers, property owners, and the staff of various County departments as a policy guide for making planning-related decisions. This General Plan describes the future desired conditions regarding land use, community design, transportation, housing, the natural environment, business and economics, and community services. Its policies apply to both public and private properties, and is consulted when considering zoning changes, site plan review for specific developments, and other land use matters.

PLANNING AUTHORITY

This General Plan is intended to be a legally adopted policy document, and has been prepared to comply with Utah State law. Utah Code 17-27a-401 identifies the topics to address in a county general plan. Per LUDMA, local governments are given some flexibility in the organization of these elements, and may address other topics of local interest or importance in a general plan.

Over time, changes in current circumstances will occur for many reasons, including unforeseen conditions, new development trends, and advancements in technology and information. These variables are subject to review and it may be necessary to amend this General Plan from time to time to ensure that it remains relevant. Requests for amendment may be submitted by individuals or initiated by the County itself.

In addition to policies, this General Plan also contains implementation strategies, recommendations, and specific projects to accomplish Plan goals. The Actions sections of the document (included in chapters 2-6) are intended to be reviewed and updated periodically by Salt Lake County, allowing for evaluation of progress on project implementation, as well as considering the addition of new implementation projects.

GENERAL PLANS HAVE A LONG-TERM HORIZON AND GENERALLY LOOK OUT TWENTY OR MORE YEARS. THESE PLANS SHOULD BE REVIEWED AND UPDATED ON A REGULAR BASIS.

HOW TO USE THE PLAN

A number of the goals, policies, and implementation strategies are common across entire the Plan Area, such as those relating to forest health, watershed protection, fire management, and others. Those Canyon area-wide subjects are discussed in this Chapter. It is anticipated that some readers may be most interested in a single Canyon area, rather than the entire Plan Area. As a result, this General Plan is structured so that the reader may focus on an area of interest. To have a full understanding of the conditions and issues in a chosen area, it is recommended to read Chapter 1, which covers common issues in the overall planning area, alongside the Canyon area of choice.

Chapter 1 Introduction

Chapter 1 of this document includes: (i) a description of the Plan Area; (ii) provides background information on Canyon planning and the jurisdictional authorities in the planning area; (iii) describes current conditions in the Canyons planning area; (iv) outlines the public engagement process; and (v) provides the Vision Statements and Guiding Principles that are the foundation of this Plan.

Chapter 2-6 Canyons and the Foothills Chapters

Chapters 2-6 outline current conditions, goals, policies, and implementation strategies of each canyon and the foothills. Each of these chapters also repeats the goals, policies, and implementation strategies for the Wasatch Canyons Planning Area to the extent they relate to all of the Canyons and the foothills.

Appendices

The appendices show demographics for the Canyons and Salt Lake County, along with summaries of public surveys and open houses conducted during the planning process.

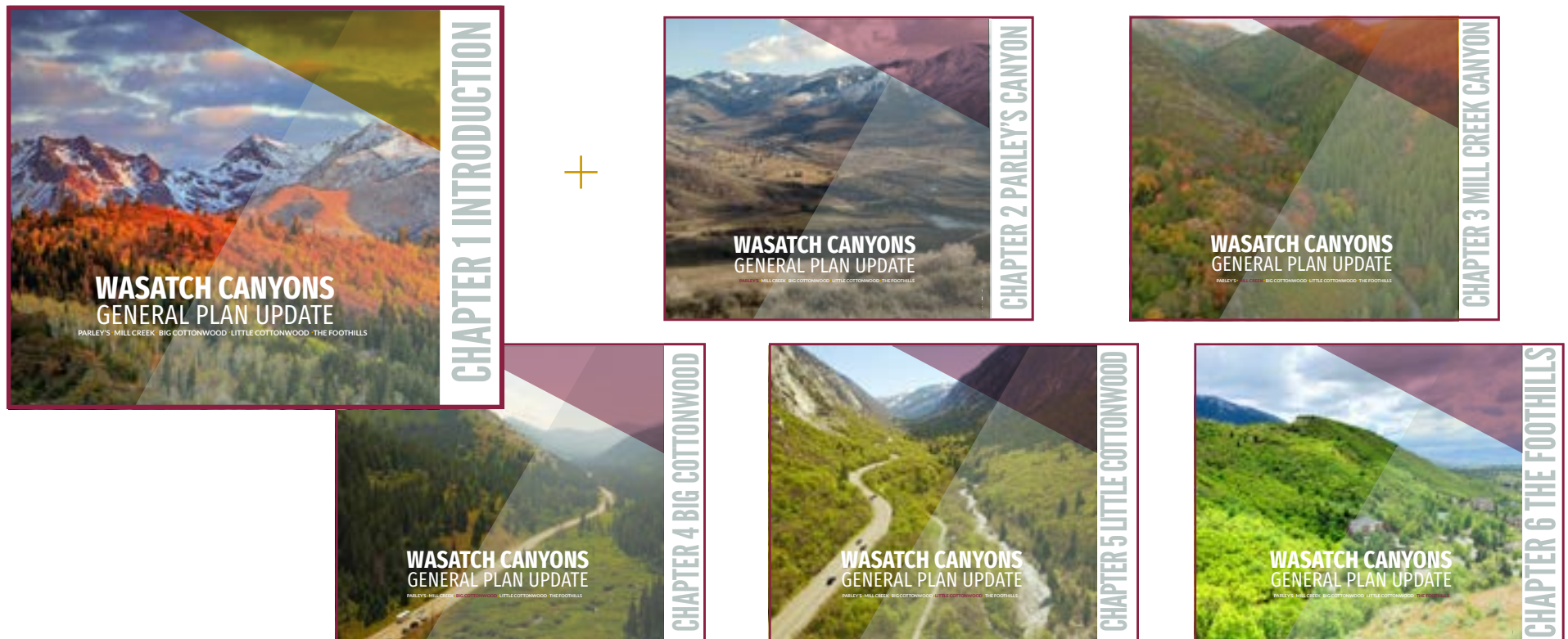




Figure 2: Big Cottonwood Canyon looking east - Jake Young

PRIOR PLANNING DOCUMENTS

SALT LAKE COUNTY RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN (2016)

The [Salt Lake County Resource Management Plan \(CRMP\)](#) is a planning document that is used to define policy, goals, and objectives for managing natural resources on public lands (defined in Utah Code Section [63L-6-102](#)) within Salt Lake County. The CRMP serves two important purposes. First, the planning process required by the CRMP allowed Salt Lake County to assess natural resources that play important roles in the local economy and set goals and objectives for the protection and utilization of those resources. Second, the CRMP provides local land use plans that federal land managers can consider in their planning processes for public lands. Many of the management objectives, policies, and guidelines of the CRMP are relevant to planning in the Wasatch Canyons and are referred to in this General Plan.

The CRMP is made a part of this Wasatch Canyons General Plan as required by Utah Code [17-27a-401\(3\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#).

SALT LAKE COUNTY INTEGRATED WATERSHED PLAN (2015)

Under Section 208 of the Federal Clean Water Act, the State of Utah delegated area-wide water quality planning authority to the Salt Lake County government in 1978 (Salt Lake County Ordinances, 2009, Section 6.1.3). This designation as the area-wide water quality planning agency authorizes Salt Lake County to:

- Plan water quality related activities
- Provide for consistency of water quality related activities
- Enforce water quality related ordinances

[The 2015 Plan](#) continues the area-wide water quality planning process and updates the 2009 Plan by focusing on the overriding goal of improving watershed functions and providing high-quality surface waters that support the national Clean Water Act goals of fish-able and swim-able waters.

MOUNTAIN ACCORD (2015)

[The Mountain Accord](#) is an agreement that represents the 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, while preserving our watershed and natural environment. The signers intended the Accord to influence future, local, regional, and statewide planning, and to initiate efforts to enact meaningful protections and preservations for the Central Wasatch in the face of growing pressures “...on this beloved mountain range.”

FCOZ BLUE RIBBON REPORT (2013)

In June of 2012, former Salt Lake County Mayor Peter M. Corroon commissioned the 14-member Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) to evaluate and make recommendations regarding how well the County’s Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone (FCOZ) was working 15 years after it first was adopted. The final report presented guiding principles to be considered in connection with anticipated revisions to the FCOZ ordinance. The work of the BRC led to three main conclusions:

1. The principles and values in the original FCOZ ordinance remain true today, and are of equal importance as when the ordinance was adopted in 1997.
2. The challenges and pressures in the FCOZ areas are different today than they were in 1997. The FCOZ ordinance must be updated and adapted to reflect and address contemporary issues and pressures.
3. The FCOZ zoning review and development process must be objective, predictable, and transparent in order to fairly balance property rights and environmental protection and to recognize the collective community values and needs of residents who depend on the Canyons.

WASATCH CANYONS TOMORROW (2010)

The [Wasatch Canyons Tomorrow report](#) gives a menu of recommendations for projects, best management practices, and policies to be considered to address current and anticipated challenges in the management of the Wasatch Canyons. The Wasatch Canyons Tomorrow report process was designed to create a broadly supported public vision and guiding principles for the future of the Wasatch Canyons within Salt Lake County. It addressed challenging issues and outlined approaches to those issues that minimize the impacts of growth on the Canyons. The State of Utah, Salt Lake County, and Salt Lake City jointly sponsored this process, in partnership with the Forest Service.

WASATCH-CACHE REVISED NATIONAL FOREST PLAN (2003) (AS AMENDED)

As part of a national strategy for forest management, the Forest Service prepared the Forest Plan for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest in 1986. Most recently revised in [2003, the Forest Plan](#) (as amended) lays out four major goals: ecosystem health, multiple benefits to people, scientific and technical assistance, and effective public service. These goals are consistent with the Forest Service’s conservation mission of “caring for the land and serving the people.” In 2008, the Uinta National Forest merged with the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, which is now managed as the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

In addition to ecosystem management, the Revised Forest Plan (as amended) outlines forest-wide goals, including summer and winter recreation opportunities, management prescriptions, and monitoring and evaluation requirements. The Plan includes area-specific direction and maps with desired future conditions. The Forest Service uses many different designations for the land pertaining to wildlife, forest ecology, and land use. These designations inform where uses such as mining, grazing, restoration, and recreation are allowed to occur in the forest. The original premise for the Wasatch-Cache Forest Plan is to provide for the long-term supply of high-quality water to the Salt Lake Valley. Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County, and the Forest Service work in cooperation to protect water resources emanating from Forest Service boundaries.

The Wasatch-Cache Forest Plan covers about two million acres of federal land, approximately 83,831 of which are in the study area. Approximately 73% of the total land area included in the Wasatch Canyons General Plan study area are Forest Service-managed lands, making the Forest Service a key member of any decision-making process.

The Forest Service’s mission is “The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.”

The motto is “Caring for the Land and Serving People”.

See <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/meet-forest-service>

SALT LAKE CITY WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN (1999)

[The Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan](#) was adopted in 1999 to preserve the water quality in the Salt Lake City watershed area. The plan focuses on watershed management in the Wasatch Canyons General Plan project area, as well as three additional canyons in Salt Lake County. The watershed comprises the waters of the creeks, the surrounding lands within the drainage, and the groundwater recharge areas for the Salt Lake Valley. General Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan recommendations include:

- Review of residential and commercial development for any project that may affect water quality.
- Continued education regarding the use of water and protection of water quality.
- Management strategies for dispersed recreation and its enforcement.
- Innovation in land and water rights acquisition and ideas for expanding partnerships.
- Continued and refined fire management and garbage collection.
- Continued water-quality monitoring.

Salt Lake City is beginning an update to its Watershed Management Plan, the process will evaluate new threats to drinking water supplies that originate in the Wasatch Mountains.

UNINCORPORATED SALT LAKE COUNTY MODERATE INCOME HOUSING PLAN

In 2019 Salt Lake County adopted the Moderate-Income Housing Element for Unincorporated Salt Lake County. [This housing plan](#) represents the Housing Element of the General Plan.

OTHER PLANS AND STUDIES

Following is a list of special purpose studies and plans relevant to the Wasatch Canyons planning area, and from which information has been incorporated in the development of this General Plan:

- [Cottonwood Canyons Scenic Byways Corridor Management Plan \(2008\)](#)
- [Mountain Transportation Study Final Report \(2012\)](#)
- Cottonwood Canyons Parking Study – Recommendations (2012)
- [Mill Creek Canyon Transportation Feasibility Study \(2012\)](#)
- Cottonwood Canyons Recommendations to the Central Wasatch Commission (2017)
- [Big Cottonwood Canyon 3T Improvement Project \(2017\)](#)
- Mountain Accord Cottonwood Canyons Short- to Mid-Term Transportation Solutions Technical Memorandum (2017)
- Little Cottonwood Canyon Trails, Roadway Information, and Parking Preliminary Design (2018)
- [Salt Lake County Water Quality Annual Report \(2016\)](#)
- [An Estimation of Visitor Use in LCC, BCC & Millcreek Canyons, Central Wasatch Visitor Use Study - Mountain Accord Presentation](#)
- [Backcountry Trail Counting Program \(on going\)](#)
- [Weather and Air Quality Drive the Winter use of Utah's Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons](#)
- [Big Cottonwood Scenic Bikeway Study \(2015\)](#)
- U of U Crimson Engineering Bicycle Study (2005)
- [Wasatch Boulevard Master Plan \(2019\)](#)

Note: Links were active April 2020



Figure 3: Brighton Lakes Hike - Jared Stewart

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE WASATCH CANYONS

The Wasatch Mountains provide a stunning backdrop to Salt Lake Valley, and serve as the water source for many Wasatch Front communities. In addition, the Wasatch Canyons provide a respite from the noise and bustle of the urban area, and offer a myriad of recreational activities and pursuits. The importance of the Wasatch Mountain and its canyons is centered on drinking water supply, recreation, the economy, and community health.

Within the Wasatch Canyons General Plan study area are lands on the front of the Wasatch Mountains between the mouths and outside the drainage areas of the Canyons in the Wasatch foothills. In some areas, the limits of adjacent cities abut public lands managed by the Forest Service. In other areas, unincorporated lands are between city limits and forest boundaries, and are under the jurisdictional control of Salt Lake County.

The Wasatch Canyons and foothills are under increasing pressure from visitation, development, traffic, and other factors. These areas are in danger of being “loved to death.”

This General Plan has been organized to address five “themes” of planning in the Wasatch Canyons: Land Use, Environment, Recreation, Transportation, and Economy (Housing is included in Chapter 1). The General Plan contains vision statements, goals, policies, and implementation strategies for each theme. The existing conditions, pressures, and challenges are identified for these resources to guide future planning and management in the five areas of future planning.

Utah's population has grown continually since the pioneer founding and is expected to continue to grow. The Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute June, 2019 Fact Sheet projects that Utah's population will grow on average at 1.7 percent per year from 3,166,647 in 2018 to 3,739,193 in 2028 for a total growth of 572,546 new residents. Both natural increase and net in-migration represent significant portions of growth. The number of households is expected to grow by 274,447, from 1,061,030 in 2018 to 1,335,477 in 2028—an average growth of 2.3 percent annually.



Figure 4: Snowbird Tram - Jake Young



Figure 5: Solitude Full Parking Lot - Jake Young

The 2010 Wasatch Canyons Tomorrow Plan by Envision Utah states:

“By some credible estimates, there will be 3 million people in the Salt Lake Valley by the turn of the next century. Inevitably, this growth will further stress mountain resources. Each canyon in the study area is environmentally sensitive and limited in its ability to sustain user-impacts. Looking ahead, one can imagine a range of future possibilities for the Wasatch Canyons from natural areas, to amenity-rich resorts, to something in between. We cannot escape the fact, however, that our decisions or failure to make decisions will determine that future. Finding a balance on the desired future is not easy. Needs and uses vary. Cyclists enjoy the beauty and challenge of riding in the canyons, but find the narrow roads fraught with peril. Others foresee expanding our world-class ski resorts and terrain to rival any in the world, generating substantial economic activity. Some private landowners have dreams of developing their land and feel that their property rights are overly constrained. Yet many residents warn that increased development and use will degrade the quality and quantity of our water supply. Many people enjoy escaping the valley, but find cherished solitude ever more elusive. Most are concerned with increasingly congested mountain roads, but differ over the appropriate solution. Add to these a host of other issues: invasive weeds, fiscal impacts, dogs, access to backcountry skiing, climate change impacts, connections to Summit County, wildlife impacts, and more.”

With the increase in state and local populations and visitors comes growing demands on the resources, public facilities and environment of the Canyons. With the growth of visitation in the Canyons many have wondered how many visitors can the Canyons handle or sustain? There are many different types of capacity such as transit, vehicles on roads, trail head parking, trails, skiers, and more. All of these different uses can have impacts on watersheds, ecosystems, wildlife and more. A common term is “visitor carrying capacity” when looking at the amount of people recreating or visiting the area in a period of time.

It's critical to understand who has the authority relating to capacity which relates to land usage in the Forest Service areas. "The Forest Service has authority to regulate occupancy and use of National Forest System (NFS) lands under the Organic Act of 1897 (16 USC 551). The Act provides the Secretary of Agriculture with the authority to make rules, regulations, and establish service that ensures the protection of NFS lands, in accordance with the purposes for which the lands have been reserved, namely, to regulate their occupancy and use to preserve the forests and reduce forest degradation."



Figure 6: Foothills Hikers - Jake Young

The Forest Service also stated "The 2003 Wasatch-Cache Revised Forest Plan acknowledges that the tri-canyon area, including Millcreek, Big and Little Cottonwood canyons, provides a wide array of recreational opportunities designed to serve a large and growing urban population, while maintaining stable watersheds, water quality, and ecological integrity of the land, its physical resources, and its biological communities. The Plan directs Forest decisions responding to increasing recreation demands, to give first consideration to desired water quality and riparian conditions. In specific regards to wilderness, the Plan directs the Forest Service to control and reduce the adverse impacts of human use through education and minimum regulation. The Plan also indicates that the Forest Service will not allow crowding and physical impacts from visitor use to reach levels where solitude is destroyed, or evidence of humans dominates."

In 2019 the Forest Service made a statement that they were not considering specific carrying capacities for Little Cottonwood, Big Cottonwood, Mill Creek and Parleys Canyons [Forest Supervisor provided Visitor Capacity Q&A and made this statement at July 1, 2019 CWC Public Meeting]. The Forest Service monitors impacts on Forest health through the Forest Plan Biennial Monitoring Report which focuses on a number of items including: visitor satisfaction, forest access, watershed conditions, fire management, fuels reduction, ecosystem health, land use and permits. This report provides recent research and direction.

The County is committed to being a partner in assisting the Forest Service and will review the report mentioned above and other reports/studies as carried out by the Forest Service. In the future, if the Forest Service adopts a visitor carrying capacity or similar study the County will consider reviewing and updating this plan to best assist the Forest Service in achieving common goals.



Figure 7 - Little Cottonwood Temporary Restrooms for Special Event - Jake

LAND USE

The Plan Area encompasses approximately 98,614 acres. Of that total, The Federal Government is the largest land owner in the Plan Area, with the Forest Service managing approximately 83,831 acres (73%) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) managing 159 acres of the Plan Area. The other 30,593 acres (27%) are privately owned. Other ownerships, including Salt Lake County, total less than 1% of the Plan Area.

The National Forest Service Lands in the Wasatch Canyons are managed under the 2003 Revised Forest Plan for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. Use of National Forest lands is governed by federal laws and regulations that are designed to protect natural resources while allowing for appropriate recreational and other uses.

Land uses on private property in the Canyons include residences, businesses, and recreational facilities, and are governed by Salt Lake County land use ordinances. In 1972, Salt Lake County zoned all of the public and private lands in the Canyons. Most of the Canyon is regulated under the FR (Forestry and Recreation) or the FM (Forestry Multifamily) Zoning designations, with smaller areas in commercial zoning.

In 1997, an overlay zone was applied to unincorporated areas of Salt Lake County in the Wasatch Canyons. Combined with zoning regulations, the Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone, or FCOZ, is generally intended to preserve the natural character of the Wasatch Canyons by establishing standards for foothill and canyon development. FCOZ standards allow development to be evaluated on a site-by-site basis, while ensuring that development will be compatible with the natural landscape. FCOZ prohibits the development of structures on slopes greater than 30% grade, but allows for exceptions for already recorded lots.

In 2017, the Mountain Resort Zone District (MRZ) was established as a new zoning district to address the particular issues and needs raised by mountain resorts. The MRZ has specific requirements for base areas called Village District and different requirements for Recreation District, which is the mountain slope part of the resorts.

HOUSING

A number of areas in the Canyons have been developed for single- and multi-family residential uses, with a mix of seasonal and full-time occupancy. A number of homes exist within the Canyons, many of which were built before current land use regulations were adopted. Interest in new housing development within the Canyons has risen in recent years. Constraints on new residential development include water availability, sewer, transportation, access, and topographic issues.

Future development of private properties in the Wasatch Canyons should respect private property rights, while providing for natural resource protections. Allowing for appropriate additional development of new homes and addressing potential environmental issues posed by older homes will require a mix of land use regulations, technical and financial support, and other innovative techniques.

Pursuant to State statute, Salt Lake County has adopted a 2019 Moderate Income Housing (MIH) Plan for the unincorporated areas of the County. The MIH provides housing information for three areas of the County: the West Bench, unincorporated Islands in the Salt Lake Valley, and the Wasatch Canyons. The 2019 Senate Bill (SB) 34 requires cities/counties to adopt a minimum of 3 housing strategies from a “menu” and communities with fixed transportation (i.e. rail) have additional requirements.



Figure 8: Snowbird in the Summer - Jake Young

Salt Lake County Council adopted the following strategies for the Unincorporated Moderate Income Housing Plan:

- Create or allow for, and reduce regulations related to, accessory dwelling units in residential zones
- Allow for higher density or moderate income residential development in commercial and mixed-use zones, commercial centers, or employment centers
- Implement zoning incentives for low to moderate income units in new developments
- Allow for single room occupancy developments (for only ski resort areas)
- Preserve existing Moderate Income Housing
- Apply for or partner with an entity that applies for state or federal funds or tax incentives to promote the construction of Moderate Income Housing

The Moderate Income Housing Plan is a component of all of the County's Unincorporated General Plans including this Wasatch Canyons General Plan.

The following goals and strategies from the MIH are applicable to the Wasatch Canyons General Plan:

Strategy E: Create or allow for, and reduce regulations related to, accessory dwelling units (ADU) in residential zones

Goal: Make ADUs a legal and useful technique for increasing housing options in Unincorporated SLCo. Currently, there are no legal/conforming ADUs in unincorporated SLCo due to the land use/ordinances not allowed.

Actions:

- Create and adopt ADU ordinances for the Unincorporated County to allow for ADUs, additions, and remodels. ADU ordinances would be customized for the different parts of Unincorporated SLCo. Regional Development would work with the Municipal Services District (MSD), Town of Brighton and both Planning Commissions (Mountainous/County) and County Council would adopt the ordinance.
- Track ADUs through permits or business licenses.
- Develop policies and processes for illegal/non-conforming ADUs to become legal and conforming.
- It is expected that an ADU ordinance for the Canyons would be customized to fit the individual needs of the Canyon including water, building setbacks, utilities, FCOZ, short-term rentals, winter travel and parking.

Strategy I: Allow for single room occupancy developments

Goal: Encourage development of single room occupancy housing in the Wasatch Canyons at the ski resort bases specifically for workforce housing.

Actions:

- Salt Lake County will work with the MSD, Town of Brighton, Forest Service and applicable to ski resorts to explore possibilities for single room occupancy developments. For existing housing consider retrofit options.
- As necessary update corresponding ordinances.
- This recommendation is specific for the Mountainous Planning District area.

Strategy J: Implement zoning incentives for low to moderate income units in new developments

Goal: Review and update the Planned Community (PC) zone to implement moderate incomes as part of the community.

Actions:

- Require a specific percentage of new units in the PC zone to provide low AMI housing (0-80%).
- SLCo HCD can provide gap financing by incentivizing lending terms to meet lower AMI housing units.
- For the Canyons area (Mountainous Planning District) the County will explore working with ski resorts and the MSD to understand the feasibility of work force housing at the base of the ski resorts.

The strategies of Preserving Existing MIH and Apply for or partner with an entity that applies for state or federal funds or tax incentives to promote the construction of MIH are applicable, but to a lesser degree.



Figure 9: Snow Load on Big Cottonwood Canyon Home - Jake Young

ENVIRONMENT

The Wasatch Canyons are home to beautiful natural landscapes that provide habitat for a number of species of plant and animal life alike. The delicate ecosystem that provides habitat is at risk of being degraded by a number of factors such as light, noise, air and water pollution, sprawl development, overuse and misconduct. The occurrence of these factors has risen in recent years due to the population growth and increase of visitors. Therefore, ways must be found to protect the environment to keep it sustainable for future generations to be able to access and enjoy.



Figure 10: The Canyons -Bryan Anderson

WATERSHED

In recognition of the importance of the Canyons as a source of water supply for the Salt Lake Valley, a Forest Reserve was created in 1906 for the express purpose of protecting the watershed. In 1907, the Wasatch National Forest was created, recognizing the importance of the protection of the Wasatch Mountains watershed. In 1981, the Salt Lake Valley Board of Health adopted Heath Regulation #14 to regulate the use and occupancy of watersheds within Salt Lake County.

In order to meet public water supply requirements pursuant to Federal and State Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), Salt Lake City and Sandy City implement watershed management plans and enforce watershed ordinances. Salt Lake City and Sandy City are given authority, and have certain obligations, to manage their municipal watersheds. Salt Lake City currently implements several recommendations pursuant to its 1999 Watershed Management Plan components, including conducting development reviews, watershed education, recreation management, land acquisition, water quality monitoring, and other strategies in the Canyons to protect water quantity and quality. Sandy City adopted the Sandy City Watershed Management Plan in 2002 which includes a background on the watershed uses and characteristics along with recommendations for topics such as partnerships, education, quality monitoring, development, and recreation. In addition, pursuant to their extraterritorial jurisdiction, Salt Lake City and Sandy City enforce their own watershed ordinances, which control certain activities in the canyons.

If not well-managed, increases in incremental and cumulative use and development in Salt Lake City's municipal watersheds could degrade the water quality of streams and water supply in both the short-term and long-term, leading to less reliable water supplies over time. Invasive plant species often found in disturbed areas of the watersheds are also a concern as they can increase erosion and fire risk, and degrade ecosystem functions.

NOXIOUS WEEDS

Invasive plant species are a concern for habitat, as they can completely take over an area, permanently changing the area's ability to resist wildfires, increase soil erosion, and decrease native forage for wildlife. Plants of greatest concern are Dalmatian toadflax, garlic mustard, yellow starthistle, myrtle spurge, houndstongue, a few non-native thistles, and Dyer's woad. These plants tend to gain a foothold in disturbed areas, such as roads, trails, campgrounds and construction sites. They then spread through vectors (pathways) such as people, dogs, bicycles, cars, etc.

WILDLIFE

Wildlife is abundant in the Canyons, due to the wide variety of microclimates and habitats posed by the stunning variety of elevation change and slope aspects that create these varying opportunities. In the dry foothills, mule deer, coyote, gray fox, and desert cottontail can be found, as well as rough-legged hawks, red-tailed hawks, thrashers, and scrub jays. Canyon forests host moose, elk, deer, porcupine, ermine, red squirrels, owls, stellar jays, golden eagles, woodpeckers, pika, marmot, and mountain goats. The Canyon creeks harbor rainbow, brook, Bonneville cutthroat trout, and brown trout, all the result of stocking programs in streams and surrounding lakes.

Noise and human activity can significantly affect elk in particular, and other wildlife species as well. Human-wildlife interactions can be dangerous for both the humans and the wildlife.



Figure 11: Parley's Canyon - Utahbirds.org

FOREST HEALTH

In addition to the damage caused by noxious weeds, invasive insect species damage forest vegetation with consequent adverse impacts to habitat and water quality. An invader recently identified as present in the Wasatch Mountains is the Balsam Woolly Adelgid (BWA), a tiny sucking insect that was introduced to North America from Europe. From the Utah State University BWA fact sheet, "widespread mortality of subalpine fir is already occurring at some locations in northern Utah. In many cases, there are few other tree species to occupy the growing site. This problem increases the potential for BWA to inflict great ecological damage through increased erosion, decline in watershed health, loss of wildlife and their habitat, and reduction in recreational value. Additionally, the potential of dying and dead fir adding to fuel loading in forest landscapes is a high concern."



Figure 12: Moose in the Road - Jake Young

WILDFIRE HAZARDS

Buildings in the Canyons often interface with areas of undeveloped lands that exist in a natural state. This bordering of residential development on open lands, or what is termed the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), is part of the charm of the Canyons for both residents and recreational users. It allows development to exist in a setting close to “nature” with open space, natural vegetation and wildlife, and limited neighboring development.

This same charm does have some inherent risks associated with it, mainly dangers from wildfire that occurs in the foothills and Canyons from time to time. Wildfires can quickly spread across the thicker natural vegetation of undeveloped areas and can threaten adjacent residential development. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has developed the Firewise USA® program to help homeowners reduce the risk from wildfires to persons and property in developed areas. Elements of the program include creating “defensible space” around residences, choosing appropriate plant species and landscaping materials, and utilizing building construction methods and materials to make structures more fire resistant. Creating defensible space involves the selective thinning and pruning of vegetation for fire protection purposes, and not necessarily clear-cutting vegetation. Homeowner education and information is also an important component of Firewise USA® programs.

Some local communities have prepared Community Wildfire Preparedness Plans (CWPP) to address wildland fire risks. The purposes of wildfire preparedness planning include facilitating the organization of sustainable efforts to guide planning and implementation of actions. The desired outcomes of CWPP planning include fire-adapted communities, resilient landscapes, and safe and effective fire response.

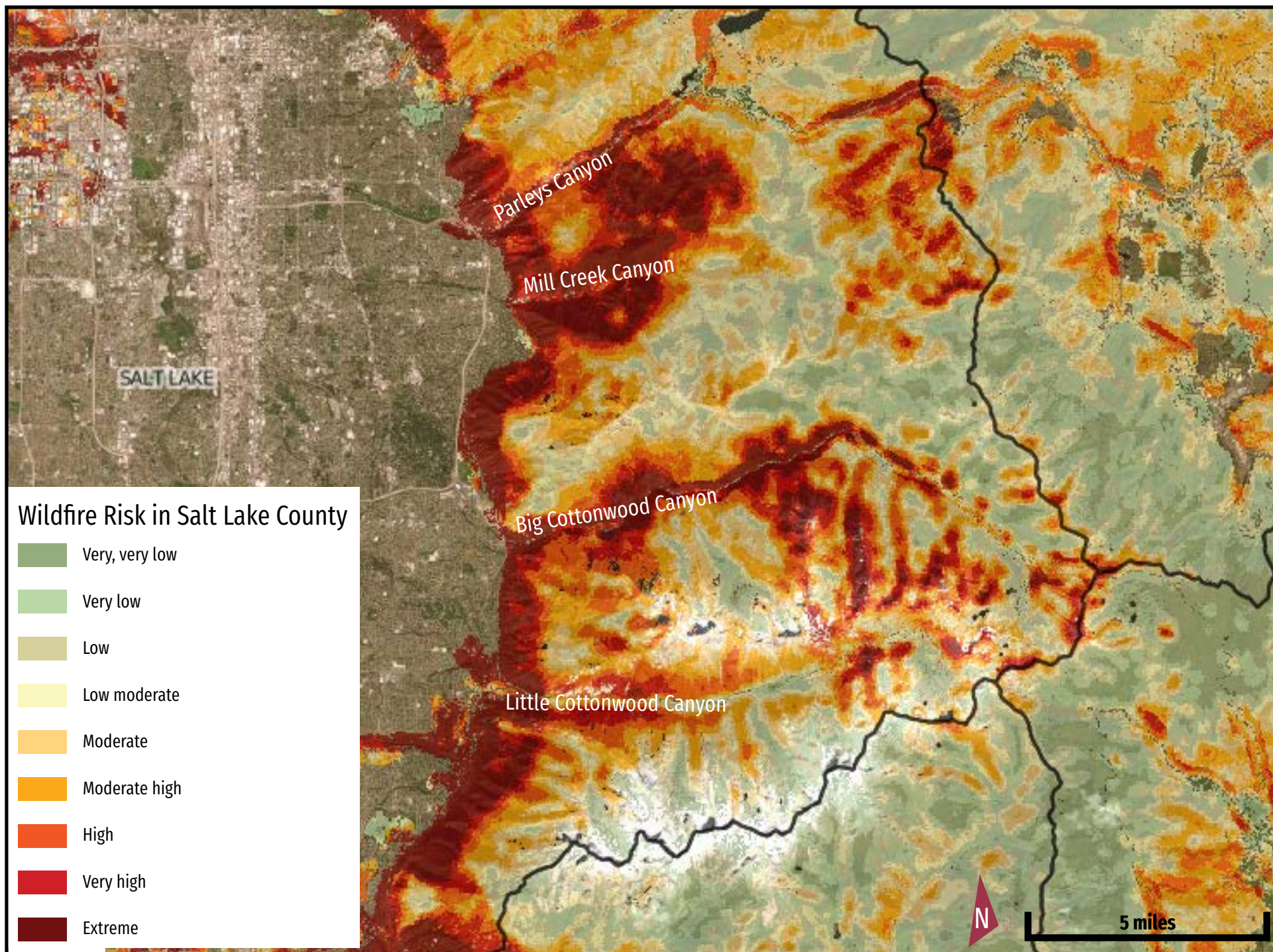
The Wildfire Risk Map on page 17 shows the associated wildfire risk in the plan area, ranging from light green (very low) to dark red (extreme). Wildfire risk represents the possibility of loss or harm to an area from a wildfire, as determined by the Utah Wildfire Risk Assessment (Utah WRA). The risk level takes into account the likelihood of an area burning, impacts to aggregated assets, and suppression difficulty. As shown on the map, the areas with the highest risk tend to be areas with high levels of human activity.

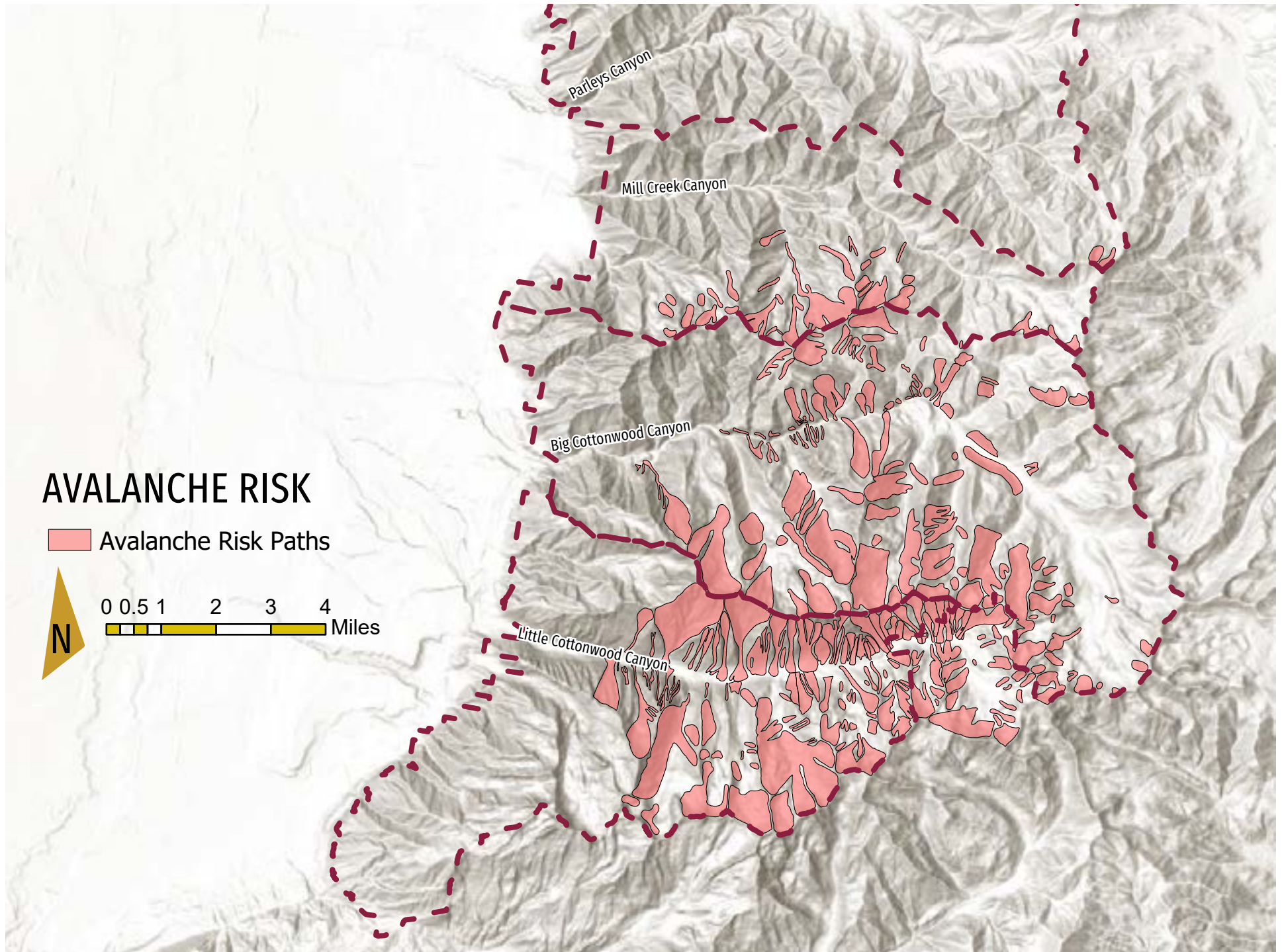
RESILIENCY PLANNING

Nobody is immune from the impacts of significant disruptions due to natural or man-made causes. It is impossible to anticipate and prepare for all possible natural and economic events on a community. However, building robust community resilience provides the best possible preparation for disruptions of all types. Resilient communities have the ability to continue provision of lifeline services during a disaster event, reduce loss of life and injury to the community’s population, and recover from shocks and impacts more rapidly - allowing communities to resume normal activities.

The framework of a community resiliency plan includes three major project areas where all proposed projects should be grouped: risk management; resilient natural and built infrastructure; and innovative land use planning. Risk management provides foundational information for communities to make informed land use, development, and capital improvement decisions to reduce exposure to risks as communities grow and climate changes. Resilient natural and built infrastructure plans for and implements projects that have a system-wide ecosystem benefit. Innovative land use planning allows for diversity in growth management and economic resiliency while supporting and protecting our natural environment.

Community wildfire protection plan or a mountains resiliency plan could help Canyon residents, businesses, and visitors identify and implement strategies to increase capabilities to prevent, respond to, and recover from disruptions. In the Wasatch Canyons, the primary risks of disruptions come from fire and avalanche hazards, and secondarily from seismic and other geological events such as landslides. While Parleys Canyon has through access via I-80 and some frontage roads, several side canyons such as Lamb’s Canyon lack secondary access (small/local streets which connect to a larger roadway). Of the remaining canyons, Big Cottonwood is the only canyon with secondary vehicular access which is only open and available during warm weather months.





GEOLOGICAL HAZARDS

- Landslide Risk Area
- Landslide Debris Flow Paths
- Fault Lines



0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles

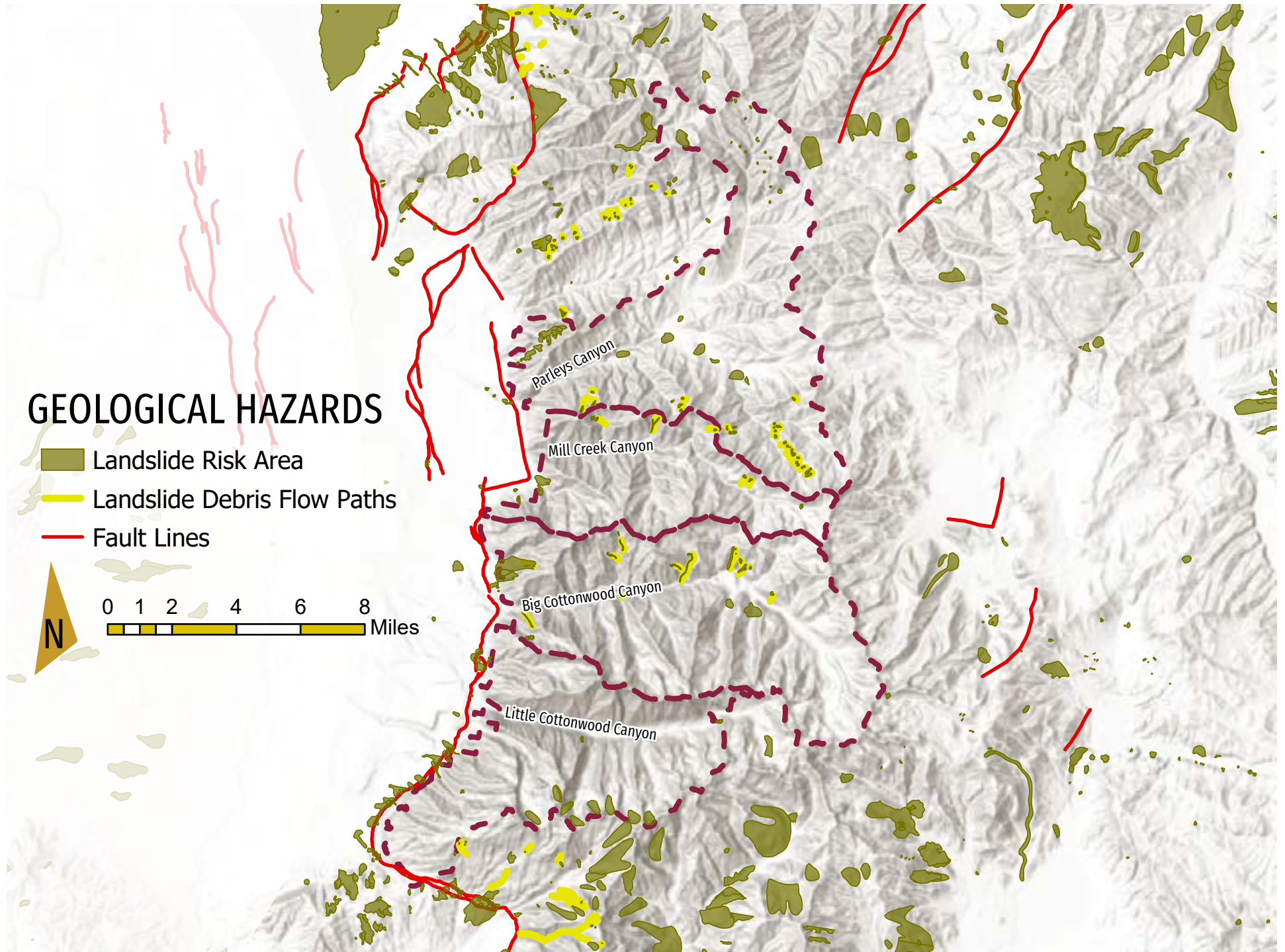




Figure 13: Silver Fork Lake- Jake Young

RECREATION

People come to the Wasatch Canyons for world class recreation, ranging from skiing and hiking to bird watching and picnicking. The Canyons are loved for the memories and experiences of residents and visitors; however, because of the increasing numbers of visitors to the Canyons each year, the Canyons can seem “loved to death”. The ability of the Canyons to support visitation and use is finite and must be managed to avoid adverse impacts to the visitor experience and physical resource damage.

This phenomenon of being “loved to death” is most evident during the winter and summer seasons, especially during weekends and holidays, when people are out bicycle riding, hiking, climbing, skiing, and snowboarding.

The picnic areas and trailheads in the Canyons can be maxed out with overflow parking and crowds. On good snow days, the traffic in and to Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons can be backed up for miles both inside and outside of the mouths of the canyons. It is clear that the popularity of the Canyons is growing, and difficult decisions about how to manage the recreational and associated transportation impacts will need to be made.

The 2016 study *An Estimation of Visitor Use in Little Cottonwood, Big Cottonwood, and Mill Creek Canyons* shows that of the Canyons, 30% of visitors go to resorts and 70% are dispersed and visit (non resort) destinations.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is an issue in the Wasatch Canyons, as roads become congested and available parking is at capacity on powder days during the winter and warm, sunny days during the summer. Big and Little Cottonwood Canyon roads are Utah state routes under the jurisdiction of UDOT, and the County has no control over how they are used, developed, and maintained. Needed road or transit improvements cannot be made by the County, and will require collaboration with UDOT and UTA. Public transportation in the Canyons is provided by UTA and ridership has been steadily increasing over the last four years.

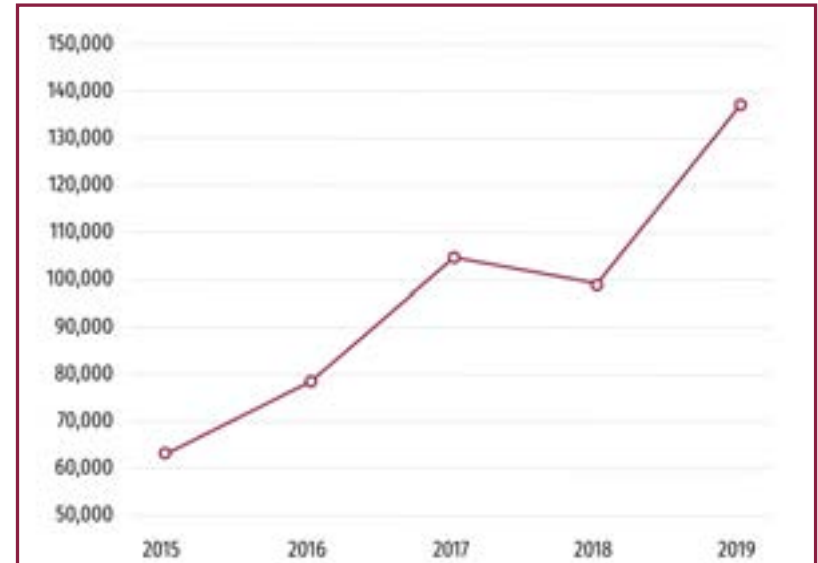
UDOT is currently in the process of conducting two important related EIS studies [Little Cottonwood EIS](#) and [Parleys EIS](#). The Parleys EIS will provide solutions for the interchange at the mouth of the Canyons and the Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS will provide much needed solutions to peak traffic issues in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Its expected that many of the solutions applied to Little Cottonwood may also be applied to Big Cottonwood.

The Mill Creek Canyon Road is a County road with an easement from the Forest Service. Summertime congestion in Mill Creek Canyon and the Canyon's toll booth have both become issues of concern, as people have differing opinions about what should be done. Summer-time traffic and a lack of parking adversely affect the visitor experience, and can result in safety concerns and resource damage. A seasonal shuttle service, expanded parking, and other solutions have been suggested, although continuing growth in visitation could create issues that are difficult to solve.



Figure 14: On Road Parking Little Cottonwood Canyon- Jake Young

Total UTA Trips per Year in Big Cottonwood Canyon per year



Total UTA Trips per Year in Little Cottonwood Canyon per year

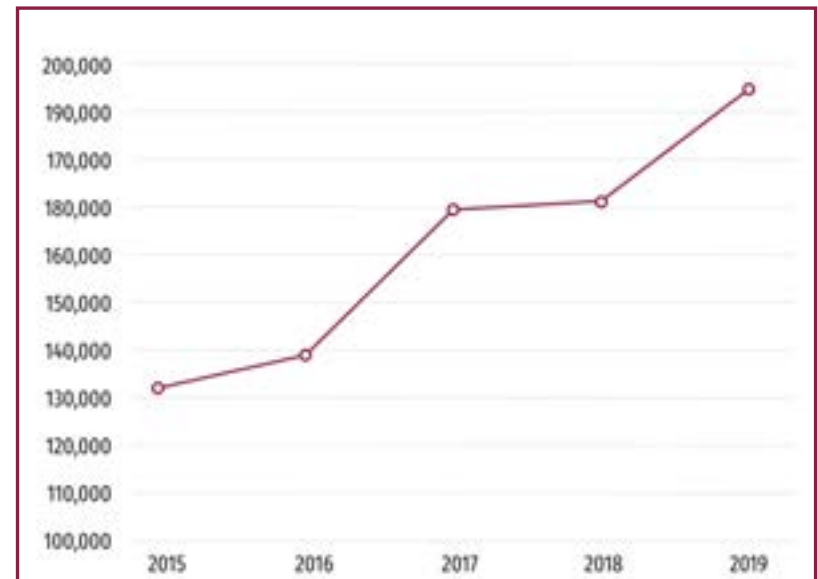
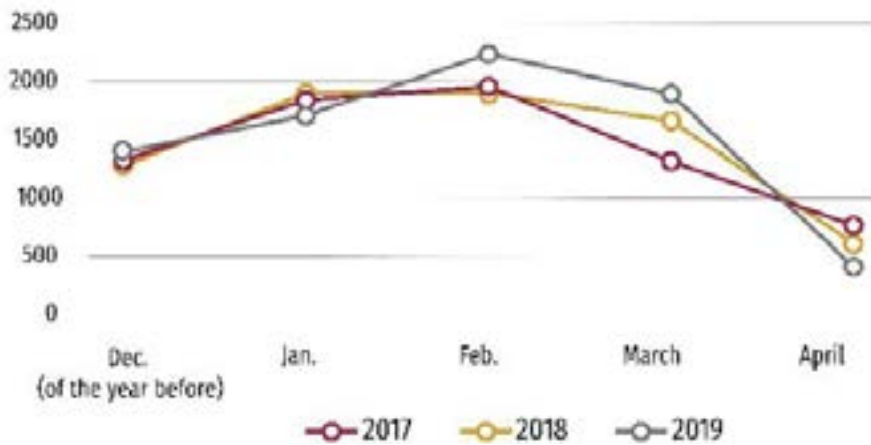




Figure 15: UTA bus in Little Cottonwood Canyon - Jake Young

AVERAGE WEEKEND (Saturday and Sunday)
UTA RIDERSHIP FOR LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON



AVERAGE WEEKEND (Saturday and Sunday)
UTA RIDERSHIP FOR BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON

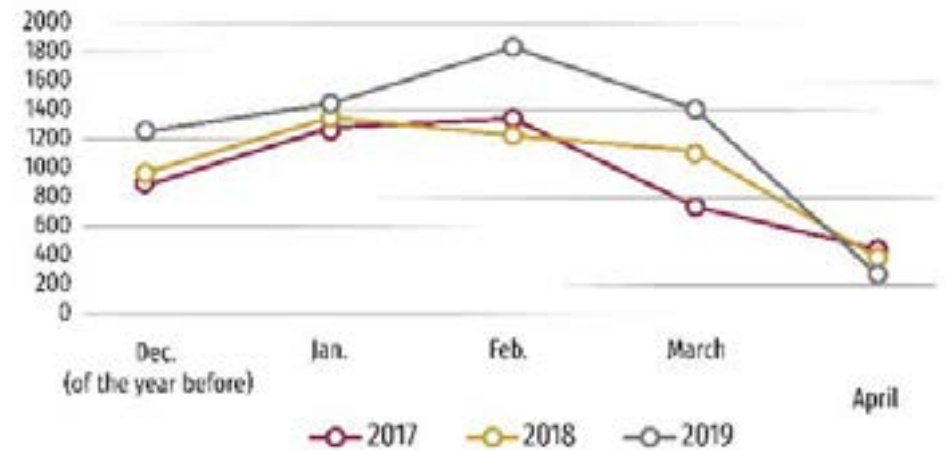




Figure 16: Snowbird Tram - Jake Young

ECONOMY

Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons are home to four world class ski resorts, which contribute significantly to the overall Utah recreation and tourism industry. Mill Creek and Parleys Canyons host popular commercial and public recreation facilities. In addition to the commercial and recreational activities underway, the Canyons are an asset that supports economic growth throughout Utah through attraction of new job-creating businesses, and recruitment of skilled workers.

Winter recreation in the Canyons is sensitive to the effects of a changing climate. Utah ski resorts are becoming increasingly reliant on artificial snow. The long-term sustainability of the economy now tied to winter sports will depend on identifying options for diversification and innovative sustainability strategies going forward.

Additionally, the value of plentiful, clean and affordable water supply to the Utah economy cannot be overstated.



A VISION FOR THE WASATCH CANYONS

Outreach for this planning process started with reaching out to the community and stakeholder in the Plan Area to create a vision for the future of the Canyons. Visioning is the first step to ensure that County residents' and leaders' values and goals are accurately reflected in the Plan's elements, policies, and frameworks. It considers how the greater community will access them, how millions of people will play in them, how to provide for private property uses and environmental protection, and how management of the landscape should evolve to preserve the Canyons for future generations. The visioning effort identified as top priorities protecting the qualities that collectively characterize the Canyons and celebrating the area's natural significance.

The Vision for the Wasatch Canyons is organized into the same five planning themes as the rest of this Plan: Land Use, Environment, Transportation, Recreation, and Economy. Within each vision statement, guiding principles are defined and goal initiatives are described for advancing the vision and principles of each theme. The goals and strategies of each Canyon provide methods to achieve the vision.



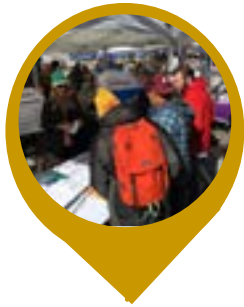
A COMMUNITY-BUILT VISION

In response to Salt Lake County leadership's desire to fully engage residents, property owners, businesses, and visitors in the planning process, there was an intense focus on public involvement. Public input was gathered through online outreach, three questionnaires, newsletter updates, and more than 17 community events such as community council-sponsored activities, family events, educational forums, neighborhood meetings, interviews, and focus group meetings.

- 17+ Community Events
- 3,174 Survey Respondents
- ~4,000* Process Participants
- 6,000+ Website Hits (Unique)

* Estimate based on website / survey traffic and public event sign-in sheets

The Mountainous Planning District Planning Commission, Wasatch Canyon General Plan Steering Committee, and project stakeholders served as the sounding boards for ideas and suggestions for the future. The Steering Committee assisted in getting word out to the community; outlining a program that continuously engaged citizens; and identifying additional opportunities to reach out and listen to neighbors, business owners, visitors, family, and friends.



BOOTH
Tour of Utah
Brighton Resort
August 2, 2017



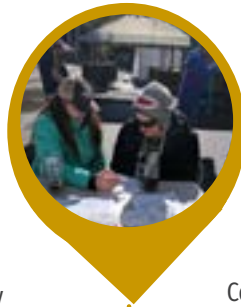
BOOTH
Salt Lake City
Downtown
Farmers Market
August 26 and
October 21, 2017



BOOTH
Mill Creek
Canyon
September 9, 2017



PUBLIC KICKOFF
Open House
Whitmore Library
September 27th, 2017



BOOTH
Snowbird Ski Resort
Oktoberfest
October 14, 2017



OPEN HOUSE
Cottonwood Heights
City Hall
October 18, 2017



BOOTH
Wheeler Farm
Halloween Event
October 24, 2017

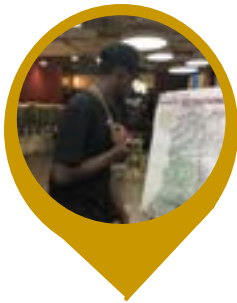


OPEN HOUSE
Solitude Ski Resort
October 28th, 2017

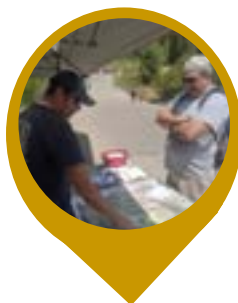


OPEN HOUSE
Corner Canyon High
School (Draper)
November 1, 2017

PUBLIC EVENTS - WHERE WE WENT



OPEN HOUSE
Millcreek
Community Center
November 9, 2017



BOOTH
Donut Falls
Trail Head
July 28, 2018



BOOTH
Silver Lake
Trail Head
August 4, 2018



OPEN HOUSE
Millcreek Community Center
August 14, 2018



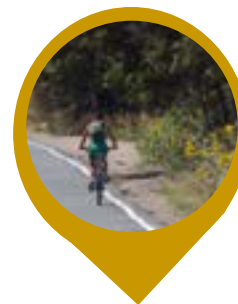
OPEN HOUSE
Holladay City Hall
October 29, 2019



OPEN HOUSE
Sandy City
Public Library
July 26, 2018



OPEN HOUSE
Whitmore
Library
July 31, 2018



BOOTH
Snowbird Tour of Utah
August 11, 2018



OPEN HOUSE
Cottonwood Heights
Community Room
October 24, 2019

WHAT WE HEARD

The enthusiasm towards community engagement and passion of local residents was evident in the responses received during the General Plan process. The following is a summary of residents' and visitors' shared values. It does not include every value mentioned, but attempts to summarize the shared values that were mentioned most frequently. These values were carried over into the vision statements and heavily influenced this document.



VAST SUPPLY OF WILD LANDS

The number one response to the question, "What do you love most about the Wasatch Canyons?" was the vast supply of wild, natural lands available for people to explore, experience, and adventure. Participants have a great pride for the Wasatch Canyons—and even revere them as "their backyard." This kind of affection for the natural landscape of the canyons is ingrained in the culture of Salt Lake valley and celebrated as one of the greatest natural assets in the State of Utah.



QUICK AND EASY ACCESS TO THE CANYONS

Access to natural-based amenities and an abundance of recreational opportunities was ranked next on the list of what was loved most about the Wasatch Canyons. Participants love the fact that they can leave their homes and within 10 - 30 minutes be at a trail head for a hike before dinner. In no other major metropolitan area in the United States do residents have that kind of access to natural assets as vast as the Wasatch Canyons. In most urban areas, people have to drive for hours just to reach natural areas equivalent in size and splendor to the Wasatch, taking up whole days or weekends of their time.



IMPORTANCE OF CANYONS AND FOOTHILLS PRESERVATION

Next on the list of values is the importance that participants place on preservation of resources and the natural environment. Many who participated in the visioning process desire that the Wasatch Canyons to be protected from large-scale future development and preserved to the extent feasible for future generations to love and enjoy. At the same time, many who participated emphasized the benefit of private property uses on the culture and function of the Canyons and support their continuation.



DIVERSE RANGE OF RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The recreational opportunities in the Wasatch are a world-wide draw to the Salt Lake area. Both active and passive recreation activities are available for visitors to experience, ranging from hiking to skiing, rock climbing to photography, and picnicking to bird watching. The Wasatch Canyons have something for almost everyone and residents know just how lucky they are to have such variety of things to do in the Canyons.



WATERSHED PROTECTION

One of the most important topics when discussing the Wasatch Canyons is watershed protection. The lakes and streams in the Wasatch Canyons provide over half of the drinking water for people in Salt Lake City, Cottonwood Heights, Holladay, Millcreek and parts of unincorporated Salt Lake County. The Wasatch Canyons are home to some of the cleanest water sources in the nation. It is common in many cities and towns for the water to travel hundreds of miles to reach residents' faucets, but Wasatch Canyons water can take less than 24 hours to reach your glass.

IMPLEMENTING OUR VISION FOR THE WASATCH

The Wasatch Canyons vision was developed through a series of community conversations and ideas from prior planning projects, and represents the aspirational outlook for the future of the Wasatch Canyons. Building on public feedback, discussions with stakeholders, and County staff, creating a set of visions for the future was the first step in the creation of this Plan. The goals, strategies, and policies found in the following chapters of this Plan are intended to implement the Vision Statements.

VISION STATEMENTS

The five Vision Statements, developed through a series of community conversations, represent the aspirational outlook for the Wasatch Canyons' land use, environment, recreation, transportation, and economy. They are overarching statements that describe the desired future of the Wasatch Canyons based on shared community values.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Principles fall under each of the Vision Statements to provide guidance and further elaborate on the future setting, character, and opportunities for the Wasatch Canyons for the next 20 years.

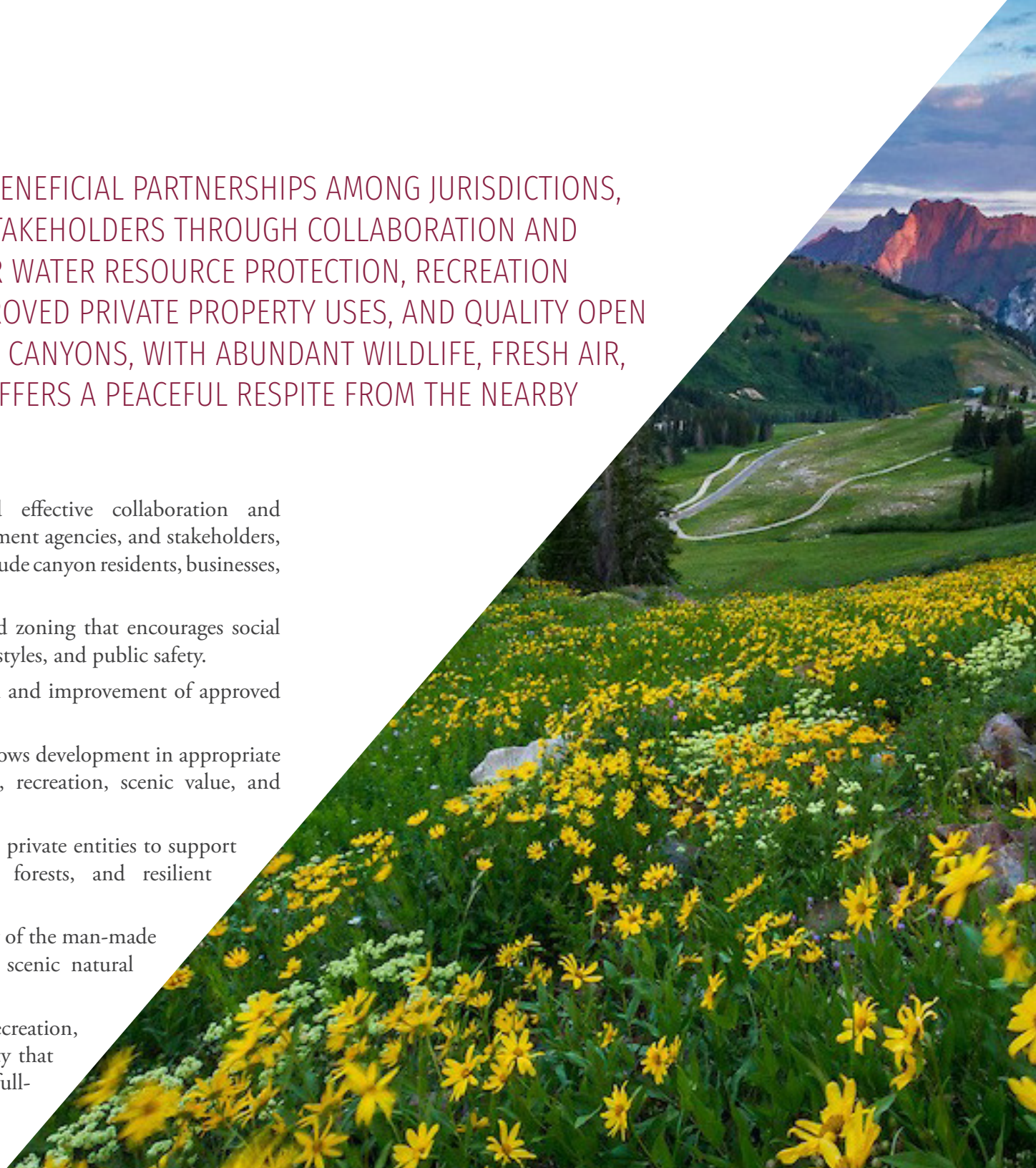


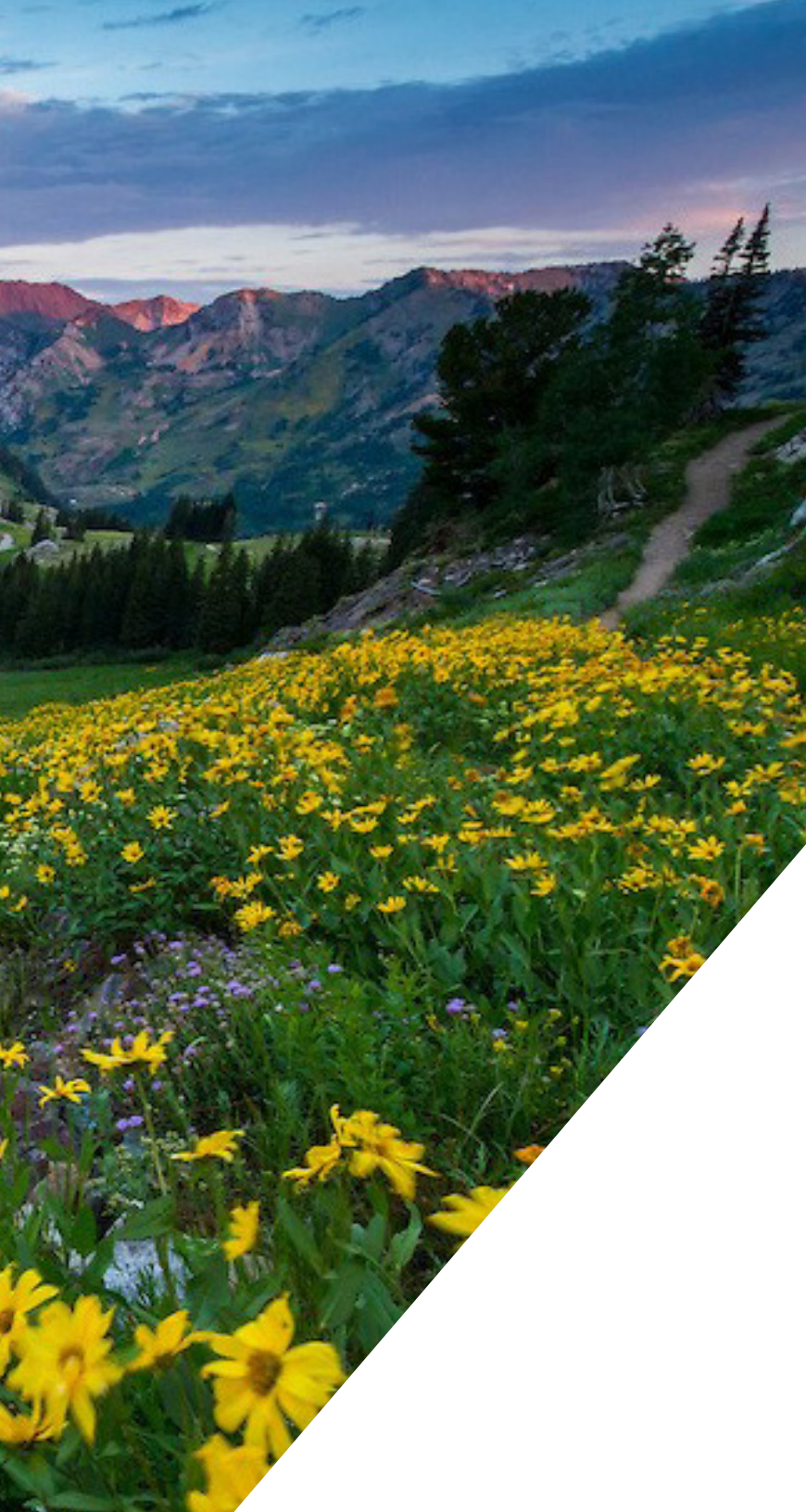
LAND USE

VISION: STRIVE FOR MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL PARTNERSHIPS AMONG JURISDICTIONS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND STAKEHOLDERS THROUGH COLLABORATION AND COORDINATION TO PROVIDE FOR WATER RESOURCE PROTECTION, RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES, WILDLIFE, APPROVED PRIVATE PROPERTY USES, AND QUALITY OPEN SPACES. LIVING IN THE WASATCH CANYONS, WITH ABUNDANT WILDLIFE, FRESH AIR, QUIET AND DARK NIGHT SKIES OFFERS A PEACEFUL RESPITE FROM THE NEARBY URBAN ENVIRONMENT.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. **Partnerships:** Maintain consistent and effective collaboration and coordination among jurisdictions, government agencies, and stakeholders, while acknowledging that stakeholders include canyon residents, businesses, and visitors.
2. **Community:** Support quality planning and zoning that encourages social and community relationships, healthy lifestyles, and public safety.
3. **Private Property:** Provide for continuation and improvement of approved land uses.
4. **Regulatory Tools:** Maintain zoning that allows development in appropriate areas and preserves lands for watershed, recreation, scenic value, and wildlife.
5. **Environment:** Collaborate with public and private entities to support clean watersheds, biodiversity, healthy forests, and resilient landscapes.
6. **Aesthetics:** Encourage the aesthetic beauty of the man-made environment and the protection of the scenic natural environment.
7. **Residential:** Continue management of recreation, traffic, parking, and environmental quality that considers the needs of both part-year and full-time residents.





ENVIRONMENT

VISION: SERVE AS STEWARDS TO SUPPORT HEALTHY FORESTS, CONNECTED ECOSYSTEMS, HABITATS, AND WATERWAYS FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS. PROMOTE PROGRAMS THAT IMPROVE WATERSHEDS, AIR QUALITY, VEGETATION, WILDLIFE ECOSYSTEMS, AND SCENIC QUALITY.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. **System:** Protect and steward open lands and natural resources (air, water, wildlife, fisheries, climate, trail systems, wetlands, dark skies, soundscape, soils, open space, and native vegetation).
2. **Open Space:** Promote the acquisition of natural and undeveloped lands for conservation.
3. **Water:** Protect, maintain, and improve watershed health, water supply, and water quality.
4. **Air:** Protect and improve air quality for protection of public health, environmental health, and scenic visibility.
5. **Native Species:** Maintain healthy populations of native species and support early detection and rapid response to eliminate invasive species and noxious weeds.
6. **Wildlife:** Preserve sensitive habitats and migration areas for wildlife.
7. **Property:** Respect approved private property uses and promote their stewardship of the environment.
8. **Wildfire:** Support wildfire safety and defensible space.
9. **Parking:** Ensure that parking management does not degrade watershed health or water quality.



RECREATION

VISION: CONTINUE TO SUPPORT HIGH-QUALITY RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES FOR A DIVERSE PUBLIC AND SUSTAINABLE FACILITY MAINTENANCE.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. **System:** Maintain consistent coordination with neighboring jurisdictions and agencies to support a connected recreation system.
2. **Responsible:** Support programs that promote responsible recreation and personal responsibility for public safety and protection of the Canyon's natural resources.
3. **Accessible:** Enhance and preserve access to public lands.
4. **Diversity:** Maintain a spectrum of diverse recreation opportunities for participants at all levels, abilities, and interests.
5. **Sustainable:** Recognize the need to accommodate different user groups in ways that minimizes user conflict and landscape damage.
6. **Facility:** Provide support through grants and/or other funding revenues for recreation facility maintenance, trailheads, and restrooms.
7. **Year-Round:** Consider year-round needs in recreation planning and facility maintenance.

TRANSPORTATION

VISION: SUPPORT AND PRIORITIZE PROJECTS FOR TRANSIT, BICYCLES, PEDESTRIANS, AND IMPROVE MOBILITY, AIR QUALITY, SAFETY; WHILE CONNECTING TO THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. **Collaboration:** Collaborate in long-term transportation planning with UDOT, UTA, the Forest Service, CWC, Salt Lake City Public Utilities, private property owners, local jurisdictions (Salt Lake and Summit counties), and other involved agencies.
2. **Choice:** Create convenient, safe, timely, sustainable, and efficient options for transportation by a variety of modes that satisfy multiple needs.
3. **Character:** Promote context appropriate transportation modes and projects that are appropriate for each canyon's unique context.
4. **Accessibility:** Provide well-maintained and accessible transportation infrastructure including roads, parking facilities, pathways, and walkways.
5. **Transit Stops:** Create canyon transit routes to key destinations with ADA-compliant transit stops that include restroom facilities, and bus pullouts for user comfort and aesthetics.

ECONOMY

VISION: SUSTAIN THE WASATCH CANYONS AS A WORLD-CLASS RECREATION DESTINATION THAT PROVIDES SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO THE REGION. ENABLE BUSINESSES TO CONTINUE PROVIDING GOODS AND SERVICES WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE ENVIRONMENT.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

1. **Context-Appropriate:** Attract and retain canyon businesses that are economically and environmentally sustainable.
2. **Tourism:** Recognize that tourism is a fundamental component of the Utah economy and is dependent on healthy and abundant natural and scenic resources.
3. **Stewardship:** Encourage businesses to be environmental stewards through practices and educational outreach to customers and visitors.
4. **Branding:** Promote signage and branding that highlights the history and heritage of the Canyons, and promotes appreciation and stewardship.



WASATCH CANYONS GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

PARLEYS • MILL CREEK • BIG COTTONWOOD • LITTLE COTTONWOOD • THE FOOTHILLS

ADOPTED JUNE 2020



CHAPTER 2 PARLEYS CANYON

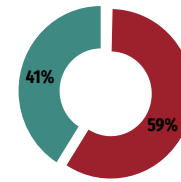
INTRODUCTION

Parleys Canyon is the northernmost Canyon in the Plan Area. Interstate Highway 80 (I-80) through Parleys Canyon is a major east-west access route through the Wasatch Mountains and connects Salt Lake City to Park City and mountain recreation areas. On average, I-80 supports 59,000 vehicular trips every day. Parleys Canyon is envisioned to remain a main transportation connector and protected water resource area, with existing and potential additional recreational access and opportunities. As the major connection between Salt Lake and Summit Counties, it is vital that Parleys Canyon remain a functioning, vibrant transportation corridor.

Roadway improvements, expanded transit opportunities, and additional bikeways were identified as potential means to improve transportation in and through Parleys Canyon. Wildlife-automobile collisions in Parleys Canyon are both injurious to wildlife and potentially life-threatening for drivers. Participants expressed support for additional highway improvements, to reduce traffic/wildlife conflicts. A wildlife bridge/overpass was constructed across I-80 at Parleys Summit in 2018 to reduce auto/wildlife collisions.

A number of participants in the stakeholder interview and visioning processes suggested that improving amenities and encouraging additional recreational activities in underutilized areas could reduce the recreation pressures in Mill Creek and the Cottonwood Canyons. In particular, expanded opportunities in the Mountain Dell Canyon area were mentioned by participants, as were improved trail connections between Big Mountain and Mill Creek Canyon via Lamb's Canyon. Project participants also recognize the delicate balance of potentially increased recreation with watershed preservation values. Additional recreation facilities and expansion should not occur without correlating funds to pay for enforcement, land management, maintenance and noxious weed mitigation. Parleys Canyon is the largest drainage in the project area, and much of the Federal land in Parleys Canyon was set aside to protect the high watershed and hydrology values as a primary drinking water source for Salt Lake City.

PARLEYS TODAY



41% Forest Service

59% Private Land



4,400 Acres of single family or vacation home residential land

(SLCo parcels)



72% of the Canyon is within a protected watershed (NHD Watershed protection Boundary)



38.5 Miles of trails (AGRC Utah April 2017)

36 Hole Golf Course (Utah Golf Association geospatial)

Little Dell Reservoir



59,000 Average Daily Trips (UDOT 2017)

48,000 Bus riders/year (Salt Lake Tribune 2015)

PARLEYS CANYON THROUGH THE YEARS



Pre-1800's
Ute and Shoshone
hunting grounds

1800



1847
Brigham Young
names "Big Canyon"



1848
Big Canyon Explored
by Parley P. Pratt



1849
Pratt commences
work on the first road
up the Canyon



1849
LDS missionaries
first to use the road



1850
"Golden Pass Road"
Built



1935
George Washington
Memorial Park began
construction



1930
U.S. Highway 40
established



1926
Mountain Dell dam &
reservoir completed

1900



1890
Railroad built
connecting SLC to
Park City



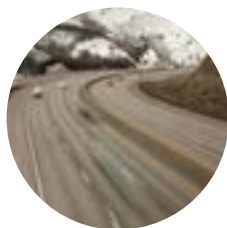
1858
Stagecoach
Service begins/Town of
Mountain Dell established



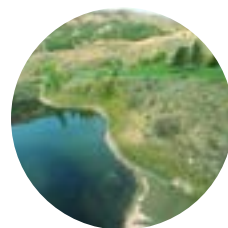
1956
US Highway 40
Completed



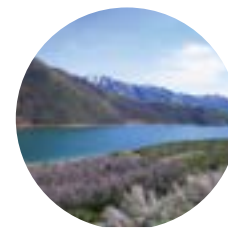
1962
Mountain Dell Golf
Course opens



1969 - 1973
Interstate 80
Construction
& Completion



1991
Mountain Dell
Redesign/Lake
opened



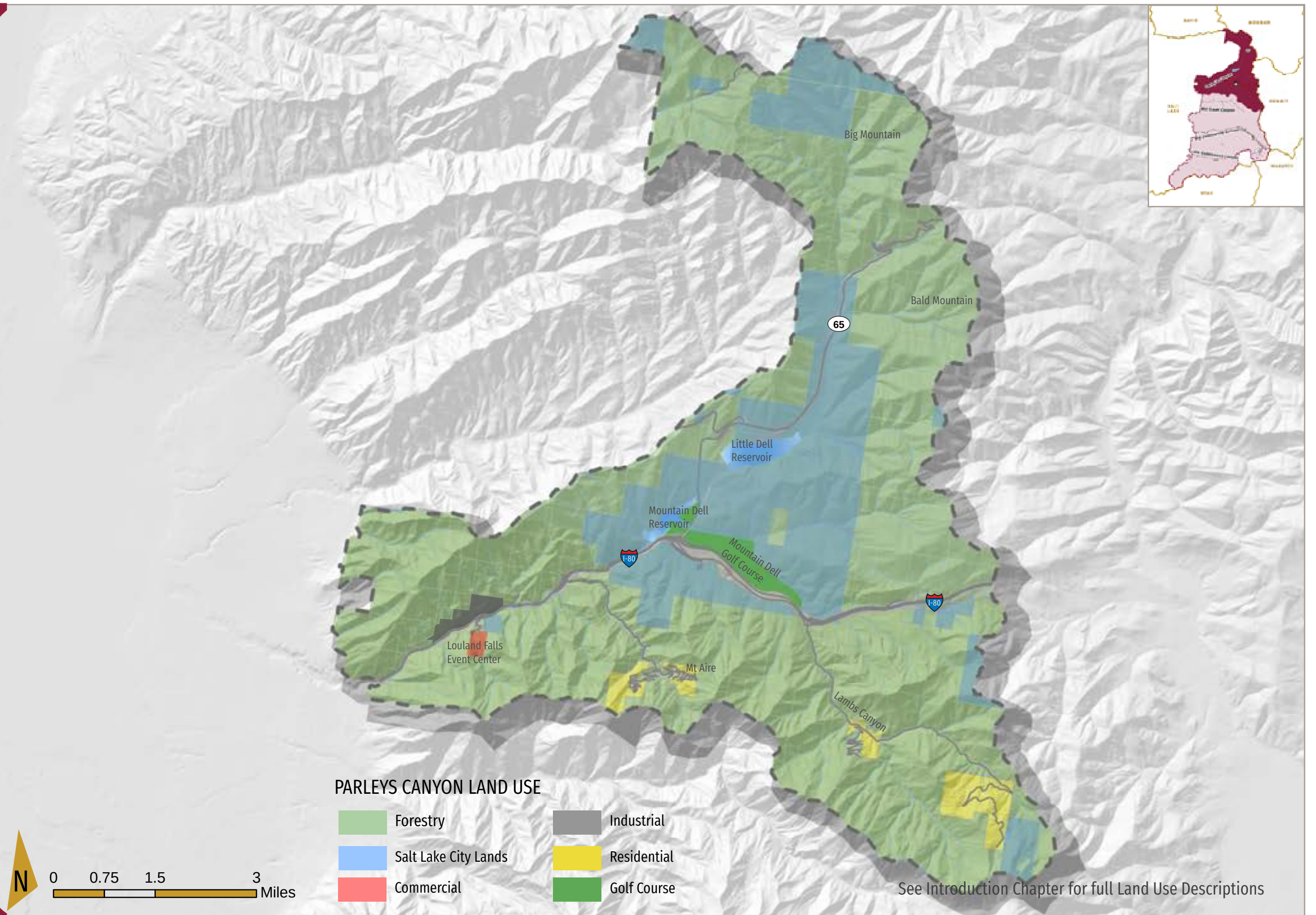
1993
Little Dell
Reservoir
Completed



2018
Wildlife Bridge
Constructed

2000

PARLEYS CANYON LAND USE



EXISTING CONDITIONS, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

Many of the existing conditions and management challenges of the Wasatch Canyons are common among the Canyons and foothills. Those include issues relating to wildfires, noxious weeds, and forest health. Those common circumstances are described in detail in Chapter 1, Introduction to this General Plan. Existing conditions and management issues specific to Parleys Canyon are presented in this chapter; in order for the reader to have a comprehensive understanding of the circumstances in each Canyon, Chapter 1 should be read in conjunction with the individual Canyon chapters.

The General Plan identifies goals, policies, and strategies in nine categories within the five main planning themes of land use, environment, recreation, transportation, and economy. Most of the goals, policies, and strategies are relevant for the entire Wasatch Canyons planning area, and are presented in each theme below with those specific to Parleys Canyon highlighted as “Parleys strategies”. **Goals** are long-term objectives that describe future desired conditions and outcomes. **Policies** are statements designed to inform and guide the County’s future decision-making. **Strategies** are specific tasks the County proposes to undertake to further Plan goals.

LAND USE

The Federal Government is the largest landowner in Parleys Canyon, with the Forest Service managing 13,994 acres (or 42%) of the Parleys Canyon area. The forest lands were set aside in 1914 when Congress withdrew Federal lands from mineral location and removed Federal lands from surface disposal for City Creek, Red Butte, Emigration and Parleys Canyons. Congress directed the Secretary of Agriculture to administer the lands in cooperation with Salt Lake City “for the purpose of storing, conserving, and protecting from pollution the said water supply...” The Forest Service holdings are concentrated in the southern portion of Parleys Canyon, as well as in Lamb’s Canyon. Salt Lake City has land holdings scattered throughout the entire canyon; the 1999 Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan indicates 12,688 ownership, more has been acquired since then. Private ownership of 6,810 acres is largely in Lamb’s and Mount Aire side canyons, where residences have been built. Salt Lake County owns 40 acres for a County Sheriff shooting range and another 15 acres near the mouth of Parleys Canyon.

Steep slopes and the predominance of governmentally-owned lands limit the amount of private development in Parleys Canyon. However, there is

housing development in some areas. Residential communities within Parleys Canyon include Mount Aire Canyon and Lamb’s Canyon. The bulk of the private lands are zoned Forestry Recreation 20, and are within the Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone. Several smaller parcels are zoned for, and being used for, commercial uses, including a Salt Lake City-owned restaurant near the golf course, a wedding venue, and an archery range. There is also a quarry near the mouth of the Canyon operated by Harper Contracting.

Future land uses for Parleys Canyon are anticipated and recommended to continue the same into the foreseeable future. Future management and uses on Forest Service lands will occur pursuant to the adopted 2003 Revised Forest Plan, as updated. Future management of lands owned by Salt Lake City would be governed by the 1999 Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan, as updated in the future. Although enhanced recreation is desired in Parleys Canyon, land use changes are not anticipated as part of that goal.

PARLEYS CANYON

LAND OWNERSHIP

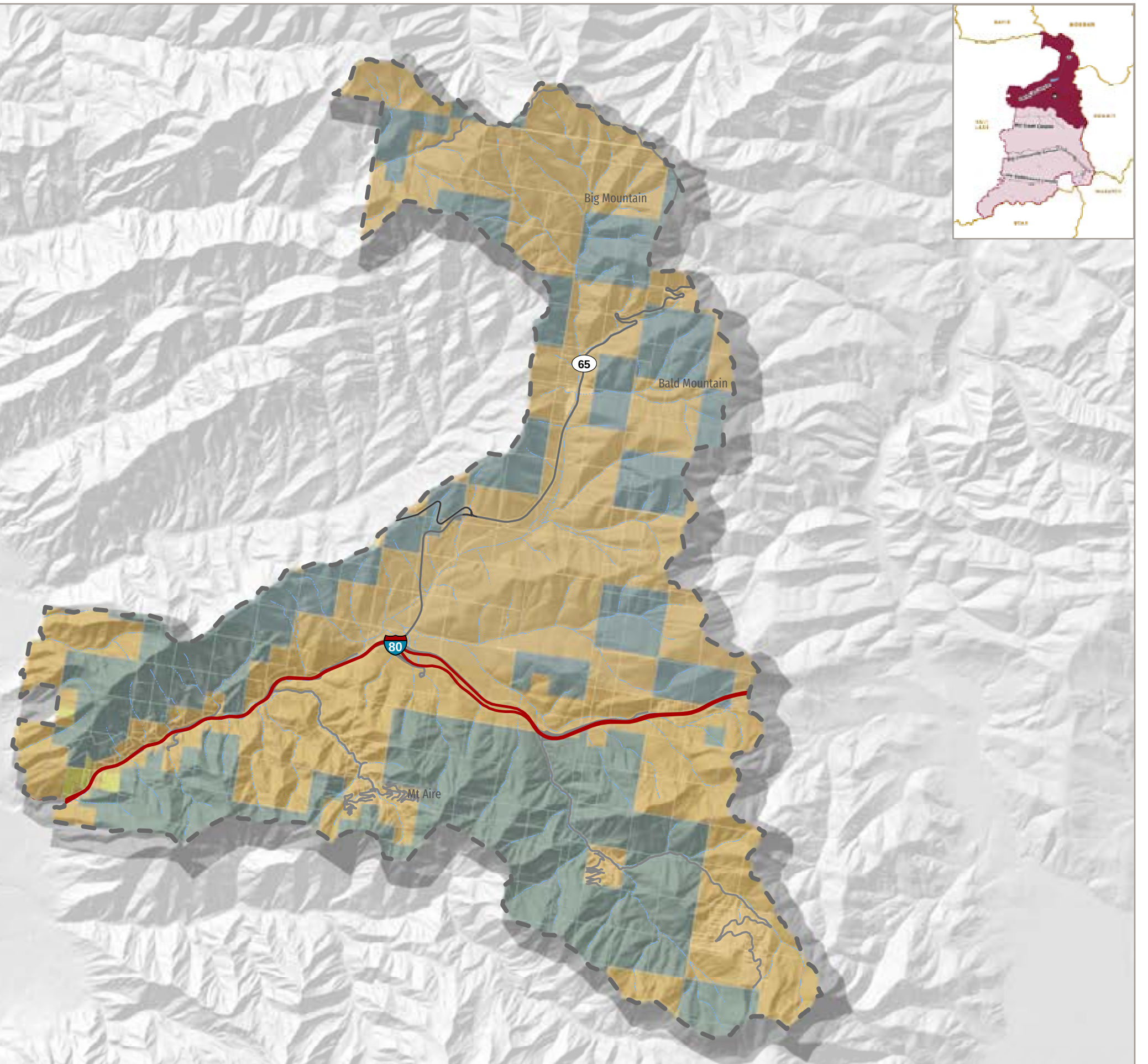
PARLEYS CANYON OWNERSHIP

- US FOREST SERVICE
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
- PRIVATE

Roughly 12,207 acres of “private land” throughout Parley’s Canyon is owned by Salt Lake City



0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles



RESIDENTIAL LAND USES

Approximately 4,400 acres of private lands in Parleys Canyon are zoned for residential uses. There were approximately 160 homes in Parleys Canyon as of 2010; that number is likely closer to 180 to 190 homes currently. While most of the residences are occupied seasonally, an increasing number of year-round residents are moving into the area to take advantage of the solitude

and natural environment the Canyon offers. Given the relatively large areas of privately-owned property in Parleys Canyon, and the difficult access and topography which increase fire risk significantly, it is anticipated that residential uses in the Canyon will increase modestly over time.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO LAND USE

GOAL: ENSURE THAT FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES AND ENTITIES WITH JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE WASATCH CANYONS PLANNING AREA REGULARLY COORDINATE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT EFFORTS.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ❑ Coordination – The County will implement the inter-agency coordination measures identified in the Salt Lake County Resource Management Plan (CRMP) for fire management, forest management, riparian areas and wetlands, recreation management, and the other resources addressed in the CRMP. The allocation of responsibilities among County agencies for coordination implementation is described in the CRMP. It is recommended that those County Departments with responsibilities within the Canyons have regular coordination meetings to review and discuss goals, strategies, services, and issues facing the Canyons.
- ❑ Planning – The County will work collaboratively with partner agencies including the Wasatch Front Regional Council, the Forest Service, UDOT, Salt Lake City, the Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District, the Central Wasatch Commission, UTA, towns, neighboring cities, and others to accomplish the goals of the General Plan and other plans set forth by the County. It is recommended that inter-agency collaboration happen on a regular basis and more than once per year. The County will explore and support the Scenic Byway Committee as a potential group to pursue coordination.



Figure 1: Mount Aire - Jake Young

GOAL: REVIEW AND UPDATE COUNTY ORDINANCES, AS NEEDED, TO FURTHER IMPLEMENT THE VISION, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES OF THE GENERAL PLAN.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ❑ The County will support the consideration of and collaboration on unique Canyon theming, similar to national parks, that promotes a sense of place, stewardship, and heritage (signage, architecture, wayfinding, entry features, benches, etc.).

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ❑ The County will coordinate with the Forest Service, UDOT, Central Wasatch Commission, local municipalities, and other government agencies to consider creating design guidelines/standards for the commercial development, gateways, and public areas in the Canyons that include consistent design quality, materials, and placement.
- ❑ The County will review the Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone (FCOZ), Mountain Resort Zone (MRZ) and other related Canyon ordinances to compare goals and strategies alignments or conflicts with the General Plan. This shall include a review of defensible spaces and other best practices to reduce wildfire risk. In connection with any potential update of such ordinances, the County intends to solicit public input and work with partner agencies (which may include the Forest Service, SLCPU, the MSD, Town of Brighton and Town of Alta) and property owners.
- ❑ The County will consider the need to periodically update County ordinances related to development siting, access, floodplains, water protection, and the structural design of buildings to ensure that health and safety requirements and the General Plan Vision and County goals are being met.
- ❑ The County will work to streamline and clarify the FCOZ/private property development process, including achieving better coordination between jurisdictions.
- ❑ The County will review progress and update the Wasatch Canyons General Plan every five years to make necessary incremental adjustments to work toward the identified goals. The County will plan for a complete General Plan update in the 15-20 year time frame (2033-2038).
- ❑ The County supports housing development that is consistent with the Moderate Income Housing Plan and will adapt housing ordinances according to local needs, restraints, and opportunities (See Chapter 1 for applicable strategies, goals, and actions from the MIH).



Figure 2: Lamb's Canyon Snowshoe

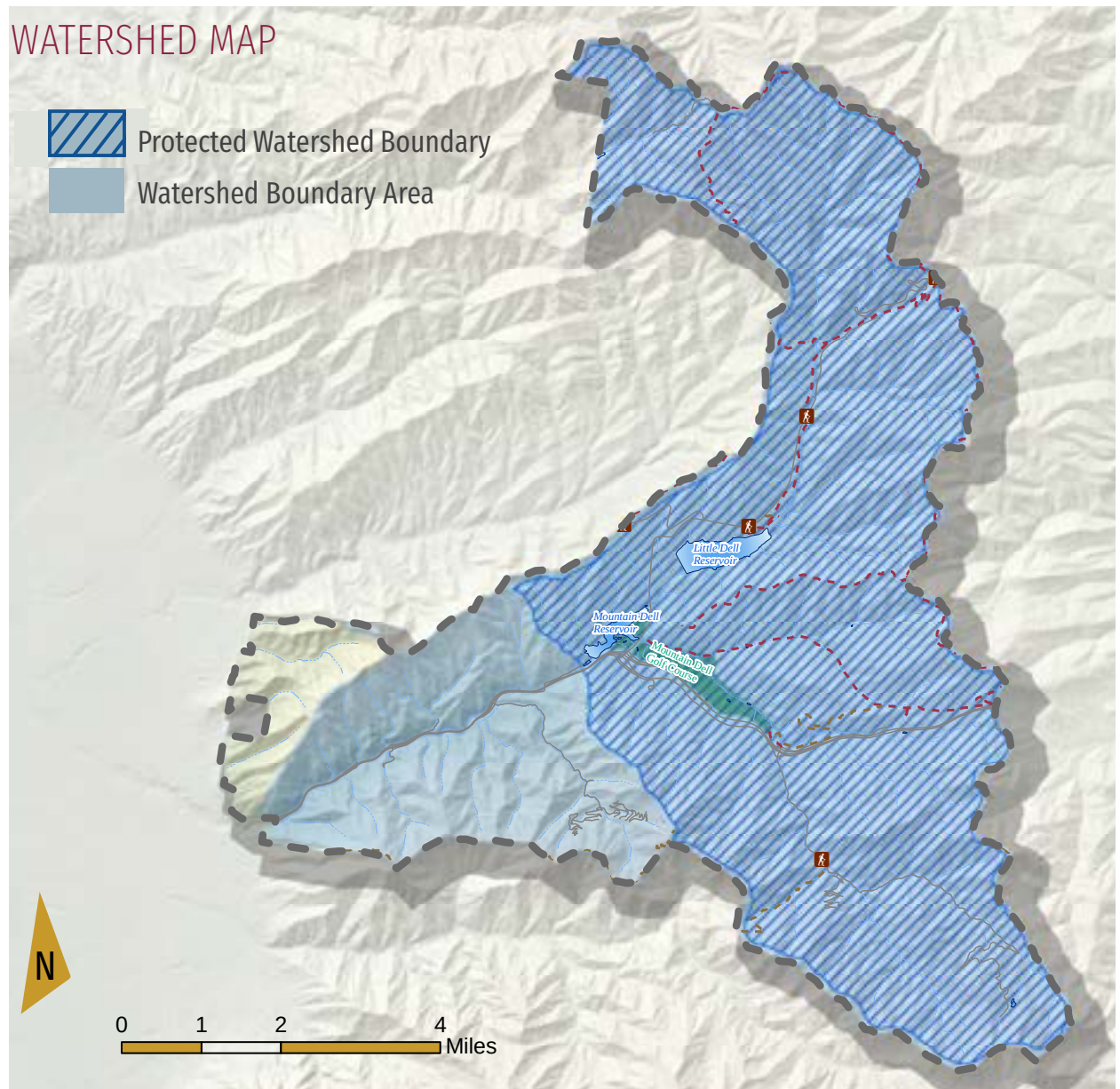
ENVIRONMENT

WATERSHED AND HYDROLOGY

Approximately 72% of the land area in Parleys Canyon is within a protected watershed, and both Little and Mountain Dell Reservoirs store water in Parleys Canyon. The Mountain Dell Reservoir was constructed in 1917 and was raised to its present height in 1925. A majority of the land in the Mountain Dell Canyon area is owned or managed by public entities. The Little Dell Reservoir was finished in 1993 for drinking water supply and flood control as a joint venture between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake City, and Salt Lake County. The reservoir and associated Little Dell Recreation Area are operated and maintained by the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities. As a protected watershed area, there are limitations on the allowed uses.

The Dell and Lamb's Canyon sub-drainages feed Mountain Dell and Little Dell reservoirs and the Parleys water treatment plant. The Dell and Lamb's Canyon drainages are protected watersheds and provide about 7% to 10% of the water supply to Salt Lake City. Parleys Creek and its tributaries are the principal drainages carrying runoff through the Canyon. Small drainages flow continuously throughout the year, while some flow intermittently; all drainage tributaries have the potential for high flows during the spring run-off period. There may be some isolated wetland areas along tributary drainages.

WATERSHED MAP



NOXIOUS WEEDS

Of all the Canyons in Salt Lake County, Parleys Canyon has some of the most significant noxious weed issues, primarily because of two species that have taken over large tracts of land. A history of intensive grazing prior to watershed protection and early infrastructure development for pipelines, power lines, and communication towers created the opportunity for invasive plants to establish and spread in these Canyons. The two most significant of species are Yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*) and Myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*). Both are Salt Lake County listed noxious weeds and have considerable impacts to plant biodiversity, habitat value, and public health. Yellow starthistle is a winter annual with a crown of toxic thorns, which makes the plant unpalatable to wildlife and stock and, if ingested, causes 'chewing disease' in several species. The thorns also severely restrict recreational use. Yellow starthistle dominates open areas in Parleys Canyon, encroaching on the native forb and grass communities that provide critical browse for wildlife and threatening the overall ecological condition in these watersheds. Most importantly, however, Yellow starthistle threatens water quality and quantity due to catastrophic changes in watershed vegetation, increased fire threat, and erosion.

The area is threatend with the noxious weed Myrtle spurge, which is steadily spreading. Myrtle spurge is an escaped ornamental that quickly crowds out native plants. All plant parts contain a caustic white sap which can cause rashes and blistering in people and wildlife. In addition to the public health concerns, Myrtle spurge out-competes native plants and can throw its seeds up to 15 feet, making it difficult to contain once established.

Although, I-80 and East Canyon surrounding Little Dell Reservoir have considerable impacts by Yellow starthistle, side Canyons such as Lamb's and Box Canyons still have relatively few noxious weed issues, and every precaution should be taken to limit disturbance and to prevent introduction of invasive and noxious weed species to these high-value, biologically-diverse Canyon ecosystems.



Figure 3: Yellow Star-thistle - Sage Fitch



Figure 4: Yellow Star-thistle - Sage Fitch

GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO ENVIRONMENT

GOAL: ENSURE THE MANAGEMENT OF WATERSHEDS IN THE WASATCH CANYONS TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ❑ The County will support the continued implementation of the recommendations of the most current Salt Lake County Integrated Watershed Plan and the Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan.
- ❑ The Salt Lake County Health Department will continue to coordinate with the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the Forest Service, and Salt Lake City to implement anti-degradation standards, stream setback and environment zones, stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs), monitoring programs, enforcement activities, and other Canyon watershed policies to maintain water quality in the Canyons.
- ❑ The County will pursue Canyon land use policies which will allow continued use of the Canyons for transportation, recreational, residential, and commercial development as long as these activities do not result in deterioration of water quality. Any new or expanding uses in the watershed Canyons must be reviewed and carefully scrutinized to determine if the proposed use is consistent with water quality goals.



Figure 5: Parley's Canyon

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ❑ The County will work with the Forest Service and Salt Lake City Public Utilities to identify impaired stretches of streams for funding to implement restoration.
- ❑ The County encourages and supports the development of concentrated recreation nodes at key locations, which minimizes overall system impact. Recreation nodes should include proper facilities for parking, trash, transit, restrooms, and trails.
- ❑ The County will work toward ensuring recreation facilities are constructed and operated to minimize both point and non-point sources of pollution, including restroom facilities.
- ❑ The County will require that landowners, developers, utility providers, and government agencies establish stream setbacks, protect vegetation, site appropriately, and implement stormwater BMPs when planning the design and construction of all Canyon development.

PARLEY'S CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ❑ The County will support the continued implementation of the recommendations of the most current Salt Lake County Integrated Watershed Plan and the Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan. The Salt Lake County 2009 Water Quality Stewardship Plan found the protected watershed within Parleys Canyon to score 70 out of 100 for habitat, hydraulics, and water quality.
- ❑ The County will identify impaired reaches of streams for funding to implement restoration. The Parleys Creek fishery is popular with Salt Lake residents, but has "impaired" status, due to E. Coli concentrations.

GOAL: ENSURE THAT FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN AND USAGE OF THE WASATCH CANYONS ARE MANAGED TO PROTECT WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND HABITAT AND TO REDUCE HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County will support the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) in the implementation of the Utah Wildlife Action Plan.
- ☐ The County will work with other agencies to further designate sensitive areas, wildlife corridors, and conflict areas.
- ☐ The County supports wildlife protection measures (such as fencing, changes in trails, and wildlife crossings) for key sensitive areas.
- ☐ The County will continue to support a science-based data resources to inform decision-making.
- ☐ The County will work with applicable Federal, State, and local agencies to identify sensitive aquatic populations within the Plan Area and, if needed, explore the feasibility related to in-stream flows to protect sensitive aquatic life. The County lead for coordination with jurisdictional agencies will be County Watershed.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will review and revise, as necessary, County codes and regulations to support wildlife.

PARLEY'S CANYON POLICIES

- ☐ The County will work with other agencies to further designate sensitive areas, wildlife corridors, and conflict areas. Vehicle/wildlife conflicts in Parleys Canyon continue to be a public safety issue and need further study and mitigation strategy implementation. Appropriate funding sources should be identified.
- ☐ The County will work with the Forest Service, UDOT and the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources to identify wildlife protection measures (such as fencing, changes in trails, and wildlife crossings) for key sensitive areas. A wildlife overpass has recently been completed at Parleys Summit. The Lamb's Canyon and Mountain Dell Canyons remain particular conflict points.
- ☐ The County will work with applicable federal, state, and local agencies to identify sensitive aquatic populations within the Plan Area and, if needed, explore feasibility related to in-stream flows to protect sensitive aquatic life. Parleys Creek is a popular fishery.

GOAL: MAINTAIN AND INCREASE THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL LANDS THAT PROTECT ECOSYSTEMS AND WATERSHEDS AND PROVIDE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County will continue to support natural land conservation and preservation of open spaces for recreation, habitat, water quality, and environmental protection purposes.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will continue to support the purchase of open space preservation and ongoing maintenance. The County will utilize all possible funding resources available, such as the County's Open Space Trust Fund, Salt Lake City, State of Utah, or Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), to protect critical parcels.
- ☐ The County will promote the use of private land trusts and other means to facilitate the conservation and maintenance of key properties through donations, conservation easements, and acquisition from willing sellers.

GOAL: ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS, INVOLVEMENT, AND STEWARDSHIP OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND RECREATIONAL VALUES AND PRACTICES.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ In cooperation with Canyon stakeholders and volunteers, the County supports public education and stewardship of the Wasatch Canyons.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will review and consider the Cottonwood Canyons Scenic Byways Plan signage plan when planning for educational signage.
- ☐ The County will identify the citizens groups, community councils, property owners associations, non-profits, ongoing related efforts, and other similar associations active in each Canyon, and meet with them regularly to identify opportunities for the County to support their activities, enhance communications, and define common objectives that align with the Wasatch Canyons General Plan. The County will commit staff time and/or funding to these groups in the form of grants for activities that support the implementation of the General Plan.
- ☐ The County will support a forum of volunteers and community groups to coordinate communications and interactions with the County and other agency stakeholders.

GOAL: PREPARE FOR POTENTIAL NATURAL HAZARDS AND DISASTERS IN THE CANYONS AND FOOTHILLS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County will work with corresponding agencies to further prepare the Canyons for the event of a wildland fire, earthquakes, landslides, and other natural disasters.
- ☐ The County will work with the Forest Service to understand and prepare for the impact of insect and disease issues that may severely impact the forest ecosystem in the near future.
- ☐ The County will work with science professionals to enrich and educate Salt Lake County planners, commissioners, and elected official of lessons learned through research application.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County supports the Salt Lake County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that addresses wildfire issues, including fuels reduction strategies. The County anticipates regular coordination with UFA and other state, local and federal agencies in reviewing the CWPP.
- ☐ The County will work with the Forest Service and UDOT to assist in fire protection, noxious weed control, and habitat protection. Involved agencies will include Salt Lake City Public Utilities, Salt Lake City Unified Fire and Police, County Weed Control, and Emergency Services.
- ☐ The County supports programs to incentivize the upgrading of existing homes and businesses including septic upgrades and improved water and sewer connections.
- ☐ The County will explore a tree and mitigation bank for removed trees to help fund restoration work.
- ☐ The County, with the Forest Service and others, will regularly review ordinances to see if current ordinances suggest best practices to minimize wildfire hazards on private and County-owned property. As necessary the County will update ordinances.
- ☐ The County supports the following existing emergency plans: the Salt Lake County Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) and the Salt Lake County Multi-Hazard Multi-Jurisdiction Mitigation Plan (HMP). In addition, the County supports the development of a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) for Salt Lake County that will assist in preparation of county-wide emergency plans through collaboration with UFA, County Emergency Management, and other government agencies. Such plans do and will consider hazard mitigation, shelter, food, water, medical care, communication, transportation, post incident mitigation and other essential items needed for emergencies.
- ☐ In case of wildfire incidents, the County will work with partner agencies (e.g., Forest Service, State of Utah, water agencies) to ensure that grant monies are pursued for post fire recovery, including watershed recovery issues, to the extent reasonably feasible.
- ☐ The County supports the continuing assessment by the UFA of current water supply capacity in the Canyons for fire protection.
- ☐ The County supports the study of reasonably viable emergency egress, shelter in place alternatives, and other mitigation tactics in the Canyons in the event of natural hazards, which could include fires, flooding, avalanches, landslides and earthquakes.



Figure 7: I-80 through Parley's Canyon

TRANSPORTATION

A major function of Parleys Canyon is as a transportation thoroughfare, with I-80 currently carrying over 59,000 vehicle trips per day, up from approximately 39,000 in 2000 and approximately 46,200 in 2010. I-80 is also a major regional freight-hauling thoroughfare between the Midwest and West Coast. UDOT is currently evaluating an array of alternatives to improve safety, reduce congestion, increase regional mobility, and update the current design of the I-80 interchange with I-215 at the mouth of Parleys Canyon. The study area extends along I-80 from 1300 East in Salt Lake City to Exit 132 at the Mount Aire Canyon Road. UTA has partnered with Summit County and Park City to provide bus service between Kimball Junction and the Salt Lake Valley, with six morning and six evening trips per day, with connections to Meadowbrook TRAX Station, the University of Utah, and Salt Lake Central Station.

Utah State Highway 65 connects to I-80 near Mountain Dell Reservoir, and provides a year-round road connection to Emigration Canyon to the north and a summer-only connection to Morgan County via the Big Mountain Summit. Other roads in Parleys Canyon include those in Mount Aire and

Lamb's Canyons, which are also closed during winter months. Mount Aire Canyon Road is a private road. The Lamb's Canyon Road has a mix of public and private ownership. The County maintains the lower (public portion) of the road. The upper part of the Lamb's Canyon road is private and not maintained by the County.

Currently, bicyclists are allowed to use the shoulder of I-80, although there is no marked bicycle lane. Transportation projects recommended for Parleys Canyon are focused on pedestrian and bicycle uses adjacent to I-80. Salt Lake County recognizes UDOT's long-range plans to improve and expand I-80. Salt Lake County also supports working with transportation authorities to improve transit service through Parleys Canyon.

UDOT is nearing the conclusion of the [Parleys Interchange Environmental Impact Statement](#) which is expected to improve the interchange vehicle movement at the mouth of the Canyon.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO TRANSPORTATION

GOAL: SUPPORT ENHANCED YEAR-ROUND TRANSIT SERVICE TO AND WITHIN THE WASATCH CANYONS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County supports mixed-use mobility centers, which should be located outside the Canyons, but within short distances. Mobility centers uses should include transit, parking, daily services and be near or mixed in with residential dwellings and businesses.
- ☐ The County supports rideshare parking, bus stops and electrical vehicle charging at key nodes.
- ☐ The County supports increased transit frequency at key locations throughout the Canyons.
- ☐ The County supports year round transit service within the Cottonwood Canyons and to Park City.
- ☐ The County supports carpooling programs.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will assist in developing parking structures for the purpose of Canyon transit and carpooling.
- ☐ The County will ensure that new and enhanced transit facilities and operations are designed to avoid degradation of watershed health and water quality.

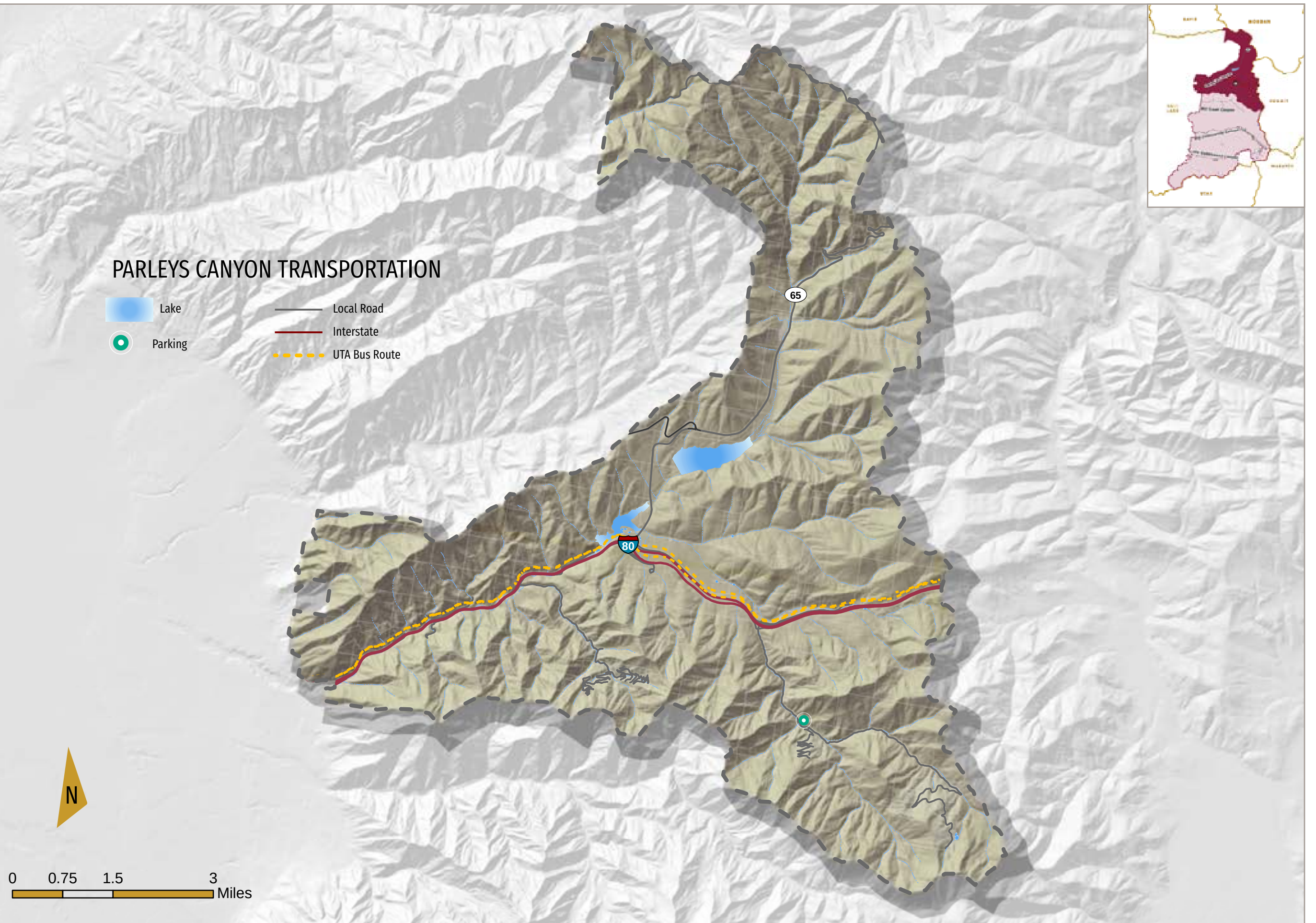
GOAL: SUPPORT ADEQUATE ROADWAY FACILITIES TO ENHANCE SAFETY, EFFICIENCY, AND MODE CHOICE IN THE WASATCH CANYONS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County supports roadway design that increases mobility.
- ☐ The County supports integration of active transportation planning in the Canyons.
- ☐ The County supports the appropriate use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) when addressing stormwater impacts on the watershed and water quality.

PARLEYS CANYON

TRANSPORTATION



GOAL: PROMOTE BICYCLING AND WALKING THROUGH ENHANCING THE SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF TRAILHEADS, PARKING LOTS, BICYCLE LANES, AND OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES.

ALL- CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County supports the planning and implementation of trails connecting parking and trailheads to mountain trail system. The purpose is to reduce roadway and pedestrian risks.
- ☐ The County supports pedestrian safety improvements such as crosswalks and pavement markings as well as traffic control devices key destinations.
- ☐ The County will support implementation of ADA and senior/ child-friendly facilities at key locations throughout the Canyons.
- ☐ The County encourages use of public transit equipment that accommodates bicycles.
- ☐ The County encourages trail head design sensitive to recreational bicyclist that provides amenities such as a bicycle fix it station, restrooms, potable water where feasible, and wayfinding.
- ☐ The County supports additional wayfinding collateral such as maps or online information to prepare visitors traveling to the Canyons.

PARLEY'S CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will work with UDOT and other agencies to develop a bike pathway in Parleys Canyon with the first phase connecting the Mountain Dell Golf Course to Summit County.

GOAL: SUPPORT MANAGEMENT OF PARKING TO PROVIDE FOR SAFETY, SCENIC QUALITY, AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County supports formalizing parking areas and eliminating roadside parking , upon review of sites on a case-by-case basis.
- ☐ The County supports management of roadside parking.
- ☐ The County supports the development of a parking system master plan.

RECREATION

Parleys Canyon offers several recreation destinations and opportunities within the Canyon, including the 395 acre Mountain Dell Golf Course with 36 holes and Little Dell Reservoir, which offers non-motorized boating and fishing. Additional current recreational uses in Parleys Canyon include picnicking, hiking, mountain biking, road biking, Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, fishing, and hunting. There is one campground, Affleck Park, located approximately 5 miles from the intersection of SR-65 and I-80. George Washington Park, adjacent to the golf course on the east, offers picnicking and pavilions for outdoor gatherings. Other recreation opportunities include 30.4 miles of biking and hiking trails and 8.1 miles of hiking-only trails. Salt Lake City is the primary manager of developed recreation in Parleys Canyon, in that most of the trailheads, access points, and recreational amenities are on lands owned by the City. Those not located on City-owned lands are managed by the City and the Forest Service pursuant to a 1984 Watershed Management Agreement.

A paved multi-use two-way pathway connecting Salt Lake County to Summit County adjacent to I-80 is a key recommendation. Salt Lake County, with partner agencies, should pursue a paved trail so bicyclists can avoid the highway and have a safer way to enjoy the surrounding areas. The trail is

envisioned to run along the north side of I-80 and will utilize the Mountain Dell Golf Course existing maintenance road. It would follow the frontage road and connect to old US-40 on the south side of the interstate using either a tunnel or bridge. The trail would then continue along US-40 to Summit Park.

As a key recommendation of this process, Salt Lake County is to consider a joint planning effort with Salt Lake City and the Forest Service to develop a Parleys Canyon Recreation and Trails Master Plan, not to be commenced until the SLC Watershed Management Plan update is completed. The Recreation and Trails Plan must foremost consider the impacts of current and proposed recreational activities and related uses on the watershed and drinking water sources. Improvements for recreation opportunities must also be accompanied with appropriate long-term maintenance resources. Proposed recreational facilities should be non-motorized, and may include hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, cross-country skiing, restrooms, parking, and passive recreational activities. The Department of Public Utilities updated Watershed Management Plan will provide policy direction as to how to appropriately manage the City's land portfolio in ways consistent with watershed protection.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO RECREATION

GOAL: IMPROVE THE RECREATION USER EXPERIENCE WHILE PREPARING FOR FUTURE DEMAND.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ Manage Recreation Impacts – The County supports recreation use in key identified recreation activity nodes. Recreation facilities and systems should be managed and maintained in a way that protects open lands and natural resources.
- ☐ Maintain Trails – The County supports the maintenance of a quality trail system in the Plan Area. The County encourages the implementation of sustainable trail and trail head design guidelines and, to the extent possible, the location of new trails outside of riparian and stream areas. The County supports enhancing selected high-use trails (such as Donut Falls) to handle significant usage. High-use trails whenever feasible should be graded and include amenities such as benches, restrooms, drinking water, transit stops, and parking. The County will encourage that all new trails have identified sources of funding for operation and maintenance prior to trail construction.
- ☐ Improve User Experience – The County encourages technology applications to maximize user experience, promote key recreational areas, and provide the most up-to-date information.
- ☐ Provide Access – The County promotes trail heads to be included in the planning of transit stops and part of the entire system.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ❑ Reduce Recreation Impact - The County will promote lesser-used recreation areas in Salt Lake County outside the Wasatch Canyons to provide alternatives to the frequently-used Wasatch Canyons. Alternatives could include Dimple Dell Regional Park, Ensign Peak, Yellow Fork, and other appropriate areas.
- ❑ Maintain Recreational Facilities - The County will assist the Forest Service, Salt Lake City, and other agencies and stakeholders that manage trails and lands in implementing their standards for the development of trailheads, parking areas, and other use areas. The County supports the Forest Service and other interested stakeholders to establish volunteer programs to lead and train trail and recreation facility improvement and maintenance volunteers. The County will consider dedicating County staff time to coordinate with volunteer groups.
- ❑ Provide Access - The County will work with the Forest Service and Salt Lake City to assist with designated parking and needed amenities (garbage receptacles, restrooms, parking, etc.). The County will pursue acquisitions of lands with willing sellers at trailheads for additional facilities and parking. The County will work to complete the entire Bonneville Shoreline Trail for entire north-to-south system access. The County will utilize multiple funding sources to protect and maintain key parcels for open space and recreational access through acquisition from willing sellers or conservation easements.
- ❑ The County will work with the Forest Service and local municipalities to establish additional locations for parking lots, recreational access to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, and other recreational open spaces. Their focus will be on enhancing foothill easement acquisition programs and trail head developments.
- ❑ The County to consider the usage of visitor studies through collaboration and support of partner agencies, which may include Forest Service, SLCPU, UDOT, UTA, CWC, Town of Brighton, and Town of Alta. Visitor study assessments shall involve the public and support by partner agencies with jurisdictional authority.

PARLEYS STRATEGIES:

- ❑ Following completion of the updated Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan, the County will collaborate with Salt Lake City in the development of a recreation master plan for Parleys Canyon.

GOAL: DEDICATE FUNDING SOURCES TO ASSIST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND TO PROVIDE ONGOING SUPPORT FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ❑ The County will work with partner agencies and others to pursue dedicated funding sources for the Canyons. If tolling or other fees are instituted the County requests that a portion of the generated revenue be designated to specific recreation demands such as trailheads, trails, restrooms, and related items.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ❑ The County will pursue funding resources from foundations, grants, state, federal, and other revenue sources. Multiple County agencies will work on the pursuit of these resources.
- ❑ The County will consider creation of a Regional Wasatch Canyons Recreation District (Local or Special Service District).
- ❑ The County will apply for grants through the Zoo, Arts and Parks Tax (known as the ZAP or RAP tax).
- ❑ The County will consider requesting a portion of Transient Room and Lodging Taxes.

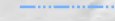
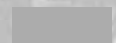


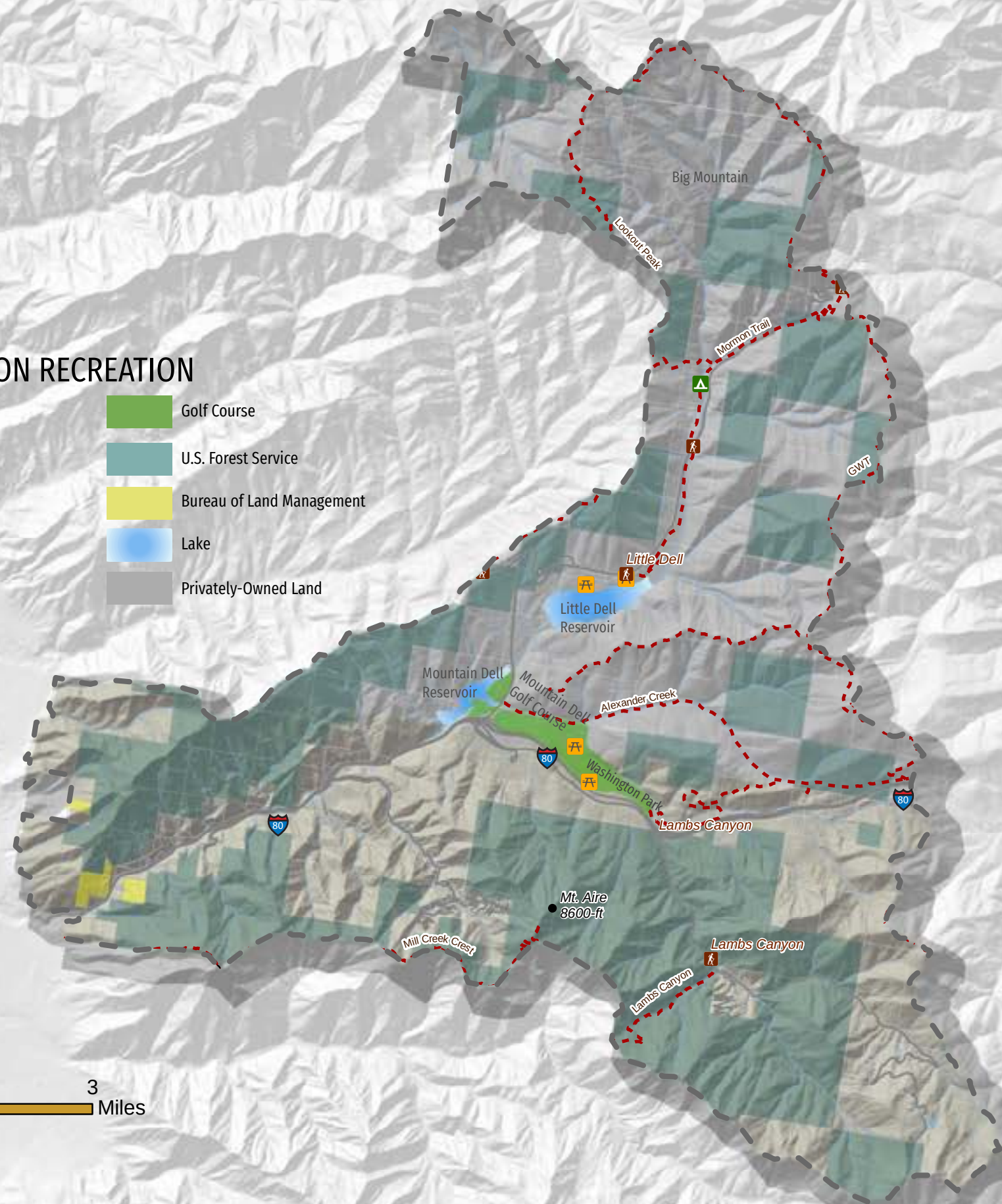
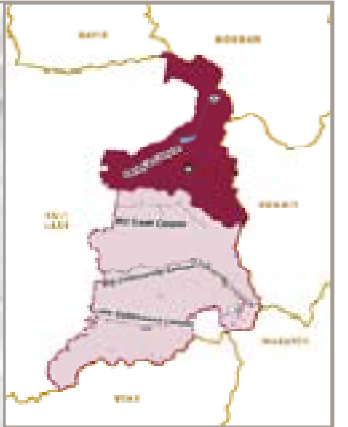
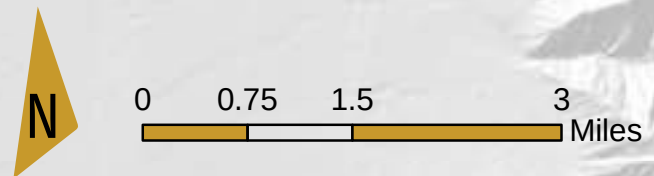
Figure 8: Mountain Dell Golf Course

PARLEYS CANYON

EXISTING RECREATION

PARLEYS CANYON RECREATION

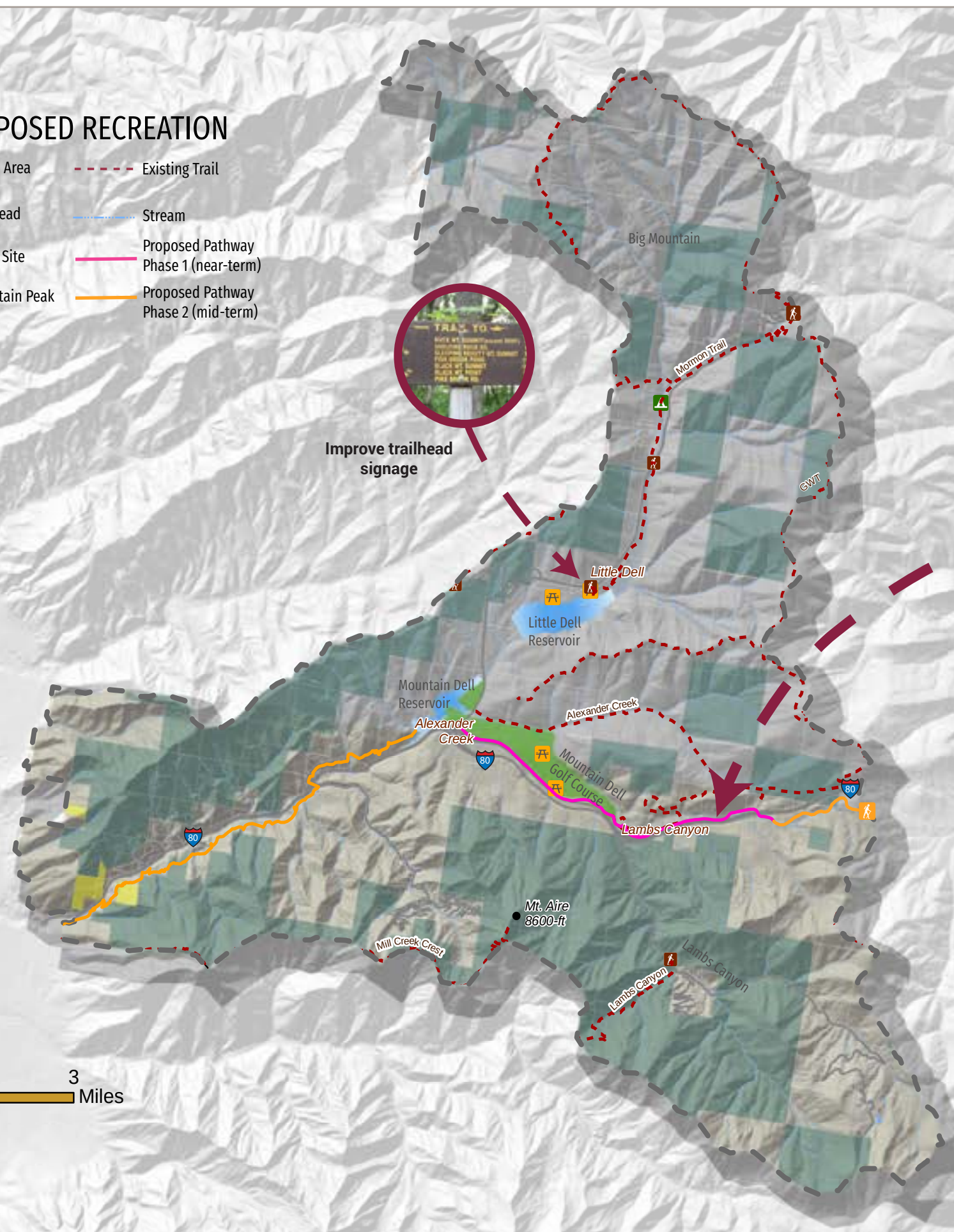
- | | |
|--|---|
|  Trail |  Golf Course |
|  Stream |  U.S. Forest Service |
|  Picnic Area |  Bureau of Land Management |
|  Trailhead |  Lake |
|  Camp Site |  Privately-Owned Land |
|  Mountain Peak | |



PARLEYS CANYON

RECREATION VISION

PARLEYS CANYON PROPOSED RECREATION

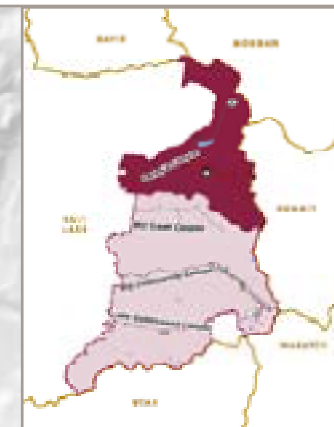


Improve trailhead signage

Add a sidepath (uphill and downhill bike lanes)



0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles



ECONOMY

Interstate 80 is a major east-west connection between the Midwest and the West Coast, and supports the movement of thousands of tons of freight daily. It is also a vital link between Salt Lake County, Summit County, and Wasatch County that supports an increasing volume of worker/commuter traffic in support of the economies of both areas.

Parleys Canyon also functions as a corridor for many utility services entering the Salt Lake Valley, with numerous designated utility rights-of-way (ROWs) present in the area. These ROWs tend to follow the route of Parleys Canyon until the Mountain Dell area, then cross the Little Mountain summit and follow Emigration Canyon into the Valley. Existing ROWs include pipelines that carry crude oil and natural gas, fiber optic communication cables, and electrical transmission lines. These ROWs are an important feature in the Canyon, as they often serve as de-facto trails and function as wildlife corridors. Parleys Canyon also houses wireless telecommunications infrastructure.

There are several commercial properties in Parleys Canyon, including restaurants near the golf course, a wedding venue, and an archery range. These operations provide convenience for residents and visitors, but are not a major economic factor in the County as a whole.



Figure 9: Louland Falls Event Venue

GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO ECONOMY

GOAL: SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION AND VIABILITY OF CANYON BUSINESSES WHILE CONSERVING THE NATURAL FEATURES AND RECREATIONAL ATTRIBUTES THAT MAKE THE CANYONS A VITAL ECONOMIC IMPACT IN UTAH.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ Salt Lake County supports appropriate ski area/Forest Service land exchanges to support Canyon businesses, according to the CRMP.
- ☐ The County will continue to focus on the environmental and scenic preservation of the Wasatch Canyons as an economic development strategy.
- ☐ The County will include tourism and economic groups in planning, coordinating, and implementing the Wasatch Canyons General Plan.
- ☐ Resort expansion recommendations should be according to previously adopted or subsequent amendments of any of the following: Records of Decision, plans by the County and Forest Service (including Revised Plan), and Mountain Accord findings. New dwelling units (hospitality and residential) should be located at the base of the resorts and clustered in walkable villages.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will work with the Forest Service to help ensure that businesses operating in the Canyons have the proper business permitting (for guiding, shuttle, etc.). Some commercial operations may also require a Special Use Permit from the Forest Service.
- ☐ The County will regulate the use of short-term rentals. The County will work with short-term rental and hotel operators to ensure understanding of necessary Canyon policies for parking, watershed protection, and permits.

GOAL: MEET THE GROWING DEMANDS FOR RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, AND VISITORS BY ENHANCING AND IMPROVING PUBLIC UTILITY SYSTEMS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County will work with agency partners to identify public infrastructure needs to address residential, recreational, environmental, and business impacts.
- ☐ The County supports the development of broadband and communications infrastructure in appropriate areas to achieve General Plan goals such as public safety improvements and environmental protection. The County will evaluate and modify, if necessary, communications infrastructure plans and Capital Improvement Plans (CIPs) so that they are consistent with the General Plan.
- ☐ The County will ensure that new infrastructure is designed and installed per General Plan goals regarding aesthetics, environmental and water quality, and the character of the Canyons. The County will also ensure that infrastructure development, maintenance and repair are conducted in a manner that protects water quality.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will evaluate infrastructure priorities and incentives for development in appropriate areas that achieve environmental protection, recreational impact mitigation, and other goals consistent with the General Plan.
- ☐ The County will evaluate all funding options to support development and maintenance of needed infrastructure. The County will ensure that General Plan projects are included and prioritized in agency CIPs.

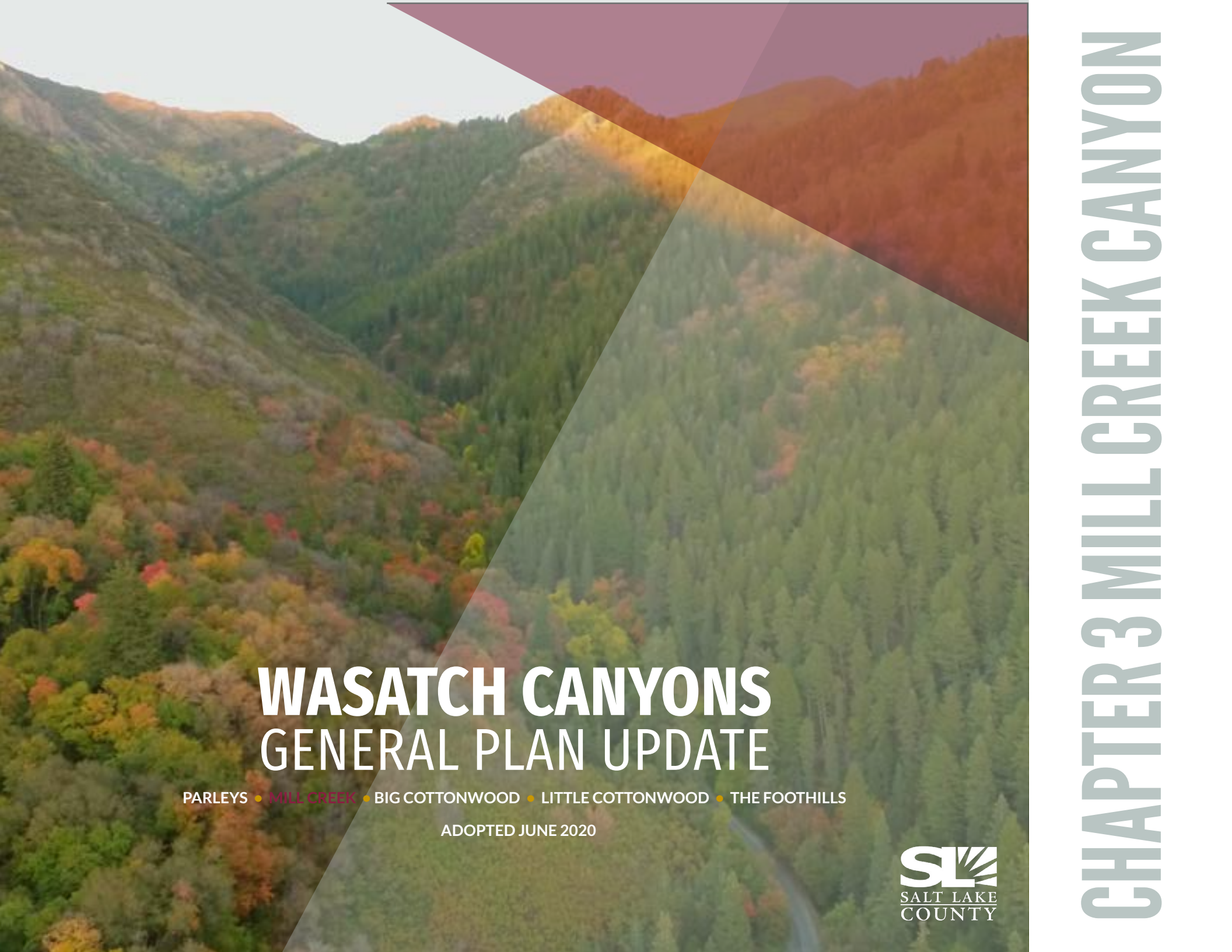
ACTIONS

Specific strategy action items are presented below. Actions are described as programs, which would have on-going responsibilities and activities; policies, which would guide future County decision-making; or projects. Priorities are described as near-term strategies, 0 to 5 years; mid-term, 5 to 10 years; and long-term, 10 or more years. Anticipated implementation costs are generally categorized \$, lower cost strategies that could be implemented by allocating or re-allocating funding in current general fund budgets; \$\$, moderate cost strategies that would require creation of a new budget line item and development of new funding streams; or \$\$\$, higher cost strategies that would require either bonding for capital projects or development of significant new funding sources such as legislation, or new taxing authorities.

ACTION	ACTION TYPE	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY/ PARTNERS	FUNDING
Trails Master Plan - The County will support and collaborate with the Forest Service on Trails Master Planning.	Plan	Near (0-5 years)	Salt Lake County/ Forest Service	\$
Ordinance Updates - Salt Lake County will review and update FCOZ requirements relating to property line setbacks, roof lines, building spacing, snow shedding, snow storage, defensible spaces, fire risk, septic systems, preservation of historic structures, and forest health to ensure alignment with the objectives of this Wasatch Canyons General Plan.	Plan	Near (0-5 years)	Salt Lake County/ Salt Lake City/ Forest Service/Municipal Service District	\$
Parking Improvements - Lamb's Canyon trail head parking improvements.	Project	Near (0-5 years)	Salt Lake County/ Forest Service	\$\$
Bicycling - Create an off-highway multi-use bicycle pathway (uphill and downhill) connecting the Mountain Dell golf course and Summit County.	Project	Mid (5-10 years)	Salt Lake County/ UDOT	\$\$\$

Communication - Assist UDOT in communicating updates for the canyon to the public regarding weather.	Policy	Near (0-5 years)	Salt Lake County	\$
Lamb's Canyon Parking - Evaluate and implement the improvement of the informal parking area at the Lamb's Canyon I-80 interchange.	Project	Mid (5-10 years)	Salt Lake County/UDOT/ Forest Service	\$\$
Trail Connectivity - Support the improvement of an interconnected trail system in Parleys Canyon, including between Big Mountain and Lamb's Canyon.	Policy	Mid (5-10 years)	Salt Lake County/Forest Service	\$\$\$
Recreation Master Plan - Following completion of the updated SLC watershed management plan, SLCo will collaborate with SLC, Forest Service and UDOT in the development of a recreation master plan for Parleys Canyon.	Plan	Mid (5-10 years)	Salt Lake County/Salt Lake City/ Forest Service/UDOT	\$
Annual Review - County will invite partner agencies, governments and others to discuss the goals and progress of the General Plan	Plan	Yearly	Salt Lake County (multiple departments & Planning Commission)/ Municipal Services District/ Forest Service/ UDOT/ Salt Lake Public Utilities/ Community Councils/ others	\$

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WASATCH CANYONS GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

PARLEYS • **MILL CREEK** • BIG COTTONWOOD • LITTLE COTTONWOOD • THE FOOTHILLS

ADOPTED JUNE 2020



CHAPTER 3 MILL CREEK CANYON

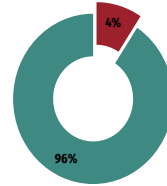
INTRODUCTION

Mill Creek Canyon is located just south of Parleys Canyon in the Wasatch Canyons. The Mill Creek Canyon road is a Salt Lake County road with a Forest Service easement, that runs from the Millcreek City boundary to the Big Water Trail Head parking lot where the road ends. The road is approximately 8.5 miles from the Fee Booth to the Lower Big Water Trail Head. The Canyon itself, however, climbs up to Murdock Peak. Mill Creek Canyon is relatively narrow and is slightly curvy with bends at Elbow Fork, Pipeline and Mount Aire trailheads. Mill Creek Canyon is a favored destination for casual recreational activities, and is sometimes referred to as “Salt Lake City’s Mountain Park”. On fair weather weekends, the Canyon is crowded with picnickers, hikers, bikers, and dog walkers. Parking spaces are at a premium for peak days. Programs on environmental impacts and trail courtesy have been suggested to increase the sense of stewardship among Canyon users. The lack of reliable cellular service in the Canyon was identified as a safety risk for those recreating in Mill Creek in the event of emergencies.

Through the stakeholder and visioning processes people commented that Mill Creek Canyon is heavily used during warm weather months and busy on weekends and holidays. On weekends and holidays at peak hours, the number of vehicles often exceeds the number parking stalls which can diminish the visitor experience.

Roadway improvements, transit shuttles, bikeways, and better defined parking areas were identified as potential means to improve transportation in Mill Creek Canyon. A regular shuttle located near the mouth of the Canyon was also suggested as a means of reducing the number of individual vehicles for those going hiking or mountain biking, recognizing that those bound for family gatherings and picnics, restaurant/reception centers and the Boy Scout Camps will continue to use private vehicles.

MILL CREEK TODAY



96% Forest Service

40% (6,527) Forest Service Wilderness Area

60% (9,772 Acres) Forest Service Land (non Wilderness)

4% Private Land (Protected Areas Database)



2 Commercial properties

7 Scout day camps (SaltLakeScouts.org)



11 Miles of native fish habitat restoration

(<https://www.nationalforests.org/blog/restoring-native-fish-in-utahs-mill-creek>)



80 Miles of trails (AGRC Utah April 2017)

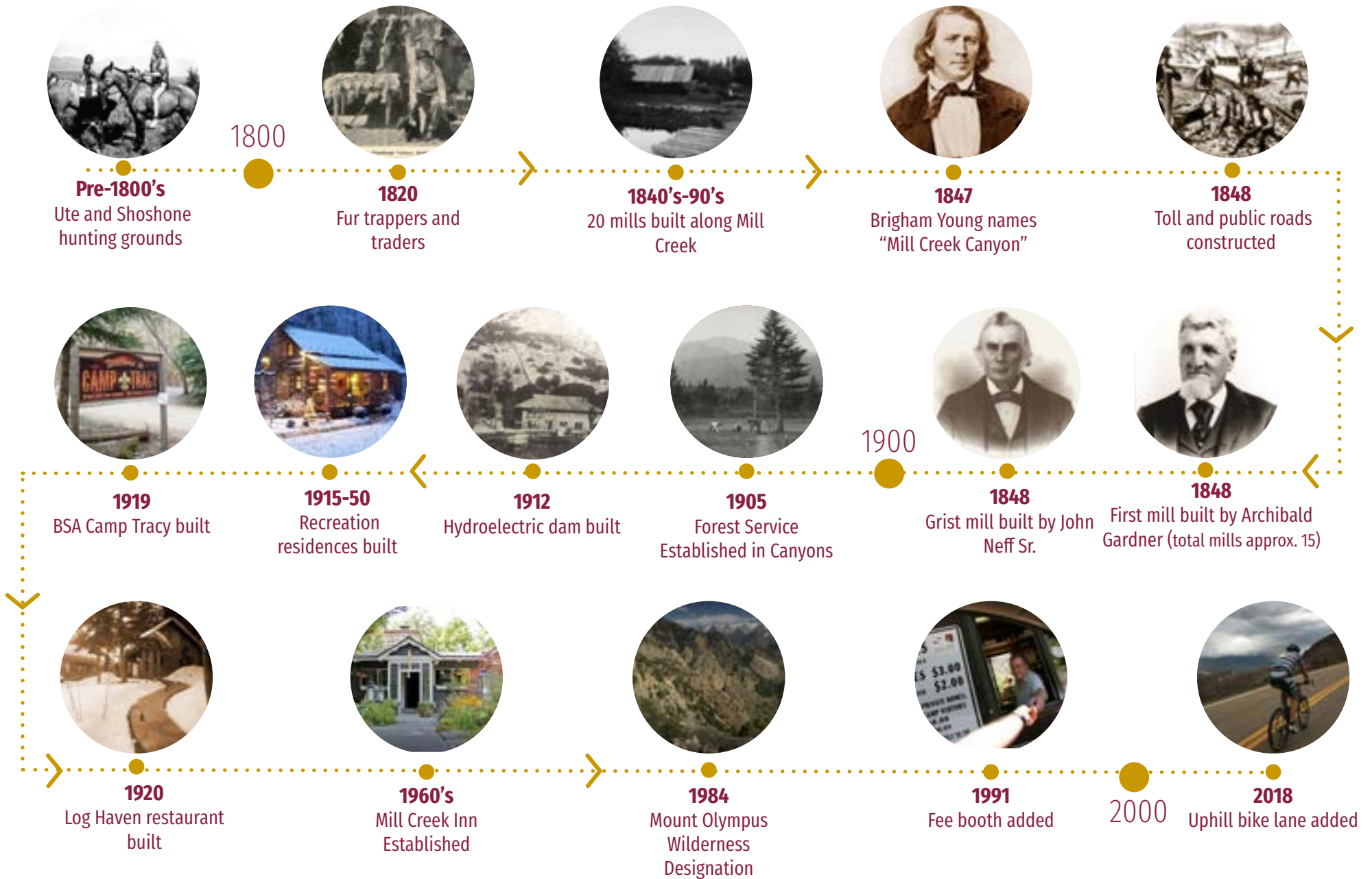
9 Trailheads (AGRC Utah April 2017)

18 Cyclists per hour during Peak Days



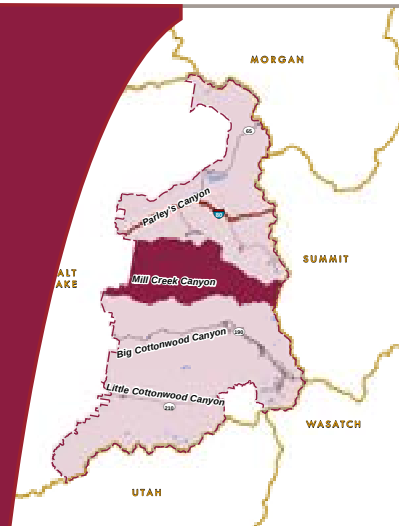
165,000 Cars/year (NationalForest.org 2017)

MILL CREEK THROUGH THE YEARS



MILL CREEK CANYON

LAND USE



Camp Tracy

MILL CREEK CANYON LAND USE

	Forestry		Single Family Residential (dispersed)
	U.S. Forest Service Wilderness		Commercial
	Salt Lake City Lands		Private Recreation



0 0.5 1 2 Miles

See Introduction Chapter for full Land Use Descriptions

EXISTING CONDITIONS, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

Many of the existing conditions and management challenges of the Wasatch Canyons are common among the Canyons and foothills. Those include issues relating to wildfires, noxious weeds, and forest health. Those common circumstances are described in detail in Chapter 1, Introduction to this General Plan. Existing conditions and management issues specific to Mill Creek Canyon are presented in this chapter; in order for the reader to have a comprehensive understanding of the circumstances in each Canyon, Chapter 1 should be read in conjunction with the individual Canyon chapters.

The General Plan identifies goals, policies, and strategies in nine categories within the five main planning themes of land use, environment, recreation, transportation, and economy. Most of the goals, policies, and strategies are relevant for the entire Wasatch Canyons planning area, and are presented in each theme below with those specific to Mill Creek Canyon highlighted as “Mill Creek strategies”. **Goals** are long-term objectives that describe future desired conditions and outcomes. **Policies** are statements designed to inform and guide the County’s future decision-making. **Strategies** are specific tasks the County proposes to undertake to further Plan goals.

LAND USE

The Federal Government is the largest landowner in Mill Creek Canyon, with the Forest Service managing 14,689 acres, (90% of the Mill Creek Canyon area) and the other 1,600 acres of land (10% of the Mill Creek Canyon area) in private ownership, which includes parcels owned by Salt Lake City for watershed management. Steep slopes and Federal lands limit the amount of development; however, there are some homes and commercial development in the Canyon.

According to County property and tax records, there are 74 residences located in the Mill Creek Canyon study area. The majority of these are clustered summer homes, and are occupied only during warm weather months. Many of the homes are long-term 20 year ground leases from the Forest Service. The year-round population of Mill Creek Canyon residents is small.

The largest private property owner in Mill Creek Canyon is the Great Salt Lake Council of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). BSA camps including Camp Tracy, Fort Cub Frontier, and Imagination Day Camp, are located adjacent to the Canyon road and are occupied seasonally for scouting camps, meetings and other activities. In addition to serving as restaurants, Log Haven and the Mill Creek Inn both offer venues for weddings and other celebrations.

Land uses are not expected to significantly change in Mill Creek Canyon due to the large percent of public lands. The current commercial developments are expected to continue operating within the Canyon, an estimated regional population increase will likely result in additional canyon annual visitors.

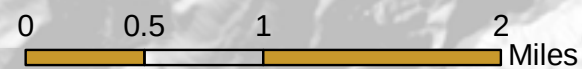
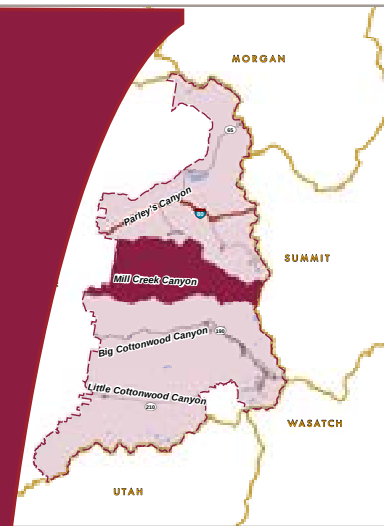
As of November of 2019, there is proposed Federal legislation to expand and protect wilderness areas, facilitate land exchanges, and limit ski area boundaries. The Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area is a proposed Federal designation that would encompass approximately 80,000 acres of Forest Service managed lands in the Wasatch Canyons. If adopted, the designation would result in creation of a 6,158-acre wilderness area in Mill Creek Canyon encompassing Grandeur Peak and Mount Aire.



Figure 1: Mill Creek XC Skiing - Jared Stewart

MILL CREEK CANYON

LAND OWNERSHIP



MILLCREEK CANYON LAND OWNERSHIP

-  US Forest Service Wilderness
-  US Forest Service
-  Private

Roughly 355 acres of "private land" throughout Mill Creek Canyon is owned by Salt Lake City

GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO LAND USE

GOAL: ENSURE THAT FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES AND ENTITIES WITH JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE WASATCH CANYONS PLANNING AREA REGULARLY COORDINATE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT EFFORTS.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- Coordination – The County will implement the inter-agency coordination measures identified in the Salt Lake County Resource Management Plan (CRMP) for fire management, forest management, riparian areas and wetlands, recreation management, and the other resources addressed in the CRMP. The allocation of responsibilities among County agencies for coordination implementation is described in the CRMP. It is recommended that those County Departments with responsibilities within the Canyons have regular coordination meetings to review and discuss goals, strategies, services, and issues facing the Canyons.

- Planning – The County will work collaboratively with partner agencies including the Wasatch Front Regional Council, the Forest Service, UDOT, Salt Lake City, the Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District, the Central Wasatch Commission, UTA, towns, neighboring cities, and others to accomplish the goals of the General Plan and other plans set forth by the County. It is recommended that inter-agency collaboration happen on a regular basis and more than once per year. The County will explore and support the Scenic Byway Committee as a potential group to pursue coordination.

GOAL: REVIEW AND UPDATE COUNTY ORDINANCES, AS NEEDED, TO FURTHER IMPLEMENT THE VISION, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES OF THE GENERAL PLAN.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- The County will support the consideration of and collaboration on unique Canyon theming, similar to national parks, that promotes a sense of place, stewardship, and heritage (signage, architecture, wayfinding, entry features, benches, etc.).

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- The County will coordinate with the Forest Service, UDOT, Central Wasatch Commission, local municipalities, and other government agencies to consider creating design guidelines/standards for the commercial development, gateways, and public areas in the Canyons that include consistent design quality, materials, and placement.
- The County will review the Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone (FCOZ), Mountain Resort Zone (MRZ) and other related Canyon ordinances to compare goals and strategies alignments or conflicts with the General Plan. This shall include a review of defensible spaces and other best practices to reduce wildfire risk. In connection with any potential update of such ordinances, the County intends to solicit public input and work with partner agencies (which may include the Forest Service, SLCPU, the MSD, Town of Brighton and Town of Alta) and property owners.

- The County will consider the need to periodically update County ordinances related to development siting, access, floodplains, water protection, and the structural design of buildings to ensure that health and safety requirements and the General Plan Vision and County goals are being met.
- The County will work to streamline and clarify the FCOZ/private property development process, including achieving better coordination between jurisdictions.
- The County will review progress and update the Wasatch Canyons General Plan every five years to make necessary incremental adjustments to work toward the identified goals. The County will plan for a complete General Plan update in the 15-20 year time frame (2033-2038).
- The County supports housing development that is consistent with the Moderate Income Housing Plan and will adapt housing ordinances according to local needs, restraints, and opportunities (See Chapter 1 for applicable strategies, goals, and actions from the MIH).

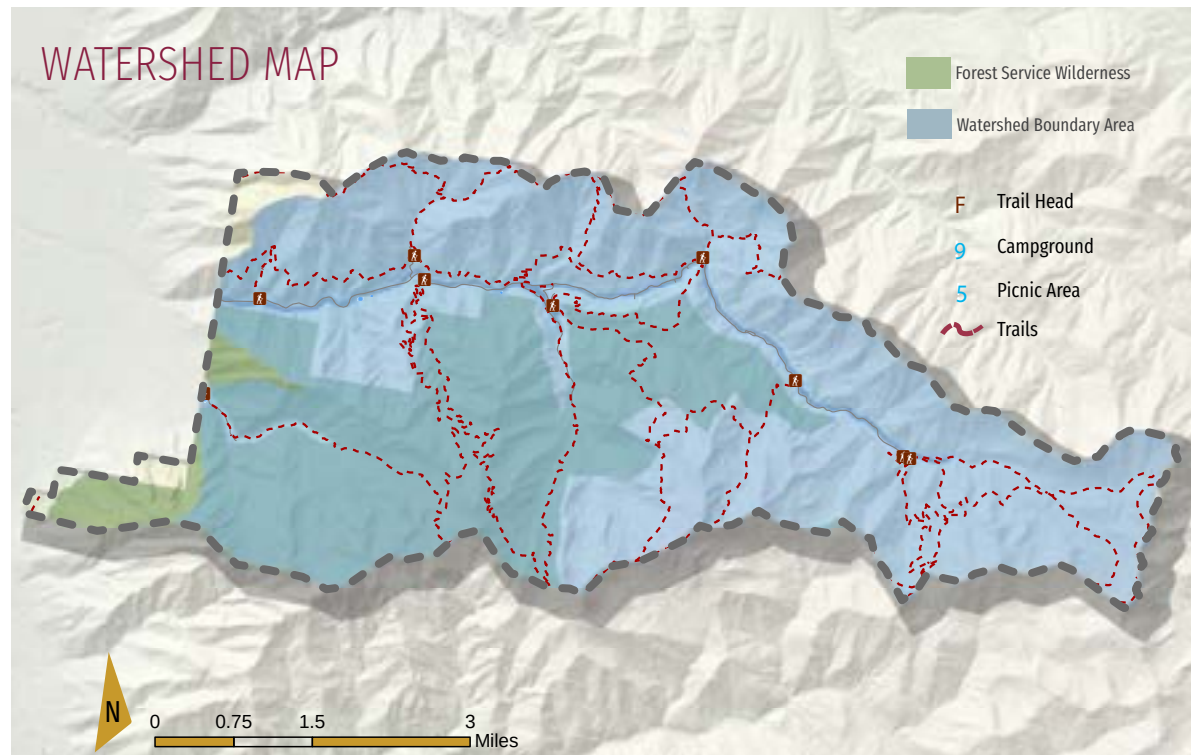


Figure 2: Mill Creek - Devon Sanderson

ENVIRONMENT

WATERSHED AND HYDROLOGY

The Mill Creek Canyon drainage area is approximately 18 square miles. Surface water flows originate from Mill Creek, Porter Fork, and Bowman Fork Canyons. While the Canyon is a part of the larger Wasatch Mountains watershed, it is not a protected watershed, and is not a source of drinking water for the Salt Lake Valley. Mill Creek Canyon is unique in the Wasatch Mountains, in that dogs and horses are allowed in the Canyon and on Canyon trails. Aging septic tanks may pose a hazard to surface and groundwater quality. The function of Mill Creek for habitat, hydraulics, water quality, and social value are very high for the upper Canyon (above Elbow Fork), and moderate to high in the lower Canyon, according to the 2009 Salt Lake County-wide Water Quality Stewardship Plan. The Revised Forest Service Plan Wasatch-Cache states “In the event that Millcreek Canyon becomes designated as a culinary watershed by Salt Lake City, management of the area will be adjusted accordingly in full cooperation with the City.” Its important for agencies and the public to recognize the potential of Mill Creek Canyon becoming a drinking water source and policy changes would follow.



VEGETATION

The diverse topography and elevation in Mill Creek Canyon support a variety of terrestrial ecosystems. Gambel Oak and Oak-Juniper woodlands cover the majority of the western foothills of the Canyon. Moving up the Canyon, aspen and coniferous trees begin to be more prominent due to the increase in elevation. White and Douglas Fir and Engelmann Spruce can be found at subalpine elevation along the ridgelines while Alpine Tundra can be found at the highest of elevations. Shrubs dominate the Canyon floor with a diverse array of wildflowers and other herbaceous plant species.

High human use areas such as trailheads and group picnic areas are noted to have varying degrees of noxious weed populations. Lower Mill Creek canyon is generally more exposed to invasive plant species due to its proximity to the Wildland-Urban Interface. Noxious weed species of greatest concern in Mill Creek Canyon include myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*), leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), and oxeye daisy

(*Leucanthemum vulgare*). Several new invaders include escaped ornamentals such as money plant (*Lunaria annua*) and oriental virginibower (*Clematis orientalis*) have the capability to crowd out native vegetation, like listed noxious weeds. Both species have likely escaped gardens and naturalized in Mill Creek canyon.

In Mill Creek canyon seed dispersal of invasive plant species happens by human, vehicle, and pet transmission. Bare soil areas such as parking areas, trails and trailheads, picnic areas where people congregate are high risk areas for noxious weeds to spread. A noxious weed program is essential to control the spread of invasive plant species and to educate recreational users about noxious weeds in Mill Creek canyon. It is also important that the use of native plant species be promoted for planting in residential areas within the Wildland-Urban Interface to ensure that new non-native invasive species do not jump the garden fence and threaten intact native plant habitat within the upper reaches of Mill Creek canyon.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO ENVIRONMENT

GOAL: ENSURE THE MANAGEMENT OF WATERSHEDS IN THE WASATCH CANYONS TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County will support the continued implementation of the recommendations of the most current Salt Lake County Integrated Watershed Plan and the Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan.
- ☐ The Salt Lake County Health Department will continue to coordinate with the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the Forest Service, and Salt Lake City to implement anti-degradation standards, stream setback and environment zones, stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs), monitoring programs, enforcement activities, and other Canyon watershed policies to maintain water quality in the Canyons.
- ☐ The County will pursue Canyon land use policies which will allow continued use of the Canyons for transportation, recreational, residential, and commercial development as long as these activities do not result in deterioration of water quality. Any new or expanding uses in the watershed Canyons must be reviewed and carefully scrutinized to determine if the proposed use is consistent with water quality goals.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will work with the Forest Service and Salt Lake City Public Utilities to identify impaired stretches of streams for funding to implement restoration.
- ☐ The County encourages and supports the development of concentrated recreation nodes at key locations, which minimizes overall system impact. Recreation nodes should include proper facilities for parking, trash, transit, restrooms, and trails.
- ☐ The County will work toward ensuring recreation facilities are constructed and operated to minimize both point and non-point sources of pollution, including restroom facilities.
- ☐ The County will require that landowners, developers, utility providers, and government agencies establish stream setbacks, protect vegetation, site appropriately, and implement stormwater BMPs when planning the design and construction of all Canyon development.

GOAL: ENSURE THAT FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN AND USAGE OF THE WASATCH CANYONS ARE MANAGED TO PROTECT WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND HABITAT AND TO REDUCE HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County will support the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) in the implementation of the Utah Wildlife Action Plan.
- ☐ The County will work with other agencies to further designate sensitive areas, wildlife corridors, and conflict areas.
- ☐ The County supports wildlife protection measures (such as fencing, changes in trails, and wildlife crossings) for key sensitive areas.
- ☐ The County will continue to support a science-based data resources to inform decision-making.
- ☐ The County will work with applicable Federal, State, and local agencies to identify sensitive aquatic populations within the Plan Area and, if needed, explore the feasibility related to in-stream flows to protect sensitive aquatic life. The County lead for coordination with jurisdictional agencies will be County Watershed.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will review and revise, as necessary, County codes and regulations to support wildlife.



Figure 3: Canyon River Bryan Anderson

GOAL: MAINTAIN AND INCREASE THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL LANDS THAT PROTECT ECOSYSTEMS AND WATERSHEDS AND PROVIDE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County will continue to support natural land conservation and preservation of open spaces for recreation, habitat, water quality, and environmental protection purposes.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will continue to support the purchase of open space preservation and ongoing maintenance. The County will utilize all possible funding resources available, such as the County's Open Space Trust Fund, Salt Lake City, State of Utah, or Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), to protect critical parcels.
- ☐ The County will promote the use of private land trusts and other means to facilitate the conservation and maintenance of key properties through donations, conservation easements, and acquisition from willing sellers.

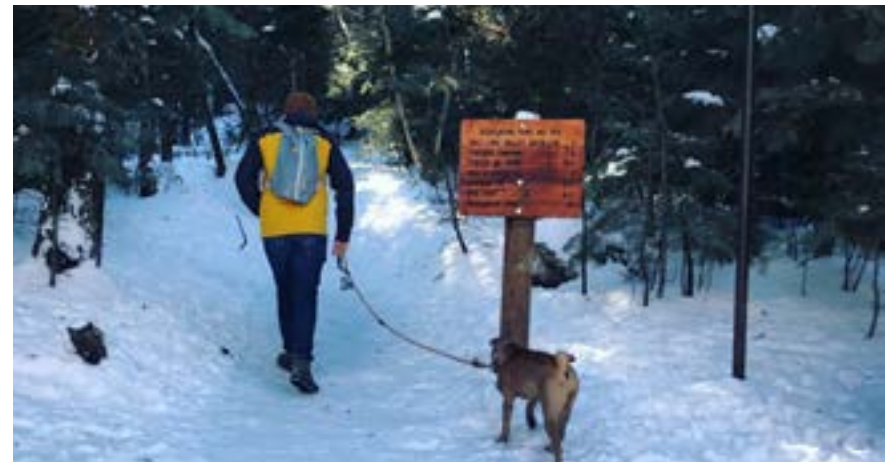


Figure 4: Hiking with dogs in Mill Creek - Olivia Cvetko

GOAL: ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS, INVOLVEMENT, AND STEWARDSHIP OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND RECREATIONAL VALUES AND PRACTICES.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ❑ In cooperation with Canyon stakeholders and volunteers, the County supports public education and stewardship of the Wasatch Canyons.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ❑ The County will review and consider the Cottonwood Canyons Scenic Byways Plan signage plan when planning for educational signage.
- ❑ The County will identify the citizens groups, community councils, property owners associations, non-profits, ongoing related efforts, and other similar associations active in each Canyon, and meet with them regularly to identify opportunities for the County to support their activities, enhance communications, and define common objectives that align with the Wasatch Canyons General Plan. The County will commit staff time and/or funding to these groups in the form of grants for activities that support the implementation of the General Plan.
- ❑ The County will support a forum of volunteers and community groups to coordinate communications and interactions with the County and other agency stakeholders.

GOAL: PREPARE FOR POTENTIAL NATURAL HAZARDS AND DISASTERS IN THE CANYONS AND FOOTHILLS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ❑ The County will work with corresponding agencies to further prepare the Canyons for the event of a wildland fire, earthquakes, landslides, and other natural disasters.
- ❑ The County will work with the Forest Service to understand and prepare for the impact of insect and disease issues that may severely impact the forest ecosystem in the near future.
- ❑ The County will work with science professionals to enrich and educate Salt Lake County planners, commissioners, and elected official of lessons learned through research application.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ❑ The County supports the Salt Lake County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that addresses wildfire issues, including fuels reduction strategies. The County anticipates regular coordination with UFA and other state, local and federal agencies in reviewing the CWPP.
- ❑ The County will work with the Forest Service and UDOT to assist in fire protection, noxious weed control, and habitat protection. Involved agencies will include Salt Lake City Public Utilities, Salt Lake City Unified Fire and Police, County Weed Control, and Emergency Services.
- ❑ The County supports programs to incentivize the upgrading of existing homes and businesses including septic upgrades and improved water and sewer connections.
- ❑ The County will explore a tree and mitigation bank for removed trees to help fund restoration work.
- ❑ The County, with the Forest Service and others, will regularly review ordinances to see if current ordinances suggest best practices to minimize wildfire hazards on private and County-owned property. As necessary the County will update ordinances.
- ❑ The County supports the following existing emergency plans: the Salt Lake County Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) and the Salt Lake County Multi-Hazard Multi-Jurisdiction Mitigation Plan (HMP). In addition, the County supports the development of a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) for Salt Lake County that will assist in preparation of county-wide emergency plans through collaboration with UFA, County Emergency Management, and other government agencies. Such plans do and will consider hazard mitigation, shelter, food, water, medical care, communication, transportation, post incident mitigation and other essential items needed for emergencies.
- ❑ In case of wildfire incidents, the County will work with partner agencies (e.g., Forest Service, State of Utah, water agencies) to ensure that grant monies are pursued for post fire recovery, including watershed recovery issues, to the extent reasonably feasible.
- ❑ The County supports the continuing assessment by the UFA of current water supply capacity in the Canyons for fire protection.
- ❑ The County supports the study of reasonably viable emergency egress, shelter in place alternatives, and other mitigation tactics in the Canyons in the event of natural hazards, which could include fires, flooding, avalanches, landslides and earthquakes.

TRANSPORTATION

Mill Creek Canyon Road sits on an easement in Forest Service Lands and is accessible from Wasatch Boulevard at 3800 South. Because of this, the Forest Service must be included in coordination concerning all transportation improvements to this road. Automobiles entering the Canyon pay a daily use fee, which covers access for as long as the area is open during the day. The fees collected help to preserve the land in the Canyon by providing the Forest Service with additional resources to maintain and improve the sanitation, safety, and quality of the recreational experience. Once inside the Canyon, visitors may use designated parking stalls at trail heads and picnic areas to park their cars. Automobiles are permitted to travel as far as the Big Water trail head parking lot; beyond that point, only non-motorized access is allowed. The Canyon road is closed to motorized traffic at the winter gate approximately one-half mile below the Elbow Fork trail head from November 1 through July 1.

Mill Creek Canyon Road has three distinct sections; first the lower canyon from the fee booth to the winter gate is composed of two travel lanes with double yellow lines down the center, white stripes on the sides, and shoulders in most places. In 2018, the County built an uphill bicycle lane in the lower canyon to the top of the Boy Scout camps, which has mitigated conflicts in that area and which the County intends to extend further up the Canyon. It is commonly used by joggers and pedestrians as well as cyclists.

The section above the winter gate or upper canyon has two travel lanes with middle paint lanes, but without white strips and minimal shoulders. The upper canyon is more narrow.

The section near the top of the canyon (about 0.4 miles) is approximately 1-1 1/2 travel lanes and no shoulders. This section is more narrow and on busy days feels congested as drivers look for parking, pass oncoming traffic and people on bikes are sharing roadways. Recently the Forest Service added a trail connecting parking lots and additional trail connections are planned.

A map of the high priority primary and secondary nodes for improvement in Mill Creek Canyon is provided in the Destination Nodes map. These areas are intended to show nodes of high usage in Mill Creek Canyon that are candidates for future trail head improvements.



GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO TRANSPORTATION

GOAL: SUPPORT ENHANCED YEAR-ROUND TRANSIT SERVICE TO AND WITHIN THE WASATCH CANYONS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County supports mixed-use mobility centers, which should be located outside the Canyons, but within short distances. Mobility centers uses should include transit, parking, daily services and be near or mixed in with residential dwellings and businesses.
- ☐ The County supports rideshare parking, bus stops and electrical vehicle charging at key nodes.
- ☐ The County supports increased transit frequency at key locations throughout the Canyons.
- ☐ The County supports year round transit service within the Cottonwood Canyons and to Park City.
- ☐ The County supports carpooling programs.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will assist in developing parking structures for the purpose of Canyon transit and carpooling.
- ☐ The County will ensure that new and enhanced transit facilities and operations are designed to avoid degradation of watershed health and water quality.

MILL CREEK CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will work with Millcreek City and the Forest Service to explore a summer and winter shuttle service to key destinations within the Canyon and corresponding Park and Ride locations.

GOAL: SUPPORT ADEQUATE ROADWAY FACILITIES TO ENHANCE SAFETY, EFFICIENCY, AND MODE CHOICE IN THE WASATCH CANYONS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

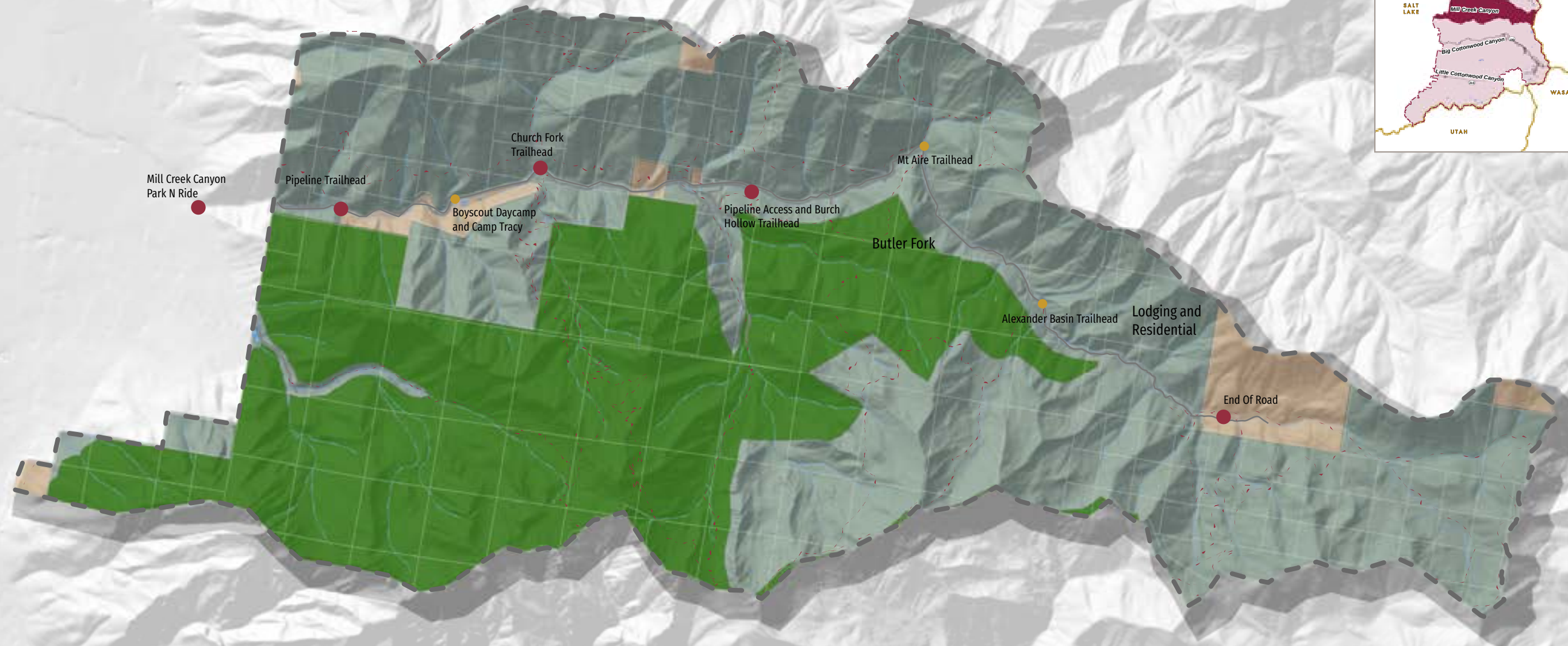
- ☐ The County supports roadway design that increases mobility.
- ☐ The County supports integration of active transportation planning in the Canyons.
- ☐ The County supports the appropriate use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) when addressing stormwater impacts to the watershed and water quality.

MILL CREEK CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will extend the current bicycle lanes in the uphill direction in Mill Creek Canyon, where feasible.
- ☐ The County will, where needed, provide downhill bicycle pullouts and passing areas (all planning/design will include collaboration with the Forest Service).
- ☐ The County will work with the Forest Service to periodically review the Canyon user fee and corresponding policies, budget, goals, projects and maintenance.
- ☐ The County will work with the Forest Service to apply for the Federal Lands Access Program (Access Program) (FLAP) grant for funds that could be applied to improvements in the Canyon.

MILL CREEK CANYON

DESTINATION NODES



LAND JURISDICTION

- US Forest Service Wilderness
- US Forest Service
- Private

NODES

- Primary Nodes**
- Secondary Nodes**

Primary Nodes with parking and needed amenities.
Secondary nodes with parking and fewer amenities.

Actual node designs will be according to jurisdictional authority, with input from landowners. Potential amenities could include transit stops, parking, restrooms, potable water, secure trash/recycle, bicycle stations and trail signs/maps.

GOAL: PROMOTE BICYCLING AND WALKING THROUGH ENHANCING THE SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF TRAILHEADS, PARKING LOTS, BICYCLE LANES, AND OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES.

ALL- CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County supports the planning and implementation of trails connecting parking and trailheads to mountain trail system. The purpose is to reduce roadway and pedestrian risks.
- ☐ The County supports pedestrian safety improvements such as crosswalks and pavement markings as well as traffic control devices key destinations.
- ☐ The County will support implementation of ADA and senior/child-friendly facilities at key locations throughout the Canyons.
- ☐ The County encourages use of public transit equipment that accommodates bicycles.
- ☐ The County encourages trail head design sensitive to recreational bicyclist that provides amenities such as a bicycle fix it station, restrooms, potable water where feasible, and wayfinding.
- ☐ The County supports additional wayfinding collateral such as maps or online information to prepare visitors traveling to the Canyons.

GOAL: SUPPORT MANAGEMENT OF PARKING TO PROVIDE FOR SAFETY, SCENIC QUALITY, AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County supports formalizing parking areas and eliminating roadside parking, upon review of sites on a case-by-case basis.
- ☐ The County supports management of roadside parking.
- ☐ The County supports the development of a parking system master plan.

MILL CREEK CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will consider coordinating with the Forest Service to develop a parking master plan for Mill Creek Canyon to work in conjunction with a shuttle service for Mill Creek Canyon.
- ☐ Roadside private property parking areas adjacent to Millcreek Canyon Road should be preserved and planning coordinated with the Forest Service and Salt Lake County when parking management is reviewed.



Figure 6: Mill Creek XC Skiing - Jared Stewart

RECREATION

Recreation in Mill Creek Canyon is characterized by intensive summer uses with more moderate winter uses. The Canyon contains approximately 80 miles of designated trails that are managed for hiking, bicycling, dog walking, and horseback riding. Winter recreation includes hiking, dog walking, cross country skiing, and snow-shoeing. In partnership with the Forest Service, Salt Lake County Park Operations manages reservations for the 10 group picnic areas and winter yurt in Mill Creek Canyon. In addition, there are a number of picnic areas that are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

In warm weather months, Mill Creek Canyon is heavily used for a variety of recreational pursuits, including hiking, climbing, picnicking, dog walking, horseback riding, mountain biking, road biking, back-country camping,

fishing, and bird-watching, and other activities. On weekend days in warm weather in particular, parking fills up quickly at popular trailheads and picnic areas and there is more road traffic. Effectively managing recreational use in Mill Creek Canyon is a high priority.

Mill Creek Canyon has an ongoing maintenance program for trails and trail head/camp facilities, winter grooming, public programs, police, capital improvements, and more. The Mill Creek toll booth fee, administered in partnership with the Forest Service, is reinvested back into the Canyon for operations and maintenance. In 2017 approximately \$550,000 was collected. In 2020 the toll fee was increased to \$5.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO RECREATION

GOAL: IMPROVE THE RECREATION USER EXPERIENCE WHILE PREPARING FOR FUTURE DEMAND.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ Manage Recreation Impacts – The County supports recreation use in key identified recreation activity nodes. Recreation facilities and systems should be managed and maintained in a way that protects open lands and natural resources.
- ☐ Maintain Trails – The County supports the maintenance of a quality trail system in the Plan Area. The County encourages the implementation of sustainable trail and trail head design guidelines and, to the extent possible, the location of new trails outside of riparian and stream areas. The County supports enhancing selected high-use trails (such as Donut Falls) to handle significant usage. High-use trails whenever feasible should be graded and include amenities such as benches, restrooms, drinking water, transit stops, and parking. The County will encourage that all new trails have identified sources of funding for operation and maintenance prior to trail construction.
- ☐ Improve User Experience – The County encourages technology applications to maximize user experience, promote key recreational areas, and provide the most up-to-date information.
- ☐ Provide Access – The County promotes trail heads to be included in the planning of transit stops and part of the entire system.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

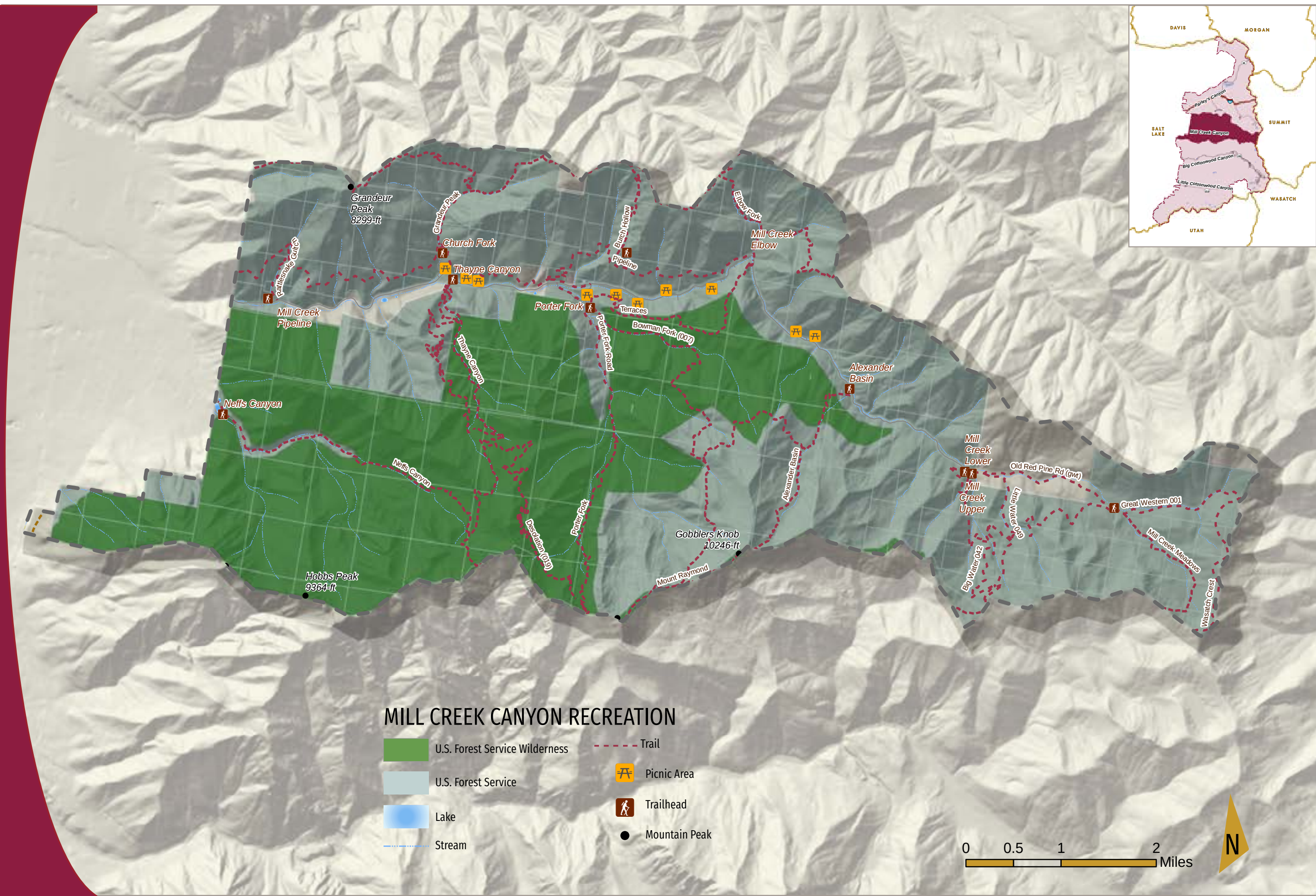
- ☐ Reduce Recreation Impact - The County will promote lesser-used recreation areas in Salt Lake County outside the Wasatch Canyons to provide alternatives to the frequently-used Wasatch Canyons. Alternatives could include Dimple Dell Regional Park, Ensign Peak, Yellow Fork, and other appropriate areas.
- ☐ Maintain Recreational Facilities - The County will assist the Forest Service, Salt Lake City, and other agencies and stakeholders that manage trails and lands in implementing their standards for the development of trailheads, parking areas, and other use areas. The County supports the Forest Service and other interested stakeholders to establish volunteer programs to lead and train trail

and recreation facility improvement and maintenance volunteers. The County will consider dedicating County staff time to coordinate with volunteer groups.

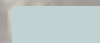
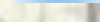
- ☐ Provide Access - The County will work with the Forest Service and Salt Lake City to assist with designated parking and needed amenities (garbage receptacles, restrooms, parking, etc.). The County will pursue acquisitions of lands with willing sellers at trailheads for additional facilities and parking. The County will work to complete the entire Bonneville Shoreline Trail for entire north-to-south system access. The County will utilize multiple funding sources to protect and maintain key parcels for open space and recreational access through acquisition from willing sellers or conservation easements.
- ☐ The County will work with the Forest Service and local municipalities to establish additional locations for parking lots, recreational access to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, and other recreational open spaces. Their focus will be on enhancing foothill easement acquisition programs and trail head developments.
- ☐ The County to consider the usage of visitor studies through collaboration and support of partner agencies, which may include Forest Service, SLCPU, UDOT, UTA, CWC, Town of Brighton, and Town of Alta. Visitor study assessments shall involve the public and support by partner agencies with jurisdictional authority.

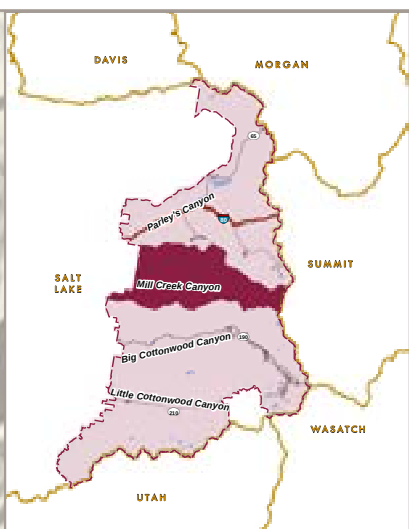
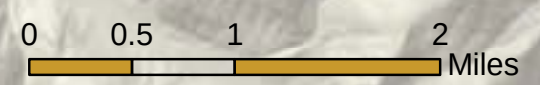
MILL CREEK CANYON

RECREATION



MILL CREEK CANYON RECREATION

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|---------------|
|  | U.S. Forest Service Wilderness |  | Trail |
|  | U.S. Forest Service |  | Picnic Area |
|  | Lake |  | Trailhead |
|  | Stream |  | Mountain Peak |



GOAL: DEDICATE FUNDING SOURCES TO ASSIST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND TO PROVIDE ONGOING SUPPORT FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ❑ The County will work with partner agencies and others to pursue dedicated funding sources for the Canyons. If tolling or other fees are instituted the County requests that a portion of the generated revenue be designated to specific recreation demands such as trailheads, trails, restrooms, and related items.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ❑ The County will pursue funding resources from foundations, grants, state, federal, and other revenue sources. Multiple County agencies will work on the pursuit of these resources.
- ❑ The County will consider creation of a Regional Wasatch Canyons Recreation District (Local or Special Service District).
- ❑ The County will apply for grants through the Zoo, Arts and Parks Tax (known as the ZAP or RAP tax).
- ❑ The County will consider requesting a portion of Transient Room and Lodging Taxes.



Figure 7: Log Haven



Figure 8: Camp Tracy



Figure 9: Log Haven - Ed Marshall

ECONOMY

There are three commercial businesses in Mill Creek Canyon: Log Haven, the Mill Creek Inn, and the Mill Creek Canyon Camps owned by the non-profit Boy Scouts of America. Log Haven and Mill Creek Inn offer venue and reception services in beautifully wooded locations, Log Haven is also a fine-dining restaurant. In addition, Mill Creek Canyon Camps offer outdoor adventure programs for Scouts. These groups provide services in unique settings, and are among only a handful of restaurants located in the Wasatch Mountains (apart from ski resorts).

BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE

The State of Utah Broadband outreach center shows significant gaps in mobile cell phone coverage in Mill Creek Canyon. Enhanced electrical capacity and improved fiber optic, wireless, and broadband are critical to support year-round employment, local businesses, quality of life, tourism, and public safety. In pursuing communications infrastructure upgrades, emphasis should be placed on broadband services and improved cellular services to Mill Creek Canyon, which has significant gaps in coverage or available providers. Communication facilities should be allowed but be consolidated or co-located when possible.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO ECONOMY

GOAL: SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION AND VIABILITY OF CANYON BUSINESSES WHILE CONSERVING THE NATURAL FEATURES AND RECREATIONAL ATTRIBUTES THAT MAKE THE CANYONS A VITAL ECONOMIC IMPACT IN UTAH.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ Salt Lake County supports appropriate ski area/Forest Service land exchanges to support Canyon businesses, according to the CRMP.
- ☐ The County will continue to focus on the environmental and scenic preservation of the Wasatch Canyons as an economic development strategy.
- ☐ The County will include tourism and economic groups in planning, coordinating, and implementing the Wasatch Canyons General Plan.
- ☐ Resort expansion recommendations should be according to previously adopted or subsequent amendments of any of the following: Records of Decision, plans by the County and Forest Service (including Revised Plan), and Mountain Accord findings. New dwelling units (hospitality and residential) should be located at the base of the resorts and clustered in walkable villages.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will work with the Forest Service to help ensure that businesses operating in the Canyons have the proper business permitting (for guiding, shuttle, etc.). Some commercial operations may also require a Special Use Permit from the Forest Service.
- ☐ The County will regulate the use of short-term rentals. The County will work with short-term rental and hotel operators to ensure understanding of necessary Canyon policies for parking, watershed protection, and permits.

MILL CREEK CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will explore solutions to improve communications infrastructure in Mill Creek Canyon.

GOAL: MEET THE GROWING DEMANDS FOR RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, AND VISITORS BY ENHANCING AND IMPROVING PUBLIC UTILITY SYSTEMS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County will work with agency partners to identify public infrastructure needs to address residential, recreational, environmental, and business impacts.
- ☐ The County supports the development of broadband and communications infrastructure in appropriate areas to achieve General Plan goals such as public safety improvements and environmental protection. The County will evaluate and modify, if necessary, communications infrastructure plans and Capital Improvement Plans (CIPs) so that they are consistent with the General Plan.
- ☐ The County will ensure that new infrastructure is designed and installed per General Plan goals regarding aesthetics, environmental and water quality, and the character of the Canyons. The County will also ensure that infrastructure development, maintenance and repair are conducted in a manner that protects water quality.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will evaluate infrastructure priorities and incentives for development in appropriate areas that achieve environmental protection, recreational impact mitigation, and other goals consistent with the General Plan.
- ☐ The County will evaluate all funding options to support development and maintenance of needed infrastructure. The County will ensure that General Plan projects are included and prioritized in agency CIPs.

ACTIONS

Specific strategy action items are presented below. Actions are described as programs, which would have on-going responsibilities and activities; policies, which would guide future County decision-making; or projects. Priorities are described as near-term strategies, 0 to 5 years; mid-term, 5 to 10 years; and long-term, 10 or more years. Anticipated implementation costs are generally categorized \$, lower cost strategies that could be implemented by allocating or re-allocating funding in current general fund budgets; \$\$, moderate cost strategies that would require creation of a new budget line item and development of new funding streams; or \$\$\$, higher cost strategies that would require either bonding for capital projects or development of significant new funding sources such as legislation, or new taxing authorities.

ACTION	ACTION TYPE	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY/ PARTNERS	COST
Trails Master Plan - The County will support and collaborate with the Forest Service on Trails Master Planning.	Plan	Near (0-5 years)	Salt Lake County/Forest Service	\$
Ordinance Updates - Salt Lake County will review and update FCOZ requirements relating to property line setbacks, roof lines, building spacing, snow shedding, snow storage, defensible spaces, fire risk, septic systems, preservation of historic structures, and forest health to ensure alignment with the objectives of this Wasatch Canyons General Plan.	Plan	Near (0-5 years)	Salt Lake County/ Salt Lake City/ Forest Service/Municipal Service District	\$
Bicycle Lanes - Consider appropriate locations for additional uphill bicycle lanes and downhill passing lanes.	Project	Near/Ongoing	Salt Lake County/UDOT/ Forest Service	\$\$\$
Public Transportation - Evaluate the feasibility of public transit and public or private shuttle service in Mill Creek Canyon.	Pilot Project	Mid (5-10 years)	Salt Lake County/ Forest Service/ CWC	\$
Trail Connections - Improve Mill Creek Canyon trail connections.	Project	Mid (5-10 years)	Salt Lake County/UDOT/ Forest Service	\$\$

Communications - Improve the communications infrastructure in Mill Creek Canyon.	Policy	Mid (5-10 years)	Salt Lake County/UDOT/ Forest Service	\$\$\$
Transportation - Apply for a Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) Grant.	Policy	Near (0-5 years)	Forest Service/ Salt Lake County	\$
Annual Review - County will invite partner agencies, governments and others to discuss the goals and progress of the General Plan.	Plan	Yearly	Salt Lake County (multiple departments & Planning Commission)/ Municipal Services District/ Forest Service/ UDOT/ Salt Lake Public Utilities/ Community Councils/ others	\$

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WASATCH CANYONS GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

PARLEYS • MILL CREEK • **BIG COTTONWOOD** • LITTLE COTTONWOOD • THE FOOTHILLS

ADOPTED JUNE 2020



CHAPTER 4 BIG COTTONWOOD

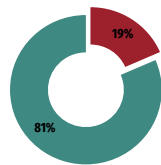
INTRODUCTION

Big Cottonwood Canyon is home to two ski areas, Brighton and Solitude Mountain Resort; numerous part-time and year-round residences; and a number of shops, restaurants, and other commercial enterprises. Approximately 15 miles long, the Canyon provides a number of recreational opportunities, including hiking, biking, picnicking, climbing, camping, wildlife viewing, photography, and fishing during the warm months. In winter months, the Canyons plays host to Nordic and downhill skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, and sledding. Land in this Canyon is predominantly held and managed by the Forest Service, and in addition to the ski areas, Big Cottonwood Canyon contains wilderness areas, camping sites, picnic sites, and numerous trails. Big Cottonwood Canyon is also a protected watershed for Salt Lake City, and provides more than 20% of the water supply for more than 350,000 people in Salt Lake County.

Big Cottonwood Canyon has long been a recreational destination for Utah residents and visitors and, like the other Wasatch Canyons, is experiencing all-time high levels of traffic, resulting in adverse impacts to travel, parking, and the visitor and resident experience. To the surprise of many, Big Cottonwood Canyon sees its highest traffic volume in July. The Canyon is accessed by State Route 190, which is a designated Scenic Byway from the mouth of the Canyon to Guardsman Pass at the top of the Canyon. The pass allows for travel to Summit and Wasatch Counties in the summer months. The Utah Transit Authority (UTA) currently offers winter seasonal bus service to the ski areas. Guardsman Pass is closed during the winter months and is a popular snowshoeing and Nordic and backcountry skiing destination for many Utahans. Brighton and Solitude ski resorts are important parts of the Utah recreation economy. Other Canyon businesses provide lodging, dining opportunities and recreation support retail in a beautiful Canyon setting, and offer convenient access to Canyon residents.

The Canyon has some of the largest numbers of full-time and part-time residents of any Canyon in the Wasatch Mountains, with the possible exception of Emigration Canyon. The residents of Big Cottonwood voted in 2018 to create the new Town of Brighton, which covers approximately 16 square miles in upper Big Cottonwood Canyon. The incorporation or start of the Town of Brighton began December 30th 2019.

BIG COTTONWOOD TODAY



81% Forest Service

51% (14,586 Acres) Forest Service Wilderness Area

49% (14,104 Acres) Forest Service Land (non Wilderness)

19% Private Land



2,033 Acres of vacation or home residential land (SL parcels)



20 Threatened & Endangered Species Occurrences (Utah Natural Heritage geospatial 2017)

100% of the canyon drainage is within a protected watershed (NHD Watershed protectionBoundary)



84 Miles of trails (AGRC Utah April 2017)

145 Ski Named Runs in Solitude and Brighton Ski areas (2019 Brighton and Solitude Websites)



5,600 Average trips per day (UDOT 2016)

138,000 Ski Bus Ridership (UTA 2018-2019)

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON THROUGH THE YEARS



Pre-1800's
Ute and Shoshone
hunting grounds

1800



1847
Brigham Young
names
"Big Cottonwood
Canyon"



1871
William Stuart
Brighton
settles the
Canyon



1880
Cottonwood Paper
Mill opens



1874
Brighton Hotel built



1870's-1880's
Heavy mining
activity in
the Canyon



1905
Forest Service
Established in Canyons

1900



1894
Stairs Station
Power Plant
built



1893
Second Brighton
Hotel built



1890's
Multiple cabins
built



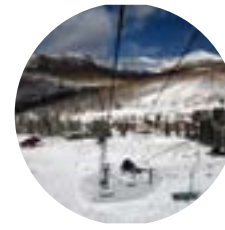
1900-1910
250,000 tree seedlings
planted in reforestation
efforts in Spruces Nursery



1916
Horse and buggy road
is rebuilt and called Big
Cottonwood Canyon Rd



1936
Brighton Ski Resort
opens



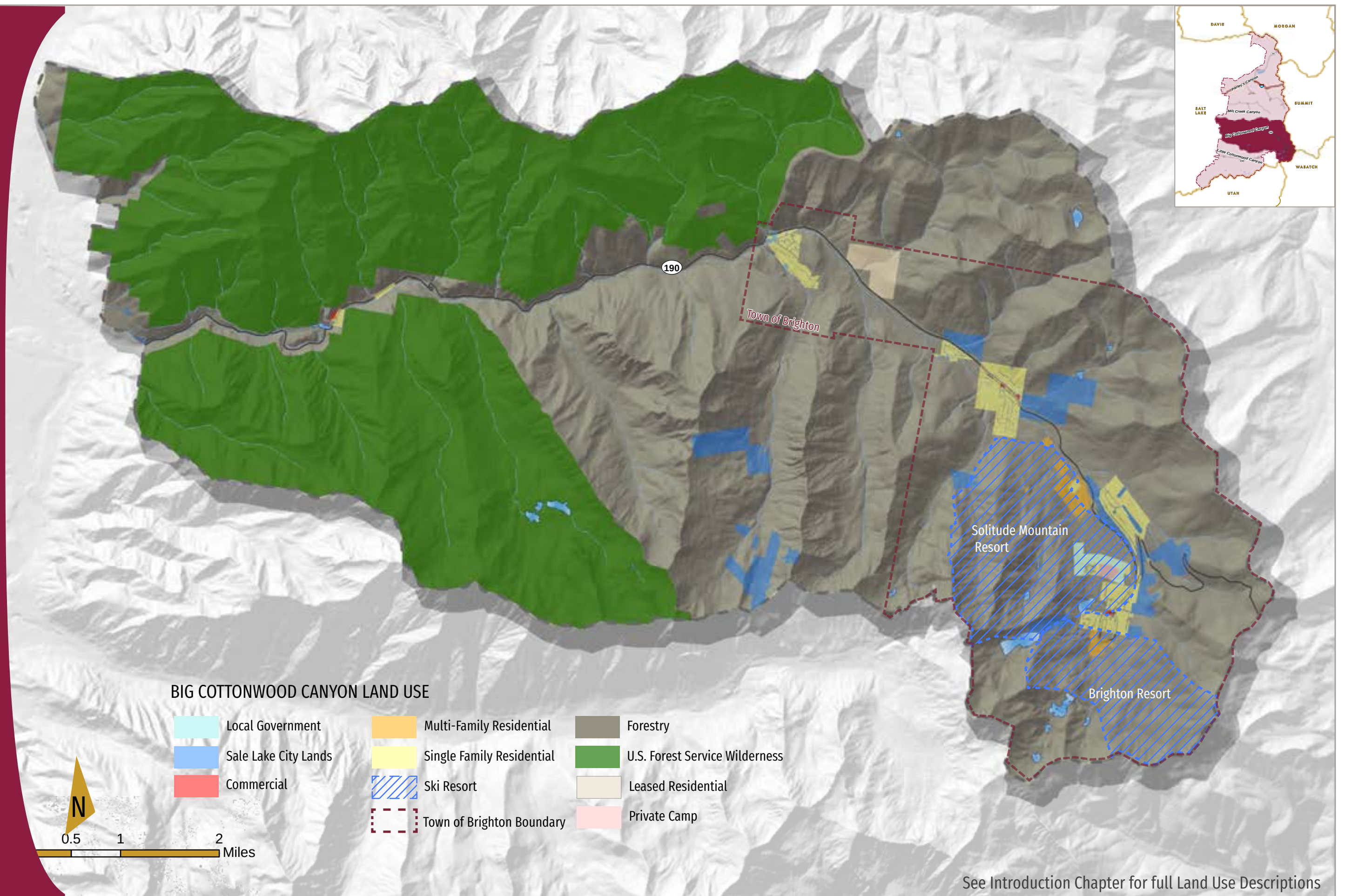
1957
Solitude Ski
Resort opens

2000



2001
Solitude Village
construction
completed

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON LAND USE



EXISTING CONDITIONS, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES

Many of the existing conditions and management challenges of the Wasatch Canyons are common among the Canyons and foothills. Those include issues relating to wildfires, noxious weeds, and forest health. Those common circumstances are described in detail in Chapter 1, Introduction to this General Plan. Existing conditions and management issues specific to Big Cottonwood Canyon are presented in this chapter; in order for the reader to have a comprehensive understanding of the circumstances in each Canyon, Chapter 1 should be read in conjunction with the individual Canyon chapters.

The General Plan identifies goals, policies, and strategies in nine categories within the five main planning themes of land use, environment, recreation, transportation, and economy. Most of the goals, policies, and strategies are relevant for the entire Wasatch Canyons planning area, and are presented in each theme below with those specific to Big Cottonwood Canyon highlighted as “Big Cottonwood Canyon strategies”. **Goals** are long-term objectives that describe future desired conditions and outcomes. **Policies** are statements designed to inform and guide the County’s future decision-making. **Strategies** are specific tasks the County proposes to undertake to further Plan goals.

LAND USE

Big Cottonwood Canyon is largely under Federal ownership, managed by the Forest Service, totaling 25,242 acres, or 78% of the Canyon area. There are also substantial blocks of private land totaling 6,937 acres, or 21% of the Canyon. Private ownership is primarily in the upper portions of the Canyon in the residential areas off the Canyon highway near Reynolds Flat, Silver Fork, Forest Glen, and Brighton. Much of the private land in the upper Canyon was recently the subject of an incorporation vote to create the new Town of Brighton. Elections for Town leaders were held in November, 2019, and incorporation began December 30th, 2019. The new Town of Brighton encompasses 10,238 acres, the Brighton and Solitude ski resorts, and 13 individual communities/neighborhoods. Under the current jurisdictional responsibilities, land use authority will remain with Salt Lake County as the Mountainous Planning District. The Mountainous Planning Commission approves project applications and recommends amendments to ordinances and plans. Salt Lake County owns land in Mill D South Fork, Brighton, and below Redman Campground. Salt Lake City owns around 700 acres in the Canyon for watershed protection purposes.

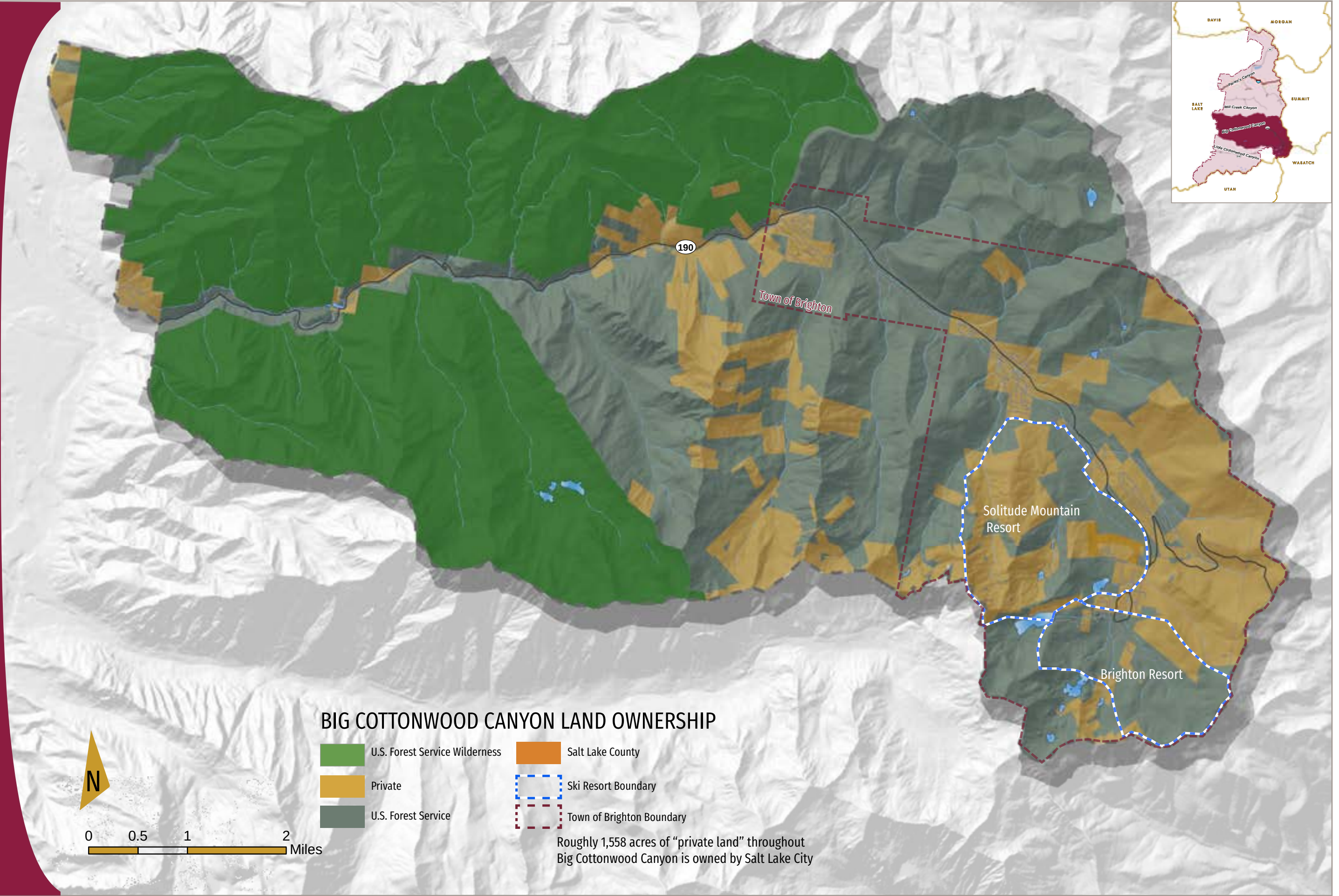
Two ski areas are located in Big Cottonwood Canyon. The Brighton Resort covers 1,050 skiable acres and provides six ski lifts and a “magic carpet” people mover. The ski area has two base restaurants and a ski shop, and offers 20 rooms of lodging at the Brighton Lodge. Private cabins in the Brighton area are also available for nightly rental. Solitude Mountain Resort covers 1,200 skiable acres and has eight chairlifts and one “magic carpet”. Solitude has one on-mountain and two base-area facilities that include restaurants, pubs, ski rental, and retail shops. The adjacent Solitude Village has additional restaurants, the Inn at Solitude hotel, rental shops, condominiums, a village store, meeting rooms, and a spa. There are roughly 123 condominium units in the Village area of Solitude Resort. As with the Brighton area, private homes near Solitude are also available for nightly rental.



Figure 1: Summer in Big Cottonwood Canyon - Jake Young

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON

LAND OWNERSHIP



Current land uses in Big Cottonwood Canyon are not anticipated to significantly change in the foreseeable future. Future management and uses on Forest Service lands will occur pursuant to the adopted 2003 Revised Forest Plan, as updated. Future management of lands owned by Salt Lake City will be governed by the 1999 Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan, and any future Salt Lake City watershed management plans. Ski resort bases may continue to evolve into year-round resort village destinations, depending on the availability of water, and according to applicable Forest Service and Salt Lake County approvals and zoning. It is anticipated that minimal additional development will occur on areas outside the resorts due to limited available water resources and topographic constraints.

Big Cottonwood Canyon has a history of other land uses, including mining, grazing, and timber harvesting, all of which have since ceased.

Privately owned land has been developed into a variety of residential lots of varying sizes in several areas of Big Cottonwood Canyon. There are a number of residential “neighborhoods” in Big Cottonwood Canyon, including Brighton, Evergreen, Forest Glen, Solitude Village, Silver Fork, Pine Tree, Cardiff, Mill D, Mount Haven, and Mule Hollow. According to the 2018 Feasibility Study for the Incorporation of the Town of Brighton, there are approximately 805 residential units within the Town of Brighton boundaries, including the Brighton and Solitude ski resorts. Of those, approximately 130 are full-time homes, 440 are seasonal homes, and 235 are condominiums.

Many cabin and homeowners in the Canyon rent their cabins for nightly stays or short term rental, adding to the available lodging for Canyon visitors. Short-term rentals are allowed with proper permits, and Salt Lake County has regulations that apply to short-term rentals. However, many owners and visitors are not following the local ordinances related to short-term rentals. With regulations already in place, it’s recommended that Salt Lake County, Town of Brighton, MSD, and UPD work together on permits and code enforcement for short term rentals.



Figure 2: Snow Load on Big Cottonwood Canyon Home - Jake Young

GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO LAND USE

GOAL: ENSURE THAT FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES AND ENTITIES WITH JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE WASATCH CANYONS PLANNING AREA REGULARLY COORDINATE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT EFFORTS.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- Coordination – The County will implement the inter-agency coordination measures identified in the Salt Lake County Resource Management Plan (CRMP) for fire management, forest management, riparian areas and wetlands, recreation management, and the other resources addressed in the CRMP. The allocation of responsibilities among County agencies for coordination implementation is described in the CRMP. It is recommended that those County Departments with responsibilities within the Canyons have regular coordination meetings to review and discuss goals, strategies, services, and issues facing the Canyons.
- Planning – The County will work collaboratively with partner agencies including the Wasatch Front Regional Council, the Forest Service, UDOT, Salt Lake City, the Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District, the Central Wasatch Commission, UTA, towns, neighboring cities, and others to accomplish the goals of the General Plan and other plans set forth by the County. It is recommended that inter-agency collaboration happen on a regular basis and more than once per year. The County will explore and support the Scenic Byway Committee as a potential group to pursue coordination.

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON STRATEGIES:

- Salt Lake County will meet regularly with the Big Cottonwood Canyon Community Council and Town of Brighton to exchange information and coordinate activities to the extent possible
- Salt Lake County will coordinate with the SR-190 Scenic Byway Committee on planning and projects affecting the highway.



Figure 3: Brighton Lodge - Jake Young

GOAL: REVIEW AND UPDATE COUNTY ORDINANCES, AS NEEDED, TO FURTHER IMPLEMENT THE VISION, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES OF THE GENERAL PLAN.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ❑ The County will support the consideration of and collaboration on unique Canyon theming, similar to national parks, that promotes a sense of place, stewardship, and heritage (signage, architecture, wayfinding, entry features, benches, etc.).

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ❑ Salt Lake County will review and update FCOZ requirements relating to property line setbacks, rooflines, building spacing, snow shedding, snow storage, defensible space, watershed health, and forest health to ensure alignment with the objectives of this Wasatch Canyons General Plan

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ❑ The County will coordinate with the Forest Service, UDOT, Central Wasatch Commission, local municipalities, and other government agencies to consider creating design guidelines/standards for the commercial development, gateways, and public areas in the Canyons that include consistent design quality, materials, and placement.
- ❑ The County will review the Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone (FCOZ), Mountain Resort Zone (MRZ) and other related Canyon ordinances to compare goals and strategies alignments or conflicts with the General Plan. This shall include a review of defensible spaces and other best practices to reduce wildfire risk. In connection with any potential update of such ordinances, the County intends to solicit public input and work with partner agencies (which may include the Forest Service, SLCPU, the MSD, Town of Brighton and Town of Alta) and property owners.
- ❑ The County will consider the need to periodically update County ordinances related to development siting, access, floodplains, water protection, and the structural design of buildings to ensure that health and safety requirements and the General Plan Vision and County goals are being met.
- ❑ The County will work to streamline and clarify the FCOZ/private property development process, including achieving better coordination between jurisdictions.
- ❑ The County will review progress and update the Wasatch Canyons General Plan every five years to make necessary incremental adjustments to work toward the identified goals. The County will plan for a complete General Plan update in the 15-20 year time frame (2033-2038).
- ❑ The County supports housing development that is consistent with the Moderate Income Housing Plan and will adapt housing ordinances according to local needs, restraints, and opportunities (See Chapter 1 for applicable strategies, goals, and actions from the MIH).



Figure 4: Cardiff Fork - Jake Young



Figure 5:: Big Cottonwood Canyon looking east - Jake Young

ENVIRONMENT

WATERSHED AND HYDROLOGY

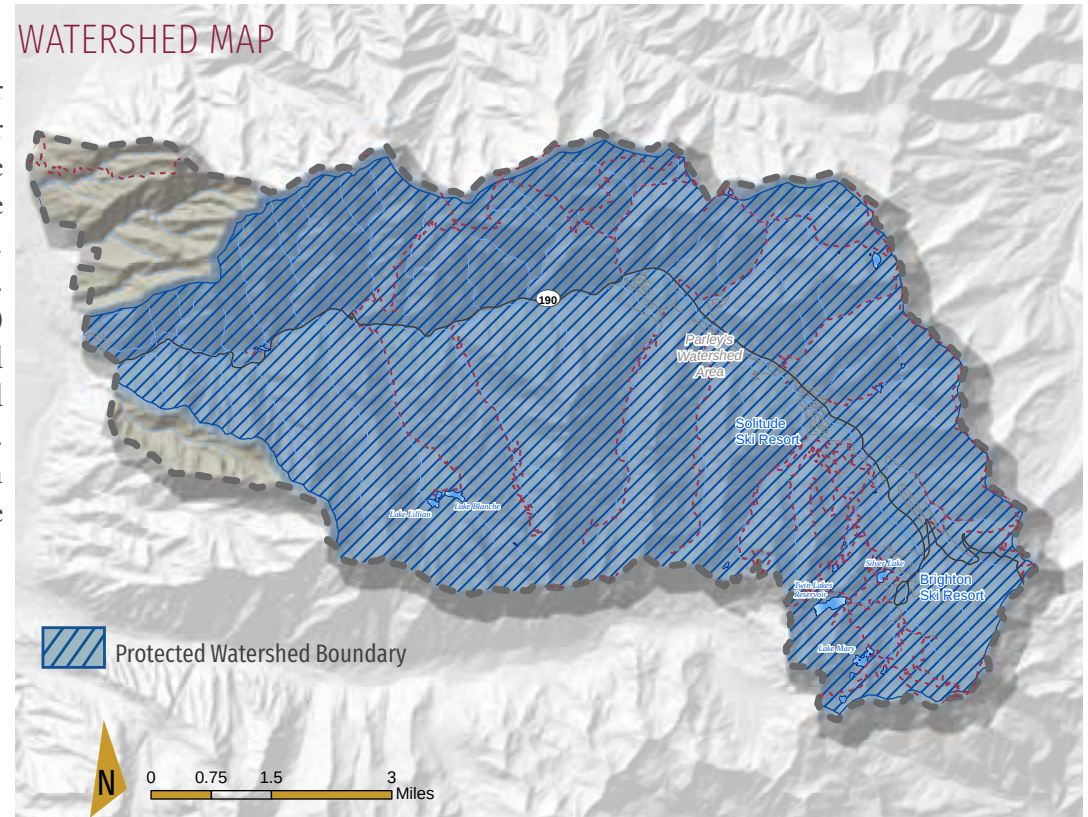
Big Cottonwood Canyon is the largest watershed area for the Salt Lake Valley, covering over 50 square miles and, according to the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities, furnishes about 22% of the Valley's water supply. Mountain water reaches home faucets in 24 hours, with no intermediate storage reservoir, making it vulnerable to contamination. Some water storage is provided by the mountain snowpack. Due to watershed protections, Big Cottonwood Canyon and other Wasatch Mountain watersheds provide some of the highest quality water in the Salt Lake City service area. Silver Fork won the award for Utah's Best Water in 2009, Forest Glen won the state's Best Water Award in 2011, and Silver Lake Water Company won that award in 2019. All water in the Canyon is managed by the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities. Water from Big Cottonwood Creek is transported via gravity directly to the Big Cottonwood Canyon water treatment facility, located at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon, just above Wasatch Boulevard, where it is treated and distributed to more than 350,000 customers.

Big Cottonwood Creek, from its headwaters to the Big Cottonwood treatment plant, is designated as "Category 1 Waters", which is intended to protect the stream from point source and non-point source pollutants, including a prohibition of any point sources of wastewater discharge.

Salt Lake City Public Utilities holds the majority of the water rights in the Canyon, and contracts to provide access to untreated water with both individuals and companies via surplus water contracts. The contracts allow the water user to rely on the City's water rights to develop sources and delivery systems. Salt Lake City is not authorized to enter into additional or expanded water agreements in the watershed areas except as allowed under the City's code 17.04.020. Operation and maintenance of all Canyon water systems are provided by a number of private water companies to provide water service to subdivisions, resorts, businesses and residents. Such public water systems must strictly comply with Utah Division of Water Quality testing requirements and regulations to ensure safe drinking water supplies.

SEWER

In 1995 two bonds were issued to support construction of a sewer for Big Cottonwood Canyon. The sewer consists of a 10-inch diameter gravity sewer line from the Brighton Loop to the mouth of the Canyon. All residents and businesses within 300 feet of the sewer line are required to connect, per County Health Department regulations. Currently, there are 1,032 private and commercial connections. Some homes still use septic tanks. Sewer service was expanded to 90 homes in the south side of Silver Fork. Future expansion plans would provide service to 90 homes in Forest Glen. New subdivisions and rental properties are required to provide sewer system connections. The Big Cottonwood Canyon Improvement District contracts with the Cottonwood Improvement District for major maintenance projects and sewage processing.



VEGETATION

Invasive plant species are becoming more widespread as they make their way up Big Cottonwood Canyon. Starting from the mouth of the canyon, south-facing slopes along UT-190 are becoming more densely populated with noxious weeds such as myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*) and its close relative leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia esula*). These garden ornamental escapees continue to compete with native plants, as they both share drought tolerant attributes which help them thrive in the lower portions of the canyon. Like myrtle spurge, leafy spurge also contains a sap that can result in skin irritation, redness, swelling, and blisters.

More invasive plant species exist in the Big Cottonwood Canyon, however in limited distribution. Some of the more concerning noxious weeds populations in the canyon include: Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolate*), oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*), dyers woad (*Isatis tinctorial*), yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*), and spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*). Small populations of the high priority weed

garlic mustard have been found in riparian zones such as Broads Fork and is spread by wildlife and trail users is not actively monitored and managed. It is characterized by its ability to self-pollinate and aggressive mat-like growth habit. Oxeye Daisy primarily exists on the Solitude property due to intentional planting and seeding many years ago prior to listing as a state and county noxious weed. It is also found around and in the Brighton Circle. In the lower canyon, scattered populations of dyers woad have been identified and can spread at a rapid rate of 2-100 acres within a couple of years. Yellow toadflax, an aggressive invader has also been identified. Yellow toadflax is characterized by its yellow snapdragon-like flowers with orange throats and commonly invades roadsides and fields. Neighboring canyons such as Heughs Canyon also pose threat for new invasive species in Big Cottonwood. Clematis (*Clematis vitalba*) and money plant (*Lunaria annua*) are not listed as noxious weeds in Salt Lake County, however, they are found at the mouth of the canyon and are becoming more widespread.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO ENVIRONMENT

GOAL: ENSURE THE MANAGEMENT OF WATERSHEDS IN THE WASATCH CANYONS TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County will support the continued implementation of the recommendations of the most current Salt Lake County Integrated Watershed Plan and the Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan.
- ☐ The Salt Lake County Health Department will continue to coordinate with the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the Forest Service, and Salt Lake City to implement anti-degradation standards, stream setback and environment zones, stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs), monitoring programs, enforcement activities, and other Canyon watershed policies to maintain water quality in the Canyons.
- ☐ The County will pursue Canyon land use policies which will allow continued use of the Canyons for transportation, recreational, residential, and commercial development as long as these activities do not result in deterioration of water quality. Any new or expanding uses in the watershed Canyons must be reviewed and carefully scrutinized to determine if the proposed use is consistent with water quality goals.



Figure 6: New restrooms (partially funded by SLCO) - Barbra Cameron

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will work with the Forest Service and Salt Lake City Public Utilities to identify impaired stretches of streams for funding to implement restoration.
- ☐ The County encourages and supports the development of concentrated recreation nodes at key locations, which minimizes overall system impact. Recreation nodes should include proper facilities for parking, trash, transit, restrooms, and trails.
- ☐ The County will work toward ensuring recreation facilities are constructed and operated to minimize both point and non-point sources of pollution, including restroom facilities.
- ☐ The County will require that landowners, developers, utility providers, and government agencies establish stream setbacks, protect vegetation, site appropriately, and implement stormwater BMPs when planning the design and construction of all Canyon development.

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ Both the 2017 Salt Lake County Integrated Watershed Plan and the 1999 Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan establish goals and policies for future watershed management and recommendations for implementation of management strategies. Salt Lake City is currently updating the 1999 Plan.

GOAL: ENSURE THAT FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN AND USAGE OF THE WASATCH CANYONS ARE MANAGED TO PROTECT WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND HABITAT AND TO REDUCE HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County will support the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) in the implementation of the Utah Wildlife Action Plan.
- ☐ The County will work with other agencies to further designate sensitive areas, wildlife corridors, and conflict areas.
- ☐ The County supports wildlife protection measures (such as fencing, changes in trails, and wildlife crossings) for key sensitive areas.
- ☐ The County will continue to support a science-based data resources to inform decision-making.
- ☐ The County will work with applicable Federal, State, and local agencies to identify sensitive aquatic populations within the Plan Area and, if needed, explore the feasibility related to in-stream flows to protect sensitive aquatic life. The County lead for coordination with jurisdictional agencies will be County Watershed.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will review and revise, as necessary, County codes and regulations to support wildlife.



Figure 7: Columbine Flower - Jake Young

GOAL: MAINTAIN AND INCREASE THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL LANDS THAT PROTECT ECOSYSTEMS AND WATERSHEDS AND PROVIDE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County will continue to support natural land conservation and preservation of open spaces for recreation, habitat, water quality, and environmental protection purposes.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will continue to support the purchase of open space preservation and ongoing maintenance. The County will utilize all possible funding resources available, such as the County's Open Space Trust Fund, Salt Lake City, State of Utah, or Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), to protect critical parcels.
- ☐ The County will promote the use of private land trusts and other means to facilitate the conservation and maintenance of key properties through donations, conservation easements, and acquisition from willing sellers.

GOAL: ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS, INVOLVEMENT, AND STEWARDSHIP OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND RECREATIONAL VALUES AND PRACTICES.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- In cooperation with Canyon stakeholders and volunteers, the County supports public education and stewardship of the Wasatch Canyons.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- The County will review and consider the Cottonwood Canyons Scenic Byways Plan signage plan when planning for educational signage.
- The County will identify the citizens groups, community councils, property owners associations, non-profits, ongoing related efforts, and other similar associations active in each Canyon, and meet with them regularly to identify opportunities for the County to support their activities, enhance communications, and define common objectives that align with the Wasatch Canyons General Plan. The County will commit staff time and/or funding to these groups in the form of grants for activities that support the implementation of the General Plan.
- The County will support a forum of volunteers and community groups to coordinate communications and interactions with the County and other agency stakeholders.

GOAL: PREPARE FOR POTENTIAL NATURAL HAZARDS AND DISASTERS IN THE CANYONS AND FOOTHILLS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- The County will work with corresponding agencies to further prepare the Canyons for the event of a wildland fire, earthquakes, landslides, and other natural disasters.
- The County will work with the Forest Service to understand and prepare for the impact of insect and disease issues that may severely impact the forest ecosystem in the near future.
- The County will work with science professionals to enrich and educate Salt Lake County planners, commissioners, and elected official of lessons learned through research application.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- The County supports the Salt Lake County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that addresses wildfire issues, including fuels reduction strategies. The County anticipates regular coordination with UFA and other state, local and federal agencies in reviewing the CWPP.
- The County will work with the Forest Service and UDOT to assist in fire protection, noxious weed control, and habitat protection. Involved agencies will include Salt Lake City Public Utilities, Salt Lake City Unified Fire and Police, County Weed Control, and Emergency Services.
- The County supports programs to incentivize the upgrading of existing homes and businesses including septic upgrades and improved water and sewer connections.
- The County will explore a tree and mitigation bank for removed trees to help fund restoration work.
- The County, with the Forest Service and others, will regularly review ordinances to see if current ordinances suggest best practices to minimize wildfire hazards on private and County-owned property. As necessary the County will update ordinances.
- The County supports the following existing emergency plans: the Salt Lake County Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) and the Salt Lake County Multi-Hazard Multi-Jurisdiction Mitigation Plan (HMP). In addition, the County supports the development of a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) for Salt Lake County that will assist in preparation of county-wide emergency plans through collaboration with UFA, County Emergency Management, and other government agencies. Such plans do and will consider hazard mitigation, shelter, food, water, medical care, communication, transportation, post incident mitigation and other essential items needed for emergencies.
- In case of wildfire incidents, the County will work with partner agencies (e.g., Forest Service, State of Utah, water agencies) to ensure that grant monies are pursued for post fire recovery, including watershed recovery issues, to the extent reasonably feasible.
- The County supports the continuing assessment by the UFA of current water supply capacity in the Canyons for fire protection.
- The County supports the study of reasonably viable emergency egress, shelter in place alternatives, and other mitigation tactics in the Canyons in the event of natural hazards, which could include fires, flooding, avalanches, landslides and earthquakes.



Figure 8: Cardiff Fork Roadside Parking - Jake Young

TRANSPORTATION

Access to Big Cottonwood Canyon is via SR-190 which is operated and maintained by UDOT across Forest Service Lands under an agreement with the Forest Service. From the 2008 Cottonwood Canyons Corridor Management Plan,

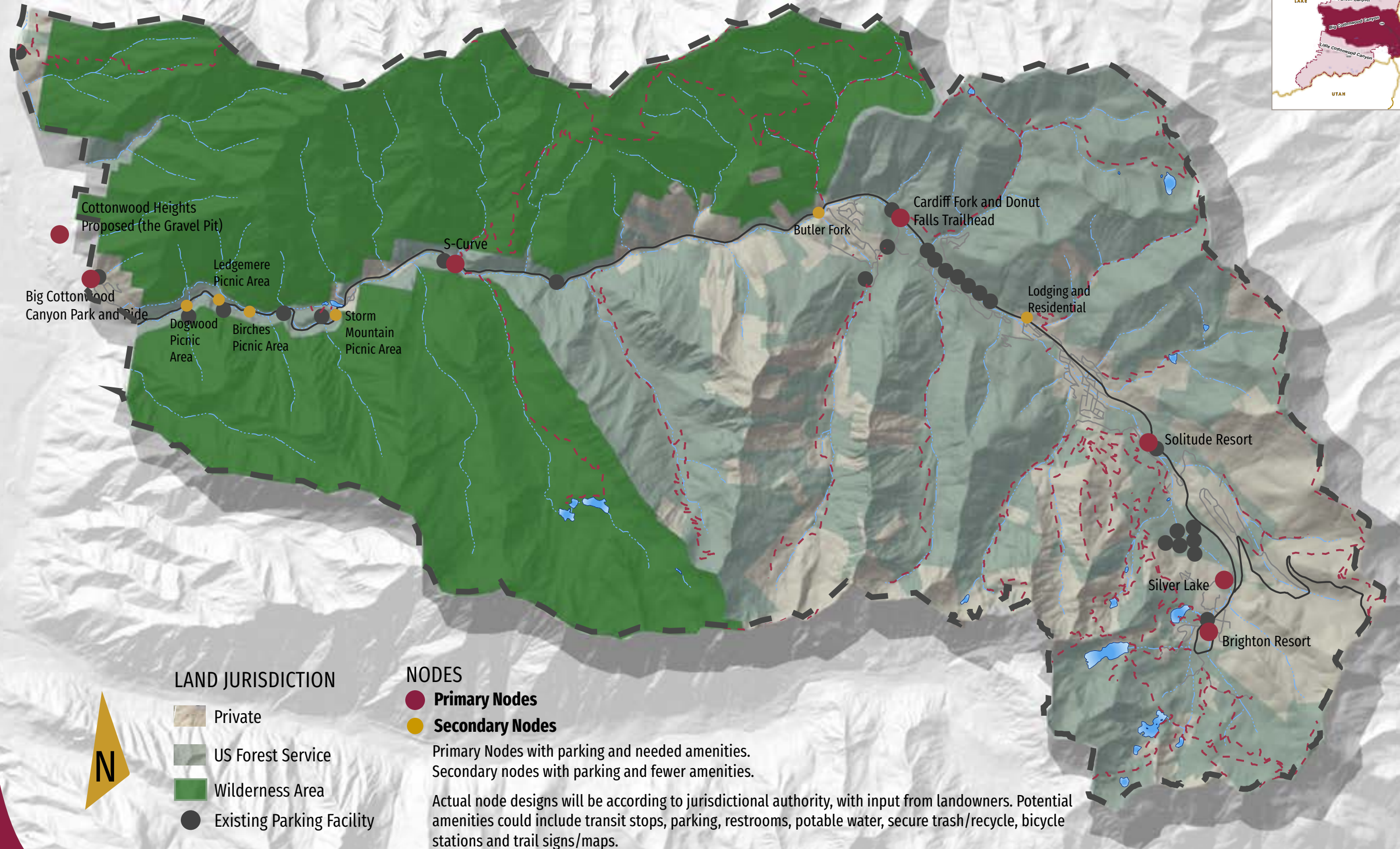
“Big and Little Cottonwood Canyon Roads are characterized by steep grades, sharp bends, and few passing zones. They are dead-end roads. Drivers are the primary users of the roadways. However, cyclists and hikers are also present in summer months. Traffic is most often attributed to recreation activities as well as the services supporting tourism, but both roadways also serve residential areas in each of the Canyons. UDOT is responsible for managing and maintaining the roadways in the Cottonwood Canyons.”

During public outreach for this plan, participants identified travel and parking in Big Cottonwood Canyon as significant issues. Particularly during winter months, skiers and snowboarders create traffic congestion, and during weekends, can create problems with overflow parking along the margins of the Canyon road. Data supports the numerous stakeholder comments concerning traffic congestion on peak days during the winter ski season.

Traffic in the Cottonwood Canyons has seasonal variations. On SR-190 in Big Cottonwood Canyon, traffic volumes peak in July, followed closely by the months between December and March. The 2017 Big Cottonwood Canyon 3T Improvement Project Report shows a peak Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) count of 5,600 vehicles in July 2017 for Big Cottonwood Canyon, with peaks just under 5,000 AADT in January through March 2017. May is typically the month with the lowest traffic volumes, averaging 2,600 AADT.

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON

DESTINATION NODES



See Transportation section for full Node Descriptions

UTA provides bus service to the resorts in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons usually from mid-December to mid-April. Multiple trips to and from the 7200 South and 10000 South TRAX stations are run each day. UTA has reported a notable increase in winter time Canyon transit ridership over the past five years. Weekend ski bus ridership in the Cottonwood Canyons grew from 63,043 during the 2015 ski season, to 137,162 in the 2019 season.

The Regional Transportation Plan lists Big Cottonwood Canyon receiving an Express Bus to Brighton Ski Resort, but is currently listed as Unfunded (see [Wasatch Choice: 2019-2050 Regional Transportation Plan](#)).

Both Big and Little Cottonwood Canyon Roads are designated State Scenic Byways. The Cottonwood Canyons Scenic Byways Corridor Management Plan (2008) was conducted via a stakeholder process pursuant to a federal Scenic Byways grant. The resulting plan includes goals and specific strategies to address congestion, hazards, and population growth impacts in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons.

An implementation plan provides a list of additional plans and studies, ongoing byway improvements, and interpretation and communications deemed essential to the success of the Corridor Management Plan.

The 2012 Mountain Transportation Study, and the 2017 Mountain Accord Cottonwood Canyons Short to Mid-Term Transportation Solutions Technical Memorandum, identify a series of implementation steps to address

parking, transit, communications, pedestrian and bicycle use, active traffic management, and tolling in the Cottonwood Canyons. The 2017 Big Cottonwood Canyon 3T Management Project Report identifies primary and secondary “nodes” in the Canyon, where additional improvements such as pit toilets, potable water, bicycle servicing stations, transit stops, and additional parking should be considered.

The high priority primary and secondary nodes for improvement in Big Cottonwood Canyon are depicted in the Destination Nodes map. Primary destination nodes in and near Big Cottonwood Canyon include the Cottonwood Heights and Big Cottonwood Canyon Park and Ride areas, which include parking, transit service and restroom facilities. The S-Curve and Cardiff Fork nodes currently include parking for 103 and 286 vehicles, respectively. The Forest Service is considering making these nodes standard amenity sites, which would include toilets, trash receptacles, picnic tables, and interpretive signs, exhibits, or Kiosks. The Solitude and Brighton nodes provide parking and full food, restroom, lodging, and transit services. The Silver Lake node provides parking, restroom, visitor center, and interpretive facilities.

The secondary nodes in Big Cottonwood Canyon are anticipated to provide designated parking and trash receptacles.



Figure 9: Parking in Big Cottonwood Canyon - Jake Young



Figure 10: UTA Bus in Big Cottonwood Canyon - Jake Young

GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO TRANSPORTATION

GOAL: SUPPORT ENHANCED YEAR-ROUND TRANSIT SERVICE TO AND WITHIN THE WASATCH CANYONS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County supports mixed-use mobility centers, which should be located outside the Canyons, but within short distances. Mobility centers uses should include transit, parking, daily services and be near or mixed in with residential dwellings and businesses.
- ☐ The County supports rideshare parking, bus stops and electrical vehicle charging at key nodes.
- ☐ The County supports increased transit frequency at key locations throughout the Canyons.
- ☐ The County supports year round transit service within the Cottonwood Canyons and to Park City.
- ☐ The County supports carpooling programs.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will assist in developing parking structures for the purpose of Canyon transit and carpooling.
- ☐ The County will ensure that new and enhanced transit facilities and operations are designed to avoid degradation of watershed health and water quality.

GOAL: SUPPORT ADEQUATE ROADWAY FACILITIES TO ENHANCE SAFETY, EFFICIENCY, AND MODE CHOICE IN THE WASATCH CANYONS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County supports roadway design that increases mobility.
- ☐ The County supports integration of active transportation planning in the Canyons.
- ☐ The County supports the appropriate use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) when addressing stormwater impacts to the watershed and water quality.

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON POLICIES

- ☐ The County will support uphill bicycle shared-lane marking and signage in the Cottonwood Canyons, where possible, as much as the terrain and site conditions will allow.
- ☐ The County will support downhill bicycle shared-lane marking and signage, downhill bicycle pullouts and passing areas in the Cottonwood Canyons, where possible, as much as the terrain and site conditions will allow. The lead County entities for coordination with UDOT will be the Salt Lake County Regional Planning and Transportation Division, and the Division of Public Works Engineering.

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will support and encourage UDOT and the Forest Service to evaluate and improve pedestrian safety at strategic locations such as the “S” curve, lower Canyon picnic areas, and the Cardiff parking area.
- ☐ The County will support an uphill bicycle lane at Guardsman Pass.

GOAL: PROMOTE BICYCLING AND WALKING THROUGH ENHANCING THE SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF TRAILHEADS, PARKING LOTS, BICYCLE LANES, AND OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES.

ALL- CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County supports the planning and implementation of trails connecting parking and trailheads to mountain trail system. The purpose is to reduce roadway and pedestrian risks.
- ☐ The County supports pedestrian safety improvements such as crosswalks and pavement markings as well as traffic control devices key destinations.
- ☐ The County will support implementation of ADA and senior/child-friendly facilities at key locations throughout the Canyons.
- ☐ The County encourages use of public transit equipment that accommodates bicycles.
- ☐ The County encourages trail head design sensitive to recreational bicyclist that provides amenities such as a bicycle fix it station, restrooms, potable water where feasible, and wayfinding.
- ☐ The County supports additional wayfinding collateral such as maps or online information to prepare visitors traveling to the Canyons.

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County will support the replacement and reconstruction of the Silver Lake Boardwalk.
- ☐ The County supports improved pedestrian safety at strategic locations such as the “S” curve, lower Canyon picnic areas, and the Cardiff parking area.

GOAL: SUPPORT MANAGEMENT OF PARKING TO PROVIDE FOR SAFETY, SCENIC QUALITY, AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County supports formalizing parking areas and eliminating roadside parking, upon review of sites on a case-by-case basis.
- ☐ The County supports management of roadside parking.
- ☐ The County supports the development of a parking system master plan.

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will seek cooperation with public agencies and private landowners to encourage the most efficient use of parking.



Figure 11: Brighton - Jake Young

RECREATION

Perhaps the primary stressor on the Wasatch Canyons is the increasing visitation and use of the area for recreational purposes. Big Cottonwood Canyon offers destination recreation at its two ski areas, and dispersed recreation at developed trailheads, picnic and camp sites, and in the Canyon backcountry. The Forest Service, as the primary land manager in the Canyon, addresses recreation management in the 2003 Forest Plan. Big Cottonwood Canyon is a recreational destination for local residents and visitors from around the globe. At the same time, Big Cottonwood Canyon is home for a number of year-round and seasonal residents who value the natural beauty and peace and quiet that the Canyon offers. An indicator of the increasing recreation pressure in Big Cottonwood Canyon is the traffic and parking pressures in the Canyon on weekends and peak visitation days year-round.

The Brighton and Solitude ski resorts accommodate thousands of skier-and visitor-days each year, and provide food service, parking, and restroom facilities that manage the impacts of concentrated recreational use on the natural environment of the Canyon. Silver Lake at Brighton is a popular destination for all ages and abilities in the warm months, and for cross-country skiers in the winter. The lower portion of the canyon is popular summer months as a fishing and climbing destination. Salt Lake County recently partnered with

the Forest Service and the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities to build a new restroom facility at Silver Lake.

Big Cottonwood is popular for climbing with over 800 recorded climbing routes (MountainProject.com). In partnership with the Salt Lake Ranger District, the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance (SLA) is tackling the Lower Big Cottonwood Climbing Conservation Initiative in 2020. This project aims to create safe, accessible, and sustainable climbing areas for the community in three of the most popular climbing areas in the lower part of Big Cottonwood Canyon: S-Curves, Storm Mountain and Challenge Buttress.

Dispersed recreation is creating increased impacts in the backcountry, and project participants suggest the impacts should be addressed. Big Cottonwood Canyon has nine designated trailheads that provide hiking and back-country ski access. Parking at trailheads is limited, and frequently spills out into the highway right-of-way. Both mountain biking and road cycling activities are increasing in popularity and are creating increasing pressure in terms of traffic management and trail uses. Impacts on trails and picnic sites are increasing and user conflicts on multi-use trails have been reported. Increased trail usage also results in increased environmental impact.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO RECREATION

GOAL: IMPROVE THE RECREATION USER EXPERIENCE WHILE PREPARING FOR FUTURE DEMAND.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ Manage Recreation Impacts – The County supports recreation use in key identified recreation activity nodes. Recreation facilities and systems should be managed and maintained in a way that protects open lands and natural resources.
- ☐ Maintain Trails – The County supports the maintenance of a quality trail system in the Plan Area. The County encourages the implementation of sustainable trail and trail head design guidelines and, to the extent possible, the location of new trails outside of riparian and stream areas. The County supports enhancing selected high-use trails (such as Donut Falls) to handle significant usage. High-use trails whenever feasible should be graded and include amenities such as benches, restrooms, drinking water, transit stops, and parking. The County will encourage that all new trails have identified sources of funding for operation and maintenance prior to trail construction.
- ☐ Improve User Experience – The County encourages technology applications to maximize user experience, promote key recreational areas, and provide the most up-to-date information.
- ☐ Provide Access – The County promotes trail heads to be included in the planning of transit stops and part of the entire system.

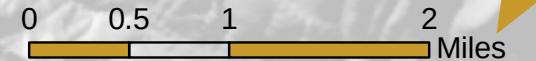
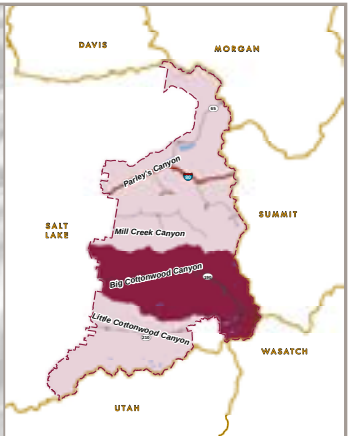
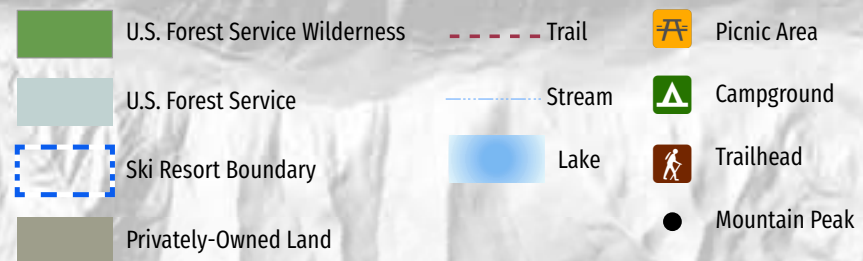
BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County supports the replacement of the Silver Lake boardwalk.
- ☐ The County supports improvements to the trail and trail head from the Cardiff parking area to Donut Falls.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ Reduce Recreation Impact - The County will promote lesser-used recreation areas in Salt Lake County outside the Wasatch Canyons to provide alternatives to the frequently-used Wasatch Canyons. Alternatives could include Dimple Dell Regional Park, Ensign Peak, Yellow Fork, and other appropriate areas.
- ☐ Maintain Recreational Facilities - The County will assist the Forest Service, Salt Lake City, and other agencies and stakeholders that manage trails and lands in implementing their standards for the development of trailheads, parking areas, and other use areas. The County supports the Forest Service and other interested stakeholders to establish volunteer programs to lead and train trail and recreation facility improvement and maintenance volunteers. The County will consider dedicating County staff time to coordinate with volunteer groups.
- ☐ Provide Access - The County will work with the Forest Service and Salt Lake City to assist with designated parking and needed amenities (garbage receptacles, restrooms, parking, etc.). The County will pursue acquisitions of lands with willing sellers at trailheads for additional facilities and parking. The County will work to complete the entire Bonneville Shoreline Trail for entire north-to-south system access. The County will utilize multiple funding sources to protect and maintain key parcels for open space and recreational access through acquisition from willing sellers or conservation easements.
- ☐ The County will work with the Forest Service and local municipalities to establish additional locations for parking lots, recreational access to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, and other recreational open spaces. Their focus will be on enhancing foothill easement acquisition programs and trail head developments.
- ☐ The County to consider the usage of visitor studies through collaboration and support of partner agencies, which may include Forest Service, SLCPU, UDOT, UTA, CWC, Town of Brighton, and Town of Alta. Visitor study assessments shall involve the public and support by partner agencies with jurisdictional authority.

EXISTING RECREATION



GOAL: DEDICATE FUNDING SOURCES TO ASSIST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND TO PROVIDE ONGOING SUPPORT FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ❑ The County will work with partner agencies and others to pursue dedicated funding sources for the Canyons. If tolling or other fees are instituted the County requests that a portion of the generated revenue be designated to specific recreation demands such as trailheads, trails, restrooms, and related items.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ❑ The County will pursue funding resources from foundations, grants, state, federal, and other revenue sources. Multiple County agencies will work on the pursuit of these resources.
- ❑ The County will consider creation of a Regional Wasatch Canyons Recreation District (Local or Special Service District).
- ❑ The County will apply for grants through the Zoo, Arts and Parks Tax (known as the ZAP or RAP tax).
- ❑ The County will consider requesting a portion of Transient Room and Lodging Taxes.



Figure 12: Donut Falls Sign - Jake Young



Figure 13: Climbing in the Cottonwoods -Louis Arevalo



Figure 14: Cardiff Fork Trail head Parking - Jake Young

ECONOMY

The resorts and businesses in Big Cottonwood Canyon are vital to the economy of Salt Lake County and Utah as they provide jobs and sales tax. According to the 2018 Feasibility Study for the Proposed Incorporation of the Town of Brighton, the gross taxable sales in the Town of Brighton study area (now the incorporated area) was over \$33.9 million. In addition, the availability of a reliable and safe water supply supports a vibrant local and State-wide economy.

According to the Ski Utah and Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of RRC Associates data, Utah ski areas hosted 4.15 million skier days, resulting in \$1.322 billion in visitor spending, 18,500 direct jobs, and \$485.4 million in earnings. Economic data are not available by ski area or Canyon. Brighton and Solitude Mountain Resort offer full service skiing, dining, lodging, and retail at the base of each resort.

In addition, and although limited in size, Big Cottonwood Canyon has several areas of commercial development. These areas are either zoned as commercial or have approved commercial uses. Currently, commercial areas exist in the Storm Mountain area, areas adjacent to the Canyon Vacation Rentals in Silver Fork, Solitude Mountain Resort, Brighton Ski Resort, and the Silver Fork Lodge.

The ski areas and businesses in Big Cottonwood Canyon provide employment for both seasonal and year-round employees. Solitude Resort employs a peak staff of 535 people, including both year-round and seasonal staff.

Often the value of clean water is overlooked with its importance to the economy, with Big Cottonwood Canyon providing a significant amount of water to Salt Lake County residents it's important to remember the relationship between natural resources like water and the economy.



Figure 15: Solitude Lodging - Jake Young



Figure 16: Brighton Resort - Jake Young

GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO ECONOMY

GOAL: SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION AND VIABILITY OF CANYON BUSINESSES WHILE CONSERVING THE NATURAL FEATURES AND RECREATIONAL ATTRIBUTES THAT MAKE THE CANYONS A VITAL ECONOMIC IMPACT IN UTAH.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ Salt Lake County supports appropriate ski area/Forest Service land exchanges to support Canyon businesses, according to the CRMP.
- ☐ The County will continue to focus on the environmental and scenic preservation of the Wasatch Canyons as an economic development strategy.
- ☐ The County will include tourism and economic groups in planning, coordinating, and implementing the Wasatch Canyons General Plan.
- ☐ Resort expansion recommendations should be according to previously adopted or subsequent amendments of any of the following: Records of Decision, plans by the County and Forest Service (including Revised Plan), and Mountain Accord findings. New dwelling units (hospitality and residential) should be located at the base of the resorts and clustered in walkable villages.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will work with the Forest Service to help ensure that businesses operating in the Canyons have the proper business permitting (for guiding, shuttle, etc.). Some commercial operations may also require a Special Use Permit from the Forest Service.
- ☐ The County will regulate the use of short-term rentals. The County will work with short-term rental and hotel operators to ensure understanding of necessary Canyon policies for parking, watershed protection, and permits.

GOAL: MEET THE GROWING DEMANDS FOR RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, AND VISITORS BY ENHANCING AND IMPROVING PUBLIC UTILITY SYSTEMS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County will work with agency partners to identify public infrastructure needs to address residential, recreational, environmental, and business impacts.
- ☐ The County supports the development of broadband and communications infrastructure in appropriate areas to achieve General Plan goals such as public safety improvements and environmental protection. The County will evaluate and modify, if necessary, communications infrastructure plans and Capital Improvement Plans (CIPs) so that they are consistent with the General Plan.
- ☐ The County will ensure that new infrastructure is designed and installed per General Plan goals regarding aesthetics, environmental and water quality, and the character of the Canyons. The County will also ensure that infrastructure development, maintenance and repair are conducted in a manner that protects water quality.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will evaluate infrastructure priorities and incentives for development in appropriate areas that achieve environmental protection, recreational impact mitigation, and other goals consistent with the General Plan.
- ☐ The County will evaluate all funding options to support development and maintenance of needed infrastructure. The County will ensure that General Plan projects are included and prioritized in agency CIPs.

ACTIONS

Specific strategy action items are presented below. Actions are described as programs, which would have on-going responsibilities and activities; policies, which would guide future County decision-making; or projects. Priorities are described as near-term strategies, 0 to 5 years; mid-term, 5 to 10 years; and long-term, 10 or more years. Anticipated implementation costs are generally categorized \$, lower cost strategies that could be implemented by allocating or re-allocating funding in current general fund budgets; \$\$, moderate cost strategies that would require creation of a new budget line item and development of new funding streams; or \$\$\$, higher cost strategies that would require either bonding for capital projects or development of significant new funding sources such as legislation, or new taxing authorities.

ACTION	ACTION TYPE	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY/ PARTNERS	FUNDING
Trails Master Plan - The County will support and collaborate with the Forest Service on Trails Master Planning.	Plan	Near (0-5 years)	Salt Lake County/ Forest Service/ Municipal Service District	\$
Canyon Coordination - Salt Lake County will meet regularly with the Big Cottonwood Canyon Community Council and Town of Brighton to exchange information and coordinate activities to the extent possible.	Project	Near (0-5 years)	Salt Lake County/Forest Service/ Municipal Service District	\$
Ordinance Updates - Salt Lake County will review and update FCOZ requirements relating to property line setbacks, roof lines, building spacing, snow shedding, snow storage, defensible spaces, fire risk, septic systems, preservation of historic structures, and forest health to ensure alignment with the objectives of this Wasatch Canyons General Plan.	Plan	Near (0-5 years)	Salt Lake County/ Salt Lake City/ Forest Service/Municipal Service District	\$
Watershed Management - Both the 2017 Salt Lake County Integrated Watershed Plan and the 1999 Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan establish goals and policies for future watershed management and recommendations for implementation of management strategies. The County will continue to pursue the Watershed Management Plan goals.	Project	Near (0-5 years)	Salt Lake County/ Salt Lake City Public Works Department/ Forest Service	\$\$
Short Term Rental Compliance -Review ordinance, permits, and code enforcement (coordinate with Town of Brighton).	Project	Near (0-5 years)	Salt Lake County/ Forest Service/ Municipal Service District	\$

Parking Management Plan - Encourage and support the Forest Service, UDOT, Ski Resorts, CWC, and others with the development of a parking management plan.	Plan	Near (0-5 years)	Salt Lake County/ Forest Service/ UDOT/ Ski Resorts/ CWC/ Town of Brighton / Local Municipalities / UTA / Public and Landowners	\$
Communication - Assist UDOT in communicating updates for the canyon to the public regarding weather.	Policy	Near (0-5 years)	Salt Lake County	\$
Scenic Byway - The County will coordinate with the SR190 Scenic Byway Committee on planning and projects affecting the highway.	Project	Mid (5-10 years)	Salt Lake County/ Forest Service	\$
Pedestrian Safety at Key Locations - The County will support and encourage UDOT and the Forest Service to evaluate and improve pedestrian safety at strategic locations such as the "S" curve, lower Canyon picnic areas, and the Cardiff parking area.	Project	Mid (5-10 years)	Salt Lake County/ UDOT/ Forest Service	\$\$
Efficient Parking - The County will partner with public agencies and private landowners to encourage the most efficient use of parking. The County will explore opportunities with UDOT and Salt Lake City for improvement or possible relocation of parking areas to improve recreational access and protect water quality.	Project	Mid (5-10 years)	Salt Lake County/ UDOT/ Forest Service	\$\$
Cardiff Trail head and Parking - The County will encourage and collaborate with the Forest Service and UDOT to improve the trail and trail head from the Cardiff parking area to Donut Falls.	Project	Mid (5-10 years)	Salt Lake County/ Forest Service/ UDOT	\$\$\$
Silver Lake Boardwalk - The County will work with the Forest Service to assist in the fundraising for the replacement of the Silver Lake boardwalk.	Project	Long (10-20 years)	Salt Lake County/ Forest Service	\$\$\$
Annual Review - County will invite partner agencies, governments and others to discuss the goals and progress of the General Plan.	Plan	Yearly	Salt Lake County (multiple departments & Planning Commission)/ Municipal Services District/ Forest Service/ UDOT/ Salt Lake Public Utilities/ Community Councils/ Town of Brighton/ others	\$

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WASATCH CANYONS GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

PARLEYS • MILL CREEK • BIG COTTONWOOD • **LITTLE COTTONWOOD** • THE FOOTHILLS

ADOPTED JUNE 2020



CHAPTER 5 LITTLE COTTONWOOD

INTRODUCTION

Little Cottonwood Canyon is located in eastern Salt Lake County in the Wasatch Mountain Range of northern Utah. The Canyon is a west-facing break in the Wasatch Mountains, and rises from an elevation of approximately 5,000 feet above sea level at the mouth of the Canyon to over 11,000 feet at the top of the watershed.

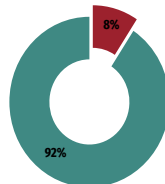
The Canyon is accessed via the Little Cottonwood Canyon Scenic Byway (SR-210), which is maintained by UDOT and is notably one of the most avalanche-prone transportation corridors in North America, according to UDOT. The land in the Canyon is primarily public, managed by the Forest Service, although there are private inholdings. Little Cottonwood Canyon has long been a popular place for year-round recreational activities due to its notable natural beauty and terrain. Unlike some of the other Wasatch Front Canyons, which were formed through a combination of erosion and other processes, Little Cottonwood Canyon was largely formed by glaciers. As a result, Little Cottonwood Canyon has a very steep-walled physical form. This unique physical geography affects many things in this Canyon from avalanches to overall development and is central to the historic uses that took place in Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Little Cottonwood Canyon has long been a recreational destination for Utah residents and visitors and, like the other Wasatch Canyons, is experiencing all-time high levels of traffic resulting in adverse impacts to travel, parking, and the visitor and resident experience. The upper Canyon area houses both the Alta Ski Resort and the Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort. Alta Resort is located in the Town of Alta, an area that incorporated in 1970. Winter visitation in particular has increased to the point that, on weekends and powder snow days, morning traffic can back up past the mouth of the Canyon to the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon and beyond. Parking at Alta Ski Resort and Snowbird is constrained due to popular destinations and high vehicle usage, limiting the number of skiers and snowboarders that can gain access to the ski areas. Afternoon down-Canyon traffic can be so congested on peak days that it can take 1-3 hours on busy days to drive the 8 miles from Alta to the mouth of the Canyon. Alta and Snowbird ski resorts are important parts of the Utah recreation economy and offer lodging, dining opportunities, and recreation-supported retail.

Little Cottonwood Canyon is a protected watershed, and provides a significant amount of water to more than 350,000 people in the Salt Lake area. The location, quantity and high quality of this water source makes the Little Cottonwood watershed irreplaceable and extremely important to the residents of the County. Salt Lake City

owns most of the water rights in the Canyon, and the City has extra-territorial jurisdiction in the Canyon to manage impacts on water quantity and quality.

LITTLE COTTONWOOD TODAY



92% Forest Service

64% (15,217 Acres) Forest Service Wilderness Area

36% (8,745 Acres) Forest Service Land (non Wilderness)

8% Private Land (Protected Areas Database)



1,204 Acres of single family or vacation home residential land

(SL parcels)



13 Threatened & Endangered Species Occurrences

(Utah Natural Heritage geospatial 2017)

100% of the Canyon drainage is within a protected watershed

(NHD Watershed protection Boundary)



64 Miles of trails (AGRC Utah April 2017)

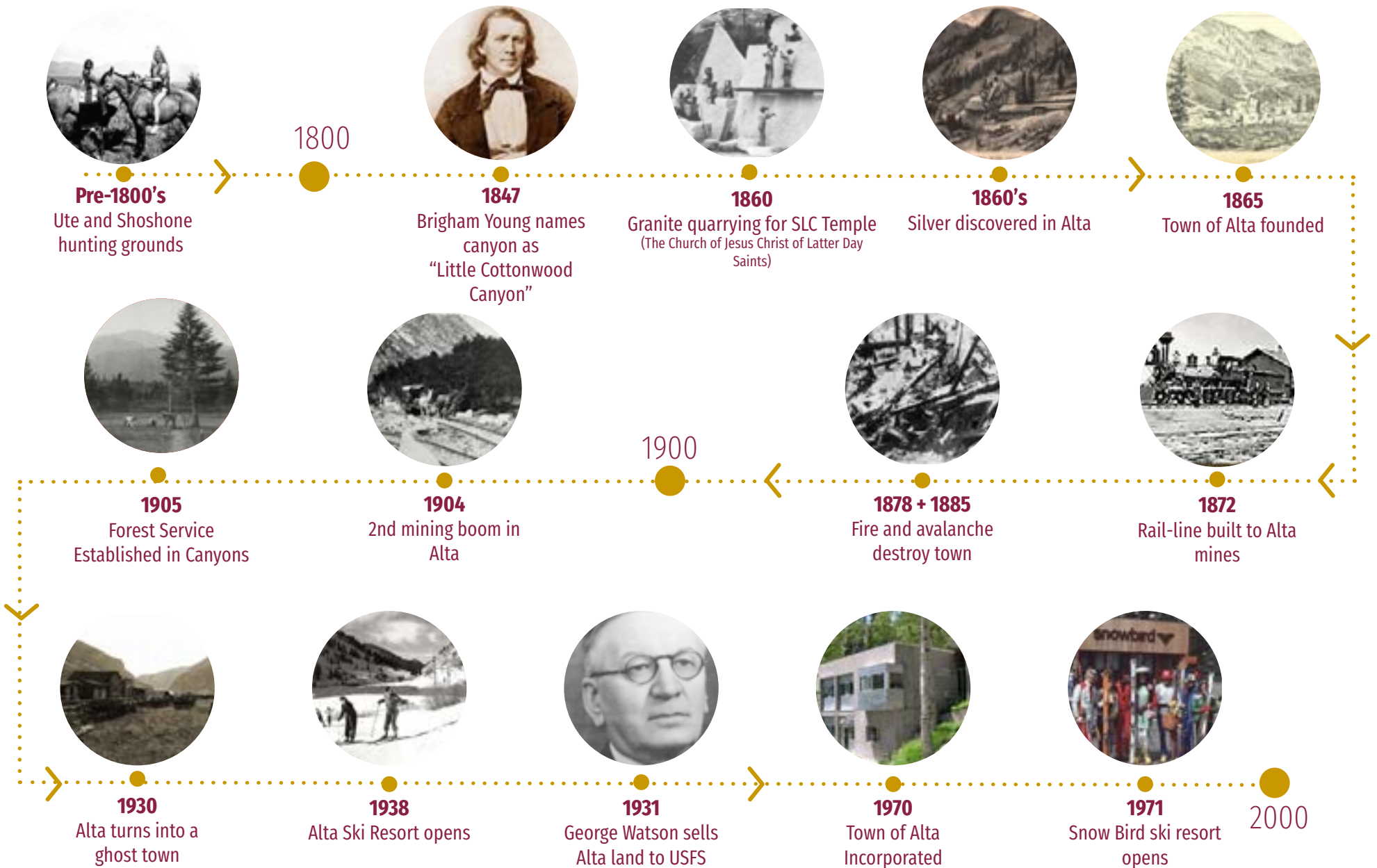
168 Ski Named Runs in Snowbird Resort (2019 SkiUtah.com)



6,535 Average daily trips (UDOT 2015)

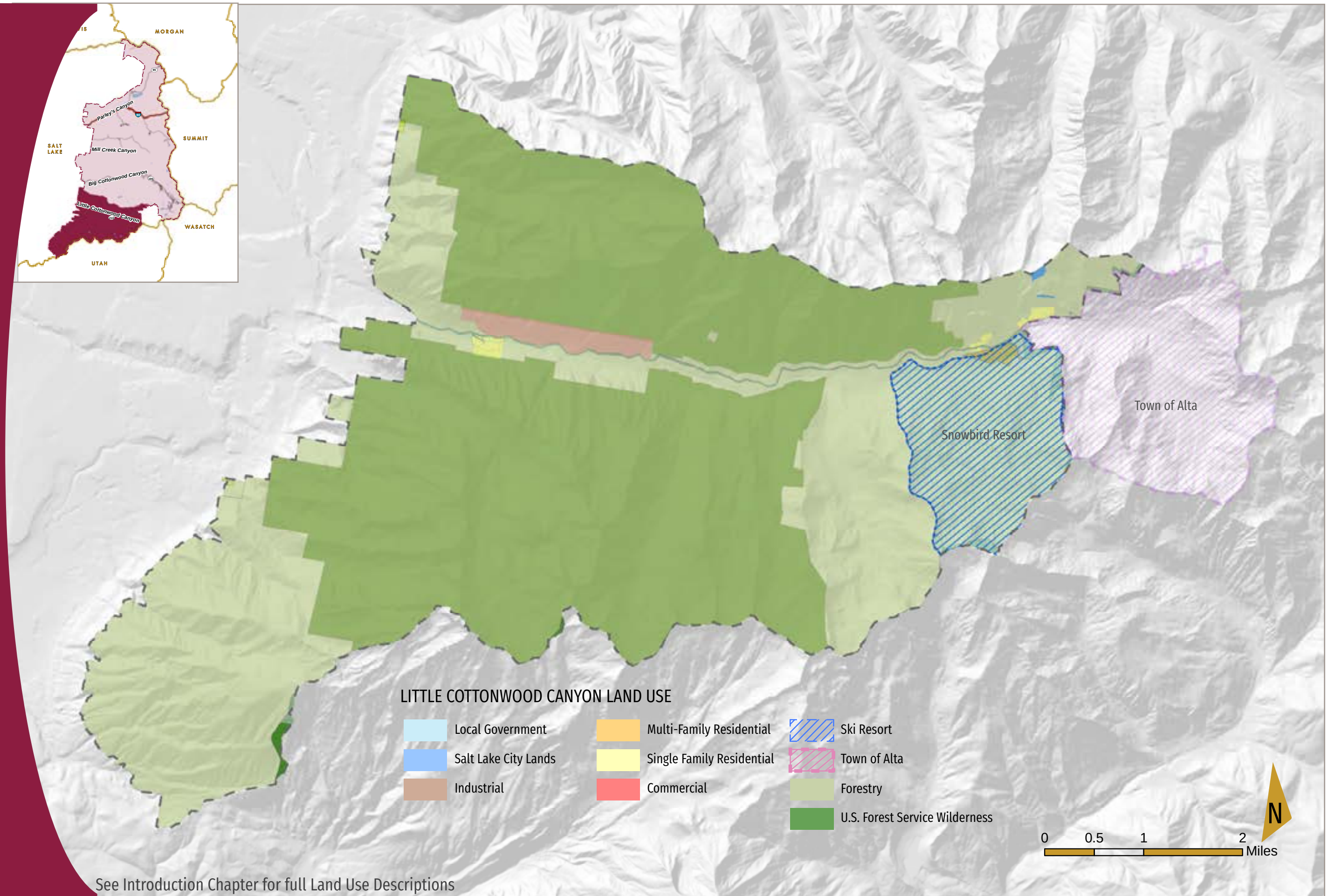
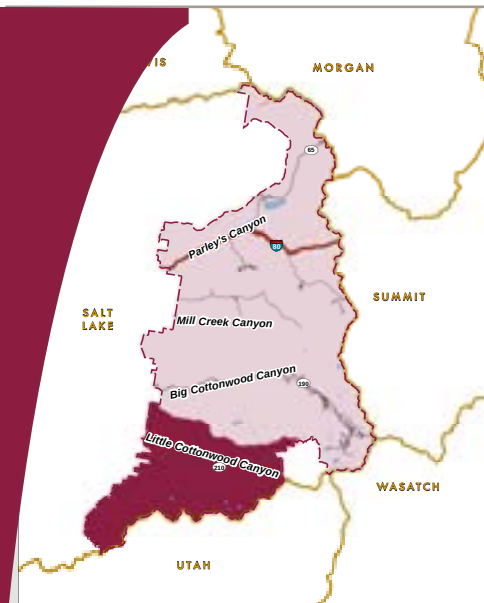
195,000 Ski bus ridership (UTA 2018-2019)

LITTLE COTTONWOOD THROUGH THE YEARS



LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON

LAND USE



LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON LAND USE

 Local Government	 Multi-Family Residential	 Ski Resort
 Salt Lake City Lands	 Single Family Residential	 Town of Alta
 Industrial	 Commercial	 Forestry
		 U.S. Forest Service Wilderness



See Introduction Chapter for full Land Use Descriptions

EXISTING CONDITIONS, GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Many of the existing conditions and management challenges of the Wasatch Canyons are common among the Canyons and foothills. Those include issues relating to wildfires, noxious weeds, and forest health. Those common circumstances are described in detail in Chapter 1, Introduction to this General Plan. Existing conditions and management issues specific to Little Cottonwood Canyon are presented in this chapter; in order for the reader to have a comprehensive understanding of the circumstances in each Canyon, Chapter 1 should be read in conjunction with the individual Canyon chapters.

LAND USE

Land ownership in Little Cottonwood Canyon is dominated by the Federal Government with the Forest Service managing 13,853 acres, or 92% of the Canyon area. Privately held lands in the Canyon total 3,227 acres, and are located at the Canyon mouth, Wasatch Resort, Snowbird, Town of Alta, and a number of patented mining claims. Several land exchanges involving Salt Lake City, the U.S. Forest Service, the Trust for Public Lands, and private landowners have altered the land ownership pattern in the Canyon by placing more private property in public ownership.

The Town of Alta was incorporated in 1970, and covers approximately 2,900 acres of both privately owned and public lands. The resident population is 385, according to 2017 data from the U.S. Census Bureau. The population has grown by only two residents in the years since the 2010 census, and is not anticipated to grow significantly in the foreseeable future. Land uses within the Town include the Alta ski area, detached and attached single family, and multi-family residences, and lodges and commercial enterprises.

Two ski areas are located in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Alta Ski Area is located in the Town of Alta, just outside the Plan Area, and has a skiable area of 2,614 acres. The base elevation is 8,530 ft and rises to 11,068 ft for a vertical gain of 2,538 ft. The area has three high speed quad lifts, one triple chair lift, and two double chair lifts. Five lodges with restaurants are located within the Town of Alta, as are a number of condominiums. Alta has its own General Plan and land use authority.

The other ski area, Snowbird, has 2,500 skiable acres accessed via one tram and 10 chairlifts, including six high-speed detachable quads and four doubles.

The General Plan identifies goals, policies, and strategies in nine categories within the five main planning themes of land use, environment, recreation, transportation, and economy. Most of the goals, policies, and strategies are relevant for the entire Wasatch Canyons planning area, and are presented in each theme below with those specific to Little Cottonwood Canyon highlighted as “Little Cottonwood Canyon strategies”. **Goals** are long-term objectives that describe future desired conditions and outcomes. **Policies** are statements designed to inform and guide the County’s future decision-making. **Strategies** are specific tasks the County proposes to undertake to further Plan goals.

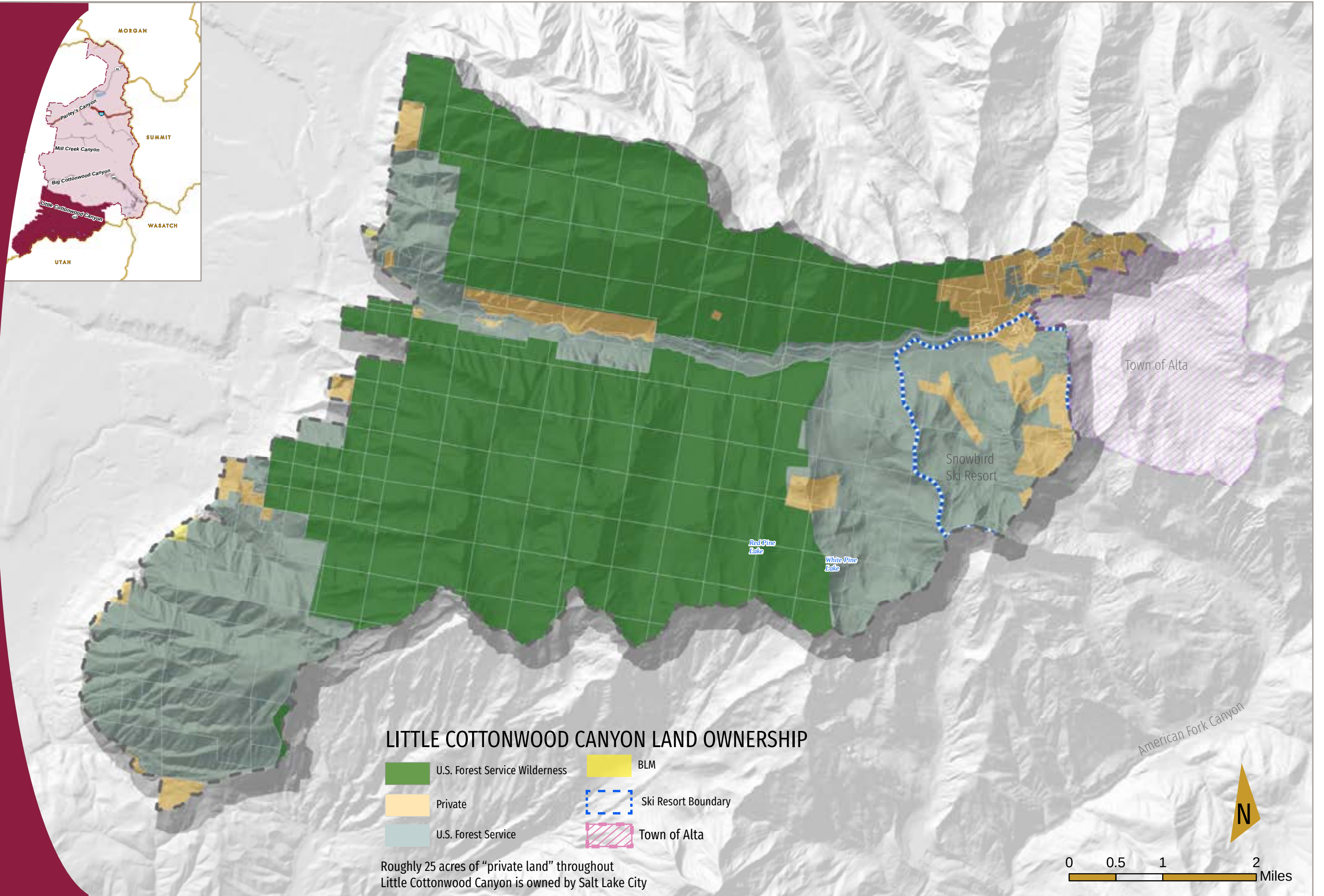
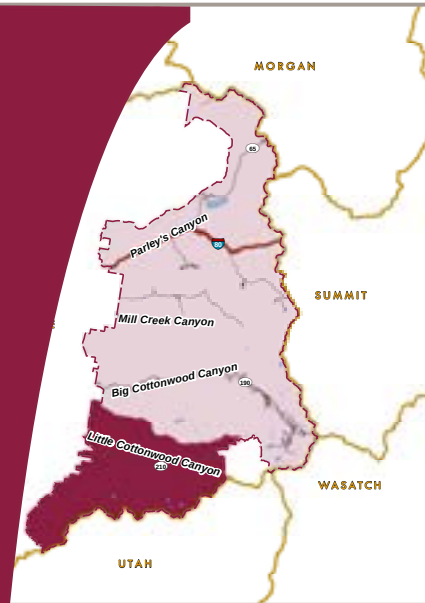
The total uphill capacity is 15,200 people per hour. Snowbird has summit and base elevations of 11,000 feet and 7,760 feet, with a vertical drop of 3,240 feet. Four lodges are located in Snowbird’s pedestrian village, with over 834 lodging rooms, and 15 restaurants.



Figure 1: Snowbird in the Summer - Jake Young

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON

LAND OWNERSHIP



LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON LAND OWNERSHIP

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|---------------------|
|  | U.S. Forest Service Wilderness |  | BLM |
|  | Private |  | Ski Resort Boundary |
|  | U.S. Forest Service |  | Town of Alta |

Roughly 25 acres of "private land" throughout Little Cottonwood Canyon is owned by Salt Lake City

0 0.5 1 2 Miles

Little Cottonwood Canyon has two areas of commercial development, both associated with the mountain resorts. These areas are either zoned as commercial or have approved commercial uses. Unlike Big Cottonwood Canyon to the north, there are few “stand alone” commercial areas in Little Cottonwood Canyon outside of the resort areas.

Current land uses in Little Cottonwood Canyon are not anticipated to have significant changes in the foreseeable future. Future management and uses on Forest Service lands will occur pursuant to the adopted 2003 Revised Forest Plan, as updated. Future management of lands owned by Salt Lake City would be governed by the 1999 Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan, and any future Salt Lake City watershed management plans. It is anticipated that minimal additional development will occur on areas outside the resorts, due to limited available water and resources, and topographic constraints. Salt Lake City owns most of the available water rights in the Canyon and has foreclosed further surplus water sales under a water sales moratorium since 1981.

Little Cottonwood Canyon has a history of other land uses, including mining, quarrying, and timber harvesting, all of which have since ceased.

In contrast to Big Cottonwood Canyon, which contains numerous areas of residential development throughout the Canyon, very little privately-owned land has been developed for residential purposes in Little Cottonwood Canyon outside of the Town of Alta. Additional residential development exists at Snowbird as part of the base area of the resort, and Wasatch Resort is an area of seasonal and year-round homes near the base of the Canyon. Approximately 800 residences are present in Little Cottonwood Canyon, primarily in the Town of Alta and near Snowbird. The Wasatch Resort area includes approximately 18 full-time and 15 part-time residences. Whether this lack of residential development in Little Cottonwood Canyon is due to the limiting physical geography, limited flat land/lots, or the considerable avalanche danger, is uncertain.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO LAND USE

GOAL: ENSURE THAT FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES AND ENTITIES WITH JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE WASATCH CANYONS PLANNING AREA REGULARLY COORDINATE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT EFFORTS.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ❑ Coordination – The County will implement the inter-agency coordination measures identified in the Salt Lake County Resource Management Plan (CRMP) for fire management, forest management, riparian areas and wetlands, recreation management, and the other resources addressed in the CRMP. The allocation of responsibilities among County agencies for coordination implementation is described in the CRMP. It is recommended that those County Departments with responsibilities within the Canyons have regular coordination meetings to review and discuss goals, strategies, services, and issues facing the Canyons.
- ❑ Planning – The County will work collaboratively with partner agencies including the Wasatch Front Regional Council, the Forest Service, UDOT, Salt Lake City, the Greater Salt Lake Municipal

Services District, the Central Wasatch Commission, UTA, towns, neighboring cities, and others to accomplish the goals of the General Plan and other plans set forth by the County. It is recommended that inter-agency collaboration happen on a regular basis and more than once per year. The County will explore and support the Scenic Byway Committee as a potential group to pursue coordination.

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ❑ Salt Lake County will meet regularly with the Town of Alta to exchange information and coordinate activities to the extent possible
- ❑ Salt Lake County will coordinate with the SR-210 Scenic Byway Committee on planning and projects affecting the highway.

GOAL: REVIEW AND UPDATE COUNTY ORDINANCES, AS NEEDED, TO FURTHER IMPLEMENT THE VISION, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES OF THE GENERAL PLAN.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- The County will support the consideration of and collaboration on unique Canyon theming, similar to national parks, that promotes a sense of place, stewardship, and heritage (signage, architecture, wayfinding, entry features, benches, etc.).

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- The County will coordinate with the Forest Service, UDOT, Central Wasatch Commission, local municipalities, and other government agencies to consider creating design guidelines/standards for the commercial development, gateways, and public areas in the Canyons that include consistent design quality, materials, and placement. Participating agencies will include the County Planning, Forest Service, and Mountainous Planning Commission.
- The County will review the Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone (FCOZ), Mountain Resort Zone (MRZ) and other related Canyon ordinances to compare goals and strategies alignments or conflicts with the General Plan. This shall include a review of defensible spaces and other best practices to reduce wildfire risk. In connection with any potential update of such ordinances, the County intends to solicit public input and work with partner agencies (which may include the Forest Service, SLCPU, the MSD, Town of Brighton and Town of Alta) and property owners.
- The County will consider the need to periodically update County ordinances related to development siting, access, floodplains, water protection, and the structural design of buildings to ensure that health and safety requirements and the General Plan Vision and County goals are being met.
- The County will work to streamline and clarify the FCOZ/private property development process, including achieving better coordination between jurisdictions.
- The County will review progress and update the Wasatch Canyons General Plan every five years to make necessary incremental adjustments to work toward the identified goals. The County will plan for a complete General Plan update in the 15-20 year time frame (2033-2038).
- The County supports housing development that is consistent with the Moderate Income Housing Plan and will adapt housing ordinances according to local needs, restraints, and opportunities (See Chapter 1 for applicable strategies, goals, and actions from the MIH).

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON STRATEGIES:

- Salt Lake County will review and update FCOZ requirements relating to property line setbacks, rooflines, building spacing, snow shedding, snow storage, defensible space, watershed health, and forest health to ensure alignment with the objectives of this Wasatch Canyons General Plan.



Figure 2: Ski Bus - Jake Young



Figure 3: Granite Trail - Jake Young



Figure 4: Snowbird and Salt Lake Valley - Jake Young

ENVIRONMENT

WATERSHED AND HYDROLOGY

Little Cottonwood Canyon is a protected watershed area for the Salt Lake Valley, covering over 27 square miles and providing a significant amount of water for more than 350,000 people in the Salt Lake City service area. The location, quantity, and high quality of this water source makes the Little Cottonwood Canyon watershed irreplaceable and extremely important to residents of the County. Mountain water reaches home faucets in 24 hours, with no intermediate storage reservoir, making it vulnerable to contamination. Some water storage is provided by the mountain snowpack. All water in Little Cottonwood Canyon is managed by the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities. Water from Little Cottonwood Creek is transported via gravity directly to the Little Cottonwood Water Treatment Plant, operated by the Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake and Sandy, located near the mouth of the Canyon.

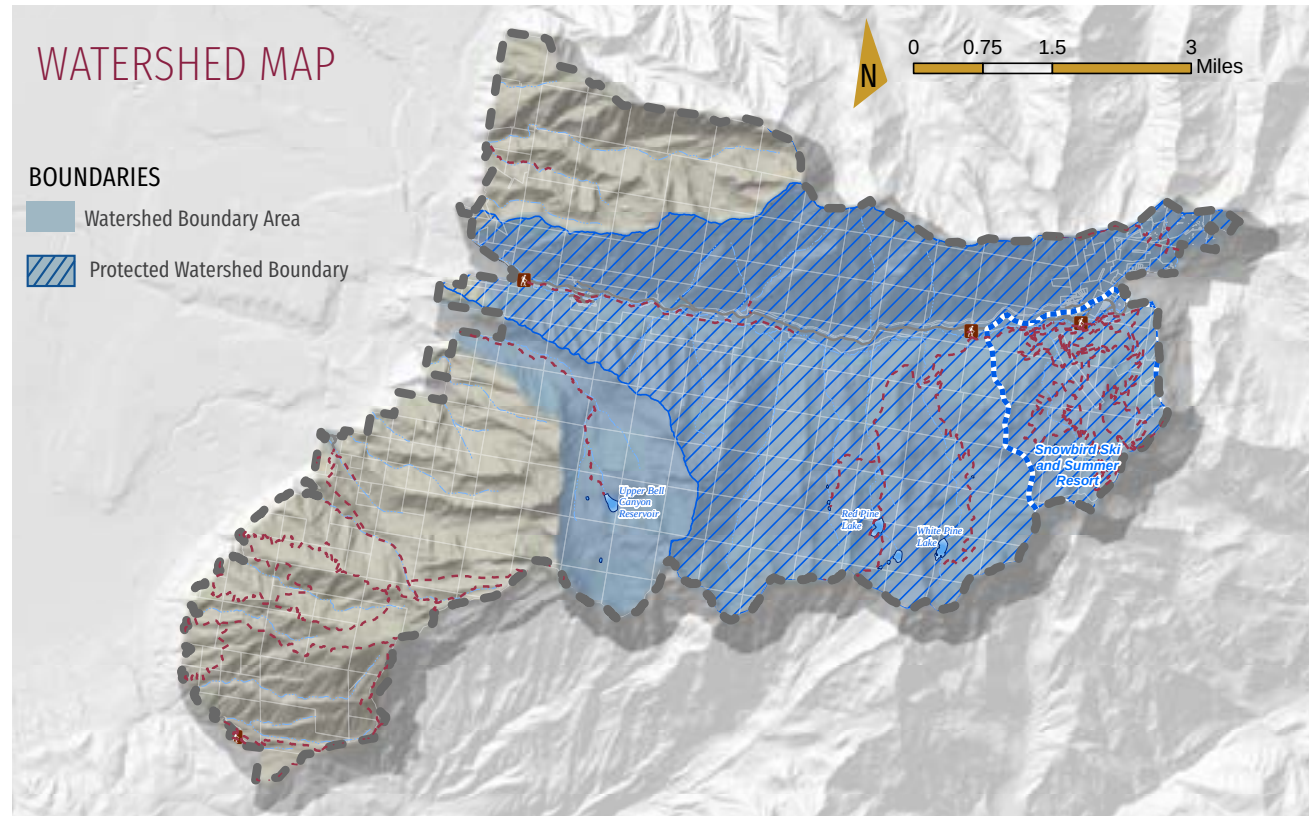
Little Cottonwood Creek from its headwaters to the Little Cottonwood treatment plant is designated as “Category 1 Waters”, which is intended to protect the stream from point source and non-point source pollutants, including a prohibition of any point sources of wastewater discharge.

Salt Lake City Public Utilities holds the majority of the water rights in the Canyon, and contracts to provide access to untreated water with both individuals and companies via surplus water contracts. The contracts allow the water user to rely on the City’s water rights to develop sources and delivery systems. Salt Lake City is not authorized to enter into additional or expanded water agreements in the watershed areas except as allowed under the City’s code 17.04.020.

SEWER

Salt Lake County Service Area #3 is a government water/sewer district located in Little Cottonwood Canyon at Snowbird. The Service Area supplies water to the Snowbird Ski Resort and the western portion of the Town of Alta. The Service Area also provides operation and management services to the Town of Alta by contract to operate their water system. The areas served are mainly recreational ski and summer resort areas. All public water systems must strictly comply with Utah Division of Water Quality testing requirements and regulations to ensure safe drinking water supplies

Salt Lake County Service Area #3 provides wastewater collection and sewer services in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Wastewater is delivered to the Cottonwood Improvement District and is transported through a network of mainlines and trunk lines to the Central Valley Water Reclamation Facility for treatment and final disposal and/or reuse of the treated water and biosolids for beneficial use. The capacity of the sewer line and how it relates to “build out” is important to consider in terms of how much development can take place in Little Cottonwood Canyon.



VEGETATION

Little Cottonwood canyon faces noxious weed issues primarily due to recreation and commercial land development. Noxious weeds of concern to Little Cottonwood Canyon include dyers woad (*Isatis tinctorial*), myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) and scotch thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*). Little Cottonwood Canyon is threatened by encroaching invasive plant species found at the base of the canyon along the foothills and urban wildland interface. These plant species include dyers woad, myrtle spurge, and yellow sweet clover, along with the possible new invader Money plant.

Overall, Little Cottonwood Canyon has the fewest known noxious weed issues compared to its neighboring canyons. Many proactive measures have been taken to monitor and treat noxious and non-native invasive plant infestations in disturbed areas at both Alta Ski Area and the Town of Alta. New construction can inadvertently invite invasive plant species in due to freshly disturbed soil, where seeds can easily be transmitted directly from equipment. For the future of Little Cottonwood Canyon, it is important to inform the public about the importance of alpine ecosystems and the need to protect them from noxious weeds.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO ENVIRONMENT

GOAL: ENSURE THE MANAGEMENT OF WATERSHEDS IN THE WASATCH CANYONS TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ❑ The County will support the continued implementation of the recommendations of the most current Salt Lake County Integrated Watershed Plan and the Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan.
- ❑ The Salt Lake County Health Department will continue to coordinate with the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the Forest Service, and Salt Lake City to implement anti-degradation standards, stream setback and environment zones, stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs), monitoring programs, enforcement activities, and other Canyon watershed policies to maintain water quality in the Canyons.
- ❑ The County will pursue Canyon land use policies which will allow continued use of the Canyons for transportation, recreational, residential, and commercial development as long as these activities do not result in deterioration of water quality. Any new or expanding uses in the watershed Canyons must be reviewed and carefully scrutinized to determine if the proposed use is consistent with water quality goals.

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ❑ Both the 2017 Salt Lake County Integrated Watershed Plan and the 1999 Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan establish goals and policies for future watershed management and recommendations for implementation of management strategies. Salt Lake City is currently updating the 1999 Plan.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ❑ The County will work with the Forest Service and Salt Lake City Public Utilities to identify impaired stretches of streams for funding to implement restoration.
- ❑ The County encourages and supports the development of concentrated recreation nodes at key locations, which minimizes overall system impact. Recreation nodes should include proper facilities for parking, trash, transit, restrooms, and trails.
- ❑ The County will work toward ensuring recreation facilities are constructed and operated to minimize both point and non-point sources of pollution, including restroom facilities.
- ❑ The County will require that landowners, developers, utility providers, and government agencies establish stream setbacks, protect vegetation, site appropriately, and implement stormwater BMPs when planning the design and construction of all Canyon development.



Figure 5: White Pine Restroom - Jake Young

GOAL: ENSURE THAT FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN AND USAGE OF THE WASATCH CANYONS ARE MANAGED TO PROTECT WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND HABITAT AND TO REDUCE HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County will support the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) in the implementation of the Utah Wildlife Action Plan.
- ☐ The County will work with other agencies to further designate sensitive areas, wildlife corridors, and conflict areas.
- ☐ The County supports wildlife protection measures (such as fencing, changes in trails, and wildlife crossings) for key sensitive areas.
- ☐ The County will continue to support a science-based data resources to inform decision-making.
- ☐ The County will work with applicable Federal, State, and local agencies to identify sensitive aquatic populations within the Plan Area and, if needed, explore the feasibility related to in-stream flows to protect sensitive aquatic life. The County lead for coordination with jurisdictional agencies will be County Watershed.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will review and revise, as necessary, County codes and regulations to support wildlife.

GOAL: MAINTAIN AND INCREASE THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL LANDS THAT PROTECT ECOSYSTEMS AND WATERSHEDS AND PROVIDE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County will continue to support natural land conservation and preservation of open spaces for recreation, habitat, water quality, and environmental protection purposes.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will continue to support the purchase of open space preservation and ongoing maintenance. The County will utilize all possible funding resources available, such as the County's Open Space Trust Fund, Salt Lake City, State of Utah, or Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), to protect critical parcels.
- ☐ The County will promote the use of private land trusts and other means to facilitate the conservation and maintenance of key properties through donations, conservation easements, and acquisition from willing sellers.

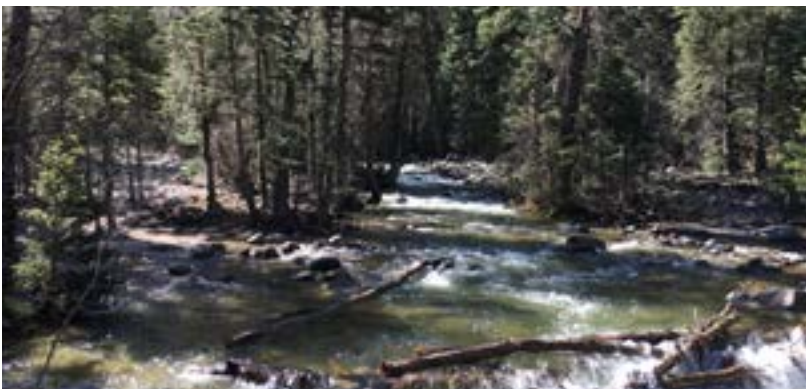


Figure 6: Little Cottonwood Creek - Jake Young



Figure 7: Moose in Little Cottonwood Canyon - Jake Young

GOAL: ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS, INVOLVEMENT, AND STEWARDSHIP OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND RECREATIONAL VALUES AND PRACTICES.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ❑ In cooperation with Canyon stakeholders and volunteers, the County supports public education and stewardship of the Wasatch Canyons.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ❑ The County will review and consider the Cottonwood Canyons Scenic Byways Plan signage plan when planning for educational signage.
- ❑ The County will identify the citizens groups, community councils, property owners associations, non-profits, ongoing related efforts, and other similar associations active in each Canyon, and meet with them regularly to identify opportunities for the County to support their activities, enhance communications, and define common objectives that align with the Wasatch Canyons General Plan. The County will commit staff time and/or funding to these groups in the form of grants for activities that support the implementation of the General Plan.
- ❑ The County will support a forum of volunteers and community groups to coordinate communications and interactions with the County and other agency stakeholders.

GOAL: PREPARE FOR POTENTIAL NATURAL HAZARDS AND DISASTERS IN THE CANYONS AND FOOTHILLS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ❑ The County will work with corresponding agencies to further prepare the Canyons for the event of a wildland fire, earthquakes, landslides, and other natural disasters.
- ❑ The County will work with the Forest Service to understand and prepare for the impact of insect and disease issues that may severely impact the forest ecosystem in the near future.
- ❑ The County will work with science professionals to enrich and educate Salt Lake County planners, commissioners, and elected officials of lessons learned through research application.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ❑ The County supports the Salt Lake County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that addresses wildfire issues, including fuels reduction strategies. The County anticipates regular coordination with UFA and other state, local and federal agencies in reviewing the CWPP.
- ❑ The County will work with the Forest Service and UDOT to assist in fire protection, noxious weed control, and habitat protection. Involved agencies will include Salt Lake City Public Utilities, Salt Lake City Unified Fire and Police, County Weed Control, and Emergency Services.
- ❑ The County supports programs to incentivize the upgrading of existing homes and businesses including septic upgrades and improved water and sewer connections.
- ❑ The County will explore a tree and mitigation bank for removed trees to help fund restoration work.
- ❑ The County, with the Forest Service and others, will regularly review ordinances to see if current ordinances suggest best practices to minimize wildfire hazards on private and County-owned property. As necessary the County will update ordinances.
- ❑ The County supports the following existing emergency plans: the Salt Lake County Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) and the Salt Lake County Multi-Hazard Multi-Jurisdiction Mitigation Plan (HMP). In addition, the County supports the development of a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) for Salt Lake County that will assist in preparation of county-wide emergency plans through collaboration with UFA, County Emergency Management, and other government agencies. Such plans do and will consider hazard mitigation, shelter, food, water, medical care, communication, transportation, post incident mitigation and other essential items needed for emergencies.
- ❑ In case of wildfire incidents, the County will work with partner agencies (e.g., Forest Service, State of Utah, water agencies) to ensure that grant monies are pursued for post fire recovery, including watershed recovery issues, to the extent reasonably feasible.
- ❑ The County supports the continuing assessment by the UFA of current water supply capacity in the Canyons for fire protection.
- ❑ The County supports the study of reasonably viable emergency egress, shelter in place alternatives, and other mitigation tactics in the Canyons in the event of natural hazards, which could include fires, flooding, avalanches, landslides and earthquakes.



Figure 9: On Road Parking Little Cottonwood Canyon- Jake Young

TRANSPORTATION

Access to Little Cottonwood Canyon is via SR-210 which is operated and maintained by UDOT across Forest Service Lands under an agreement with the Forest Service. From the 2008 Cottonwood Canyons Corridor Management Plan,

“Big and Little Cottonwood Canyon Roads are characterized by steep grades, sharp bends, and few passing zones. They are dead-end roads. Drivers are the primary users of the roadways. However, cyclists and hikers are also present much of the year. Traffic is most often attributed to recreation activities as well as the services supporting tourism, but both roadways also serve residential areas in each of the Canyons. UDOT is responsible for managing and maintaining the roadways in the Cottonwood Canyons.”

Avalanche hazards are also significant in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Several dozen mapped avalanche paths cross the Canyon highway, and at least four are located above the Town of Alta. Avalanches frequently close SR-210, and occasionally require visitors at the ski resorts to remain indoors until the avalanche hazard abates. According to UDOT data, approximately 500 avalanches occur in Little Cottonwood Canyon each year. Approximately 330 of these are triggered intentionally in order to reduce avalanche risk. The Alta Bypass Road was constructed in order to allow for travel into and out of the Town of Alta, while avoiding the Hellgate and Superior avalanche areas. While avalanche fatalities are generally infrequent in Little Cottonwood Canyon, avalanches, naturally occurring or intentionally triggered, frequently close the road to vehicular traffic.

The Average Annual Daily Trip (AADT) count for Little Cottonwood Canyon is over 6,600 vehicle trips. Traffic in the Cottonwood Canyons has seasonal variations. Traffic volumes peak between December and March, and again in July. According to the 2017 Mountain Accord Cottonwood Canyons Short to Mid-Term Transportation Solutions Tech Memo, there are over 20,000 daily visitors to the Cottonwood Canyons on weekends, both in the summer and winter. Little Cottonwood Canyon has 3,460 parking spaces at the resorts, with 95% peak utilization, and 1,390 shoulder and pullout spaces, with 22% peak utilization.

Project participants identified travel and parking in Little Cottonwood Canyon as a significant issue. Particularly during winter months, skiers and snowboarders create traffic congestion, and during weekends, can create problems with overflow parking along the margins of the Canyon road. Data supports the numerous stakeholder comments concerning traffic congestion on peak days during the winter ski season.

UTA provides bus service to the resorts in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons usually from mid-December to mid-April. Multiple trips to and from the 7200 South and 10000 South TRAX stations are run each day during this period; yet, there is minimal service (one morning and one evening trip) between 7200 South and Little Cottonwood Canyon between Mid-April to Mid-December, primarily serving off-season employees of Snowbird and Alta. UTA has reported a notable increase in winter time Canyon transit ridership over the past five years. January Saturday bus ridership in the Cottonwood Canyons grew from 2,143 average daily trips in 2015, to 3,394 average daily trips in January, 2019, a 58% increase in ridership over that period. In addition, private efforts like the Snowbird Reducing Individual Driving for the Environment, or R.I.D.E., Program introduced in 2018, has resulted in approximately 11,000 carpool trips recorded under the resorts' guest program, and 11,400 carpool, vanpool, or UTA bus trips recorded under the employee program.

Both Big and Little Cottonwood Canyon Roads are designated State Scenic Byways. The Cottonwood Canyons Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan (2008) was conducted via a stakeholder process pursuant to a Federal Scenic Byways grant. The resulting plan includes goals and specific strategies to

address congestion, hazards, and population growth impacts in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons. An implementation plan provides a list of additional plans and studies, ongoing byway improvements, and interpretation and communications deemed essential to the success of the Corridor Management Plan.

The 2017 Mountain Accord Cottonwood Canyons Short to Mid-Term Transportation Solutions Technical Memorandum identifies a series of implementation steps to address parking, transit, communications, pedestrian and bicycle use, active traffic management, and tolling in the Cottonwood Canyons. Project participants identified several “nodes” in the Canyon where additional improvements such as restrooms, potable water, bicycle servicing stations, transit stops, and additional parking should be considered. A depiction of the high priority nodes for improvement and a short description of the recommended improvements in Little Cottonwood Canyon are provided in the Little Cottonwood Destination Node map.

The Regional Transportation Plan lists Little Cottonwood Canyon receiving an Express Bus to Alta Ski Resort, but currently is listed as Unfunded. Also listed is a widening of the roadway from 2 to 3 lanes, in Phase 2 (see [Wasatch Choice: 2019-2050 Regional Transportation Plan](#)).

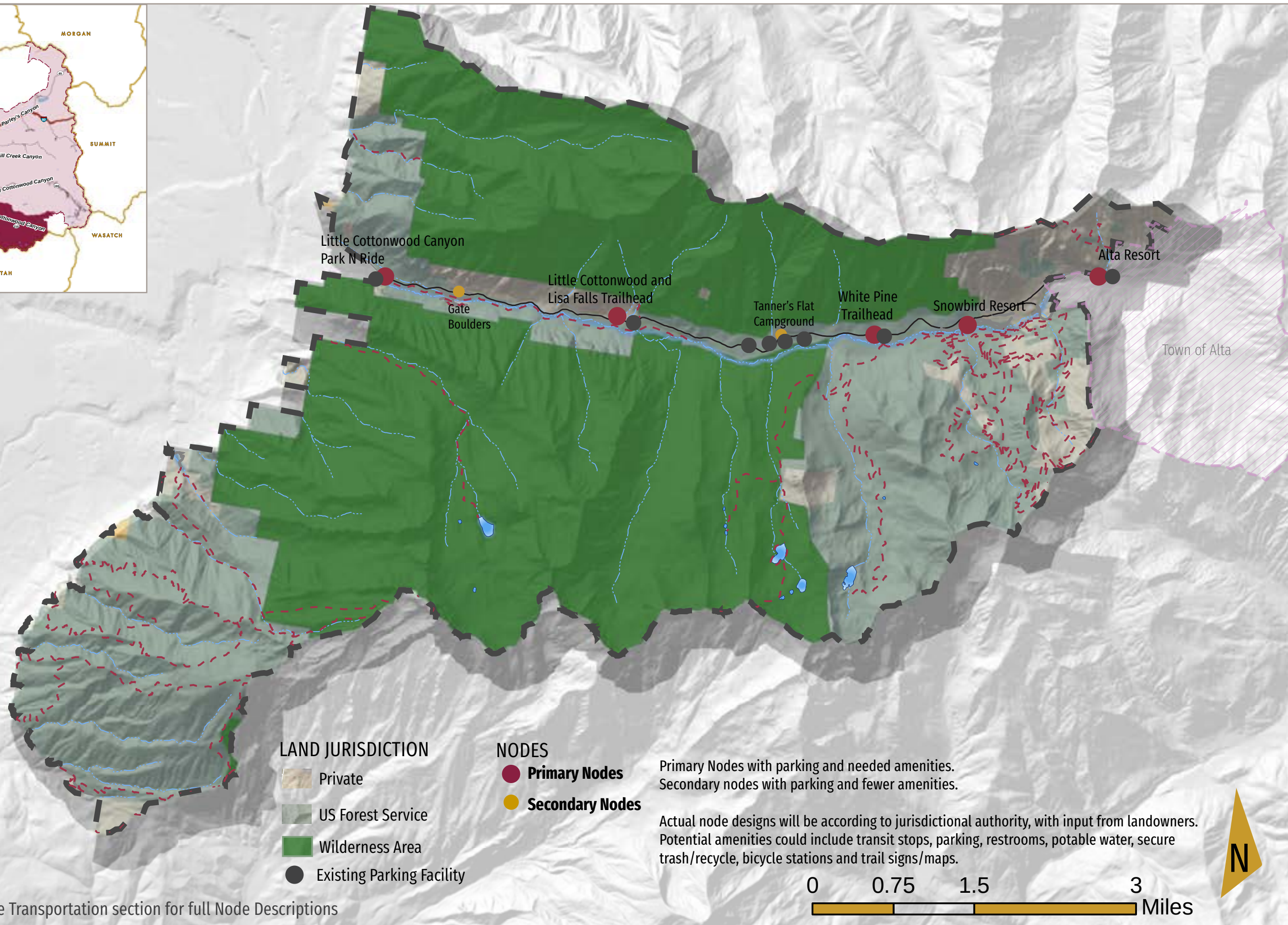
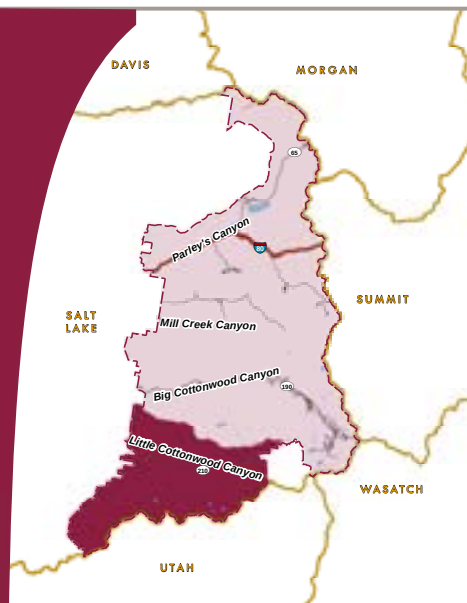
UDOT is currently conducting the Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS, which explores multiple alternatives including various transportation modes. The EIS is expected to be completed in 2021(see [Little Cottonwood Canyon UDOT Study](#)).



Figure 10: Bus at Alta Resort - Jake Young

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON

DESTINATION NODES



See Transportation section for full Node Descriptions

GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO TRANSPORTATION

GOAL: SUPPORT ENHANCED YEAR-ROUND TRANSIT SERVICE TO AND WITHIN THE WASATCH CANYONS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County supports mixed-use mobility centers, which should be located outside the Canyons, but within short distances. Mobility centers uses should include transit, parking, daily services and be near or mixed in with residential dwellings and businesses.
- ☐ The County supports rideshare parking, bus stops and electrical vehicle charging at key nodes.
- ☐ The County supports increased transit frequency at key locations throughout the Canyons.
- ☐ The County supports year round transit service within the Cottonwood Canyons and to Park City.
- ☐ The County supports carpooling programs.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will assist in developing parking structures for the purpose of Canyon transit and carpooling.
- ☐ The County will ensure that new and enhanced transit facilities and operations are designed to avoid degradation of watershed health and water quality.

GOAL: SUPPORT ADEQUATE ROADWAY FACILITIES TO ENHANCE SAFETY, EFFICIENCY, AND MODE CHOICE IN THE WASATCH CANYONS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County supports roadway design that increases mobility.
- ☐ The County supports integration of active transportation planning in the Canyons.
- ☐ The County supports the appropriate use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) when addressing stormwater impacts to the watershed and water quality.

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County supports an eastbound or uphill bicycle lane and a westbound or downhill shared use lane. Active transportation planning should include proper pavement markings and signage to meet needs of both people biking and driving. The westbound lane of travel should be wide enough to accommodate bicyclist passing each other where appropriate.

GOAL: PROMOTE BICYCLING AND WALKING THROUGH ENHANCING THE SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF TRAILHEADS, PARKING LOTS, BICYCLE LANES, AND OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES.

ALL- CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County supports the planning and implementation of trails connecting parking and trailheads to mountain trail system. The purpose is to reduce roadway and pedestrian risks.
- ☐ The County supports pedestrian safety improvements such as crosswalks and pavement markings as well as traffic control devices key destinations.
- ☐ The County will support implementation of ADA and senior/ child-friendly facilities at key locations throughout the Canyons.
- ☐ The County encourages use of public transit equipment that accommodates bicycles.
- ☐ The County encourages trail head design sensitive to recreational bicyclist that provides amenities such as a bicycle fix it station, restrooms, potable water where feasible, and wayfinding.
- ☐ The County supports additional wayfinding collateral such as maps or online information to prepare visitors traveling to the Canyons.

GOAL: SUPPORT MANAGEMENT OF PARKING TO PROVIDE FOR SAFETY, SCENIC QUALITY, AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County supports formalizing parking areas and eliminating roadside parking, upon review of sites on a case-by-case basis.
- ☐ The County supports management of roadside parking.
- ☐ The County supports the development of a parking system master plan.



Figure 11: Snowbird Tram - Jake Young

RECREATION

Perhaps the primary stressor on the Wasatch Canyons is the increasing visitation and use of the area for recreational purposes. Little Cottonwood Canyon offers destination recreation at its two ski areas, and dispersed recreation at developed picnic and camp sites and in the Canyon backcountry. The Forest Service, as the primary land manager in the Canyon, addresses recreation management in the 2003 Revised Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest Plan. Little Cottonwood Canyon is a recreational destination for local residents and visitors from around the globe. An indicator of the increasing recreation pressure in Little Cottonwood Canyon is the traffic and parking pressures in the Canyon on weekends and peak visitation days year-round.

The Alta and Snowbird ski resorts accommodate thousands of skier and visitor days each year, and provide food service, parking, and restroom facilities that manage the impacts of concentrated recreational use on the natural environment of the Canyon. Albion Basin at Alta is a popular destination for all ages and abilities in the warm months. The Snowbird Oktoberfest begins each August and lasts through October, taking place every Saturday and Sunday, and is very well attended.

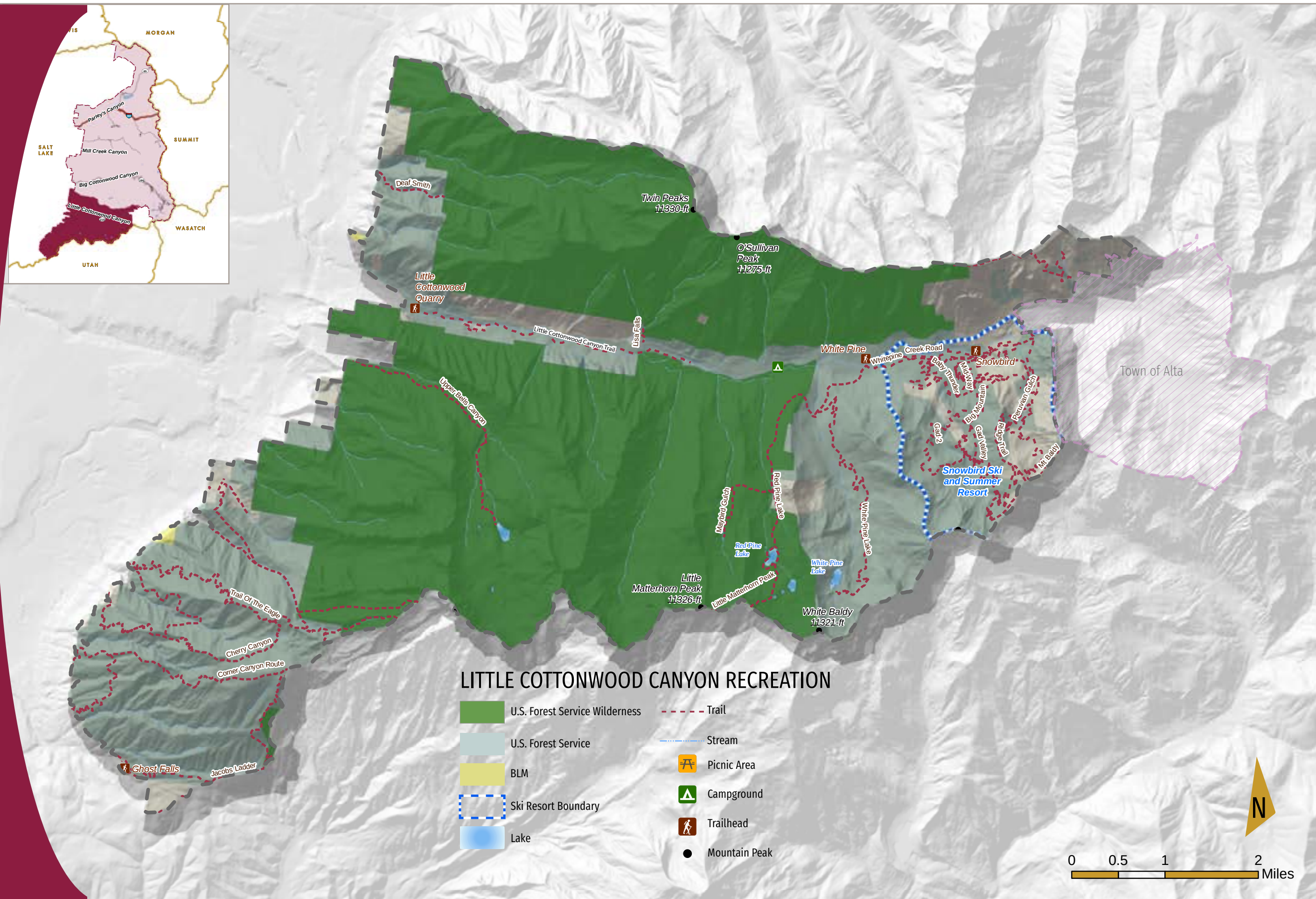
Dispersed recreation is creating increased impacts in the backcountry, and project participants suggest the impacts should be addressed. Little Cottonwood Canyon has 8 designated trailheads that provide hiking and climbing access and back-country ski access in the winter. Parking at trailheads is limited, and frequently spills out into the highway right-of-way.

Both mountain biking and road cycling activities are increasing in popularity and are creating increasing pressure in terms of traffic management and trail use. Impacts to trails are increasing and user conflicts on multi-use trails have been reported. Increased trail usage also results in increased environmental impact.

Little Cottonwood Canyon is a popular area for climbers in the Wasatch with over 1,200 recorded climbing routes (MountainProject.com) and should be recognized as such in order to garner continued support and resources into the future. A significant amount of recreation infrastructure work including trails and fixed anchor replacement has been done by the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance in Little Cottonwood Canyon specifically in the lower part of the Canyon at the Alpenbock Loop and the Gate Buttress.

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON

RECREATION



GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO RECREATION

GOAL: IMPROVE THE RECREATION USER EXPERIENCE WHILE PREPARING FOR FUTURE DEMAND.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ❑ Manage Recreation Impacts – The County supports recreation use in key identified recreation activity nodes. Recreation facilities and systems should be managed and maintained in a way that protects open lands and natural resources.
- ❑ Maintain Trails – The County supports the maintenance of a quality trail system in the Plan Area. The County encourages the implementation of sustainable trail and trail head design guidelines and, to the extent possible, the location of new trails outside of riparian and stream areas. The County supports enhancing selected high-use trails (such as Donut Falls) to handle significant usage. High-use trails whenever feasible should be graded and include amenities such as benches, restrooms, drinking water, transit stops, and parking. The County will encourage that all new trails have identified sources of funding for operation and maintenance prior to trail construction.
- ❑ Improve User Experience – The County encourages technology applications to maximize user experience, promote key recreational areas, and provide the most up-to-date information.
- ❑ Provide Access – The County promotes trail heads to be included in the planning of transit stops and part of the entire system.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ❑ Reduce Recreation Impact - The County will promote lesser-used recreation areas in Salt Lake County outside the Wasatch Canyons to provide alternatives to the frequently-used Wasatch Canyons. Alternatives could include Dimple Dell Regional Park, Ensign Peak, Yellow Fork, and other appropriate areas.
- ❑ Maintain Recreational Facilities - The County will assist the Forest Service, Salt Lake City, and other agencies and stakeholders that manage trails and lands in implementing their standards for the development of trailheads, parking areas, and other use areas. The County supports the Forest Service and other interested

stakeholders to establish volunteer programs to lead and train trail and recreation facility improvement and maintenance volunteers. The County will consider dedicating County staff time to coordinate with volunteer groups.

- ❑ Provide Access - The County will work with the Forest Service and Salt Lake City to assist with designated parking and needed amenities (garbage receptacles, restrooms, parking, etc.). The County will pursue acquisitions of lands with willing sellers at trailheads for additional facilities and parking. The County will work to complete the entire Bonneville Shoreline Trail for entire north-to-south system access. The County will utilize multiple funding sources to protect and maintain key parcels for open space and recreational access through acquisition from willing sellers or conservation easements.
- ❑ The County will work with the Forest Service and local municipalities to establish additional locations for parking lots, recreational access to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, and other recreational open spaces. Their focus will be on enhancing foothill easement acquisition programs and trail head developments.
- ❑ The County to consider the usage of visitor studies through collaboration and support of partner agencies, which may include Forest Service, SLCPU, UDOT, UTA, CWC, Town of Brighton, and Town of Alta. Visitor study assessments shall involve the public and support by partner agencies with jurisdictional authority.



Figure 12: Climbing in the Cottonwoods -Louis Arevalo

GOAL: DEDICATE FUNDING SOURCES TO ASSIST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND TO PROVIDE ONGOING SUPPORT FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ❑ The County will work with partner agencies and others to pursue dedicated funding sources for the Canyons. If tolling or other fees are instituted the County requests that a portion of the generated revenue be designated to specific recreation demands such as trailheads, trails, restrooms, and related items.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ❑ The County will pursue funding resources from foundations, grants, state, federal, and other revenue sources. Multiple County agencies will work on the pursuit of these resources.
- ❑ The County will consider creation of a Regional Wasatch Canyons Recreation District (Local or Special Service District).
- ❑ The County will apply for grants through the Zoo, Arts and Parks Tax (known as the ZAP or RAP tax).
- ❑ The County will consider requesting a portion of Transient Room and Lodging Taxes.



Figure 13: Granite Trail Head - Jake Young



Figure 14: Mountain Biking in Little Cottonwood - Jake Young



Figure 15: Trail Work Sign - Jake Young



Figure 16: Snowbird Resort in the Summer- Jake Young

ECONOMY

According to the Ski Utah and Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute analysis of RRC Associates data, Utah ski areas hosted 4.15 million skier days during the 2017-2018 season, resulting in \$1.322 billion in visitor spending, 18,500 direct jobs, and \$485.4 million in earnings. Economic data are not available by ski area or Canyon.

Alta and Snowbird resorts offer full service skiing, dining, lodging, and retail at the base of each resort. Snowbird Resort has a total of 834 lodging rooms, and employs a peak staff of 1,950 during the entire ski season. In addition, the availability of a reliable and safe water supply supports a vibrant local and State-wide economy.

In addition to the resort and Town of Alta areas, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) has an underground records storage vault built into the granite rock facing the area historically used as a quarry near the mouth of the Canyon. One private company, Perpetual Storage, also runs a record storage facility in this same area.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO ECONOMY

GOAL: SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION AND VIABILITY OF CANYON BUSINESSES WHILE CONSERVING THE NATURAL FEATURES AND RECREATIONAL ATTRIBUTES THAT MAKE THE CANYONS A VITAL ECONOMIC IMPACT IN UTAH.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ Salt Lake County supports appropriate ski area/Forest Service land exchanges to support Canyon businesses, according to the CRMP.
- ☐ The County will continue to focus on the environmental and scenic preservation of the Wasatch Canyons as an economic development strategy.
- ☐ The County will include tourism and economic groups in planning, coordinating, and implementing the Wasatch Canyons General Plan.
- ☐ Resort expansion recommendations should be according to previously adopted or subsequent amendments of any of the following: Records of Decision, plans by the County and Forest Service (including Revised Plan), and Mountain Accord findings. New dwelling units (hospitality and residential) should be located at the base of the resorts and clustered in walkable villages.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will work with the Forest Service to help ensure that businesses operating in the Canyons have the proper business permitting (for guiding, shuttle, etc.). Some commercial operations may also require a Special Use Permit from the Forest Service.
- ☐ The County will regulate the use of short-term rentals. The County will work with short-term rental and hotel operators to ensure understanding of necessary Canyon policies for parking, watershed protection, and permits.

GOAL: MEET THE GROWING DEMANDS FOR RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, AND VISITORS BY ENHANCING AND IMPROVING PUBLIC UTILITY SYSTEMS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County will work with agency partners to identify public infrastructure needs to address residential, recreational, environmental, and business impacts.
- ☐ The County supports the development of broadband and communications infrastructure in appropriate areas to achieve General Plan goals such as public safety improvements and environmental protection. The County will evaluate and modify, if necessary, communications infrastructure plans and Capital Improvement Plans (CIPs) so that they are consistent with the General Plan.
- ☐ The County will ensure that new infrastructure is designed and installed per General Plan goals regarding aesthetics, environmental and water quality, and the character of the Canyons. The County will also ensure that infrastructure development, maintenance and repair are conducted in a manner that protects water quality.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will evaluate infrastructure priorities and incentives for development in appropriate areas that achieve environmental protection, recreational impact mitigation, and other goals consistent with the General Plan.
- ☐ The County will evaluate all funding options to support development and maintenance of needed infrastructure. The County will ensure that General Plan projects are included and prioritized in agency CIPs.

ACTIONS

Specific strategy action items are presented below. Actions are described as programs, which would have on-going responsibilities and activities; policies, which would guide future County decision-making; or projects. Priorities are described as near-term strategies, 0 to 5 years; mid-term, 5 to 10 years; and long-term, 10 or more years. Anticipated implementation costs are generally categorized \$, lower cost strategies that could be implemented by allocating or re-allocating funding in current general fund budgets; \$\$, moderate cost strategies that would require creation of a new budget line item and development of new funding streams; or \$\$\$, higher cost strategies that would require either bonding for capital projects or development of significant new funding sources such as legislation, or new taxing authorities.

ACTION	ACTION TYPE	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY/ PARTNERS	FUNDING
Trails Master Plan - The County will support and collaborate with the Forest Service on Trails Master Planning.	Plan	Near (0-5 years)	Salt Lake County/Forest Service	\$
Ordinance Updates - Salt Lake County will review and update FCOZ requirements relating to property line setbacks, roof lines, building spacing, snow shedding, snow storage, defensible spaces, fire risk, septic systems, preservation of historic structures, and forest health to ensure alignment with the objectives of this Wasatch Canyons General Plan.	Plan	Near (0-5 years)	Salt Lake County/ Salt Lake City/ Forest Service/Municipal Service District	\$
Coordination with Alta - Salt Lake County will meet regularly with the Town of Alta to exchange information and coordinate activities to the extent possible.	Project	Near (0-5 years)	Salt Lake County/ Forest Service	\$
Watershed - Both the 2017 Salt Lake County Integrated Watershed Plan and the 1999 Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan establish goals and policies for future watershed management and recommendations for implementation of management strategies. The County will continue to pursue the Watershed Management Plan goals.	Project	Near (0-5 years)	Salt Lake County/ Forest Service	\$\$

Communication - Assist UDOT in communicating updates for the canyon to the public regarding weather.	Policy	Near (0-5 years)	Salt Lake County	\$
SR210 - Salt Lake County will coordinate with the SR210 Scenic Byway Committee on planning and projects affecting the highway.	Project	Mid (5-10 years)	Salt Lake County/ Forest Service	\$
Parking Management Plan - Encourage and support the Forest Service, UDOT, Ski Resorts, CWC, and others with the development of a parking management plan.	Plan	Near (0-5 years)	Salt Lake County/ Forest Service/ UDOT/ Ski Resorts/ CWC / Local Municipalities / UTA / Public and Landowners	\$
Annual Review - County will invite partner agencies, governments and others to discuss the goals and progress of the General Plan.	Plan	Yearly	Salt Lake County (multiple departments & Planning Commission)/ Municipal Services District/ Forest Service/ UDOT/ Salt Lake Public Utilities/ Community Councils/ others	\$



WASATCH CANYONS GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

PARLEYS • MILL CREEK • BIG COTTONWOOD • LITTLE COTTONWOOD • **THE FOOTHILLS**

ADOPTED JUNE 2020



CHAPTER 6 THE FOOTHILLS

INTRODUCTION

While the Wasatch Canyons are the focus of the General Plan, it is also important to plan for the foothills within the project area. The foothills are primarily the ancient shorelines of Pleistocene Lake Bonneville, and are located on the western edge of the mountains between the mouths of the Canyon, bordered by National Forest on the east, and the municipalities of Salt Lake City, unincorporated Salt Lake County, Millcreek, Holladay, Cottonwood Heights, Sandy, and Draper on the west. The foothills are connected in multiple ways, via the Bonneville Shoreline Trail (BST) and connections into the Canyons. Within the project area between Parleys and Little Cottonwood Canyon, the elevation of the foothills ranges from about 4,500 feet to nearly 5,600 feet above sea level.

While steep slopes and Federal lands have limited the amount of development that is feasible in the unincorporated foothills, housing and commercial development in municipalities adjacent to the foothills include hundreds of single-family homes. Geographically, the foothills are a transition zone between the valley and the mountains, increasing in elevation and slope from west to east. The foothills within the project area are accessible from Foothill Drive, Wasatch Boulevard, and numerous local streets in the adjacent neighborhoods.

The foothills are especially important to nearby residents, as they offer access to the National Forest and spectacular views of the mountains beyond. The foothills also encompass the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, which will eventually extend from Parleys Canyon on the North to Little Cottonwood Canyon on the south. Access to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail is primarily from nearby local streets and intersecting trails in the canyons and their tributaries. The foothills also offer important wildlife wintering habitat, and the neighborhoods adjacent to the foothills are frequented by a variety of birds, deer, coyotes, and abundant small mammals.

Additionally, the foothills are an extensive interface between development and wild lands, known as the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI), as detailed in Chapter 1.

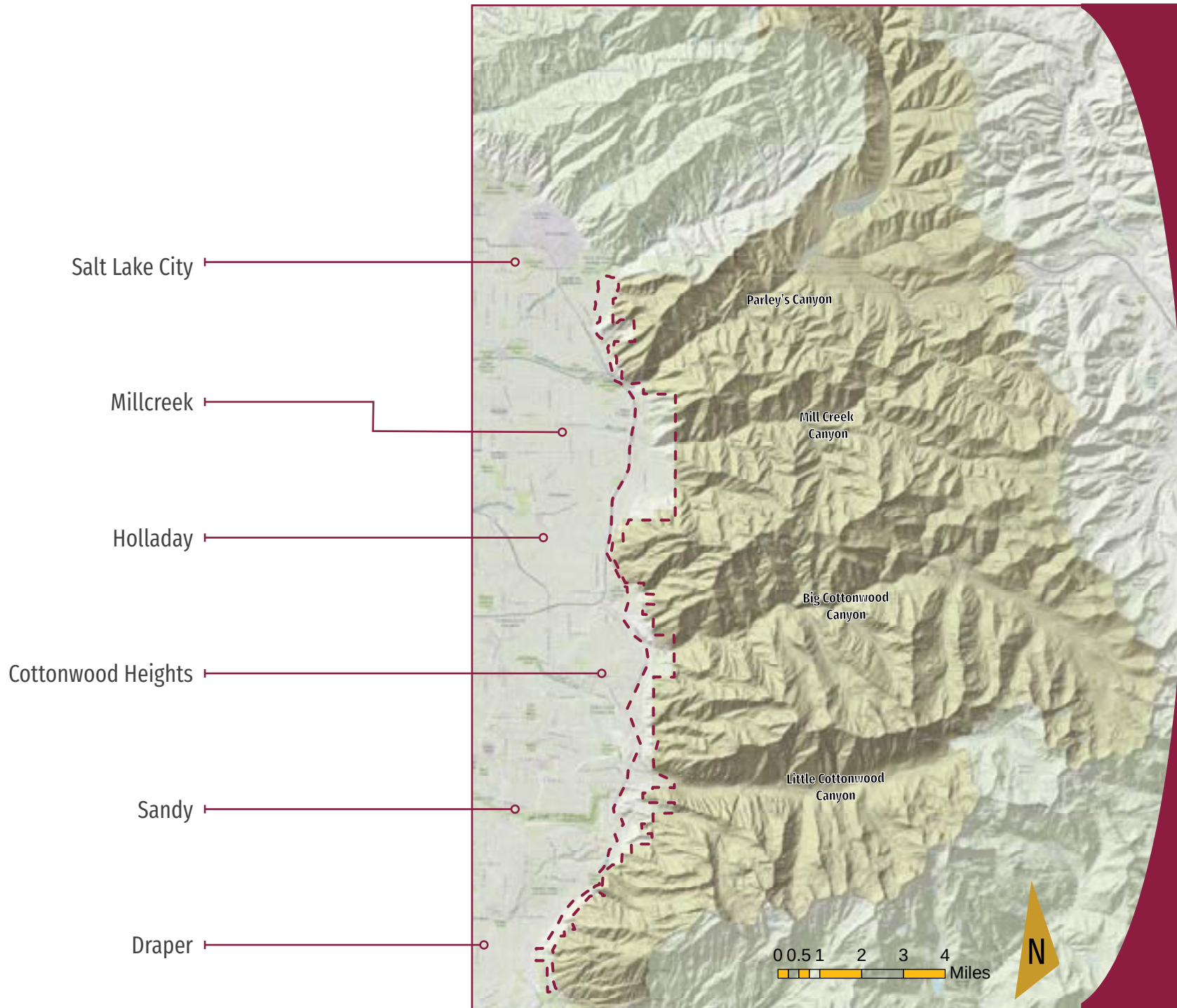
EXISTING CONDITIONS, GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Many of the existing conditions and management challenges of the Wasatch Canyons are common among the Canyons and foothills. Those include issues relating to wildfires, noxious weeds, and forest health. Those common circumstances are described in detail in Chapter 1, Introduction to this General Plan. Existing conditions and management issues specific to the Foothills are presented in this chapter; in order for the reader to have a comprehensive understanding of the circumstances in each Canyon, Chapter 1 should be read in conjunction with the individual Canyon chapters.

The General Plan identifies goals, policies, and strategies in nine categories within the five main planning themes of land use, environment, recreation, transportation, and economy. Most of the goals, policies, and strategies are relevant for the entire Wasatch Canyons planning area, and are presented in each theme below with those specific to the Foothills are highlighted as “Foothills Strategies”. **Goals** are long-term objectives that describe future desired conditions and outcomes. **Policies** are statements designed to inform and guide the County’s future decision-making. **Strategies** are specific tasks the County proposes to undertake to further Plan goals.

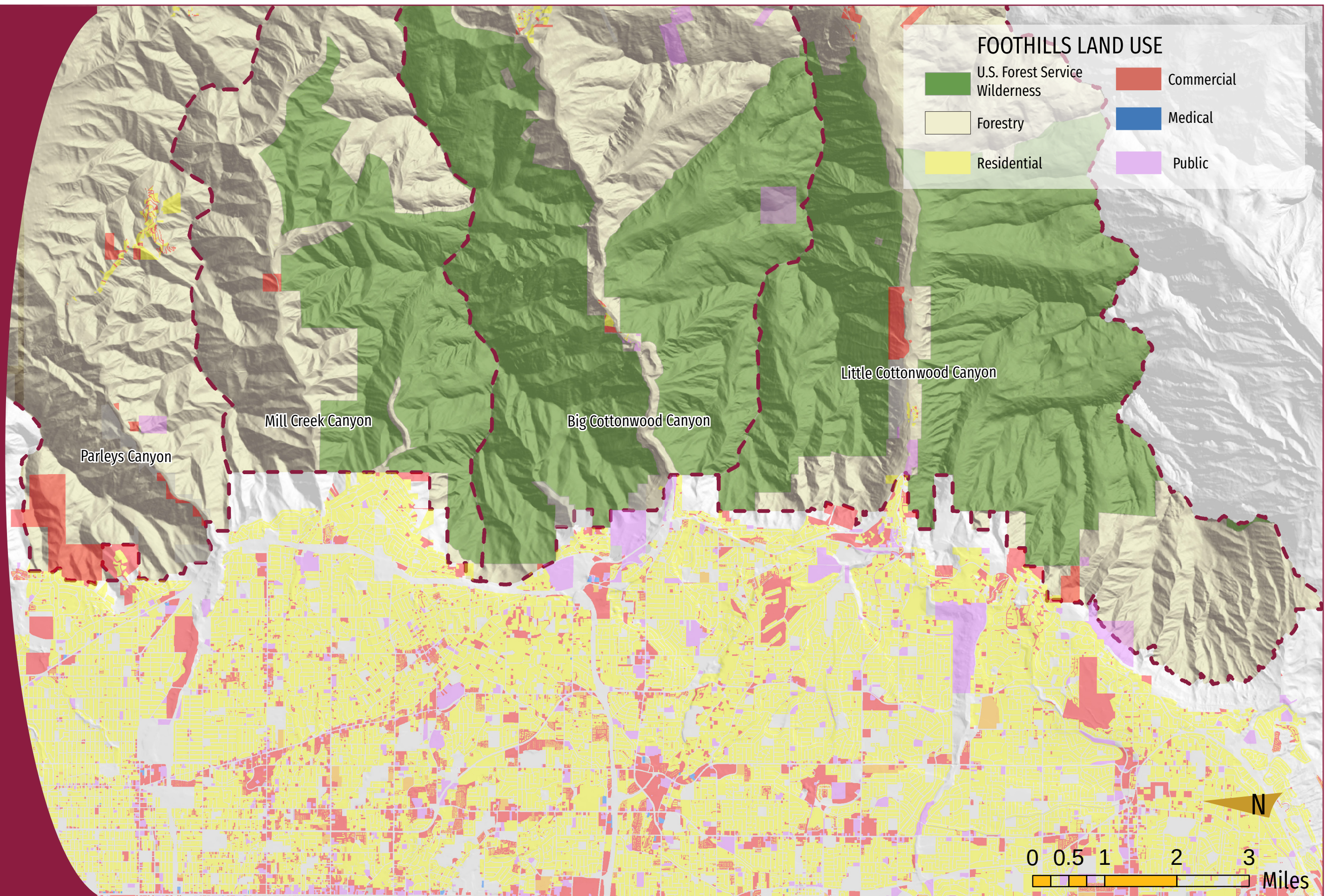
THE FOOTHILLS

CONTEXT MAP



THE FOOTHILLS

LAND USE



See Introduction Chapter for full Land Use Descriptions

LAND USE

The foothills between the incorporated municipalities and the National Forest are regulated by Salt Lake County under the Forest Recreation Zoning designation. The Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone (FCOZ) prohibits the development of structures on slopes greater than 30% grade, while allowing for exceptions on already approved lots. FCOZ also sets standards for required setbacks from stream channels and wetland areas and other sensitive lands.

There is little development in the unincorporated foothills of the planning area, with one approved gated subdivision at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon accessed by Canyon Estate Drive. There are extensive residential land uses immediately adjacent to the planning area, with thousands of full-time residents.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO LAND USE

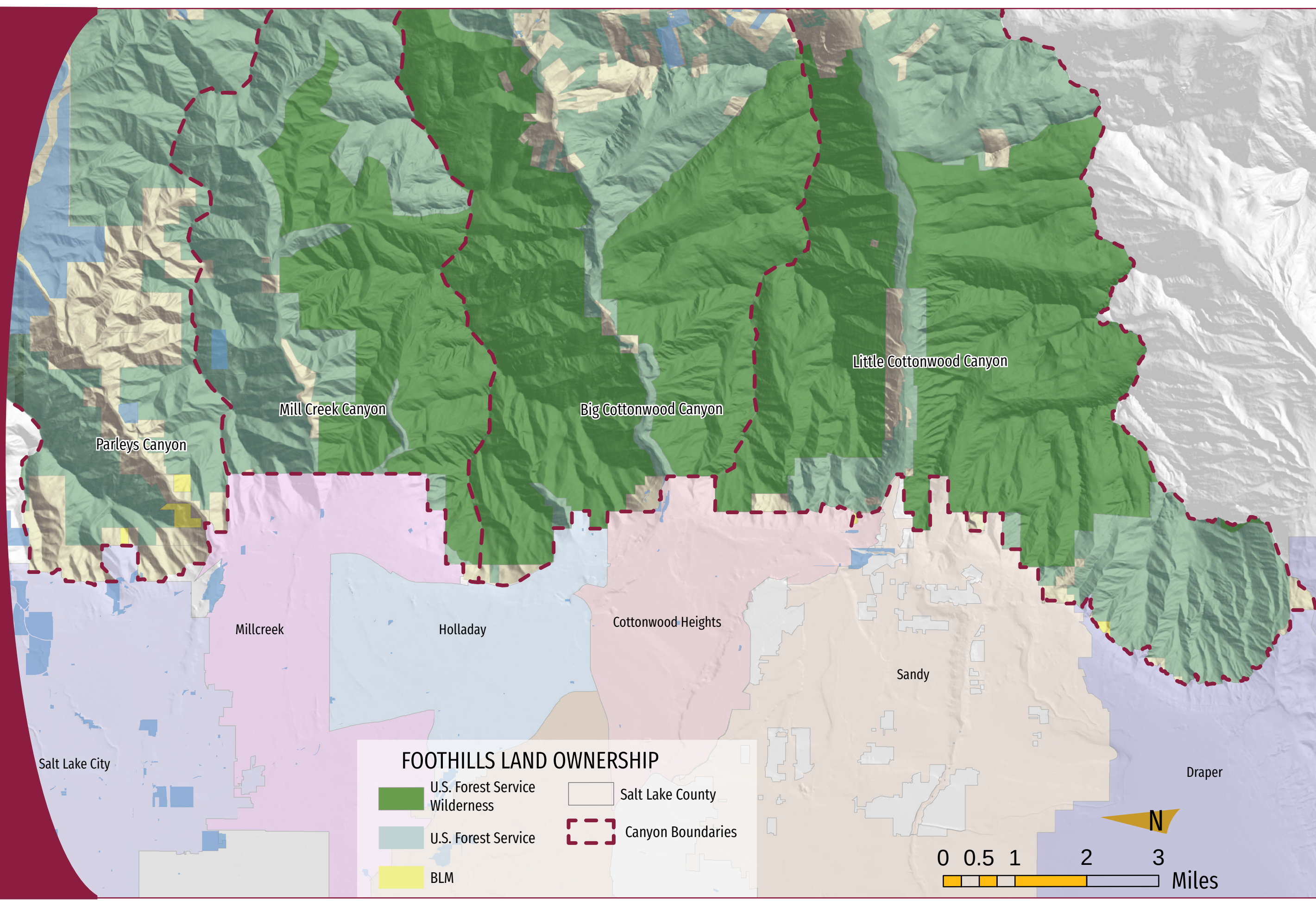
GOAL: ENSURE THAT FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL AGENCIES AND ENTITIES WITH JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE WASATCH CANYONS PLANNING AREA REGULARLY COORDINATE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT EFFORTS.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- Coordination – The County will implement the inter-agency coordination measures identified in the Salt Lake County Resource Management Plan (CRMP) for fire management, forest management, riparian areas and wetlands, recreation management, and the other resources addressed in the CRMP. The allocation of responsibilities among County agencies for coordination implementation is described in the CRMP. It is recommended that those County Departments with responsibilities within the Canyons have regular coordination meetings to review and discuss goals, strategies, services, and issues facing the Canyons.
- Planning – The County will work collaboratively with partner agencies including the Wasatch Front Regional Council, the Forest Service, UDOT, Salt Lake City, the Greater Salt Lake Municipal Services District, the Central Wasatch Commission, UTA, towns, neighboring cities, and others to accomplish the goals of the General Plan and other plans set forth by the County. It is recommended that inter-agency collaboration happen on a regular basis and more than once per year. The County will explore and support the Scenic Byway Committee as a potential group to pursue coordination.

THE FOOTHILLS

LAND OWNERSHIP



GOAL: REVIEW AND UPDATE COUNTY ORDINANCES, AS NEEDED, TO FURTHER IMPLEMENT THE VISION, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES OF THE GENERAL PLAN.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- The County will support the consideration of and collaboration on unique Canyon theming, similar to national parks, that promotes a sense of place, stewardship, and heritage (signage, architecture, wayfinding, entry features, benches, etc.).



Figure 1: Mount Olympus Trail- Jake Young

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- The County will coordinate with the Forest Service, UDOT, Central Wasatch Commission, local municipalities, and other government agencies to consider creating design guidelines/standards for the commercial development, gateways, and public areas in the Canyons that include consistent design quality, materials, and placement.
- The County will review the Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone (FCOZ), Mountain Resort Zone (MRZ) and other related Canyon ordinances to compare goals and strategies alignments or conflicts with the General Plan. This shall include a review of defensible spaces and other best practices to reduce wildfire risk. In connection with any potential update of such ordinances, the County intends to solicit public input and work with partner agencies (which may include the Forest Service, SLCPU, the MSD, Town of Brighton and Town of Alta) and property owners.
- The County will consider the need to periodically update County ordinances related to development siting, access, floodplains, water protection, and the structural design of buildings to ensure that health and safety requirements and the General Plan Vision and County goals are being met.
- The County will work to streamline and clarify the FCOZ/ private property development process, including achieving better coordination between jurisdictions.
- The County will review progress and update the Wasatch Canyons General Plan every five years to make necessary incremental adjustments to work toward the identified goals. The County will plan for a complete General Plan update in the 15-20 year time frame (2033-2038).
- The County supports housing development that is consistent with the Moderate Income Housing Plan and will adapt housing ordinances according to local needs, restraints, and opportunities (See Chapter 1 for applicable strategies, goals, and actions from the MIH).



Figure 2: Lower Bell Canyon Reservoir - Jake Young

ENVIRONMENT

TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

The foothills are composed of ancient beaches of Lake Bonneville, and step uphill in three main benches that represent different levels of the Lake. The substrate ranges from beach sands and gravels in the lower elevations, to solid rock outcroppings above.

The foothills of the Wasatch Mountains are located near the center of the Intermountain Seismic Belt (ISB). The ISB is a zone of earthquake activity that runs north-south through the Intermountain West from northwestern Montana in the North, through Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, and southern Nevada/northern Arizona to the south. Earthquake-related hazards pose a significant risk to all residents and businesses of Salt Lake County. The Wasatch Fault is in the foothills planning area, and has been considered active since it has ruptured the ground surface during several major earthquakes within the past 10,000 years. Earthquake experts predict about a 20% chance

of a large earthquake occurring sometime during the next 50 years along the Wasatch Front.

Seismic hazards in the foothills are primarily ground rupture along the fault line itself, and rockfall from above caused by ground shaking. Seismic waves are generated during large earthquakes. Given the geology of the area and character of the underlying sediments, the soil liquefaction potential is typically considered to be low in the foothills.

WATERSHED AND HYDROLOGY

The foothills offer limited watershed values, although small, intermittent and perennial creeks cross through the foothills and offer wildlife watering opportunities and bird and wildlife habitats.

VEGETATION

Gambel oak (*Quercus gambelii*) is common in the foothills of the Wasatch Range. These oak trees have strong roots and are able to take hold of the hard rocky soils of the foothills. Bigtooth Maple trees are also found in the foothills in similar areas to that of Gambel Oak, although they tend to claim cooler, moister sites than the oak trees. Sagebrush, rabbitbrush, and noxious weeds can also be found at the lower elevations. The invasive Myrtle Spurge is particularly problematic, and the current condition of the vegetation on the foothills is not supportive of healthy habitat and diet for deer and other wildlife. Shrubby plant material provides cover and more nutrition for deer; however, with the current condition of extensive noxious weeds, deer are seeking food and shelter in adjacent residential neighborhoods.

The foothills are perhaps the most venerable area for noxious weed infestations because of their closeness to urban landscape and reduced native vegetation. Invasive grasses species such as cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*) and cereal rye (*Secale cereal*) though not listed as noxious, have massively displaced native vegetation. Cheatgrass presence increases the chances of ignition, rate of spread and expanding the season of wildfires, reducing the interval between re-occurring fires. The County has identified noxious weeds myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*), leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), yellow starthistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*), and dyers woad (*Isatis tinctorial*) of concern in the foothills area. Of these listed species, Myrtle spurge is the most rapidly invading invasive species in the foothills of Salt Lake County due to its known drought tolerant characteristics.

Invasive weeds are attracted to areas with disturbed soil such as construction sites, parking areas, and trails. Residential spaces in Salt Lake County have moved further into the foothills, and with that development invasive ornamental plants have quickly followed. Minimizing soil disturbance is a good way to lessen the spread of weeds and further preserve the native vegetation of the foothills. Revegetation of disturbed areas is also essential to block out any new invaders. As residential development continues in the foothills, it is important for homeowners to recognize the importance of planting native plant species and to think twice before planting ornamental species with invasive tendencies. In addition, identifying and maintaining invasive and noxious weed populations in residential spaces directly relates to the health of our native plant populations in the Wasatch Canyons, and will minimize the spread of new invasive weed species to our public lands.

WILDLIFE

Small herds of deer can be found wandering the foothills; deer prefer edge-like habitats, making the foothills an ideal habitat for them to forage and live. The west-facing slopes offer longer periods of grazing opportunity than do the Canyon areas. Herds of deer can be spotted wandering neighborhoods built in proximity to open spaces in the foothills. It is also common to see elk in the winter months, particularly at the mouth of Parleys Canyon.

Numerous small rodents such as rabbits and squirrels are common in the foothills, as are the coyotes that hunt them. Mountain lions, numerous raptors, corvids (crows and magpies), and smaller birds are also present.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO ENVIRONMENT

GOAL: ENSURE THE MANAGEMENT OF WATERSHEDS IN THE WASATCH CANYONS TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ❑ The County will support the continued implementation of the recommendations of the most current Salt Lake County Integrated Watershed Plan and the Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan.
- ❑ The Salt Lake County Health Department will continue to coordinate with the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the Forest Service, and Salt Lake City to implement anti-degradation standards, stream setback and environment zones, stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs), monitoring programs, enforcement activities, and other Canyon watershed policies to maintain water quality in the Canyons.
- ❑ The County will pursue Canyon land use policies which will allow continued use of the Canyons for transportation, recreational, residential, and commercial development as long as these activities do not result in deterioration of water quality. Any new or expanding uses in the watershed Canyons must be reviewed and carefully scrutinized to determine if the proposed use is consistent with water quality goals.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ❑ The County will work with the Forest Service and Salt Lake City Public Utilities to identify impaired stretches of streams for funding to implement restoration.
- ❑ The County encourages and supports the development of concentrated recreation nodes at key locations, which minimizes overall system impact. Recreation nodes should include proper facilities for parking, trash, transit, restrooms, and trails.
- ❑ The County will work toward ensuring recreation facilities are constructed and operated to minimize both point and non-point sources of pollution, including restroom facilities.
- ❑ The County will require that landowners, developers, utility providers, and government agencies establish stream setbacks, protect vegetation, site appropriately, and implement stormwater BMPs when planning the design and construction of all Canyon development.

GOAL: ENSURE THAT FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN AND USAGE OF THE WASATCH CANYONS ARE MANAGED TO PROTECT WILDLIFE, FISHERIES, AND HABITAT AND TO REDUCE HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County will support the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) in the implementation of the Utah Wildlife Action Plan.
- ☐ The County will work with other agencies to further designate sensitive areas, wildlife corridors, and conflict areas.
- ☐ The County supports wildlife protection measures (such as fencing, changes in trails, and wildlife crossings) for key sensitive areas.
- ☐ The County will continue to support a science-based data resources to inform decision-making.
- ☐ The County will work with applicable Federal, State, and local agencies to identify sensitive aquatic populations within the Plan Area and, if needed, explore the feasibility related to in-stream flows to protect sensitive aquatic life. The County lead for coordination with jurisdictional agencies will be County Watershed.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will review and revise, as necessary, County codes and regulations to support wildlife.

GOAL: MAINTAIN AND INCREASE THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL LANDS THAT PROTECT ECOSYSTEMS AND WATERSHEDS AND PROVIDE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County will continue to support natural land conservation and preservation of open spaces for recreation, habitat, water quality, and environmental protection purposes.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will continue to support the purchase of open space preservation and ongoing maintenance. The County will utilize all possible funding resources available, such as the County's Open Space Trust Fund, Salt Lake City, State of Utah, or Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), to protect critical parcels.
- ☐ The County will promote the use of private land trusts and other means to facilitate the conservation and maintenance of key properties through donations, conservation easements, and acquisition from willing sellers.

GOAL: ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS, INVOLVEMENT, AND STEWARDSHIP OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND RECREATIONAL VALUES AND PRACTICES.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ❑ In cooperation with Canyon stakeholders and volunteers, the County supports public education and stewardship of the Wasatch Canyons.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ❑ The County will review and consider the Cottonwood Canyons Scenic Byways Plan signage plan when planning for educational signage.
- ❑ The County will identify the citizens groups, community councils, property owners associations, non-profits, ongoing related efforts, and other similar associations active in each Canyon, and meet with them regularly to identify opportunities for the County to support their activities, enhance communications, and define common objectives that align with the Wasatch Canyons General Plan. The County will commit staff time and/or funding to these groups in the form of grants for activities that support the implementation of the General Plan.
- ❑ The County will support a forum of volunteers and community groups to coordinate communications and interactions with the County and other agency stakeholders.

GOAL: PREPARE FOR POTENTIAL NATURAL HAZARDS AND DISASTERS IN THE CANYONS AND FOOTHILLS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ❑ The County will work with corresponding agencies to further prepare the Canyons for the event of a wildland fire, earthquakes, landslides, and other natural disasters.
- ❑ The County will work with the Forest Service to understand and prepare for the impact of insect and disease issues that may severely impact the forest ecosystem in the near future.
- ❑ The County will work with science professionals to enrich and educate Salt Lake County planners, commissioners, and elected official of lessons learned through research application.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ❑ The County supports the Salt Lake County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that addresses wildfire issues, including fuels reduction strategies. The County anticipates regular coordination with UFA and other state, local and federal agencies in reviewing the CWPP.
- ❑ The County will work with the Forest Service and UDOT to assist in fire protection, noxious weed control, and habitat protection. Involved agencies will include Salt Lake City Public Utilities, Salt Lake City Unified Fire and Police, County Weed Control, and Emergency Services.
- ❑ The County supports programs to incentivize the upgrading of existing homes and businesses including septic upgrades and improved water and sewer connections.
- ❑ The County will explore a tree and mitigation bank for removed trees to help fund restoration work.
- ❑ The County, with the Forest Service and others, will regularly review ordinances to see if current ordinances suggest best practices to minimize wildfire hazards on private and County-owned property. As necessary the County will update ordinances.
- ❑ The County supports the following existing emergency plans: the Salt Lake County Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) and the Salt Lake County Multi-Hazard Multi-Jurisdiction Mitigation Plan (HMP). In addition, the County supports the development of a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) for Salt Lake County that will assist in preparation of county-wide emergency plans through collaboration with UFA, County Emergency Management, and other government agencies. Such plans do and will consider hazard mitigation, shelter, food, water, medical care, communication, transportation, post incident mitigation and other essential items needed for emergencies.
- ❑ In case of wildfire incidents, the County will work with partner agencies (e.g., Forest Service, State of Utah, water agencies) to ensure that grant monies are pursued for post fire recovery, including watershed recovery issues, to the extent reasonably feasible.
- ❑ The County supports the continuing assessment by the UFA of current water supply capacity in the Canyons for fire protection.
- ❑ The County supports the study of reasonably viable emergency egress, shelter in place alternatives, and other mitigation tactics in the Canyons in the event of natural hazards, which could include fires, flooding, avalanches, landslides and earthquakes.



Figure 3: Bell Canyon Parking Lot- Jake Young

TRANSPORTATION

The Wasatch foothills are most commonly accessed via Wasatch Boulevard. This two- to five-lane road, depending on location, runs along the base of the foothills for roughly 10 miles from the mouth of Parleys Canyon just south of the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon. From Wasatch Boulevard, direct access to the foothills is via local and neighborhood roads. Several roads extend into the foothills planning area, but these are primarily for access to municipal water sources. The City of Cottonwood Heights is preparing a Master Plan for Wasatch Boulevard between the northern boundary of the City at the gravel pits, past Fort Union Boulevard at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon, to the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon.

The stated goals of the Master Plan are to:

1. Preserve and enhance the character and livability of existing residential neighborhoods;
2. Move people through the corridor reliably and safely;
3. Increase travel choices along the Wasatch corridor;
4. Enhance opportunities for recreation along the corridor;
5. Preserve and enhance the scenic and natural qualities along the corridor;
6. Promote and prioritize sustainable solutions to Wasatch Canyon access at a local and regional scale; and
7. Identify potential land uses and locations for new development or redevelopment along the corridor.

A number of recommendations for improvements to Wasatch Boulevard are contained in a Master Plan report to the City Council dated May 7th, 2019.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO TRANSPORTATION

GOAL: SUPPORT ENHANCED YEAR-ROUND TRANSIT SERVICE TO AND WITHIN THE WASATCH CANYONS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County supports mixed-use mobility centers, which should be located outside the Canyons, but within short distances. Mobility centers uses should include transit, parking, daily services and be near or mixed in with residential dwellings and businesses.
- ☐ The County supports rideshare parking, bus stops and electrical vehicle charging at key nodes.
- ☐ The County supports increased transit frequency at key locations throughout the Canyons.
- ☐ The County supports year round transit service within the Cottonwood Canyons and to Park City.
- ☐ The County supports carpooling programs.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will assist in developing parking structures for the purpose of Canyon transit and carpooling.
- ☐ The County will ensure that new and enhanced transit facilities and operations are designed to avoid degradation of watershed health and water quality.

GOAL: SUPPORT ADEQUATE ROADWAY FACILITIES TO ENHANCE SAFETY, EFFICIENCY, AND MODE CHOICE IN THE WASATCH CANYONS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County supports roadway design that increases mobility.
- ☐ The County supports integration of active transportation planning in the Canyons.
- ☐ The County supports the appropriate use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) when addressing stormwater impacts to the watershed and water quality.

GOAL: PROMOTE BICYCLING AND WALKING THROUGH ENHANCING THE SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF TRAILHEADS, PARKING LOTS, BICYCLE LANES, AND OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES.

ALL- CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County supports the planning and implementation of trails connecting parking and trailheads to mountain trail system. The purpose is to reduce roadway and pedestrian risks.
- ☐ The County supports pedestrian safety improvements such as crosswalks and pavement markings as well as traffic control devices key destinations.
- ☐ The County will support implementation of ADA and senior/ child-friendly facilities at key locations throughout the Canyons.
- ☐ The County encourages use of public transit equipment that accommodates bicycles.
- ☐ The County encourages trail head design sensitive to recreational bicyclist that provides amenities such as a bicycle fix it station, restrooms, potable water where feasible, and wayfinding.
- ☐ The County supports additional wayfinding collateral such as maps or online information to prepare visitors traveling to the Canyons.

GOAL: SUPPORT MANAGEMENT OF PARKING TO PROVIDE FOR SAFETY, SCENIC QUALITY, AND ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County supports formalizing parking areas and eliminating roadside parking, upon review of sites on a case-by-case basis.
- ☐ The County supports management of roadside parking.
- ☐ The County supports the development of a parking system master plan.

THE FOOTHILLS

RECREATION

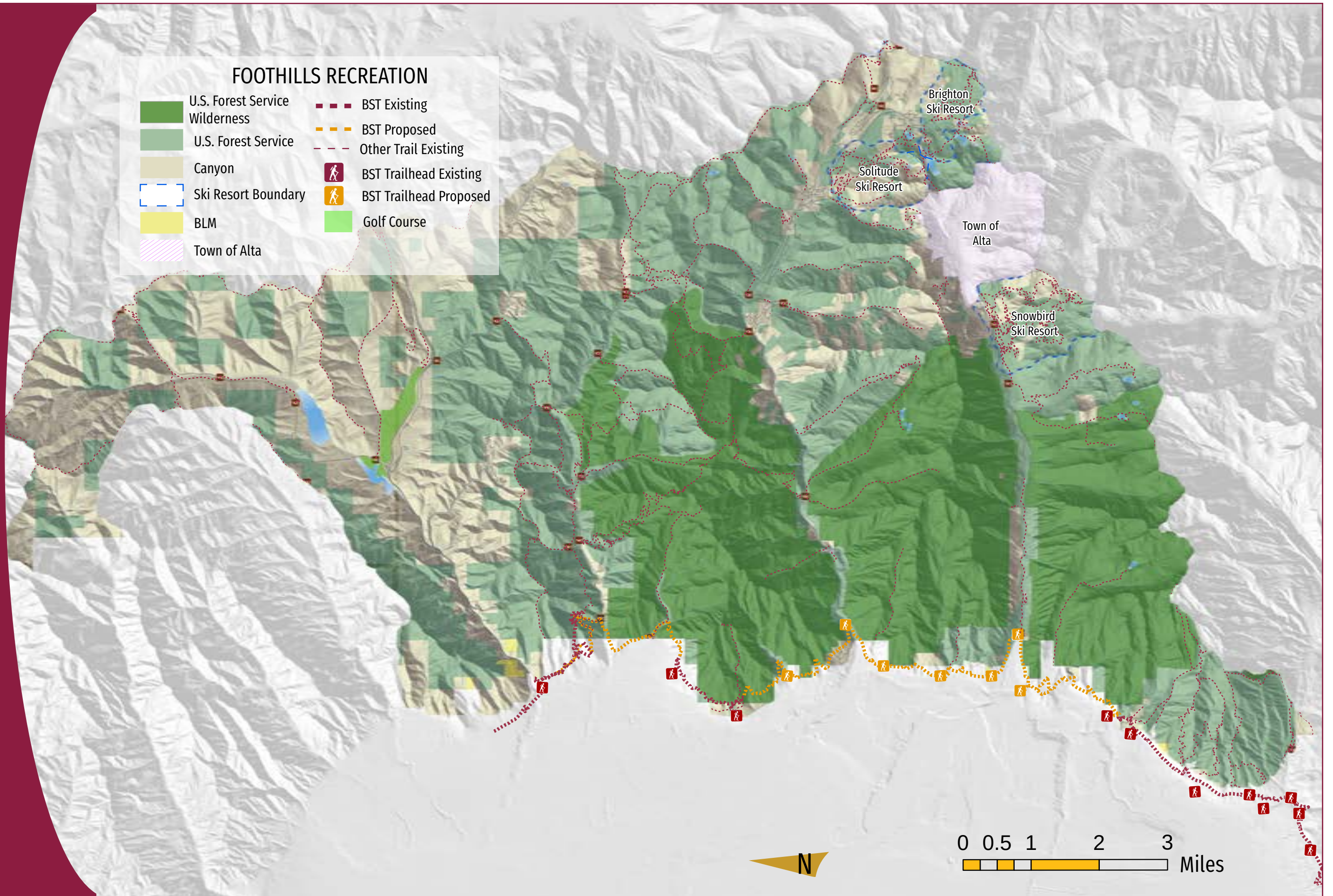




Figure 4: North end of the BST - Olivia Cvetko

RECREATION

Perhaps the primary stressor on the Wasatch Canyons and foothills is the increasing visitation and use of the area for recreational purposes. The foothills offer dispersed recreation on a wide variety of hiking trails from developed trailheads, and access to climbing and camping in the Canyon backcountry. The Forest Service, as the primary land manager in the foothills and the Canyons, addresses recreation management in the 2003 Forest Plan.

A major recreational feature of the foothills is the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, which extends 23 miles from the Parleys Canyon Trail head to the Flight Park Trail head in Draper. In between are 16 additional developed or planned trailheads, and 17 interconnecting trails that extend to the east into the Wasatch Mountains. Many of the trailheads that lead into the foothills are located in adjacent residential neighborhoods. Trail head parking has created congestion and has prompted some complaints from property owners in areas near the trailheads. Currently, none of the identified trailheads provide any restroom facilities.

Recreation in the foothills is characterized by long and intensive summer uses, while winter uses are more moderate. Summer recreation activities include but are not limited to hiking, dog walking, climbing, and biking. Winter recreation in the foothills is more limited, but winter visitors do enjoy hiking and snow-shoeing.

The foothills are becoming a more popular recreation destination, due to their proximity to Wasatch Front communities, and the gateway they provide to the Canyons and peaks of the Wasatch Mountains. Some of the historic access points to the foothills and mountains beyond cross private property. A high priority for Salt Lake County and the municipalities that abut the foothills is maintaining public access to the foothills and trails into the National Forest lands.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO RECREATION

GOAL: IMPROVE THE RECREATION USER EXPERIENCE WHILE PREPARING FOR FUTURE DEMAND.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ Manage Recreation Impacts – The County supports recreation use in key identified recreation activity nodes. Recreation facilities and systems should be managed and maintained in a way that protects open lands and natural resources.
- ☐ Maintain Trails – The County supports the maintenance of a quality trail system in the Plan Area. The County encourages the implementation of sustainable trail and trail head design guidelines and, to the extent possible, the location of new trails outside of riparian and stream areas. The County supports enhancing selected high-use trails (such as Donut Falls) to handle significant usage. High-use trails whenever feasible should be graded and include amenities such as benches, restrooms, drinking water, transit stops, and parking. The County will encourage that all new trails have identified sources of funding for operation and maintenance prior to trail construction.
- ☐ Improve User Experience – The County encourages technology applications to maximize user experience, promote key recreational areas, and provide the most up-to-date information.
- ☐ Provide Access – The County promotes trail heads to be included in the planning of transit stops and part of the entire system.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ Reduce Recreation Impact - The County will promote lesser-used recreation areas in Salt Lake County outside the Wasatch Canyons to provide alternatives to the frequently-used Wasatch Canyons. Alternatives could include Dimple Dell Regional Park, Ensign Peak, Yellow Fork, and other appropriate areas.

- ☐ Maintain Recreational Facilities - The County will assist the Forest Service, Salt Lake City, and other agencies and stakeholders that manage trails and lands in implementing their standards for the development of trailheads, parking areas, and other use areas. The County supports the Forest Service and other interested stakeholders to establish volunteer programs to lead and train trail and recreation facility improvement and maintenance volunteers. The County will consider dedicating County staff time to coordinate with volunteer groups.
- ☐ Provide Access - The County will work with the Forest Service and Salt Lake City to assist with designated parking and needed amenities (garbage receptacles, restrooms, parking, etc.). The County will pursue acquisitions of lands with willing sellers at trailheads for additional facilities and parking. The County will work to complete the entire Bonneville Shoreline Trail for entire north-to-south system access. The County will utilize multiple funding sources to protect and maintain key parcels for open space and recreational access through acquisition from willing sellers or conservation easements.
- ☐ The County will work with the Forest Service and local municipalities to establish additional locations for parking lots, recreational access to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, and other recreational open spaces. Their focus will be on enhancing foothill easement acquisition programs and trail head developments.
- ☐ The County to consider the usage of visitor studies through collaboration and support of partner agencies, which may include Forest Service, SLCPU, UDOT, UTA, CWC, Town of Brighton, and Town of Alta. Visitor study assessments shall involve the public and support by partner agencies with jurisdictional authority.

GOAL: DEDICATE FUNDING SOURCES TO ASSIST IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND TO PROVIDE ONGOING SUPPORT FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County will work with partner agencies and others to pursue dedicated funding sources for the Canyons. If tolling or other fees are instituted the County requests that a portion of the generated revenue be designated to specific recreation demands such as trailheads, trails, restrooms, and related items.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will pursue funding resources from foundations, grants, state, federal, and other revenue sources. Multiple County agencies will work on the pursuit of these resources.
- ☐ The County will consider creation of a Regional Wasatch Canyons Recreation District (Local or Special Service District).
- ☐ The County will apply for grants through the Zoo, Arts and Parks Tax (known as the ZAP or RAP tax).
- ☐ The County will consider requesting a portion of Transient Room and Lodging Taxes.



Figure 5: Bell Canyon Waterfall - Jake Young

ECONOMY

GOALS AND POLICIES RELATED TO ECONOMY

There are no commercial businesses within the foothills planning area, but recreational access to the Wasatch Mountains is an important element of the economic value of the Wasatch Canyons and Mountains to the northern Utah economy.

GOAL: SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION AND VIABILITY OF CANYON BUSINESSES WHILE CONSERVING THE NATURAL FEATURES AND RECREATIONAL ATTRIBUTES THAT MAKE THE CANYONS A VITAL ECONOMIC IMPACT IN UTAH.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ Salt Lake County supports appropriate ski area/Forest Service land exchanges to support Canyon businesses, according to the CRMP.
- ☐ The County will continue to focus on the environmental and scenic preservation of the Wasatch Canyons as an economic development strategy.
- ☐ The County will include tourism and economic groups in planning, coordinating, and implementing the Wasatch Canyons General Plan.
- ☐ Resort expansion recommendations should be according to previously adopted or subsequent amendments of any of the following: Records of Decision, plans by the County and Forest Service (including Revised Plan), and Mountain Accord findings. New dwelling units (hospitality and residential) should be located at the base of the resorts and clustered in walkable villages.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will work with the Forest Service to help ensure that businesses operating in the Canyons have the proper business permitting (for guiding, shuttle, etc.). Some commercial operations may also require a Special Use Permit from the Forest Service.
- ☐ The County will regulate the use of short-term rentals. The County will work with short-term rental and hotel operators to ensure understanding of necessary Canyon policies for parking, watershed protection, and permits.

GOAL: MEET THE GROWING DEMANDS FOR RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, AND VISITORS BY ENHANCING AND IMPROVING PUBLIC UTILITY SYSTEMS.

ALL-CANYON POLICIES:

- ☐ The County will work with agency partners to identify public infrastructure needs to address residential, recreational, environmental, and business impacts.
- ☐ The County supports the development of broadband and communications infrastructure in appropriate areas to achieve General Plan goals such as public safety improvements and environmental protection. The County will evaluate and modify, if necessary, communications infrastructure plans and Capital Improvement Plans (CIPs) so that they are consistent with the General Plan.
- ☐ The County will ensure that new infrastructure is designed and installed per General Plan goals regarding aesthetics, environmental and water quality, and the character of the Canyons. The County will also ensure that infrastructure development, maintenance and repair are conducted in a manner that protects water quality.

ALL-CANYON STRATEGIES:

- ☐ The County will evaluate infrastructure priorities and incentives for development in appropriate areas that achieve environmental protection, recreational impact mitigation, and other goals consistent with the General Plan.
- ☐ The County will evaluate all funding options to support development and maintenance of needed infrastructure. The County will ensure that General Plan projects are included and prioritized in agency CIPs.

ACTIONS

Specific strategy action items are presented below. Actions are described as programs that would have on-going responsibilities and activities, whereas policies would guide future County decision-making. Projects are activities to be undertaken and completed in a set period of time. Priorities are described as near-term (0 to 5 years); mid-term (5 to 10 years); and long-term (10 or more years). Anticipated implementation costs are generally categorized as lower cost strategies (\$) that could be implemented by allocating or re-allocating funding in current general fund budgets; moderate cost strategies (\$\$) that would require creation of a new budget line item and development of new funding streams; or higher cost strategies (\$\$\$) that would require either bonding for capital projects or development of significant new funding sources such as legislation, or new taxing authorities.

ACTION	ACTION TYPE	PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY/ PARTNERS	FUNDING
Trails Master Plan - The County will support and collaborate with the Forest Service on Trails Master Planning.	Plan	Near (0-5 years)	Salt Lake County/Forest Service	\$
Ordinance Updates - Salt Lake County will review and update FCOZ requirements relating to property line setbacks, roof lines, building spacing, snow shedding, snow storage, defensible spaces, fire risk, septic systems, preservation of historic structures, and forest health to ensure alignment with the objectives of this Wasatch Canyons General Plan.	Plan	Near (0-5 years)	Salt Lake County/ Salt Lake City/ Forest Service/Municipal Service District	\$
Completion of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.	Project	Near (0-5 years)	Salt Lake County/Forest Service/Adjacent Municipalities	\$\$\$
Trail head improvements, including, parking, vehicle and pedestrian access, restrooms, and access to transit.	Project	Near (0-5 years)	Salt Lake County/ Forest Service/Adjacent Municipalities	\$\$
Annual Review - County will invite partner agencies, governments and others to discuss the goals and progress of the General Plan.	Plan	Yearly	Salt Lake County (multiple departments & Planning Commission)/ Municipal Services District/ Forest Service/ UDOT/ Salt Lake Public Utilities/ Community Councils/ others	\$

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APPENDICES

ACRONYMS

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act	SLC	Salt Lake City
ADU	Accessory Dwelling Unit	SLCo	Salt Lake County
AGRC	Automated Geographic Reference Center	UDOT	Utah Department of Transportation
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
BMP	Best Management Practices	USFS	United States Forest Service
BSA	Boy Scouts of America	UTA	Utah Transit Authority
BST	Bonneville Shoreline Trail	WFRC	Wasatch Front Regional Council
CRMP	County Resource Management Plan		
CWC	Central Wasatch Commission		
DNR	Division of Natural Resources		
DWR	Division of Wildlife Resources		
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement		
FCOZ	Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone		
FM	Forestry Multifamily		
FR	Forestry and Recreation		
GIS	Geographic Information System		
USFS	United States Forest Service		
LUDMA	Land Use Development and Management Act		
MIH	Moderate Income Housing		
MPD	Mountainous Planning District		
MRZ	Mountain Resort Zone		
MSD	Municipal Services District		
NFS	National Forest System		
NGO	Non-governmental Organization		
ROW	Right-of-Way		
SB34	Senate Bill 34		

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Active Transportation - Any self-propelled, human-powered mode of transportation, such as walking or bicycling.

Area - The portion of land that is being evaluated; generally, the property or project phase being developed.

Avalanche - A large mass of snow, ice, and debris in swift motion down a slope; includes both wet and dry snow avalanches.

Backcountry - Any area outside of a designated recreational use within the Canyons.

Buildable Area - The portion of a site where an approved engineering geology and/or geotechnical report, as required, has indicated is not impacted by geologic hazards, or concluded that the identified hazards can be mitigated to a level where risk to human life and property are reduced to an acceptable and reasonable level, and where structures may be safely sited.

Canyons - The seven major drainages of the Wasatch Mountains into the Salt Lake Valley. They include: City Creek, Red Butte, Emigration, Parleys, Mill Creek, Big Cottonwood, and Little Cottonwood.

Critical Facilities - Essential facilities, and lifelines such as major utility, transportation, and communication facilities and their connection to essential facilities.

Culinary Water - That portion of the water supply which is suitable for human consumption as opposed to water for irrigation or industrial use which may not be potable.

Debris Flow - A slurry of rock, soil, organic material, and water transported in an extremely fast and destructive flow that flows down channels and onto and across alluvial fans; includes a continuum of sedimentation events and processes including debris, flows, debris floods, mud flows, clear water floods, and alluvial fan flooding.

Developed Areas - Areas currently allocated to residential, commercial, or institutional uses will be excluded from consideration. These include subdivisions that have been approved for development regardless of whether the development has been completed.

Developed Recreation - Recreation activities that require specific facilities and spatial requirements. In general, these uses occur in proximity to established traffic corridors. These uses include developed camping, developed picnicking, trailheads, cultural/historical sites, nordic track skiing, and sight-seeing.

Development - All critical and essential facilities, subdivisions, single- and multi-family dwellings, commercial and industrial buildings, additions to existing buildings, storage facilities, pipelines and utility conveyances, and other land uses.

Dispersed Recreation - Recreation use that requires few, if any, improvements and may occur over a wide area. This type of recreation involves activities that normally occur away from roads, do not require mechanical equipment, and generally do not occur in large groups. Activities tend to be day-use oriented and include hunting, fishing, hiking, rock climbing, cross-country skiing, ice climbing, dispersed picnicking, dispersed camping, viewing scenery, horseback riding (limited to certain Canyons), mountain biking, and others.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ESRI - Environmental Systems Research Institute is an international supplier of geographic information system (GIS) software, web GIS and geodatabase management applications (Wikipedia).

Essential Facility - Building and other structures that are intended to remain operational in the event of extreme environmental loading from snow or earthquakes, including all Category II and III structures as classified in Table 1604.5 of the Building Code.

Forest Degradation - A reduction in forest health and its overall capacity to produce and moderate ecosystem services.

Geographic Information System (GIS) - A geographic information system is a framework for gathering, managing, and analyzing data. Rooted in the science of geography, GIS integrates many types of data. It analyzes spatial location and organizes layers of information into visualizations using maps and 3D scenes. (ESRI.com)

Geologic Hazard - A surface fault rupture, liquefaction, landslide, debris flow, rockfall, avalanche, and/or other geologic processes that may present a risk to life and property.

Governing Body - The County Council, or to a future successor body to the County Council.

Incorporated Boundary - Land that is located within city/township limits that is governed by its own political body.

Landslide - A general term for the downslope movement of a mass of soil, surficial deposits or bedrock, including a continuum of processes between landslides, earth flows, mud flows, debris flows and debris avalanches, and rockfall.

Land Use - Permittable use of land, as defined by local governing ordinances.

Liquefaction - A process by which certain water-saturated soils lose bearing strength because of earthquake-related ground shaking and subsequent increase of groundwater pore pressure.

Non-Buildable Area - Portion of a site which an engineering geology report has concluded may be impacted by geologic hazards that cannot be feasibly mitigated to a safe level, and where siting of structure is not permitted.

Objective - A concise, time-specific statement of measurable planned results that respond to preestablished goals. An objective forms the basis for further planning to define the precise steps to be taken and the resource to be used in achieving identified goals.

Organic Act of 1897 (16 USC 551) - The act that most national forests were established from. It states: "No national forest shall be established, except to improve and protect the forest within the boundaries, or for the purpose of securing favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber for the use and necessities of citizens of the United States..." (U.S. Forest Service)

Protected Watershed - Several canyons and mountain areas of Salt Lake County are protected watershed areas that supply the Salt Lake area with drinking water. These areas are managed to prevent contamination and protect the natural lands that supply healthy water.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Research Natural Area - An area in or as near a natural condition as possible which exemplifies typical or unique vegetation and associated biotic, geologic and aquatic features. The area is set aside to preserve a representative sample of an ecological community primarily for scientific and educational purposes; commercial and general public use is not allowed.

Riparian - Land areas which are directly influence by water. They usually have visible vegetative or physical characteristics showing this water influence. Stream sides, lake borers, or marshes are typical of riparian areas.

Roads - A public thoroughfare including highways, drives, lanes, avenues, places, boulevards or any other thoroughfare dedicated for public use that affords primary access to abutting properties and land.

Rockfall - A rock, or mass of rock, newly detached from a cliff or other steep slope which moves downslope by falling, rolling, toppling, or bouncing, includes rock slides, rockfall avalanches, and talus.

Scenario - A hypothetical future of a projected course of actions (s) related to alternative land-use management strategies.

Setback - An area within which construction of habitable structures or critical facilities is not permitted.

Site - Refers to the camping or picnic facilities serving one group or family unit.

Ski Resort - A commercial downhill skiing enterprise with lifts and associated facilities within permitted boundaries, primarily to provide maintained ski terrain and base facilities for the paying public.

Special Use Permit (permit area) - A permit issued under established laws and regulations to an individual, organization, or company for occupancy or use of lands for some special purposes.

Subdivision - Tracts of land which have been divided into individual building lots and are officially approved and recognized as such. They are not subject to zoning when approved prior to zone designation.

Transit - The conveyance of persons or goods from one place to another by means of a local, public transportation system.

TriCanyons - Mill Creek, Big Cottonwood, and Little Cottonwood Canyons

Unincorporated Area - Land that is not situated within the established boundaries of a city or governing agency.

Utilities and Infrastructure - An area that is primarily utilized for the City's infrastructure needs. Utility and infrastructure include such uses as electric or gas services, sewage treatment, water treatment and storage, and energy conversion systems.

Visitor Carrying Capacity - The maximum amount of people that can visit or recreate in an area without causing damage to the natural or existing ecosystem(s) and environment.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) - An Association of Governments (AOG) and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) comprised of elected officials from Box Elder, Davis, Morgan, Salt Lake, Tooele, and Weber counties. One representative from the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) and one representative from the Utah Transit Authority (UTA) also serve on the Council, as well as six nonvoting members from the Utah State Senate, the Utah House of Representatives, the State Planning Director, the Utah League of Cities and Towns, the Utah Association of Counties, and Envision Utah. According to its mission statement, “The Wasatch Front Regional Council builds consensus and enhances quality of life by developing and implementing visions and plans for a well-functioning multi-modal transportation system, livable communities, a strong economy, and a healthy environment.”

Watershed - The entire area that contributes water to a drainage or stream.

Wetlands - Areas adjacent to water features characterized by hydrologic soil groups.

Wilderness Area - An area of Federal lands which has retained its primeval character and has no permanent improvements or human habitation and which has been designated by the Congress under the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964 as “wilderness”. The designated area is to be managed and protected in its natural state without intrusions which may leave any lasting alterations by humankind.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION



TOWN OF BRIGHTON
7688 S BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON ROAD
BRIGHTON, UT 84121

RE: Wasatch Canyons General Plan

March 4, 2020

Dear Mountainous Planning Commission,

The Town of Brighton sends congratulations on the outstanding work that has been done on the Wasatch Canyons General Plan. Members of the Town Council voted unanimously to support it at this week's Town Council meeting.

We appreciate the wide-ranging public input that was allowed throughout the process. The product is a document that will facilitate stakeholder collaboration for years to come.

Brighton looks forward to working with the County Regional Planning Staff and the Municipal Services District Planning Staff on pressing issues related to increasing visitation in the canyons. Short-term rentals, transportation, forest health, FCOZ, wildfire, recreation, and water quality are all addressed in this document. We're grateful that our concerns are being addressed.

Thank you and best wishes with the approval of this plan,

Dan Knopp
Mayor of Brighton



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Salt Lake Ranger District

6944 South 3000 East
Salt Lake City, UT 84121
801-733-2660

File Code: 1560

Date: March 2, 2020

Honorable Jenny Wilson
Mayor, Salt Lake County
2001 South State Street N2-200
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4575

Salt Lake County Council
2001 South State Street N2-200
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4575

Mountainous Planning District Planning Commission
2001 S. State Street S2-100
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4575

Dear Mayor Wilson, Council Members, and Commissioners,

The USDA Forest Service has reviewed the recommended goals and strategies pertaining to National Forest System lands in the draft of the Salt Lake County Wasatch Canyons General Plan. The Plan appears to be consistent with the policies, guidelines, and standards for the management of National Forest System lands as identified in the 2003 Wasatch-Cache Revised Forest Plan. We commend the County's outreach process and involvement of the various jurisdictional agencies, including the USDA Forest Service, during the development of the Plan. This type of planning provides a foundation for the protection of resources across jurisdictional boundaries and will help enhance the sustainability and enjoyment of quality recreation experiences.

We look forward to our continued partnership with Salt Lake County managing the public lands in and around the Wasatch Canyons.

If you should need any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (801)733-2675 or at rebecca.hotze@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

REBECCA HOTZE

Digitally signed by REBECCA
HOTZE
Date: 2020.03.02 07:54:30 -07'00'

Rebecca Hotze
District Ranger

Wasatch Canyons General Plan Area Demographics

KEY FACTS

1,457

Population



Average
Household
Size



Median Age

\$158,314

Median
Household
Income

MEDIAN AGE



41.7 44.2

2010
Median
Age
(U.S.
Census) 2019
Median
Age
(Esri)

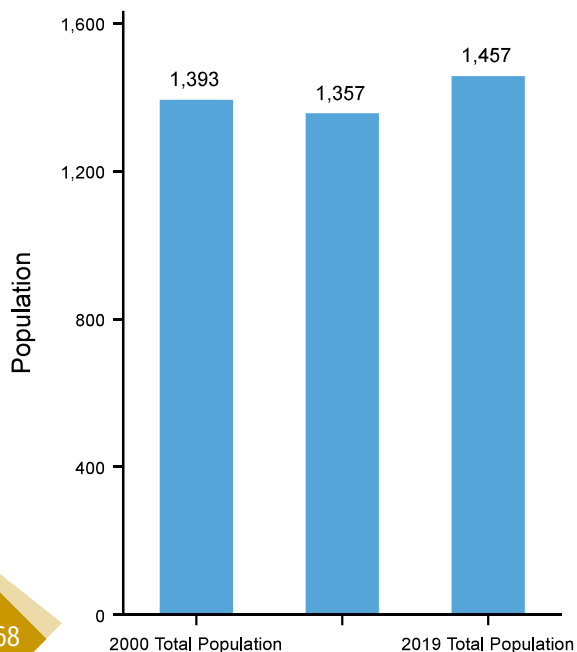
2019 DAYTIME POPULATION



4,437

Workers/Residents
Only

POPULATION TRENDS (2000-2019)



Salt Lake County Demographics

KEY FACTS

1,184,880

Population



Average
Household
Size



Median Age

\$73,627

Median
Household
Income

MEDIAN AGE



30.9 32.5

2010
Median
Age
(U.S.
Census) 2019
Median
Age
(Esri)

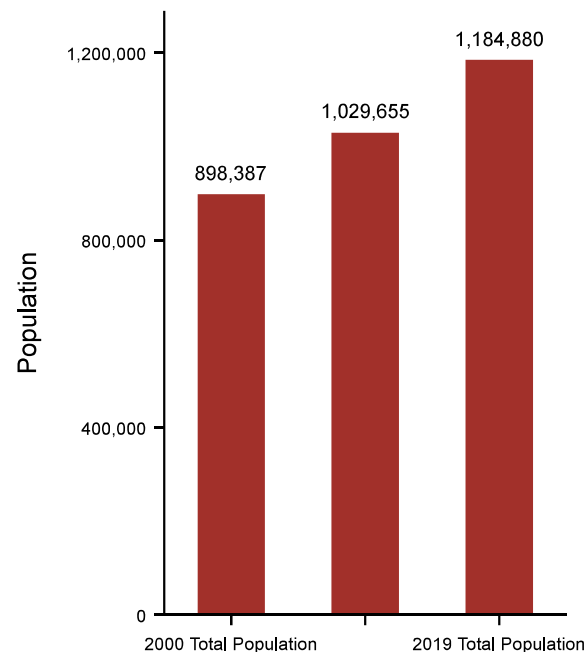
2019 DAYTIME POPULATION



1,270,755

Workers/Residents
Only

POPULATION TRENDS (2000-2019)



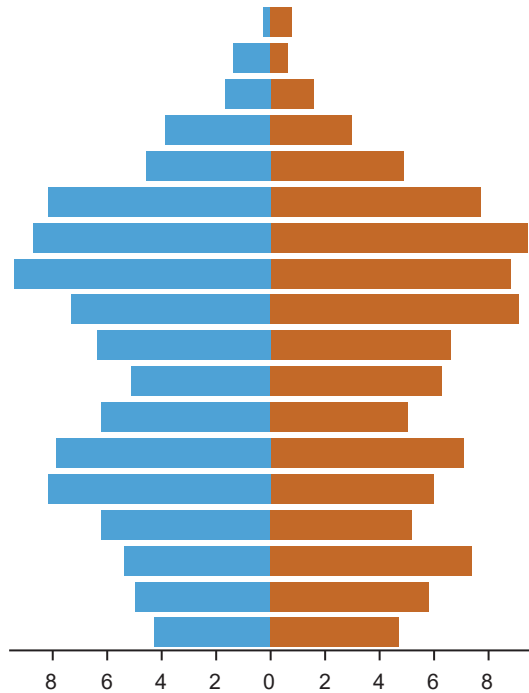
2010 AGE PYRAMID

The largest group:

2010 Males Age 50-54
(U.S. Census)

The smallest group:

2010 Males Age 85+ (U.S.
Census)



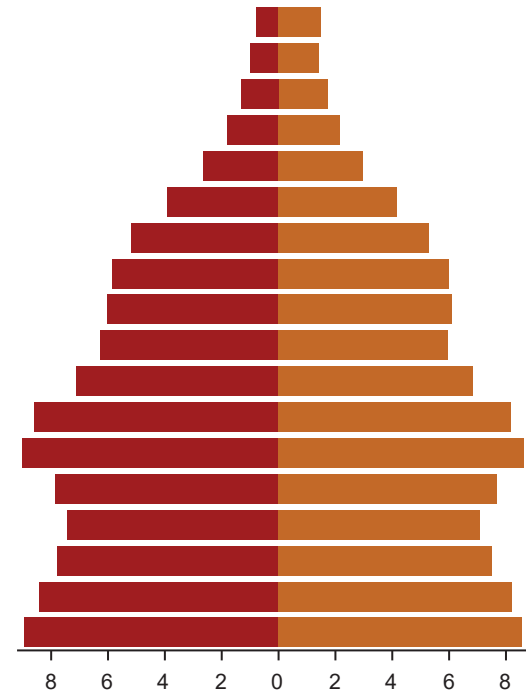
2010 AGE PYRAMID

The largest group:

2010 Males Age 25-29
(U.S. Census)

The smallest group:

2010 Males Age 85+ (U.S.
Census)



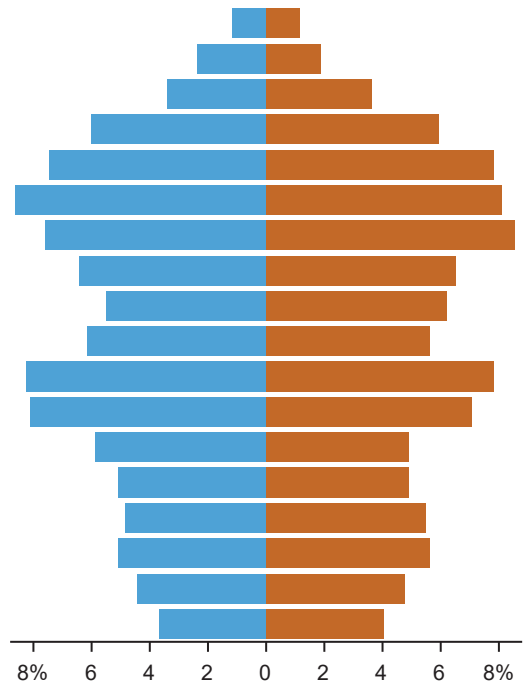
2019 AGE PYRIMID

The largest group:

2019 Male Population Age
60-64 (Esri)

The smallest group:

2019 Female Population
Age 85+ (Esri)



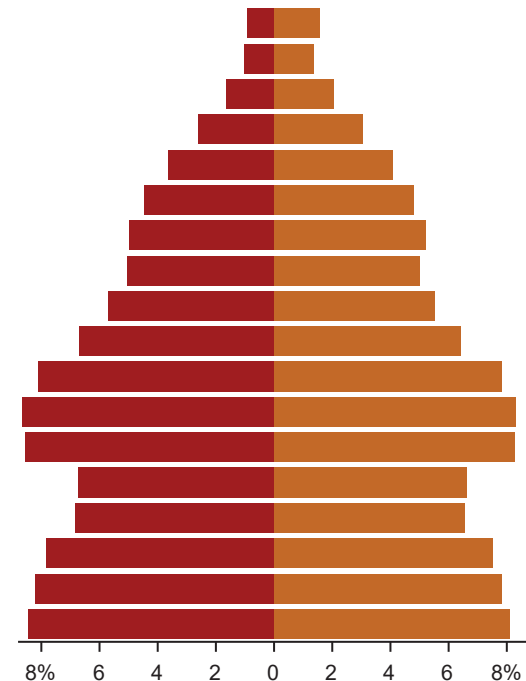
2019 AGE PYRIMID

The largest group:

2019 Male Population Age
30-34 (Esri)

The smallest group:

2019 Male Population Age
85+ (Esri)



Race and Ethnicity

The largest group: White Alone (90.12)

The smallest group: Pacific Islander Alone (0.27)

Indicator	Value	Difference	
White Alone	90.12	-5.90	
Black Alone	1.17	+1.01	
American Indian/Alaska Native Alone	0.34	+0.14	
Asian Alone	4.32	+3.62	
Pacific Islander Alone	0.27	+0.11	
Other Race	1.03	-0.02	
Two or More Races	2.75	+1.05	
Hispanic Origin (Any Race)	3.57	+0.04	

Bars show deviation from
Morgan County

Race and Ethnicity

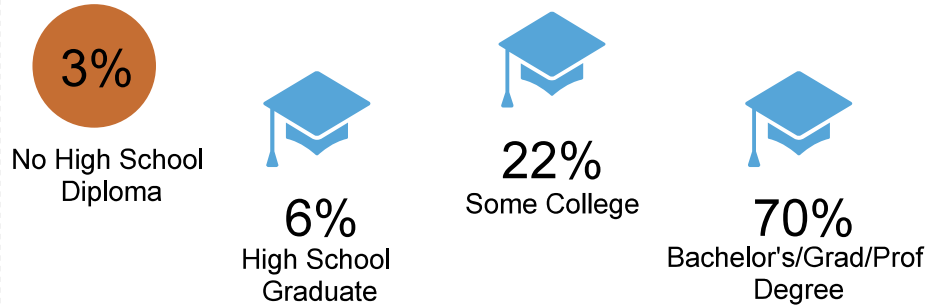
The largest group: White Alone (78.33)

The smallest group: American Indian/Alaska Native Alone (0.94)

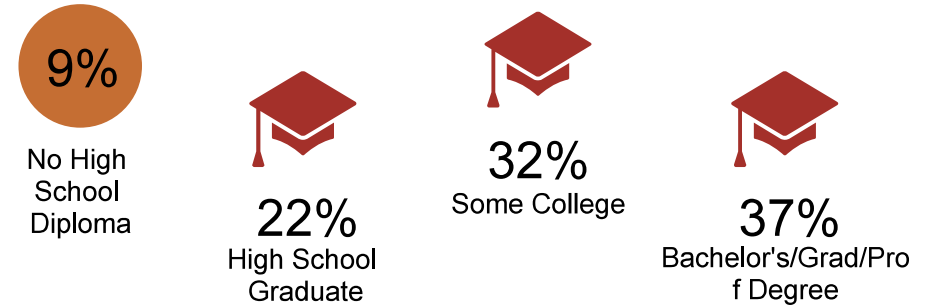
Indicator	Value	Difference	
White Alone	78.33	0	
Black Alone	1.88	0	
American Indian/Alaska Native Alone	0.94	0	
Asian Alone	4.41	0	
Pacific Islander Alone	1.65	0	
Other Race	9.01	0	
Two or More Races	3.79	0	
Hispanic Origin (Any Race)	18.46	0	

Bars show deviation from
Salt Lake County

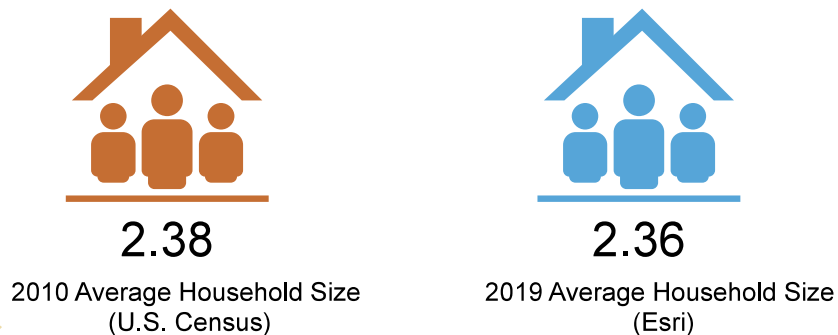
EDUCATION



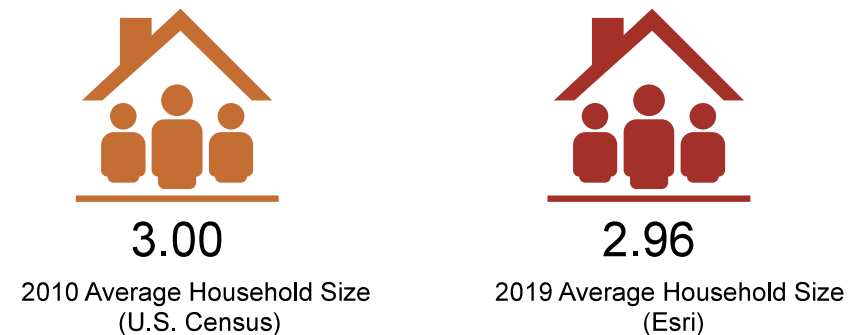
EDUCATION



AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE (2010-2019)



AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE (2010-2019)



EMPLOYMENT



79%

White Collar



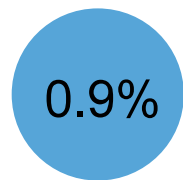
9%

Blue Collar



11%

Services



0.9%

Unemployment
Rate

EMPLOYMENT



67%

White Collar



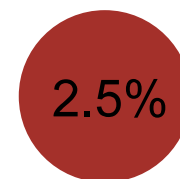
20%

Blue Collar



13%

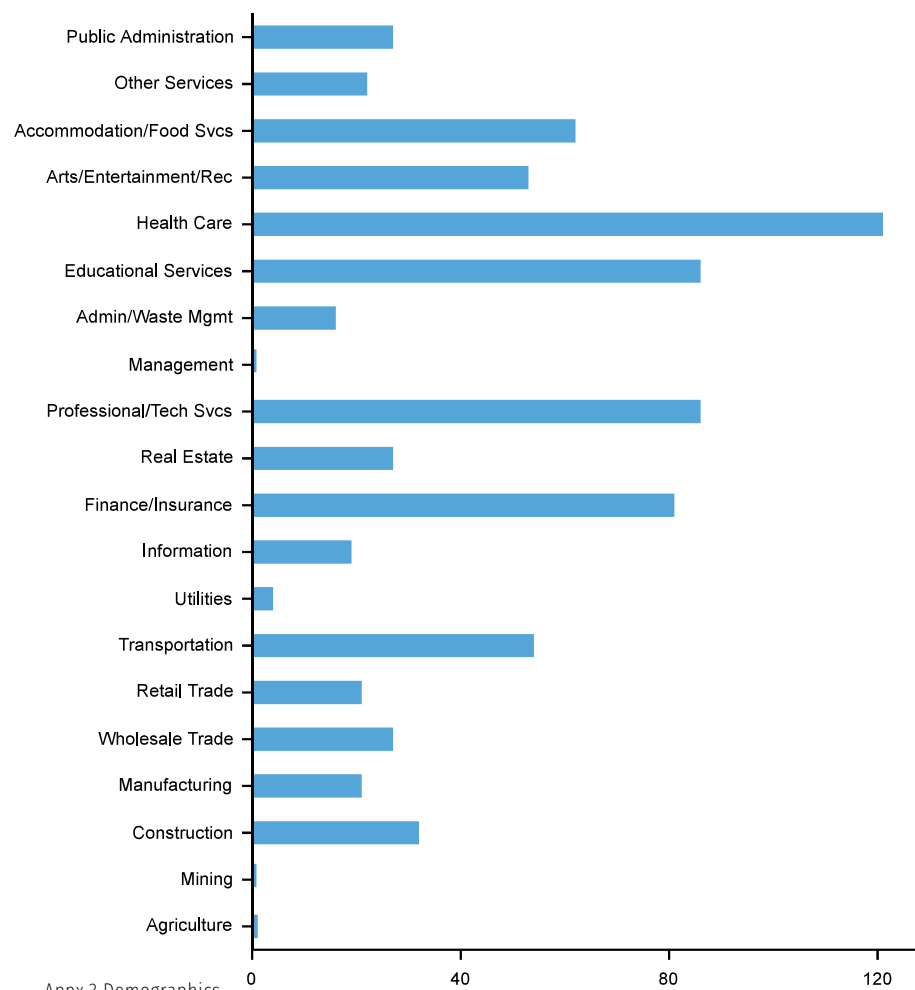
Services



2.5%

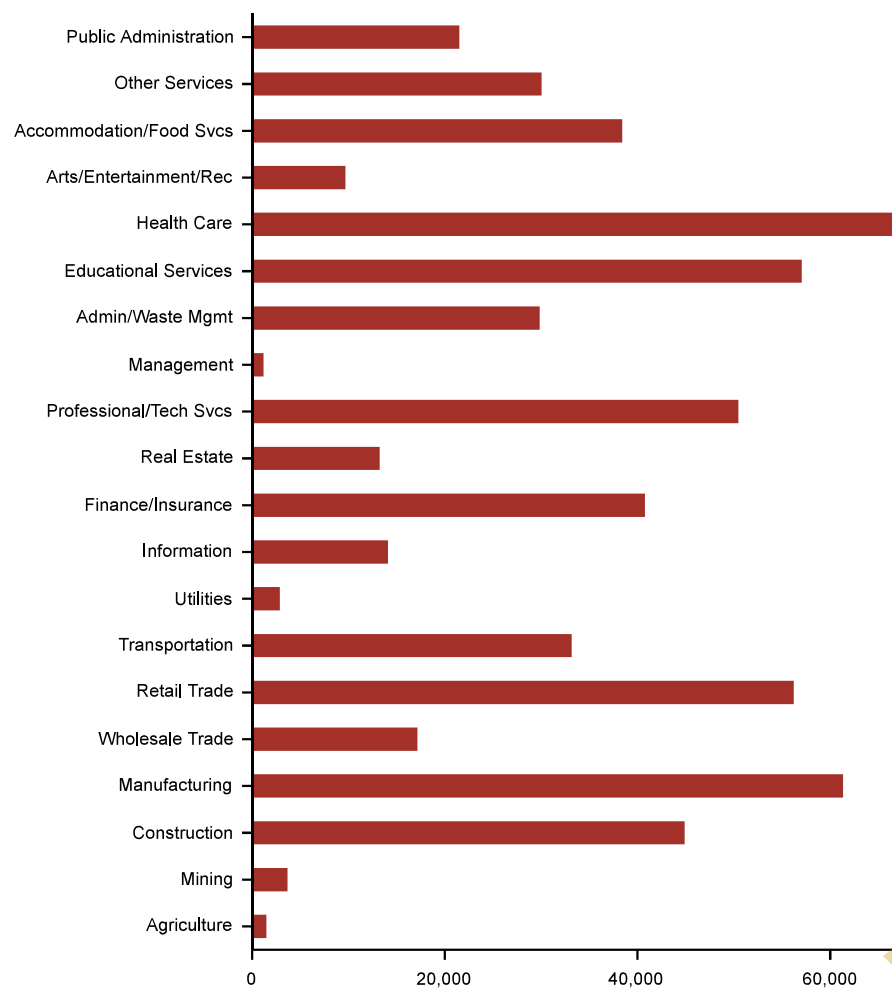
Unemployment
Rate

2019 LABOR FORCE BY INDUSTRY (Esri)



Appx.3 Demographics

2019 LABOR FORCE BY INDUSTRY (Esri)



INCOME

MEDIAN HOME VALUE



158,314

79,930

621,686

2019 Median
Household
Income (Esri)

2019 Per Capita
Income (Esri)

2019 Median Home Value (Esri)

INCOME

MEDIAN HOME VALUE



73,627

31,451

327,451

2019 Median
Household
Income (Esri)

2019 Per Capita
Income (Esri)

2019 Median Home Value (Esri)

HOUSING UNIT SUMMARY (2000-2019)



1,858

2019 Total Housing



466

2019 Owner Occupied



129

2019 Renter Occupied



1,781

2010 Total Housing



443

2010 Owner-occupied



115

2010 Renter-occupied



1,410

2000 Total Housing



429

2000 Owner Occupied



54

2000 Renter Occupied

HOUSING UNIT SUMMARY (2000-2019)



411,108

2019 Total Housing



254,841

2019 Owner Occupied



135,094

2019 Renter Occupied



364,031

2010 Total Housing



230,419

2010 Owner-occupied



112,203

2010 Renter-occupied



310,988

2000 Total Housing



203,597

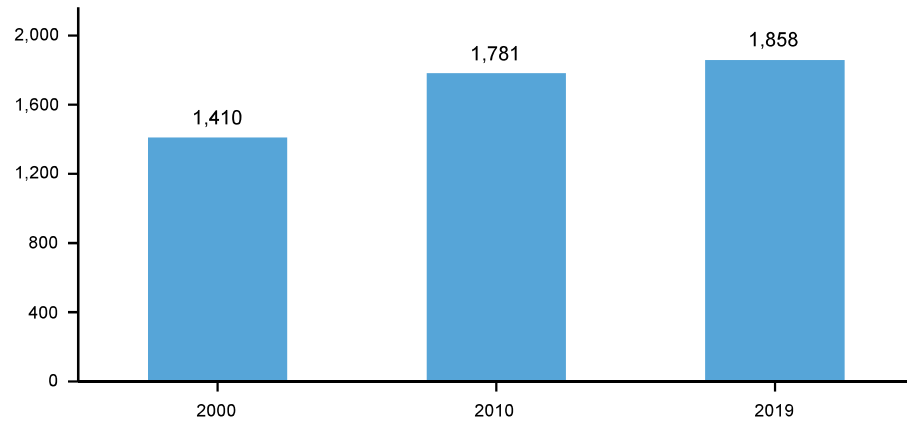
2000 Owner Occupied



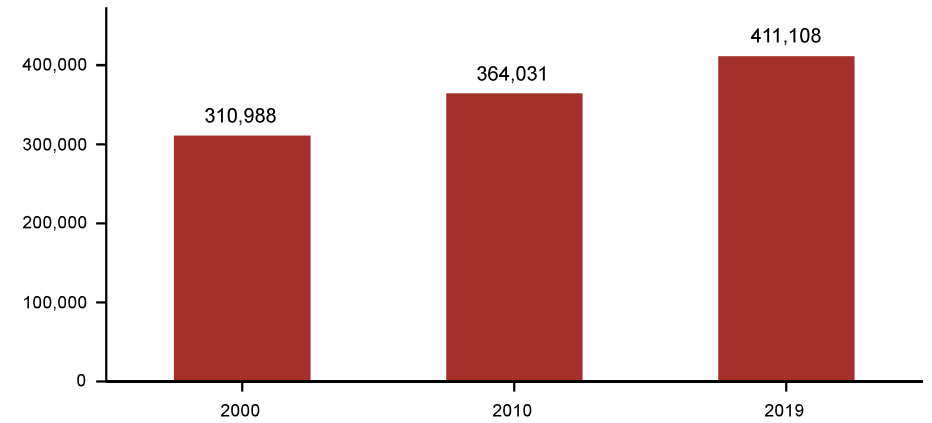
91,544

2000 Renter Occupied

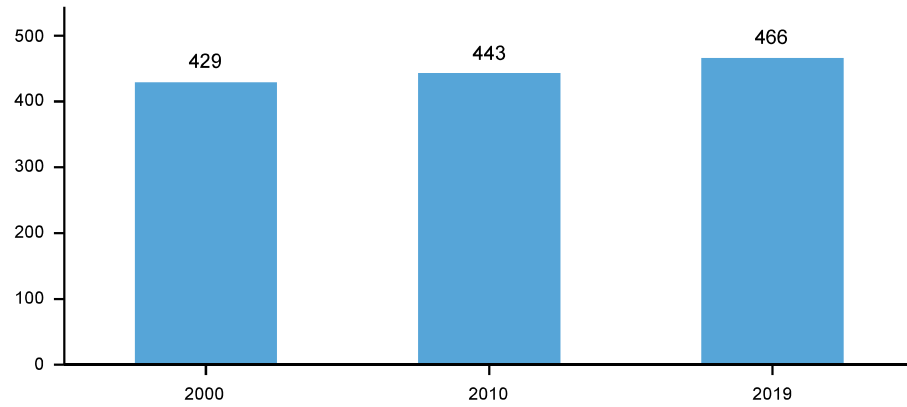
HOUSING UNIT TRENDS (2000-2019)



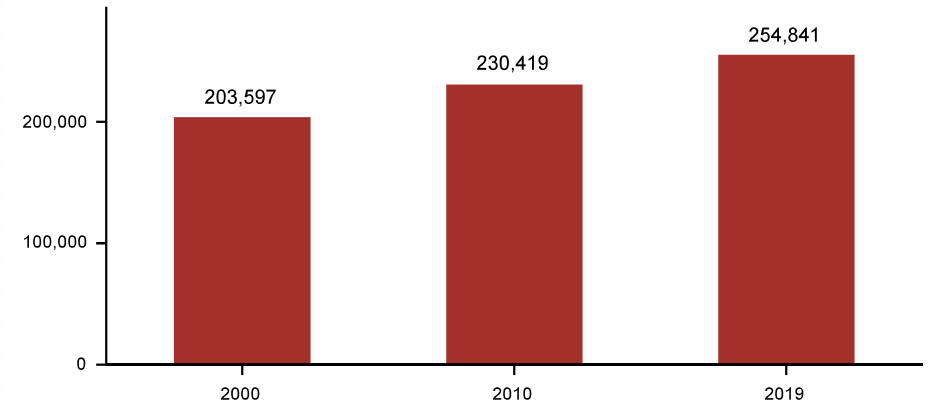
HOUSING UNIT TRENDS (2000-2019)



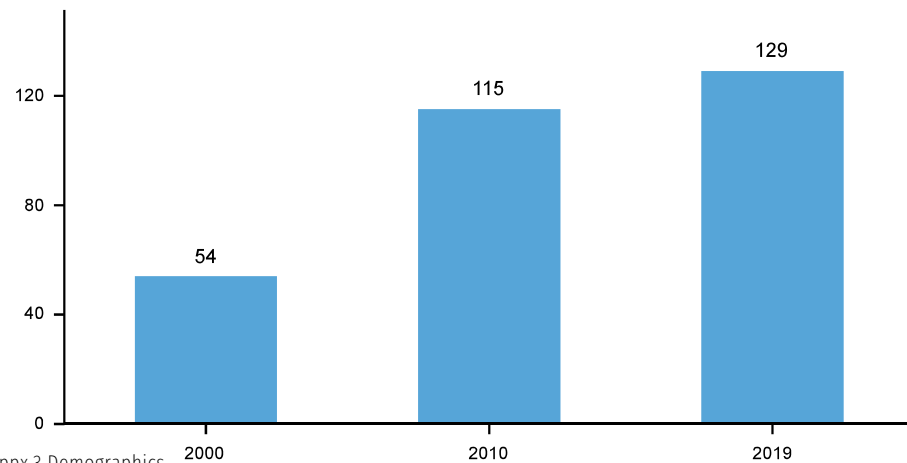
OWNER OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLD TRENDS (2000-2019)



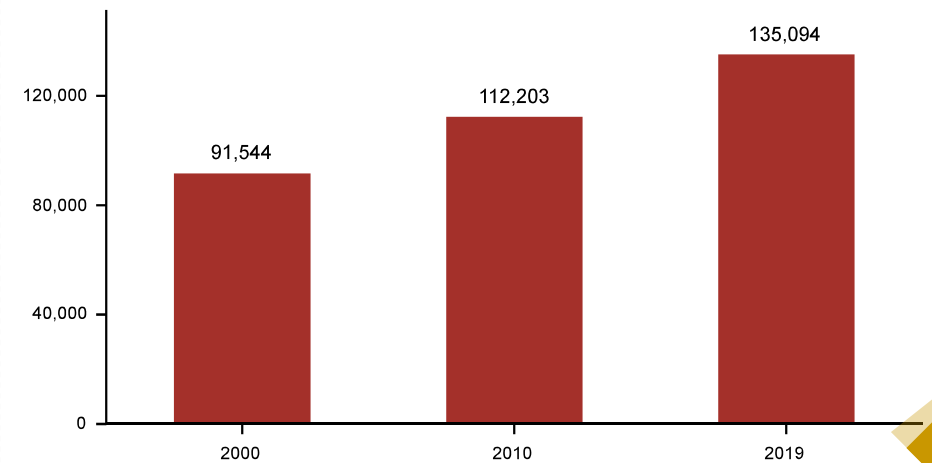
OWNER OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLD TRENDS (2000-2019)



RENTER OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLD TRENDS (2000-2019)

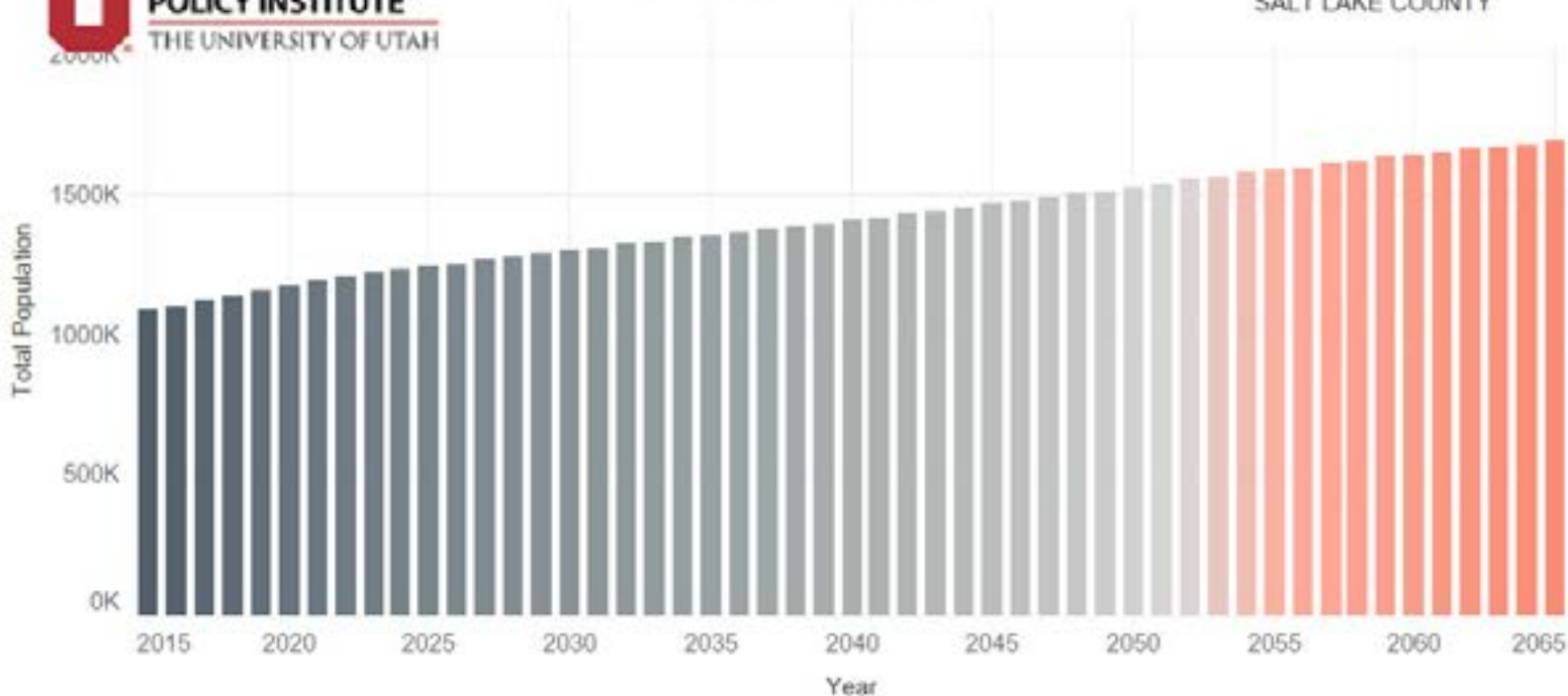


RENTER OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLD TRENDS (2000-2019)

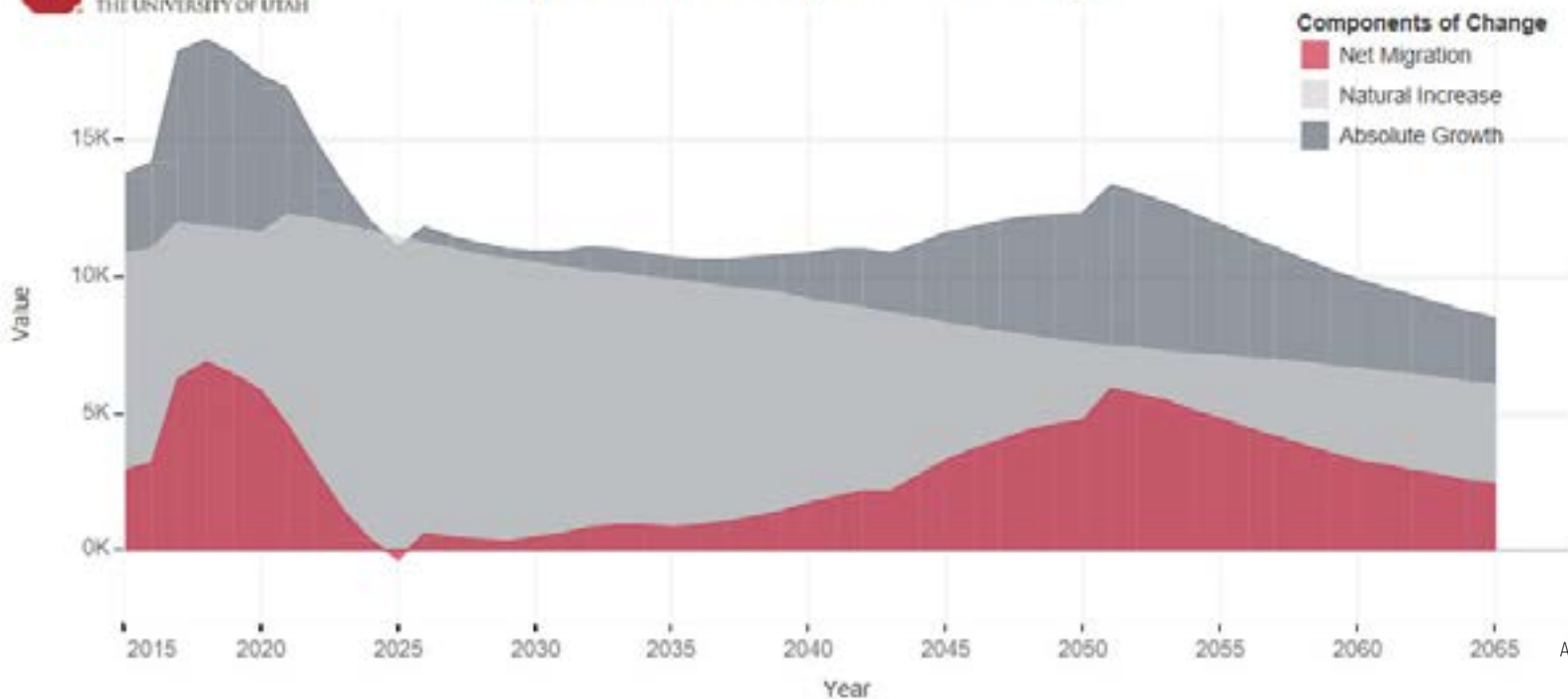


Total Population

Region
 SALT LAKE COUNTY



Components of Population Change



OPEN HOUSE AND ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

WASATCH CANYONS GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

PARLEY'S • MILL CREEK • BIG COTTONWOOD • LITTLE COTTONWOOD

CHOICES OUTREACH PROGRESS REPORT

INTRODUCTION

As part of the community outreach process for the Wasatch Canyons General Plan Update, Salt Lake County hosted several open house events throughout July and August 2018. A series of 19 goals and corresponding strategies were presented for public review and feedback.

In addition to these open houses, two mobile workshops were held. One at the Donut Falls trailhead and one at Sliver Lake. Approximately 500 people participated in these events, including residents, employees, business owners, community leaders, youth, and other stakeholders. The open house events were noticed on the project web-page, social media pages, project email lists, and by community groups.

In addition to the in-person events, an opportunity to participate online was provided in the form of a questionnaire. The online questionnaire contained the same questions and information from the in-person events and was meant to serve as a detailed comment tool for those wanting to dive into each goal and strategy.

OBJECTIVE

The purpose of the goals and strategies outreach was to give interested members of the public an opportunity to provide input on potential goals and strategies for the Wasatch Canyons.

FORMAT

Large meeting rooms inside libraries and community centers were used for the open house's where several poster boards with each of the 19 goals were presented. Each board included a draft goal with space to rank the goal on a scale of one to five, with a one being "strongly disagree" and a five being "strongly agree." To rate the corresponding strategies, participants were directed the online questionnaire. Three large maps were also used to gather input on potential activity nodes in the project area.

Additional presentation boards included a "Where are you from?" map where participants were asked to place a pin where they lived, as well as "What we've been hearing" boards with a summary of public input gathered so far in the planning effort.



Special thank you to all those who took time to participate in these meetings.

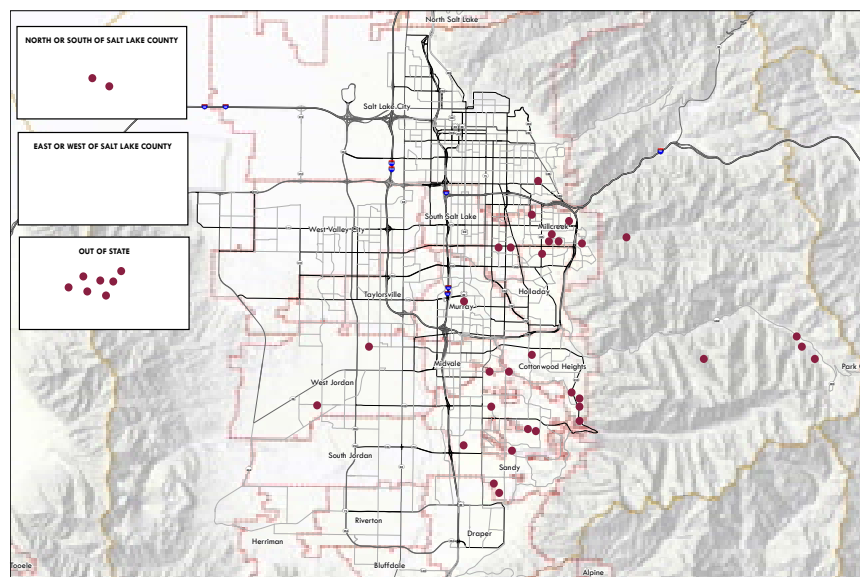




WHO DID WE HEAR FROM?

At each event we asked participants to place a pin on where they live to get a sense of where our participants were coming from. Each red dot represents 1 - 5 people.

WHERE ARE YOU FROM?



Each • represents 1-5 people

WHERE DID WE GO? THE MAP ABOVE WAS DISPLAYED AT THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

July 26th, 2018
Sandy City Library

July 31st, 2018
Whitmore Library, Cottonwood Heights

August 14th, 2018
Millcreek Community Center

WHAT WE HEARD

The enthusiasm towards community engagement and passion of local residents was evident in the responses received during the goals and strategies events. The following is a summary of residents and visitors shared feedback. Below are the goals that received the most positive feedback during our public open houses.

Goal 9: ENSURE THE MANAGEMENT OF WATERSHEDS IN THE WASATCH MOUNTAINS TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
91	1	4	2	4

Goal 1A: IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF RECREATION FOR VISITORS AND RESIDENTS WHILE MEETING THE NEEDS FOR ANTICIPATED FUTURE DEMAND.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
80	25	12	4	3

Goal 11: ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND STEWARDSHIP OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND RECREATIONAL VALUES AND PRACTICES.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
79	20	8	2	0

Goal 3: SUPPORT ENHANCED YEAR ROUND TRANSIT SERVICE TO AND WITHIN THE WASATCH CANYONS.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
77	25	9	5	3

Goal 10: ENSURE THAT FUTURE USE OF AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE WASATCH CANYONS IS MANAGED TO PROTECT WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND HABITAT AND TO REDUCE HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
76	16	10	2	2

COMMENT SUMMARY

The following is a summary of goals and strategies rating results from the choices events and general feedback received on each vision draft goal.

GOAL 1 A: IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF RECREATION FOR VISITORS AND RESIDENTS WHILE MEETING THE NEEDS FOR ANTICIPATED FUTURE DEMAND.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
80	25	12	4	3

STRATEGIES

OVERALL SYSTEM

1. Support the USFS in maintaining a quality trail system canyon wide.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
80	21	5	3	1

2. Establish a volunteer program to lead and train volunteers. Dedicate County staff time to coordinate with volunteer groups.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
56	27	23	5	1

3. Concentrate and encourage recreation use in key identified recreation activity nodes.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
31	38	24	14	5

4. Promote lesser-used recreation areas in Salt Lake County outside the Wasatch Canyons to provide alternatives to the frequently-used Wasatch Canyons. Alternatives could include the Oquirrh Mountains, Dimple Dell, Ensign Peak, Yellow Fork etc.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
71	27	6	6	3

5. Develop new phone and computer applications to maximize user experience, promote key recreational areas, and provide most up to date information.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
29	36	24	16	8

6. Work with willing sellers to acquire strategic land or easements for recreation access and management. Promote trailheads as transit friendly or ride sharing options.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
73	28	6	6	1

RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE

1. Assist the USFS in implementing their standards for the development of trailheads, parking areas, and other use areas.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
64	32	14	1	1

2. Provide and maintain key areas to include designated parking and needed amenities (garbage receptacles, restrooms, parking, etc.).

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
75	30	8	1	0

TRAILS

1. Work with the Forest Service to develop an updated trails master plan for the central Wasatch area.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
70	30	13	0	0

2. Implement sustainable trail and trailhead design guidelines and work with volunteer trail groups on implementation projects.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
72	31	10	1	0

3. Complete the entire Bonneville Shoreline Trail for entire north to south system.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
61	26	19	6	1

4. Enhance selected high use trails (such as Donut Falls) to handle significant usage. High use trails whenever possible should be paved or well graded and include amenities such as benches, restrooms, drinking water, bus stops and parking.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
20	34	23	19	17

5. Focus on enhancing foothill easement acquisition programs and trailhead developments (for areas such as Deaf Smith Canyon).

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
48	26	27	5	3

GOAL 1 B: IMPROVE PUBLIC ACCESS FOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
66	33	16	12	10

STRATEGIES

OVERALL SYSTEM

1. Establish additional locations for parking lots, recreational access to the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, and other recreational open spaces.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
47	40	12	4	8

2. Utilize multiple funding sources to protect and maintain key parcels for open space and recreational access through acquisition with willing sellers or conservation easements.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
76	23	7	5	0

3. Pursue acquisitions with willing sellers of land at trailheads for additional facilities and parking.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
63	27	10	6	5

GOAL 2: EXPLORE AND IMPLEMENT OPTIONS FOR DEDICATED FUNDING SOURCES TO ASSIST THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CANYONS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND TO PROVIDE ONGOING SUPPORT FOR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS TO SUPPORT THE GROWING DEMANDS OF THE CANYONS.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
75	37	9	1	3

STRATEGIES

OVERALL SYSTEM

1. Implement Canyon user fees or roadway tolls, with a portion of the tolls to be used within the canyons for trailheads, restrooms, etc.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
42	28	7	13	12

2. Create a Regional Wasatch Canyons Recreation District (Local or Special Service District).

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
22	27	33	13	6

3. Apply for grants through Zoo, Arts and Parks Tax (known as the ZAP or RAP tax).

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
49	30	16	4	3

4. Request a portion of Transient Room and Lodging Taxes.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
21	18	35	15	9

5. Tap into funding resources from foundations, grants, State, federal, and other revenue sources.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
53	26	18	3	2

6. Implement tax share back agreements or tax increment financing.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
60	25	6	7	2

GOAL 3: SUPPORT ENHANCED YEAR ROUND TRANSIT SERVICE TO AND WITHIN THE WASATCH CANYONS.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
77	25	9	5	3

STRATEGIES

OVERALL SYSTEM

1. Support the development of transit centers/hubs outside Canyons, but within reasonable distance of entrances. Transit centers should provide access to a variety of transportation choices and information and to connect to the regional transportation system. Encourage these hubs in mixed-use/business centers where parking can be shared.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
59	24	8	3	2

2. Assist funding to support UTA with increased year round bus service.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
49	27	14	5	3

3. Where possible, develop ride-share and bus pullouts at key use nodes.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
52	30	11	2	2

4. Incentivize carpooling/share vehicle or programs.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
31	23	14	6	4

5. Support the development of areas, such as pickup spots, that prioritize rideshare vehicles, transit, and electric vehicles.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
44	31	15	5	3

6. Support increased transit frequency and additional stops at critical locations in the canyons such as trailheads to improve usability and ridership of public transit.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
55	25	11	5	2

MILLCREEK CANYON

1. Consider voluntary permitted summer shuttle service.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
36	27	25	7	3

BIG AND LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYONS

1. Support the addition of summer UTA bus service and significantly increased winter service to key destinations.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
61	25	8	2	1

GOAL 4: SUPPORT ADEQUATE ROADWAY FACILITIES TO ENHANCE SAFETY AND MODE CHOICE IN THE WASATCH CANYONS.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
8	32	18	2	1

STRATEGIES OVERALL SYSTEM

1. Support roadway design that allows for transit and increased occupancy rates where appropriate. Pursue enhancements to Park and Ride lots.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
36	32	15	6	5

2. Work with UDOT and UTA to integrate active transportation planning in the Canyons.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
48	32	10	1	3

3. Utilize appropriate Best Management Practices (BMPs) when upgrades and enhancements to roads are performed to address stormwater impacts to the watershed and water quality. Ensure there is a funding source for maintenance of BMPs.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
57	24	10	3	0

PARLEY'S CANYON

1. Support construction of an off-street bicycle pathway (uphill and downhill) connecting Salt Lake County and Summit County via Parley's Canyon.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
51	21	10	3	8

MILL CREEK, BIG AND LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYONS

1. Provide a bicycle lane in the uphill direction, where feasible

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
55	20	9	5	5

2. Provide downhill bicycle shared-lane marking and signage in the Cottonwood Canyons, where possible as much as the terrain and site conditions will allow.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
52	19	8	8	6

3. Where needed, provide downhill bicycle pullouts and passing areas.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
56	17	13	4	4

4. Provide an uphill bicycle lane at Guardsman Pass.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
40	18	25	4	7

GOAL 5: MEET THE GROWING DEMANDS FOR RESIDENTS, BUSINESSES, AND VISITORS BY ENHANCING AND IMPROVING PUBLIC UTILITY SYSTEMS.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
33	41	21	8	4

STRATEGIES OVERALL SYSTEM

1. Work with agency partners to identify public infrastructure needs to address residential, recreational, environmental, and business impacts.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
35	34	14	5	3

2. Evaluate infrastructure needs and coordinate agency capital improvement plans (CIPs) to ensure they are consistent with the General Plan. Ensure General Plan projects (to be identified) are in CIPs and prioritize their implementation.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
34	23	26	4	1

3. Evaluate infrastructure priorities and incentives for development in appropriate areas that achieve environmental protection, recreational impact mitigation, and other goals consistent with the General Plan.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
39	28	15	6	1

4. Evaluate all funding options to support development and maintenance of needed infrastructure. All funds generated within the canyons should be spent within the Canyons

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
49	25	10	2	3

GOAL 6: SUPPORT YEAR-ROUND PARKING MANAGEMENT TO PROVIDE PARKING IN DESIGNATED LOCATIONS THAT PROVIDE SAFETY, SCENIC QUALITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION THROUGHOUT THE CANYONS AND FOOTHILLS.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
69	30	11	2	2

STRATEGIES

OVERALL SYSTEM

1. Collaborate with UDOT, UTA, and the Forest Service to develop a parking system master plan for parking and canyon transportation. Construct parking structures/transit center or park-n-ride near entrances in or nearby cities close to the Canyons with connections to transit.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
55	24	7	3	3

2. Encourage striping parking lots and allowed roadside parking areas to maximize parking availability. In dangerous areas removed roadside parking to minimize pedestrian and vehicle conflicts.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
55	19	9	6	3

3. For high usage centers redesign parking lots and pedestrian roadway to enhance user experience and safety.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
44	31	15	2	0

4. Partner with public and private agencies to encourage the more efficient use of parking.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
42	33	14	1	0

5. Work with ski areas, Forest Service, UDOT, UTA, businesses, and hotels near the Canyons to coordinate parking and provide real-time information on lot capacity and areas that are less crowded as well as alternative locations to visit through a website and phone apps.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
42	31	10	6	0

6. Utilize appropriate BMPs when upgrades and enhancements to parking facilities are performed to address stormwater impacts to the watershed and water quality. Ensure there is a funding source for maintenance of BMPs.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
46	29	10	2	0

7. Explore the feasibility of dynamic congestion pricing during peak demand days.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
47	15	9	6	14

MILL CREEK CANYON

1. Consider a shared parking agreement with the Boy Scouts of America for Millcreek Canyon .

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
30	30	23	3	4

2. Consider developing a parking master plan to work in conjunction with a shuttle service for Millcreek Canyon.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
34	28	22	3	4

GOAL 7: EDUCATE AND ENCOURAGE RESIDENTS, EMPLOYEES, AND VISITORS TO ENHANCE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES TO PROMOTE A CULTURE OF BICYCLING AND WALKING.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
45	21	12	5	5

STRATEGIES

OVERALL SYSTEM

1. Develop a wayfinding signage program for bicyclists and pedestrians with detailed, site-specific signage that directs users to key destinations within the Canyons.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
30	31	19	6	1

2. Develop additional wayfinding collateral such as maps or online information to prepare visitors traveling to the Canyons.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
35	35	11	4	1

3. Provide education on appropriate speed and safety of cyclists and increase enforcement of speed of cyclists.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
34	22	16	4	11

4. Work with UTA and UDOT to incorporate and enhance bicycle usage on bus and shuttle systems.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
41	29	14	1	2

5. Collaborate with UDOT and Forest Service to include needed amenities such as bike fix station and potable water at key trail heads or activity centers.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
29	34	15	2	6

GOAL 8: ENHANCE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AT TRAILHEADS, PARKING LOTS, AND OTHER PUBLIC FACILITIES.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
60	37	11	5	2

STRATEGIES OVERALL SYSTEM

1. Enhance or where appropriate create new off-street trail connections. The USFS would like to see trails connecting to other trails.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
46	32	7	1	1

2. Implement pedestrian road crossing signs, pavement marking, and traffic controls at key recreation destinations.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
34	27	15	8	3

3. Implement ADA and senior/ child-friendly facilities at key locations throughout the Canyons.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
24	29	23	4	7

4. Support the replacement and reconstruction of the Silver Lake boardwalk.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
17	27	32	4	6

GOAL 9: ENSURE THE MANAGEMENT OF WATERSHEDS IN THE WASATCH MOUNTAINS TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
91	1	4	2	4

STRATEGIES OVERALL SYSTEM

1. Support the continued implementation of the recommendations of the most current Salt Lake County Integrated Watershed Plan and the Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
53	11	13	3	3

2. Continue cooperation with the Salt Lake County Health Department, Utah Department of Environmental Quality, the U.S. Forest Service, and Salt Lake City to implement anti-degradation standards, stream setback and environment zones, stormwater Best Management Practices, monitoring programs, enforcement activities, and other canyon watershed policies to maintain water quality in the Canyons.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
57	14	9	2	3

3. Concentrate major developed recreation facilities as much as possible to avoid sprawl and preserve open space.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
61	11	11	1	1

4. Pursue canyon land use policies which will allow continued use of the Canyons for transportation, recreational, residential, and commercial development as long as these activities do not result in deterioration of water quality. Any new or expanding uses in the watershed canyons must be reviewed and carefully scrutinized to determine if the proposed use is consistent with water quality goals.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
46	21	8	2	1

5. Require recreation facilities to be constructed and operated to minimize both point and non-point sources of pollution. Stream setbacks, protection of vegetation, appropriate siting, and stormwater Best Management Practices are among the factors that should be considered in recreation area construction and management.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
28	16	6	3	2

GOAL 10: ENSURE THAT FUTURE USE OF AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE WASATCH CANYONS IS MANAGED TO PROTECT WILDLIFE, FISHERIES AND HABITAT AND TO REDUCE HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICTS.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
76	16	10	2	2

STRATEGIES OVERALL SYSTEM

1. Support the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) in the implementation of the Utah Wildlife Action Plan.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
43	16	20	3	1

2. Work with other agencies to further designate sensitive areas, wildlife corridors, and conflict areas.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
44	22	8	4	4

3. Identify wildlife protection measures (such as fencing, changes in trails, and wildlife crossings) for key sensitive areas.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
43	23	10	5	2

4. Review and revise, as necessary, County codes and regulations to support wildlife.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
45	19	10	4	4

5. Continue to support a science-based data resource to inform decision-making.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
58	16	8	2	2

6. Work with applicable federal, state, and local agencies to identify sensitive aquatic populations within the plan area and, if needed, explore feasibility related to in-stream flows to protect sensitive aquatic life.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
46	21	10	4	3

GOAL 11: ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND STEWARDSHIP OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND RECREATIONAL VALUES AND PRACTICES.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
79	20	8	2	0

STRATEGIES OVERALL SYSTEM

1. In cooperation with canyon stakeholders, volunteers, develop a county-wide public education campaign and associated social media and materials to support public education and stewardship of the Wasatch Canyons.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
51	20	11	0	0

2. Support development of educational materials for school programs and support programs aimed at making the Wasatch Canyons accessible to all.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
47	16	17	2	4

3. Review and consider the Cottonwood Canyons Scenic Byways Plan signage plan when planning for educational signage.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
21	23	35	2	1

GOAL 12: MAINTAIN AND INCREASE THE CONSERVATION OF NATURAL LANDS THAT PROVIDE REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE TOWARDS ECOSYSTEMS, WATERSHED, AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
67	17	12	2	2

STRATEGIES OVERALL SYSTEM

1. Identify priority areas of natural lands that should be conserved and maintained. Identify the criteria to prioritize areas that are important to be conserved and supported, such as environmental values, ecosystem health, aesthetics, recreation experience, contiguous to trails and open space area linkages.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
56	16	5	1	3

2. Create a mechanism to fund open space preservation and ongoing maintenance.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
63	10	3	4	2

3. Utilize all possible funding resources available, such as the County's Open Space Trust Fund, Salt Lake City, State of Utah, or NGOs, to protect critical parcels. As a last resort, explore other funding mechanisms such as fees.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
57	12	6	3	4

4. Pursue the State of Utah in purchasing lands for conservation.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
57	12	6	2	5

5. Promote the use of private land trusts and other groups to facilitate the conservation and maintenance of key properties through donations, conservation easements, and acquisition with willing sellers.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
53	17	6	3	2

6. Develop resource and stewardship plans for existing open space parcels.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
58	15	4	1	2

GOAL 13: PREPARE THE CANYONS AND FOOTHILLS FOR POTENTIAL NATURAL HAZARDS AND ADDRESS THE IMPACTS CAUSED BY AGING INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE CANYONS TO REDUCE IMPACTS.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
14	4	2	2	0

STRATEGIES

OVERALL SYSTEM

STRATEGY CHOICES

1. Work with corresponding agencies to further prepare the Canyons for the event of a wildland fire, earthquakes, landslides and other natural disasters.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
49	21	8	3	0

2. Work with the USFS to understand and prepare for the impact of insect and disease issues that may severely impact the forest ecosystem in the near future.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
55	20	5	1	0

3. Apply adequate resources to fire protection, noxious weed control, and habitat protection.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
44	17	15	4	2

4. Ensure communities and resort areas have adequate emergency preparedness plans and supplies.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
33	21	20	5	3

5. Work to develop programs to incentivize the upgrading of existing homes and businesses including septic upgrades and improved water and sewer connections.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
36	25	15	3	2

6. Explore a tree and mitigation bank for removed trees to help fund restoration work.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
52	18	8	1	1

7. Work with science professionals to enrich and educate Salt Lake County planners, commissioners, and elected official of lessons earned through research application.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
36	25	15	3	2

GOAL 14: ENSURE THAT FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES AND ENTITIES WITH JURISDICTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES IN THE WASATCH CANYONS PLANNING AREA COORDINATE THEIR EFFORTS AND PLANNING PROCESSES TO PROVIDE FOR EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND THE RESOURCES OF THE WASATCH CANYONS.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
68	18	10	2	0

STRATEGIES

OVERALL SYSTEM

STRATEGY CHOICES

1. Implement the inter-agency coordination measures identified in the CRMP for fire management, forest management, riparian areas and wetlands, recreation management, and the other resources addressed in the CRMP.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
47	19	9	1	1

2. Work to establish collaborative goals, action plans and timeliness among jurisdictions, including the County, USFS, towns, cities and community councils.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
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3. Work with the partner agencies and the Wasatch Front Regional Council on updates of their development and management plans and any corresponding amendments.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
46	22	19	1	0

4. Work with the USFS, Army Corps of Engineers, UDOT, and UTA on any implementation level projects, so they meet the Wasatch Canyons General Plan's vision.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
36	25	16	1	0

5. Include the USFS, towns, metro townships, cities, community councils, UDOT, CWC, and UTA on County level plans, studies, and projects to ensure all activities are coordinated.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
49	19	6	2	1

6. Invite participation of the Scenic Byway Councils through the State of Utah Office of Tourism in future planning efforts.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
24	18	23	6	7

7. Coordinate with WFRC and UDOT to get transportation projects and appropriate funding in RTP and Unified Transportation plans..

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
34	22	19	1	1

GOAL 15: AS NEEDED, REVIEW AND UPDATE COUNTY ORDINANCES TO FURTHER IMPLEMENT THE VISION, GOALS, AND STRATEGIES OF THE GENERAL PLAN.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
45	31	16	7	2

STRATEGIES

OVERALL SYSTEM

STRATEGY CHOICES

1. Consider the need to periodically update County ordinances like the Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone (FCOZ) and the Mountain Resort Zone (MRZ) to meet the General Plan Vision and County leadership goals.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
37	20	12	5	2

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2. Consider the need to periodically update County ordinances related to development siting, , access, floodplains, water protection and the structural design of buildings to ensure that health and safety requirements are met while allowing appropriate development to meet State Code.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
38	19	13	3	2

3. At the General Plan draft level and adoption, review the FCOZ and MRZ to compare goal and strategy alignments or conflicts.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
35	19	15	5	0

4. Review progress and update the Wasatch Canyons General Plan every five years to better understand progress and work towards goals.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
41	20	9	4	1

5. Plan for a complete General Plan update in the 15-20 year time frame (2033-2038)..

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
36	22	11	3	4

GOAL 16: RAISE APPRECIATION AND STEWARDSHIP OF CANYON BEAUTY THROUGH BRANDING, AESTHETICS, AND DEVELOPMENT GUIDANCE.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
47	25	21	4	6

STRATEGIES

OVERALL SYSTEM

STRATEGY CHOICES

1. Consider creating design guidelines/standards for the commercial development, gateways, and public areas that include consistent design quality, materials, and placement.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
25	18	23	4	8

2. Work with stakeholders, communities, and businesses to implement comparable aesthetic plans.

5	4	3	2	1
Strongly Support		Neutral		Strongly Oppose
24	17	24	6	7

3. Consider the implementation of unique canyon branding, similar to national parks, which promotes a sense of place, stewardship, and heritage (i.e., signage, architecture, wayfinding, entry features, benches, etc.).

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
24	19	15	9	9

GOAL 17: SUPPORT ENGAGEMENT OF CITIZENS' GROUPS AND VOLUNTEERS IN PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN THE WASATCH CANYONS.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
54	39	9	2	4

STRATEGIES

OVERALL SYSTEM

STRATEGY CHOICES

1. Identify the citizens groups, community councils, property owners associations, and other similar associations active in each canyon, and meet with regularly them to identify opportunities for the County to support their activities, enhance communications, and define common objectives that align with the Wasatch Canyons General Plan.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
41	25	8	1	0

2. Commit staff time and/or funding to these groups in the form of grants for activities that support the implementation of the General Plan.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
34	18	17	4	4

3. Sponsor a forum of volunteers and community groups to coordinate communications and interactions with the County and other agency stakeholders.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
33	20	21	3	0

4. Track service projects, hours, and efforts to show progress and gauge involvement.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
33	18	21	0	4

5. Using a County website, list citizens groups and government agencies to provide resources for the County to better coordinate with and utilize existing groups..

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
32	26	15	3	0

GOAL 18: SUPPORT THE CONTINUATION AND VIABILITY OF CANYON RESORTS AND BUSINESSES. WORK TO CONSERVE THE NATURAL FEATURES AND RECREATIONAL ATTRIBUTES THAT MAKE THE CANYONS A VITAL ECONOMIC DRIVER IN UTAH.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
35	25	18	16	6

STRATEGIES

OVERALL SYSTEM

STRATEGY CHOICES

1. Review County FCOZ, MRZ, and other relevant Salt Lake County development codes to ensure they meet the goals of the Wasatch Canyons General Plan.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
38	19	14	1	4

2. Focus on the environmental and scenic preservation of the Wasatch Canyons as an economic development strategy.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
49	15	8	1	4

3. Encourage businesses to have the proper business permits permitting (guiding, shuttle, etc). County should work with businesses and public to assist in reporting violation of laws, policies, respecting private property, etc.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
42	18	12	2	2

4. Include tourism and economic groups in planning, coordinating and implementing the Wasatch Canyons General Plan.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
23	23	15	7	9

5. Coordinate transportation planning and implementation with Canyon Resorts and businesses. If tolling is used as a transportation, request that a portion of the tolling money is used for assistance with transit, parking, activity center trailhead, etc.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
42	18	10	3	2

6. Regulate through business licenses the use of short-term rentals. Work with short-term rentals and hotels to understand necessary canyon policies for parking, watershed protection, and permits.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
37	17	14	4	5

7. Support appropriate ski area/Forest Service land exchanges.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
33	19	13	1	10

GOAL 19: SUPPORT THE EXTENSION OF BROADBAND AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS HARDWARE TO ENHANCE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES IN THE WASATCH CANYONS.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
38	19	13	12	11

STRATEGIES

OVERALL SYSTEM

STRATEGY CHOICES

1. Evaluate and modify, if necessary, communications infrastructure and CIP plans so that they are consistent with the General Plan.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
19	19	26	6	6

2. Incentivize development of communications infrastructure in appropriate areas and achieve other goals such as public safety improvements and environmental protection.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
20	21	19	9	7

3. Investigate other methods of providing broadband services (preferred providers, county partnerships, etc.)

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
20	12	22	12	9

4. Ensure that new communications infrastructure is designed and installed per General Plan goals regarding aesthetics, environmental and water quality, and character of the Canyons.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
37	17	17	2	3

5. Implement improvements in broadband and telecommunications in Mill Creek Canyon.

5 Strongly Support	4	3 Neutral	2	1 Strongly Oppose
18	10	23	8	17

COMMENT SUMMARY - ACTIVITY NODES

The following is a compilation of the Activity Nodes input from public events and online surveys. Participants were asked to identify places of high-level use in each canyon that could benefit from trailhead improvements such as bus services, benches, restrooms, etc.

Each ★ on the map represents an in-person vote. The white circles over each node show the total number of votes for each node from in person activities and online surveys.

ACTIVITY NODES WITH THE MOST VOTES INCLUDE:

PARLEY'S AND MILL CREEK

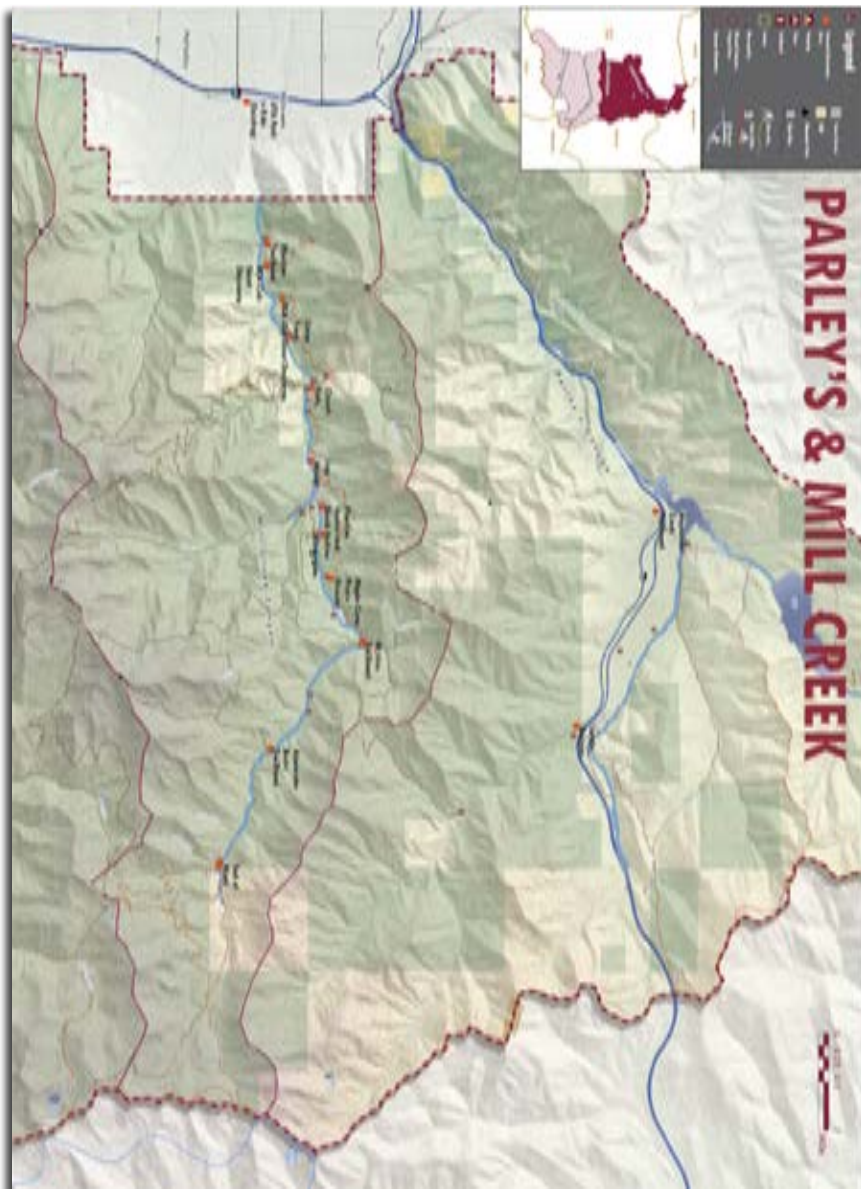
- Pipeline access and Burch Hollow
- End of Road

BIG COTTONWOOD

- Donut Falls Trailhead
- S-Curve Hiking Trailheads

LITTLE COTTONWOOD

- White Pine Trailhead
- Snowbird



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WASATCH CANYONS GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

PARLEY'S • MILL CREEK • BIG COTTONWOOD • LITTLE COTTONWOOD

VISION SURVEY SUMMARY

The Visioning Survey asked questions about the five vision statements of recreation, environment, economy, transportation, and land-use as well as if participants would support ideas generated through public input so far in the process. Questions about age, gender, and place of residence were also asked at the end of the survey.

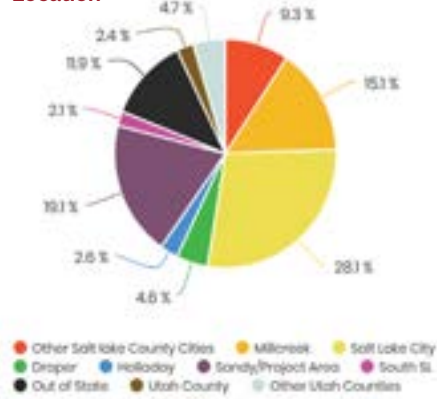
WHO PARTICIPATED?

The participants of the survey included a diverse range of ages. The pie-chart below is a breakdown of these age demographics. Additionally, 70% of participants were male while only 30% were female. The pie-chart to the below also shows where survey participants were from. Per the pie chart, most people were from the Salt Lake Valley with being from the cities of Salt Lake, Millcreek, Draper, Holladay, and South Salt Lake. Another large portion came from within the project area, other locations within Utah, and out of state participants (11%).

Age



Location



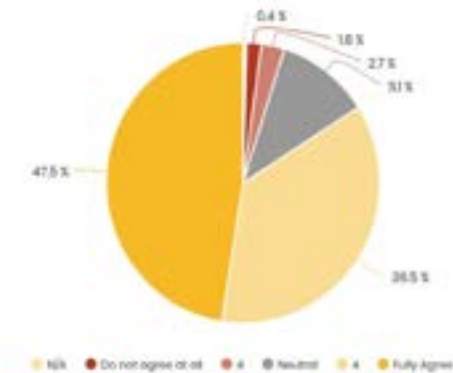
SUMMARY REPORT

The following pages include a brief summary of the survey results. For a full report of the public comments on the vision statements, see the attached report following this summary.

1. LAND USE

Original Vision Statement: Strive for excellent partnerships among jurisdictions and stakeholders through collaboration and coordination to provide for access management, water resource protection, recreation opportunities, wildlife and environment, private property uses, and quality open spaces.

Do you agree with this vision statement?



Option	Count	%
N/A	7	0.4%
1 (Do not agree at all)	29	1.8%
2	45	2.7%
3 (Neutral)	183	11.1%
4	603	36.5%
5 (Fully agree)	785	47.5%

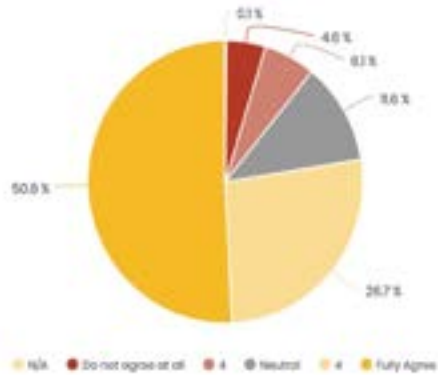
Comment Summary: A major reoccurring theme in the written comments was concern about threat of new development expansion in the canyons. Additionally comments centered on the desire for strong enforcement of land use regulations.

Updated Vision Statement: Strive for mutually beneficial partnerships among jurisdictions, government agencies, and stakeholders to protect and enhance the natural and built environment of the canyons.

2. RECREATION

Original Vision Statement: Offer a wide range of diverse, high-quality, and year-round recreational experiences that are accessible to all kinds of participants.

Do you agree with this vision statement?

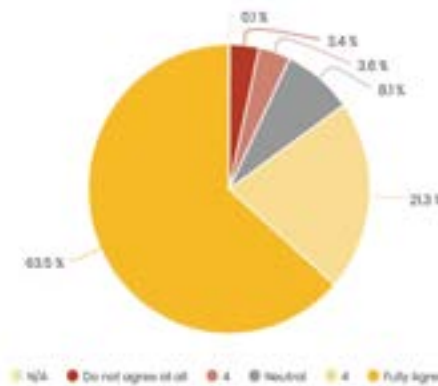


Comment Summary: Respondents thought that since the Wasatch Canyons already offers a diversity of recreation opportunities that the statement should read, "Continue to offer..." Comments also mentioned the need for increased education on recreation etiquette and its impact on the natural environment, as well as various opinions on dogs allowed within the Canyons.

Updated Vision Statement: Continue to support high quality sustainable recreation opportunities for a diverse public and support facility maintenance.

3. TRANSPORTATION

Original Vision Statement: Implement transportation projects and opportunities for bicycles, transit and vehicles to reduce congestion, improve air quality, facilitate access, increase occupancy per vehicle and enhance public safety.



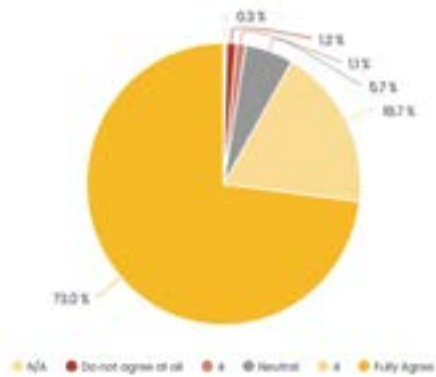
Comment Summary: Comments centered the desire to see more parking for shuttle terminals and more transit stops and frequency throughout the Canyons. Keeping bikers safe through bike lanes was also a concern to participants. Finally, incentivizing car-pools was also another idea that many thought would improve the traffic up the canyons especially on peak days.

Updated Vision Statement: Support and prioritize projects for transit, bicycles, pedestrians, and vehicles to reduce congestion, improve air quality, enhance safety, and facilitate connectivity to the regional transportation system.

4. ENVIRONMENT

Original Vision Statement: Serve as stewards to manage the canyons and foothills for healthy forests, connected ecosystem habitats and waterways for current and future generations. Promote programs that improve watersheds, air quality, vegetation and wildlife ecosystems, and scenic quality.

Do you agree with this vision statement?



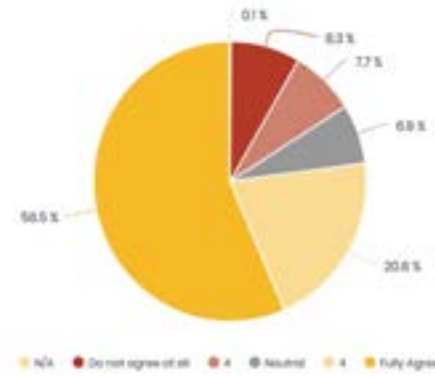
Comment Summary: 92% agreed that the Environment vision statement matches their vision for the future, making it the most highly rated off all the vision statements. People did however want to make sure that the Canyons were managed in a way that they are preserved for future generations to use. Participants were also are concerned about future development within the canyons, and several comments mentioned the importance of a protected watershed.

Updated Vision Statement: Serve as stewards to manage forests, water resources, and wildlife to maintain a healthy ecosystem for current and future generations.

5. ECONOMY

Original Vision Statement: Responsibly promote the Wasatch Canyons as a unique world class recreation destination, to provide an immense economic impact to the region. Within the Canyons enable businesses to continue providing services and goods without compromising the environment.

Do you agree with this vision statement?



Comment Summary: Participants were skeptical that this vision statement would only welcome new development into the canyons and increase environmental degradation. Per the survey comments, people were very against any future "promotion" of the canyons as they feel like its current capacity is already being stretched and further use would degrade its quality. Comments also frequently mentioned the desire for strong implementation of the vision.

Updated Vision Statement: Continue to sustain the canyons as a world-class recreation destination that provides significant economic benefit to the region. Continue to foster businesses to provide services and goods.

6. PLANNING IDEAS:

Participants also provided feedback on potential planning ideas and whether they could contribute to achieving their vision for the future. Ideas that received the most support (above 50% fully agree) are shown below. For a full report of planning idea comments, see the attachment to this report.

Land-Use Ideas:

- Develop funding mechanisms to increase the purchase of undeveloped land parcels as open space-86%
- Expand designated wilderness areas-85%
- Promote consolidation of land ownership to create continuous open spaces and support compact development-65%

Environment Ideas:

- Identify and protect key wildlife corridors and habitats-85%
- Continue restoration and reclamation programs in the canyons-84%
- Broaden protection of water quality and quantity-78%
- Promote canyon dark skies through lighting ordinances and retrofits-75%
- Increased public educational program to decrease littering-74%
- Construct bio-swales at parking lots to clean storm water runoff-68%

Economy Ideas:

- Offer or permit canyon shuttle services (with proper permits)-68%
- Limit ski area development to current footprints-63%
- Explore a county-wide recreation sales tax to support maintenance and improvement needs in the canyons-60%
- Promote increased development in cities near canyons to offer base type services and villages.-54%

Recreation Ideas:

- Carry out public education campaigns for trail courtesy and usage-87%
- Provide additional financial support for trail maintenance programs-82%
- Install, improve, and maintain public restrooms at well-used trailheads and other recreation destinations.-80%
- New or improved recycling/trash collection at trailheads and parking-75%
- Expand the foothill trail system-69%
- Develop at mtn. bike/hike trail connecting

Parley's to Summit County-63%

- Develop an operation and maintenance program to ensure facilities are in proper condition
- Implement design standards that promote a sense of place and stewardship (i.e. signage, architecture, entry features, benches, etc.)-58%
- Build additional designated system trails-56%

Transportation Ideas:

- Development of parking outside of the Canyons that connects to public transit-83%
- Increase frequency of winter bus service in Cottonwood Canyons-72%
- Explore programs to incentivize carpooling-71%
- Development of bike lanes in Millcreek, BCC, and LCC-67%
- Evaluate adding an additional lane to operate an improved bus system in the Cottonwoods-65%
- Development of bike pathway connecting SLCO and Summit County-62%
- Build facilities that allow for safe passage of wildlife across roads-61%
- Promote ride-sharing (uber or lyft) by providing loading and unloading areas at key destinations.-60%
- Implement a digital (non-stopping) canyon toll system to pay for maintenance and improvements of bathrooms, parking lots, requirement transit improvements, trails etc-52%
- Offer permitted shuttle service in Millcreek Canyon-52%
- Creation of summer bus service in Cottonwood Canyons.-51%

LAND USE IDEAS

Rate each idea (5 it accomplishes my vision, 1 it doesn't at all)

	N/A	1	2	3	4	5
Develop funding mechanisms to increase the purchase of undeveloped land parcels as open space	13	134	53	131	230	889
Expand designated wilderness areas	7	136	60	168	218	910
Promote consolidation of land ownership to create continuous open spaces and support compact development	30	143	99	267	357	587
Creation of roadside viewing areas	30	378	251	402	231	195
Explore a mechanism to exchange undevelopable lands in the canyons for developable parcels in and outside of the canyons	71	308	149	338	307	316

ENVIRONMENT IDEAS

Construct bio-swales at parking lots to clean storm water runoff	4	2	3	7	7	18
Increased public educational program to decrease littering	9	74	72	193	251	732
Promote canyon dark skies through lighting ordinances and retrofits	22	93	62	178	258	737
Identify and protect key wildlife corridors and habitats	4	37	48	118	256	889
Broaden protection of water quality and quantity	4	78	44	176	240	803
Continue restoration and reclamation programs in the canyons	10	33	29	133	270	787

ECONOMY IDEAS

Explore a County-wide recreation sales tax to support maintenance and improvement needs in the Canyons	7	196	81	247	316	486
Limit ski area development to current footprints	11	256	108	138	163	680
Expand ski resort bases or villages (hotels and commercial services) to accommodate growing tourism	30	542	183	240	179	171
Offer or permit canyon shuttle services (with proper permits)	13	89	64	268	379	519
Promote increased development in cities near canyons to offer base type services and villages	33	201	112	289	307	401

RECREATION IDEAS

Rate each idea (5 it accomplishes my vision, 1 it doesn't at all)

	N/A	1	2	3	4	5
Install, improve, and maintain public restrooms at well-used trailheads and other recreation destinations	1	47	51	184	415	728
Develop an Operations and Maintenance program to ensure facilities are in proper condition	7	32	58	193	454	679
Implement design standards that promote a sense of place and stewardship (i.e. signage, architecture, entry features, benches, etc.)	9	152	136	306	363	462
Carry out public education campaigns for trail courtesy and usage	2	0	60	75	223	717
Provide additional financial support for trail maintenance programs	4	35	47	169	406	761
Expand the foothill trail system	15	78	100	262	339	629
Build additional designated system trails	17	163	121	337	310	477
Increase climbing areas	82	242	199	421	216	236
Increase the number of hunting and fishing access points	78	239	220	427	241	216
Increase the number of designated campgrounds and picnic facilities	36	330	284	390	227	154
New or improved recycling/trash collection at trailheads and parking areas	6	56	67	224	363	679
Develop a mtn. bike/ hike trail connecting Parley's to Summit County	48	150	97	267	313	545
Provide easy to use smart phone app for trails, bathrooms, trailheads, parking, etc.	40	259	156	307	249	409

TRANSPORTATION IDEAS

Rate each idea (5 it accomplishes my vision, 1 it doesn't at all)

	N/A	1	2	3	4	5
Build facilities that allow for safe passage of wildlife across roads	18	159	113	231	320	459
Implement a digital (non-stopping) canyon toll system to pay for maintenance and improvements of bathrooms, parking lots, required transit improvements, trails etc.	19	284	130	230	307	385
Implement user fees (trailhead parking)	23	416	164	235	241	280
Formalize parking spaces though paving or striping in appropriate areas	23	246	179	337	278	285
Restrict roadside parking	34	326	215	298	208	264
Expand roadside parking	51	344	177	335	237	192
Development of bike lanes in Millcreek, Big Cottonwood, and Little Cottonwood Canyons	19	151	95	199	302	613
Development of a bike pathway connecting Salt Lake County and Summit County	46	144	107	258	261	553
Development of parking outside of the Canyons that connects to public transit	9	42	34	150	282	841
Evaluate adding an additional lane to operate an improved bus system in the Cottonwoods	15	173	89	216	295	576
Implement a real-time parking solution with signs, smart phone applications, etc. to direct visitors to available parking	28	179	145	299	306	294
Offer permitted shuttle service in Millcreek Canyon	82	172	119	323	300	357
Increase frequency of winter bus service in Cottonwood Canyons	28	56	64	247	314	643
Creation of summer of bus service in Cottonwood Canyons	35	107	120	296	280	254
Explore programs to incentivize carpooling	20	110	96	185	314	637
Promote ridesharing (such as Uber or Lyft) by providing loading and unloading areas at key destinations	22	144	126	265	301	500
Implement pedestrian road crossing signs, pavement marking and lights at key recreation destinations	31	228	152	371	272	301

LAND OWNERSHIP DATA

Parleys	Total Acres	36,309.70
	BLM Acres	133.816
	USFS Acres	14,881
	Wilderness Acres	0
	Private Acres	21,294.40
	State Acres	0.41401

Mill Creek Canyon	Total Acres	17,029.99
	BLM Acres	0
	USFS Acres	16,298.54
	Wilderness Acres	6,527.17
	Private Acres	731.4531
	State Acres	0

Big Cottonwood Canyon	Total Acres	35,218.55
	BLM Acres	0
	USFS Acres	28,689.73
	Wilderness Acres	14,586.08
	Private Acres	6,515.28
	State Acres	13.53596

Little Cottonwood Canyon	Total Acres	26,040.79
	BLM Acres	25.83968
	USFS Acres	23,962.20
	Wilderness Acres	15,217.44
	Private Acres	2,052.75
	State Acres	0

All Canyons	Total Acres	114,599
	BLM Acres	159.6553
	USFS Acres	83,831.49
	Wilderness Acres	36,330.69
	Private Acres	30,593.89
	State Acres	13.94997

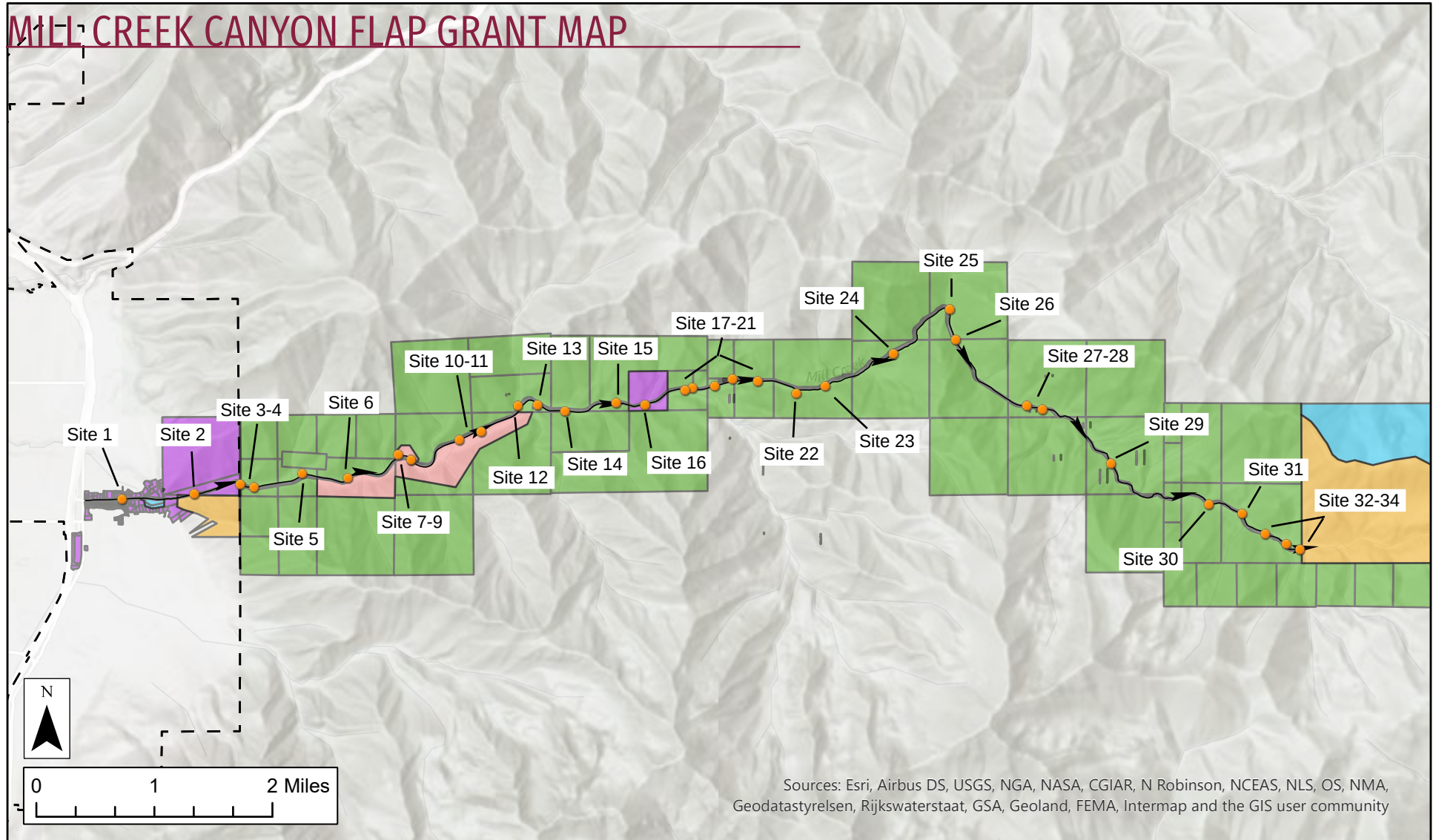
*Wilderness acreage falls within the USFS land

BRIGHTON RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION DATA

BRIGHTON RESIDENTIAL NEW CONSTRUCTION & DEMO PERMITS 2009-2019

Calendar year of permit date	Single Family Units	Total units in structures with 2-11 units	Total units in structures with 12+ units	Demolished Units
2019	7	0	0	1
2018	4	0	0	2
2017	7	0	0	2
2016	6	0	0	3
2015	4	0	0	2
2014	3	0	0	1
2013	4	0	0	1
2012	1	0	0	0
2011	2	0	0	1
2010	5	0	0	0
2009	1	0	0	0

MILL CREEK CANYON FLAP GRANT MAP



Mill Creek Canyon Proposed Site Improvements (FLAP Grant Application)

OWNERSHIP

- BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
- SALT LAKE CITY
- SALT LAKE COUNTY
- U.S. FOREST SERVICE

OTHER AND PRIVATE OWNERSHIP

MILLCREEK CANYON SITE IMPROVEMENT LOCATIONS

MILEPOSTS MILLCREEK

MUNICIPALITIES



Data Source: Salt Lake County Regional Planning and Transportation

MILL CREEK CANYON FLAP GRANT

The Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) – Provides discretionary funds for projects that provide access to, or are adjacent to, or are located within Federal Lands that are owned or maintained by a State, County, Local Government, or tribe. Priority is given to projects addressing high-use Federal recreation sites or Federal economic generators. Salt Lake County collaborated with the USDA Forest Service Salt Lake Ranger District and with Millcreek City to submit an application for the FLAP grant in January of 2020. A determination on applications will be made in the summer of 2020 by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and if successful, Salt Lake County would receive funds in the Fall of 2022 for improvements to the Mill Creek Canyon roadway.

Name	Site	Notes
	Project Wide Improvement	Erosion control devices to improve and protect water quality
	Project Wide Improvement	Provide an uphill bike lane (5')
	Project Wide Improvement	Provide a consistent roadway width (24') where possible
	Project Wide Improvement	Formalize parking and pedestrian crossings to improve safety
	Project Wide Improvement	Add infrastructure to facilitate future communication networks
	Project Wide Improvement	Match restroom capacity to visitation (FLAP cannot cover this so an over-match will be used)
	Project Wide Improvement	Improve informational and educational signage to promote safety and enhance user experience
	Project Wide Improvement	Redesign roadway to facilitate potential future consideration of alternate transportation modes
Site 1	Parkview Drive Intersection	Redesign of intersection to for sight distance, improved storm drainage, and streetscape enhancements including bike lane, sidewalks, curbs, and improved pavement.
Site 2	Toll Booth	Install new crash terminals; Address fee booth accessibility; Asphalt failure, alligator cracking; Add single vault toilet for employees; Formalize pullout for employees
Site 3	Historic Portal Entrance	Restore original sign; Identify a path around the historical gate for pedestrians and/or bicycles; Evaluate bridge at this location; Provides fishing access, nose in: 2,280 square feet
Site 4	Wasatch Cache National Forest Sign	Parallel parking used for last cell phone reception area and fishing access; Repair Historic Portal Entrance
Site 5	Rattlesnake Trailhead	Separate from FLAP, we will be installing 2 seat toilet and new parking area; Eliminate parking on south side of the roadway
Site 6	Scout Camp Entrance Gate A-B	Install deceleration/storage lane (A traffic study would determine need)
Site 7	Scout Camp Entrance Gate C	Install deceleration/storage lane; evaluate and redesign parking and crosswalk for improved safety
Site 8	Scout Camp Entrance Gate D	Install deceleration/storage lane; evaluate and redesign parking and crosswalk for improved safety; Evaluate Bridge
Site 9	Scout Camp Entrance Gate E	Install deceleration/storage lane; Evaluate Bridge
Site 10	Scout Camp Entrance Gate F & G; Main Entrance	Install deceleration/storage lane; stabilize roadway to reduce erosion into the stream
Site 11	Scout Camp Entrance Gate I South; Church Fork	Improve parking area; stabilize roadway to reduce erosion into the stream
Site 12	Church Fork, Millcreek Inn Intersection	Match restroom capacity with visitation; realign intersection of Mill Creek Canyon Road with Millcreek Inn access road and Church Fork access road
Site 13	Desolation Trailhead	Improve and delineate parking for multiple users (trailhead, picnic, USFS facility, and Millcreek Inn); match restroom capacity with visitation; redesign parking pullouts
Site 14	Main Box Elder	Redesign roadway; formalize parking on gravel pullout to improve safety and access
Site 15	Upper Box Elder	Match restroom capacity to visitation (FLAP cannot cover this so an over-match will be used); redesign and formalize parking
Site 16	Log Haven	Evaluate crosswalk and pedestrian signal; Further evaluation to identify needed improvements to roadway and parking accommodations
Site 17	Porter Fork	Improve sight distance lines for residential access road; formalize parking on the north side of the roadway; eliminate or improve safety of parking on the south side of roadway
Site 18	Burch Hollow Trail	Redesign and improve parking; consider installation of a vault toilet restroom at this location; redesign site for proper water drainage of impervious surfaces
Site 19	Terraces 1	Redesign multiple parking areas and roadway interface to improve safety
Site 20	Terraces 2	Redesign multiple parking areas and roadway interface to improve safety
Site 21	Maple Grove / Winter Gate	Redesign parking area to improve safety of vehicle movement (preserve ability to vehicle turn around); Match restroom capacity to visitation
Site 22	White Bridge Picnic Area	Repair / preserve historic bridge structure
Site 23	Maple Cove	Improve access to Maple Cove picnic area
Site 24	Evergreen Picnic Area	Relocate restroom adjacent to the roadway to protect watershed
Site 25	Mount Aire Trail	Redesign to improve parking, trail access, and safety including a possible foot bridge and crosswalk; match restroom facilities to visitation, new trail connecting Mt Aire trail with Big Water
Site 26	Trail Blasting	Realign pedestrian trail within the roadway corridor; evaluate and formalize parking
Site 27	Fir Crest Picnic Area	Relocate restroom adjacent to the roadway to protect watershed
Site 28	Clover Springs Picnic Area	Redesign parking and consider concentration into one parking area
Site 29	Alexander Basin Trailhead	Improve parking area; repair roadway and reduce erosion into the stream
Site 30	Roadside Parking	Develop parking on the cut-slope side of the road; redesign parking to concentrate vehicles in designated areas
Site 31	Culvert	Redesign parking to concentrate vehicles in designated areas
Site 32	Roadside Parking	Consider removing roadside the parking
Site 33	Lower Big Water	Fill slope is settling significantly, needs to be addressed; match restroom capacity to visitation.
Site 34	Upper Big Water	Redesign parking, repave surface parking, match restroom capacity to visitation, evaluate for additional yurts (year round yurts)

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