
SKI AREA REPORT

Prepared for:
Save Our Canyons, Salt Lake City, and the Salt Lake Ranger District of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest

Prepared by:
Chase C. Lamborn, M.S.
Steven W. Burr, Ph.D.
Justin Lofthouse

Institute for Outdoor Recreation and Tourism
Utah State University
Logan, UT

IORT-PR-2015-6

October 2015
Mission Statement of the Institute for Outdoor Recreation and Tourism:

The Institute for Outdoor Recreation and Tourism (IORT) conducts a program of research, extension, and teaching for the benefit of the people of Utah, our country, and the world, directed at improving our understanding of the relationships between outdoor recreation and tourism, natural resources management, community economic vitality, and quality of life.

Through statewide collaboration and cooperation, IORT will be a source for the creation, communication, and transfer of knowledge on resource-based recreation and tourism issues affecting social, economic, and environmental systems, in order to assist Utah’s citizens in making decisions that enhance both community and resource sustainability.

Steven W. Burr, Ph.D.
Director, Institute for Outdoor Recreation and Tourism
Phone: (435) 797-7094
E-mail: steve.burr@usu.edu

Chase C. Lamborn M.S.
Research Associate, Institute for Outdoor Recreation and Tourism
Phone: (801)856-7476
E-mail: chase.lamborn@usu.edu

Department of Environment and Society
Quinney College of Natural Resources
Utah State University
5220 Old Main Hill
Logan, Utah 84322-5220
# Table of Contents

Table of Contents .................................................................................................................................................................................. i
List of Tables .......................................................................................................................................................................................... ii
List of Figures .......................................................................................................................................................................................... iii
Introduction ............................................................................................................................................................................................. 1
Methods ................................................................................................................................................................................................. 1
Results ................................................................................................................................................................................................. 2
  Number of surveys completed by site ................................................................................................................................. 2
  Distance visitors traveled to reach the Central Wasatch Mountains .............................................................................. 2
  Trip duration ............................................................................................................................................................................... 3
  Number of sites visited per trip ............................................................................................................................................ 4
  Number of visits per year ....................................................................................................................................................... 5
  Proportion of visits to developed/undeveloped areas ........................................................................................................ 6
Visitor satisfaction ............................................................................................................................................................................. 6
Recreational activities participated in by visitors ..................................................................................................................... 8
Watershed Knowledge ................................................................................................................................................................... 9
Wilderness knowledge and visitation ................................................................................................................................. 10
Number of out-group encounters and effect on visitor experience .................................................................................... 11
Places visitors no longer visit .................................................................................................................................................. 13
Mode of transportation for site access ....................................................................................................................................... 14
Motivations for use of public land ........................................................................................................................................... 15
Words respondents use to describe the Central Wasatch Mountains .................................................................................. 16
Group structure .............................................................................................................................................................................. 16
Disabilities .................................................................................................................................................................................... 18
Veteran status .................................................................................................................................................................................. 19
Demographics .................................................................................................................................................................................. 20
Review of Comments ................................................................................................................................................................... 24

Appendices .................................................................................................................................................................................................
Appendix A: Comments for Forest Service ................................................................................................................................. 27
Appendix B: Comments regarding management, protection, and development of the Central Wasatch Mountains ......... 44
Appendix C: Comments left by respondents explaining why their out-group encounters positively enhanced their recreational experience ........................................................................................................... 50
Appendix D: Comments left by respondents explaining why their out-group encounters negatively affected their recreation experience ........................................................................................................... 64
Appendix E: Places and reason respondents no longer visit .................................................................................................. 67
Appendix F: Word map ....................................................................................................................................................................... 69
Appendix G: Survey instrument .................................................................................................................................................... 70
# List of Tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tables</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Number of surveys completed by site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Respondents’ trip duration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Respondents visiting more than one site per visit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Number of sites visited by respondents who visited more than one site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Number of times respondents visit the Central Wasatch Mountains in a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Respondents’ main reason for visiting the Central Wasatch Mountains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Activities respondents reported participating in in Wilderness Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Respondents’ mode of transportation to reach desired recreation locations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
List of Figures

Figures                                      Page
1 Distance visitors traveled to reach the Central Wasatch Mountains ..................................................3
2 Number of times respondents visit the Central Wasatch Mountains in a year ....................................5
3 Types of areas respondents use most often ..................................................................................6
4 Respondents’ satisfaction .............................................................................................................7
5 Respondents’ familiarity with protected watershed regulations .....................................................10
6 Effect of out-group encounters on respondents’ experiences ..........................................................13
7 Number of people per vehicle ......................................................................................................14
8 Mean scores for respondents’ motivations for visiting the Central Wasatch Mountains .....................16
9 Proportion of respondents recreating alone and in a group ...............................................................17
10 Respondents’ group sizes .............................................................................................................17
11 Number of respondents recreating with individuals under 16 years old .......................................18
12 Proportion of respondents who reported being disabled, or having a disabled group member(s) ...........................................18
13 Proportion of respondents that were veterans ................................................................................19
14 Areas veterans served ..................................................................................................................19
15 Proportion of respondents that reported being Hispanic or Latino(a) ...........................................20
16 Racial identity of respondents ........................................................................................................21
17 Respondents’ ages ..........................................................................................................................21
18 Proportion of male and female respondents ..................................................................................22
19 Respondents’ highest level of formal education ............................................................................22
20 Respondents’ household income ...................................................................................................23
Introduction

The purpose of this research was to collect visitor use data from both dispersed and developed recreation areas on and around the Salt Lake Ranger District of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, by conducting visitor intercept surveys (on-site interviews) at recreation sites, areas, and trailheads. The study area included the Tri-Canyons area (Little Cottonwood, Big Cottonwood, and Mill Creek Canyons), Parley’s Canyon, and Park City—Wasatch Back (private land and resort access). Additionally, for those respondents who agreed to participate, a more-detailed, online e-survey was administered. The data collected and subsequent analysis will be useful for the Forest Service, Salt Lake City, and Mountain Accord, a multi-phase initiative that seeks to make critical decisions regarding the future of the Central Wasatch Mountains, made up of a collaboration of public and private interests, including state and local governments, federal agencies, and businesses and grassroots organizations. This research was funded by Save Our Canyons, a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting the beauty and wildness of the Wasatch mountains, canyons, and foothills, with additional support coming from the Salt Lake Ranger District of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

The results of this research are presented in a series of reports. This report outlines the visitor use data gathered at the four Cottonwood Canyon ski resorts—Brighton, Solitude, Snowbird, and Alta—during the 2014-2015 ski season (December, January, February, and March). In addition to this report, there are four quarterly reports (summer, fall, winter, and spring) that present the findings from the intercept survey (these reports exclude data collected at the ski resorts). There is a report that presents the findings of the follow-up e-survey. Lastly, there is a final report that includes all of the data gathered during the duration of this study, which also includes a summary of the major findings.

Methods

The focus of this research was Central Wasatch Mountain visitors. Eligible study participants had to fall within two specific criteria: first, study participants needed to be recreating in the Central Wasatch Mountains at the time they were asked to participate in the study, and second, study participants needed to be over eighteen years old. As long as Central Wasatch Mountain visitors fell within these two criteria they were eligible to participate in the study. No incentives were used to recruit study participants and participation in this study was completely voluntary.

Once a person agreed to participate in the study, they were handed a clipboard and a survey. The survey was eight pages and consisted of questions and comment sections related to the aforementioned topics of interest. Surveys took approximately ten minutes to complete. Once completed, surveys were handed back to the person administering the survey.

The surveys completed at Brighton, Solitude, Snowbird, and Alta were administered by ski resort personnel and volunteers. Before data collection began at the ski resorts, a meeting was
held that included representatives from all four ski resorts, the Forest Service, and research staff from Utah State University’s Institute for Outdoor Recreation and Tourism. At this meeting, the ski resort representatives were given survey supplies and were trained on the survey’s sampling protocol along with Utah State University’s research protocol. The resort representatives then trained their staff who were charged with administering the surveys to ski resort users.

Each ski resort was surveyed four times per month over four months—each ski resort was scheduled to survey 16 times over the course of this study. The dates and times each resort was scheduled to survey were randomly generated to help produce a representative sample of ski resort users.

Completed surveys were coded and entered into SPSS data analysis software. Comments were analyzed using Nvivo, a software used to analyze qualitative data.

**Results**

This report presents the data collected over the peak of the 2014-2015 ski season—December, January, February, and March. Over the course of the ski resort component of this study, 1,556 surveys were completed by ski resort visitors. Table 1 presents the number and percent of surveys completed at each ski resort.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 1: Number of surveys completed at each ski resort</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Surveys (Percent of Surveys Completed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brighton Ski Resort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solitude Ski Resort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowbird Ski Resort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alta Ski Resort</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This section follows the format of the intercept survey. Each question on the intercept survey is presented in **bold** and is *italicized*, followed by tables, graphs, and interpretations of the data.

**Are you a resident of the United States?**

- **Yes**  **If Yes, what is your Home ZIP Code?** ____________________________

- **No**  **If No, what Country are you from?** ____________________________

The question above was used to identify how far visitors are traveling to reach the Central Wasatch Mountains (CWM). This analysis was done by calculating the distance each ZIP code was from a central location (i.e., Brighton Ski Resort) in the CWM. Forty percent of survey respondents lived within 40 miles of Brighton Ski Resort. The remaining 70% of visitors were fairly evenly distributed living between 50 to over 2,500 miles from Brighton Ski Resort (Figure 1). The median distance traveled by visitors was 690 miles, and the mean distance was
824 miles. The maximum distance traveled by U.S. residents to reach the Central Wasatch Mountains was just under 3,000 miles.

Some respondents reported living outside of the United States. Most non-U.S. residents traveled from Canada (21 respondents), the next most common country respondents traveled from was Australia (19 respondents), followed by France (3), Germany (3), New Zealand (3), and Sweden (3). Respondents also traveled from The United Kingdom (2), China (2), Netherlands (1), Japan (1), Jamaica (1), Israel (1), and Brazil (1).

How long are you going to be recreating on this trip?

☐ Short trip under three hours
☐ About half the day
☐ The majority of the day
☐ Overnight
☐ Multiple days – If so, how many? ________ days

The question above is used to gauge how long respondents are spending in the CWM during their recreational visit. Nearly half (52%) of respondents spent multiple days recreating during their trip, and 30% spent the majority of the day (Table 2).
Of the 52% who spent multiple days, the median number of day spent recreating was five, and the mean was eleven. The range was from two days to over 100.

Table 2: Respondents’ Trip Duration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trip Duration</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Short trip under three hours</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About half the day</td>
<td>218</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The majority of the day</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple days</td>
<td>751</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,455</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On this trip, are you planning on visiting any other sites besides this one? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, how many other sites are you going to visit? __________ sites

Respondents were asked if they planned on visiting more than one site during their trip to the CWM. The majority (65%) only visited one site during their trip to the CWM. Of the 35% that did visit multiple sites during their recreational visit, 33% visited two sites, 28% visited three sites, 20% visited four sites, 11% visited five sites, and 7% visited six or more sites. Table 3 presents the proportion of respondents who visited one site or more than one site. Table 4 presents the number of sites visited by respondents who visited more than one site.

Table 3: Respondents visiting more than one site per visit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visited more than one site</th>
<th>Number of respondents</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>960</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,483</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4: Number of sites visited by respondents who visited more than one site

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total number of sites visited</th>
<th>Number of respondents</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 6</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Missing</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Not included</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>523</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**On average, how many times per year do you visit the National Forest here in the Central Wasatch Mountains? ________ times per year**

Respondents were asked, on average, how many times they visit the CWM in a year. The median number of times respondents visit the CWM was three times, and the mean was 29.75 times. Table 5 presents the mean, median, standard deviation, and range of days respondents visit the CWM in a year.

Figure 2 shows the wide range, but heavily right-skewed distribution of the number of times respondents visit the CWM per year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 5: Number of times respondents visit the Central Wasatch Mountains in a year</th>
<th>Visits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mean</td>
<td>29.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Std. Deviation</td>
<td>55.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minimum</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maximum</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Figure 2: Number of times respondents visit the Central Wasatch Mountains in a year (N = 1,549)](chart)
What types of areas do you use most often when recreating here in the Central Wasatch Mountains?

- Developed areas, such as developed campgrounds, picnic areas, ski resorts, etc.
- Undeveloped areas, such as trails, dirt roads, rivers and lakes, dispersed camping, wilderness, etc.
- I use both developed and undeveloped areas equally.

Just over half (55%) said they use mostly developed areas when recreating in the Central Wasatch Mountains. Forty-one percent said they use both developed and undeveloped areas equally, and only 4% said they mostly use undeveloped areas when recreating in the CWM (Figure 3).

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your visit to the Central Wasatch Mountains today?

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied

The majority of respondents (87%) were “very satisfied” with their visit to the CWM. Eleven percent were “somewhat satisfied”, one percent were “neither satisfied or dissatisfied”, and one percent were “Somewhat dissatisfied/very dissatisfied” (Figure 4). High levels of
satisfaction are not uncommon in surveys focused on recreation. This is most likely explained by the fact that people surveyed are voluntarily participating in the activities that provide them entertainment, joy, exercise, and stress relief. However, it is important to know where levels of satisfaction fall at a given time because it allows the level of satisfaction to be tracked over time and across types of users.

![Figure 4: Respondents' satisfaction (N = 1,492)](image)
For **TODAY**, please check “✓” all of the Recreation Activities you have participated in (or will participate in). Then, **Circle** your **MAIN** activity or purpose for visiting the Central Wasatch Mountains **TODAY**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECREATION ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>RECREATION ACTIVITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-MOTORIZED ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>CAMPING OR OTHER OVERNIGHT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking</td>
<td>Camping in developed sites (family or group sites)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td>Primitive camping (motorized in roaded areas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseback riding</td>
<td>Primitive camping (backpacking in unroaded backcountry areas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road cycling</td>
<td>Resorts, cabins, or other accommodations on Forest Service managed lands (private or FS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain biking</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-motorized water travel (canoe, kayak, raft, sail)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock climbing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice climbing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downhill skiing (Resort)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowboarding (Resort)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-country skiing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backcountry skiing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backcountry snowboarding</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowshoeing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sledding, tobogganing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other non-motorized activities (races, endurance events)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MOTORIZED ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Driving for pleasure on roads (paved, gravel or dirt)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riding on motorized trails (non-snow, OHV/ATV)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobile travel</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other motorized activities (races, games)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>VIEWING &amp; LEARNING—NATURE &amp; CULTURE</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viewing/photographing wildlife, birds, fish, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viewing/photographing natural features, scenery, flowers, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting historic and prehistoric sites/areas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nature study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visiting a nature center, nature trail, or visitor center</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FISHING &amp; HUNTING</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing—all types</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting—all types</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnicking or family day gatherings in developed sites (family or group)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gathering mushrooms, berries, firewood, or other natural products</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relaxing, hanging out</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escaping heat, noise, pollution, etc.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exercising</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking/Exercising Pet(s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER ACTIVITIES NOT LISTED?</strong></td>
<td>(Please write in below and ✓ to left.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The majority of respondents (61%) were downhill skiing at the resorts. The second most common activity (20%) was snowboarding at the resorts. Cross-country skiing (13%) was the third most common activity, followed by backcountry skiing, walking, relaxing/hanging out, hiking, snowmobiling, and photography (Table 6).

Table 6: Respondents’ main reason for visiting the Central Wasatch Mountains

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Downhill Skiing (Resort)</td>
<td>927</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowboarding (Resort)</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-country skiing</td>
<td>193</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backcountry skiing</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relaxing, hanging out</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobiling</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Viewing/photographing wildlife, birds, fish, etc.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N = 1,509

Did you recreate in a protected watershed today?
☐ Yes, I did recreate in a protected watershed, or
☐ No, I did not recreate in a protected watershed.

How familiar are you with the rules and regulations for recreating in this protected watershed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not Familiar</th>
<th>Somewhat Familiar</th>
<th>Very Familiar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All four ski resorts are in protect watersheds, so all respondents were in a protected watershed at the time they were surveyed. However, just over half (54%) knew they were in a protected watershed. The other 46% did not know they were recreating in a protected watershed.

Respondents were then asked how familiar they were with the regulations of the protected watershed. Thirty-five percent said they were “not familiar” with the protected watershed regulations. The mean for respondents’ familiarity was 3.48, and the median was four, which falls in the middle under “somewhat familiar.” Figure 5 presents a histogram with respondents’ self-reported familiarity with protected watershed regulations.
Do you know this National Forest has Congressionally designated Wilderness Areas?
☐ Yes  ☐ No

If Yes, have you ever recreated in a Congressionally designated Wilderness Area in this National Forest?
☐ Yes  ☐ No

If Yes, what is the name of the Wilderness Area(s) in which you recreated?
______________________________________________________________
☐ I don’t remember the name of the Wilderness Area(s).

What recreation activities do you typically engage in during your visits to Wilderness Areas? (List below)
___________________________________________________________________________________________

Another question respondents were asked was if they knew the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest had Congressionally designated Wilderness areas. Of the 1,537 respondents who answered the question, 824 (54%) respondents said they did not know the U-W-C National Forest had Wilderness areas, and 713 (46%) said they did know. Respondents were also asked if they had ever recreated in the Wilderness areas on the U-W-C National Forest, and 1,251 said “no”, they have not recreated in any of the Wilderness areas, and 330 said they have.

Of the 330 people who had recreated in the Wilderness areas, 33 said they had recreated in the Mount Olympus Wilderness, 38 said they had recreated in the Lone Peak Wilderness, 8 said they had recreated in the Twin Peaks Wilderness, and 251 said they had recreated in a Wilderness area but they did not remember the name of the Wilderness area(s).
The most popular recreational activity in Wilderness areas was hiking (87 respondents). The next most common activity respondents reported participating in was backcountry skiing (41 respondents), followed by primitive camping (12 respondents), mountain biking (8 respondents), rock climbing (6 respondents), and fishing (6 respondents) (Table 7).

Overall, respondents seemed quite confused by this question, which is an indication that respondents are not familiar with designated Wilderness areas. Even though we tried to word the question as clear as possible using “Congressionally designated Wilderness”, many respondents seemed to not understand and/or did not know what we meant. One indication of this is the number of people who said they have recreated in the Wasatch’s Wilderness areas but they cannot recall the names of the Wilderness areas, and they left the rest of the question blank.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 7: Activities respondents reported participating in in Wilderness Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backcountry skiing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primitive camping (backpacking in unroaded areas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain biking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock climbing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downhill skiing (resort)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowboarding (resort)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-country skiing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backcountry snowboarding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relaxing and hanging out</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

About how many people outside of your group did you encounter (see, talk to, interact with, etc.) while recreating today? ________ people

What do you think about the number of people you encountered while recreating today?

Did they positively enhance your experience? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If Yes, in what ways? Please describe:

Did they negatively affect your experience? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If Yes, in what ways? Please describe:

☐ They neither positively enhanced nor negatively affected my experience.
The number of out-group encounters experienced by respondents ranged greatly based on area, day of the week, time of day, and interpretation of the question. The mean number of encounters experienced by respondents was 55.01 (median = 10). The number of encounters ranged from 0-1,000. After examining these data, it became obvious that many respondents misread/misinterpreted the question. One obvious sign of this is the difference between the mean and median, and the range. It seems very unlikely that a person skiing at one of the four Cottonwood Canyon ski resorts would only “see” ten people, or zero people. Therefore, it seems that many respondents interpreted the question as the number of people they actually interacted with. This notion is reinforced by the many comments left by respondents mentioning conversations/interactions with ski resort staff, people whom they shared ski lifts with, etc.

Respondents recreating in dispersed areas of the CWM misinterpreted this question far less frequently. Perhaps this is because fewer people are encountered in more dispersed areas, so when respondents are asked how many people they encountered, they are more likely to classify everyone they passed on the trail and saw in the parking lot as an out-group encounter. With the masses of people encountered at the ski resorts, respondents were probably more likely to recall/classify the people they interacted with instead of trying to tally every person they saw on the ski slopes that day.

Knowing that the first part of this question was misinterpreted by ski area visitors, we assume the data is largely inconsistent with real-world conditions. However, the second part of this question provided high quality feedback reflecting the nature of interactions between ski area users.

The second part of this question asked how the people respondents encountered affected their experience while recreating. The majority (76%) said the people they encountered positively enhanced their experience, and 18% said the people they encountered had no effect on their recreational experience. Only 6% of respondents said the people they encountered negatively affected their recreational experience. Therefore, 94% of respondents said the encounters they had with people outside of their group either positively enhanced or had no effect on their recreational experience (Figure 6).

After respondents recorded how their out-group encounters affected their visit, they were asked to give a brief description describing how. The majority of respondents described the people they encountered as friendly, nice, helpful, happy, and pleasant. One respondent said, “Everyone is above the norm with regards to friendliness.” Another said, “Everyone is just so friendly compared to home (Atlanta).”

There were two categories for why respondents’ out-group encounters negatively affected their recreational experience. The first category is general crowding and congestion. The second category is one-on-one interactions that negatively affect a visitor’s experience. For the 6% whose trip was negatively affected, the most common reason was because of crowding. Respondents mentioned long lift lines, there not being any more powder to ski, and just too many people. With regards to the second category, reckless skiing/snowboarding was the most commonly mentioned reason for a respondent’s experience being degraded.

Comments left by respondents explaining why the encounters they had positively enhanced their experience can be found in Appendix C on page 50, and comments explaining how respondents’ out-group encounters negatively affected their recreational experience can be found in Appendix D on page 64.
Are there places in the Central Wasatch Mountains you no longer visit because encounters with other forest users/uses have negatively affected your recreational experience? □ Yes □ No

If Yes, please identify the area(s) and explain the type of encounter and why you no longer visit:

Respondents were asked if there were any areas in the CWM they no longer visit because they have had negative experiences with other forest users or uses. Of the 1,454 people who responded to the question, 1,385 (95%) said there are not areas they no longer visit, and 69 (5%) said there are places they no longer visit.

One common reason respondents avoid certain areas is because of dogs; however, the reasons are mixed. For example, some respondents said they avoid areas where they cannot take their dogs, like the Cottonwood Canyons. Others said they avoid areas with dogs because of ill-behaved dogs and dog poo on trails, like Millcreek.

Ski resorts are also mentioned, but it seems that everyone has their preferences. Some respondents mentioned Alta Ski Resort because of its policy banning snowboarders.

Respondents also mentioned crowding as a reason for no longer visiting certain areas, or they just said they avoid certain areas during weekends and times of peak use.

Comments left by respondents naming the areas and reasons why they no longer visit them can be found in Appendix E (Page 67).
To better understand the ways visitors access the Cottonwood Canyon ski resorts, respondents were asked what mode of transportation they used to access their desired recreation locations. The majority (84%) used their personal vehicle, 7% used public transportation, 7% used a private shuttle, and 2% walked on their own.

The number of passengers was measured as the total number of people in respondents’ personal vehicles. The median number of people in personal vehicles was three (mean = 3), and the range was 1-8 people. Table 8 presents the modes of transportation used by respondents to reach their desired locations, and Figure 7 presents the number of people per vehicle.

Table 8: Respondents’ mode of transportation to reach desired recreation location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mode of Transportation</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal vehicle</td>
<td>1,241</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public transit</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private shuttle</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biked on my own</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walked on my own</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1,481</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 7: Number of people per vehicle (N = 848)
What motivated you to recreate TODAY?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motivation</th>
<th>Not Important at All</th>
<th>Somewhat Unimportant</th>
<th>Neither Unimportant nor Important</th>
<th>Somewhat Important</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Observe scenic beauty</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For the adventure</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enjoy the sights and smells of nature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience the peace and tranquility</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because its challenging</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be with friends enjoying activities</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve my physical health</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get away from crowds</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop my skills and abilities</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do something with family</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience solitude</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn more about nature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Let my mind move at a slower pace</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release tension</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be unconfined by rules and regulations</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escape noise, pollution/bad air quality</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet new people</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are many reason why people visit public lands, and the list of motivations above are some of the most common. Respondents were asked to rank on a scale from “not important at all” to “very important” each of the motivations listed in the table above. Respondents ranked “being with friends enjoying activities”, “for the adventure”, and “observe scenic beauty” as the most important motivating factors for recreating at the ski resorts in the Cottonwood Canyon. Respondents ranked “learn more about nature”, “meet new people”, “experience solitude”, and “be unconfined by rules and regulations” as the least important motivating factors for visiting the resorts. Figure 8 presents all of the motivations with their corresponding mean scores.
If you could choose just one or two words to describe your personal feelings about the Central Wasatch Mountains what would the word(s) be?

The word map on the cover page of this report was developed from the frequency of words respondents used to describe their personal feelings toward the CWM. The website Tagul was used to develop the word map. The words “Beautiful” and “Peaceful” especially stand out, followed by a host of other descriptors expressing respondents’ personal feelings toward the CWM. For a larger image of the word map, please refer to Appendix F on page 69.

Are you recreating alone today? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If No, how many people (total) are in your group? _______ people
Of these, how many are under 16 years of age? _______ people

To gain a better understanding of ski resort visitors’ group structures, respondents were asked if they were recreating alone, and if they were not, they were asked how many people were in their group, and how many people in their group were under sixteen years old. Of the 1,462 who responded to the question, 1,290 (88%) said they were recreating in a group, and 172 (12%)
said they were recreating alone (Figure 9). For respondents who were recreating in a group, the median group size was three (mean = 4.54), with a range of 2-63 (Figure 10).
Of those who were recreating in a group, 27% of respondents were recreating with people under 16 years old. Most had one (36%) to two (31%) people with them who were under 16 years old (Figure 11).

![Figure 11: Number of respondents recreating with individuals under 16 years old (N = 350)](image)

Does anyone in your group have any disabilities? □ Yes  □ No

If Yes, were the areas and facilities you visited accessible? □ Yes  □ No

Of the 1,580 who responded to the question, 36 (2.3%) reported themselves, or someone in their group as being disabled (Figure 12). Respondents were asked if the sites and facilities they visited were accessible, and all said they were.

![Figure 12: Proportion of respondents who reported being disabled, or having a disabled group member (N = 1,580)](image)
Are you a veteran? □ Yes  □ No

If Yes, where did you see service? □ World War II  □ Korean Conflict
 □ Vietnam War  □ Iraq War(s)
 □ War in Afghanistan

Are you a wounded or disabled veteran? □ Yes  □ No

Of the 1,586 who responded to the question, 72 (4.5%) reported themselves as veterans. The most common area served by these veterans was Afghanistan (29.2%). None reported being either wounded or disabled. Figure 13 shows the proportion of veterans in this study’s sample, and Figure 14 shows the areas where the veterans served.
Do you consider yourself Hispanic or Latino(a)?

☐ Yes, Hispanic or Latino(a)
☐ No, not Hispanic or Latino(a)

Respondents were asked if they considered themselves Hispanic or Latino(a). Of the 1,587 people who responded to the question, 23 (1.4%) identified as Hispanic or Latino(a). Figure 15 presents the proportion of respondents that identified as Hispanic or Latino(a).

With which racial group do you most closely identify?

☐ American Indian/Alaska Native
☐ Asian
☐ Black/African American
☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
☐ White

Respondents were asked which racial group they most closely identified, and 93.8% identified as “White.” “Asian” (3.5%) was the next most common racial group respondents identified, followed by “American Indian/Alaska Native” (1.6%), and “Black/African American” (6%) “Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander” (0.5%). Figure 16 presents the proportions of races that respondents most closely identified.
**In what year were you born?** ______________

The mean age of respondents was 44 years, and the median was 41. The range was from 18 to 89 years old. Figure 17 presents the wide distribution of respondents’ ages.
What is your sex: □ Male  □ Female

Sixty-five percent of respondents were male, and 35% were female (Figure 18).

What is the highest level of formal education you have completed?
☐ Less than a high school degree  ☐ High school degree or GED
☐ Some college  ☐ 2 year technical or associate degree
☐ 4 year college degree (BA/BS)  ☐ Advanced degree (e.g., Master’s, JD, MD, DO, Ph.D.)

The majority of respondents reported having a four year college degree (39%) or an advanced degree (32%). Figure 19 presents the respondents highest level of formal education.
Information about income is important because people with different incomes come to Public Lands for different reasons. What is your annual household income?

- Under $25,000
- $25,000-$49,999
- $25,000-$59,999
- $25,000-$49,999
- $100,000-$149,999
- $150,000 or over
- $150,000 or over
- $50,000-$74,999
- $75,000-$99,999
- Don’t know

The mean and median household income for resort skier both fell between $75,000 - $99,999. Figure 20 presents the household incomes of CWM visitors.
Review of Comments

At the end of the survey there were two comment sections—each proceeded by a prompt. The first prompt asked respondents to provide feedback for the Forest Service or any other management entity who oversees the Central Wasatch Mountains. The second prompt asked for respondents’ thoughts regarding the management, protection, and/or development of the Central Wasatch Mountains.

Just over 36% of respondents left comments. Most respondents only left one comment despite there being two comment sections, and comments left in both comment sections were similar in content; therefore, comments were combined and analyzed together. There were four prominent topics in the comments, which were: 1) transportation, 2) ski resort connectivity, 3) development, and 4) dogs.

Transportation was mentioned most often by respondents. The most prominent call was for more and better public transportation to access recreation areas in the CWM. Only a few specifically mentioned “more busses” or a “train”, but trains were mentioned twice as much as busses. Many respondents wanted public transportation that was faster and far more efficient than what is currently available. Only one respondent opposed public transportation in the Cottonwood Canyons. Others suggested larger parking areas, more parking for the Park-and-Ride system, restricting personal vehicles from entering the canyons, and better road management and additional guardrails. Overall, many respondents were concerned with the large amount of traffic they experience getting to and leaving the ski areas, and more and better public transportation was often mentioned as a way to alleviate the issue.

The second most common topic was ski resort connectivity. Forty-seven respondents were in favor of some kind of ski resort connectivity, with most mentioning “One Wasatch” or saying “connect resorts.” Twenty-eight respondents were opposed to any additional ski resort connectivity, with most saying “no One Wasatch” or “no Ski Link.”

Resort expansion was also discussed, with fourteen respondents asking for the resorts to be expanded to include more skiable areas. However, many more (42 respondents) respondents left comments saying “no more development”, “no resort expansion”, and “don’t change anything.”

Thirty-four respondents left comments mentioning dogs, and the majority asked that dogs be allowed in the Central Wasatch’s protected watershed areas. Three respondents asked for more enforcement of current dog/leash regulations.

With regards to the management of the CWM, transportation is the most prominent topic on the minds of ski resort users. Traffic and parking congestion is an issue, and it is negatively impacting the visitor experience. There are extremely high levels of support from CWM visitors for additional transportation options to move people to and from recreation areas to decrease congestion and pollution, and increase safety in the canyons. However, respondents make it very clear that the current public transportation system is not sufficient, and that a faster and more efficient public transportation system needs to be implemented.
Ski resort connectivity is also on the minds of ski area visitors, however there is far from unanimous support. A greater proportion of ski area visitors support connectivity, but a large proportion do not. And when examining the data from dispersed recreationists, there is virtually no support for ski resort connectivity. This, perhaps, is because lift lines used to connect resorts are proposed in cherished backcountry areas such as Grizzly Gulch. A lift through this area, as mentioned by some respondents, would restrict access to backcountry areas and/or would diminish the backcountry experience.

If we combine the comments that are focused on general “development” (i.e., ski resort connectivity, ski area expansion, comments containing the word “development”, etc.) we see that the ratio of pro and anti-development comments is nearly 50/50, with slightly more comments on the anti-development side of the spectrum (this excludes any comments mentioning the implementation of transportation infrastructure/public transportation). And as previously mentioned, there is virtually no support for these types of developments by dispersed users.

The majority of visitors would like the dog ban lifted in the protected watersheds, therefore allowing dogs in the Cottonwood Canyons. However, this request is difficult for a variety of reasons. First, the protection of water that supports the Salt Lake Valley is crucial. Second, we have seen support for the current rules and regulations concerning dogs in the data gathered from resort and dispersed users. These data show that some people like recreating in areas where they do not have to deal with other people’s dogs and dog feces. So, the ban acts as a recreation conflict management tool as well. We have also seen comments from respondents asking for the current dog rules and regulations to be enforced more strictly because of dog related conflicts.

Transportation is one of the most pressing issues facing the CWM, and we have seen high levels of support for a more comprehensive public transportation system from both ski area users and dispersed recreationists—especially in the Cottonwood Canyons. Concerning ski area connectivity, more analysis would need to be done to determine the factors that lead respondents to support or oppose additional ski area development—connectivity and/or expansion—but it is clear that dispersed recreationists heavily oppose any such action and ski area users are equally split. With respects to dogs, it seems that the current management, although frustrating to some, acts both as a measure for water quality protection and conflict management, and some are asking for more enforcement of current rules and regulations.

The CWM are a natural oasis for an urban population, and along with that comes a large and diverse user group that holds a variety of views and opinions regarding the area’s management. That being said, it is rare to see so much support for a management decision (i.e., more/better public transportation), especially when that management decision takes place in an area that is highly valued by so many people. There are still many hurdles that must be overcome before any decisions are made, but the decision to implement a more effective and efficient public transportation system, at this point, has a high level of support from CWM visitors.
Appendices
Appendix A: Comments for Forest Service.

If you could ask the U.S. Forest Service and/or other Public Land Management Agencies to change some things about the way they manage the Central Wasatch Mountains, what would you ask them to do?

1 Wasatch.
1 Wasatch.
1 Wasatch.
1 Wasatch.
1 Wasatch.
1 Wasatch.
1 Wasatch.
1 Wasatch.
1 Wasatch.
1 Wasatch please.
Add more kid friendly short hiking centers and trails.
Add more trails.
Add one or two more camping areas.
Air quality, protect the lands, no One-Wasatch.
Allow balanced expansion to address crowds.
Allow development in certain areas.
Allow dogs.
Allow dogs.
Allow dogs.
Allow dogs.
Allow dogs.
Allow dogs.
Allow dogs.
Allow dogs.
Allow dogs in Big/Little Cottonwood Canyons; limit resort expansion.
Allow dogs in Little and Big Cottonwood as well as more developed mountain bike trails.
Allow dogs in more areas.
Allow dogs in more places.
Allow dogs in some areas.
Allow dogs in the canyons. Humans have worse impacts.
Allow dogs in the Cottonwoods.
Allow dogs in watershed areas!! Recreation with my dog is important. I tend to avoid watershed areas because I can't take my dogs.
Allow dogs off-leash in the summer.
Allow dogs up the Cottonwoods.
Allow dogs within the Cottonwood Canyons.
Allow dogs...if tractors, snowmobiles, and cat machines are allowed why not dogs?
Allow interconnect and more ski lifts.
Allow less development.
Allow more access to dirt bikes.
Allow more acreage to be skiable (but in a responsible way).
Allow more dogs in more areas.
Allow paragliding/speed-flying.
Allow pets, improve public transport to ski areas.
Allow pets! Why can we leak all kinds of fluids like oil/gas/antifreeze or people can spit tobacco and pee/poo, but I can't walk my dog!!
Allow shooting guns in more areas.
Allow Snowbird to expand its operations in an environmentally sound manner.
Allow snowboarders at Alta.
Allow snowboards at Alta.
Ask people to better control their dogs. The waste and lack of control is becoming hazardous to others.
Awesome.
Balance between truly isolated wilderness and more managed things like skiing at a resort. Both are good.
Balance development with leaving many areas undeveloped.
Balance nature and people. Don't let activist block everything but keep areas as natural as possible.
Ban public traffic in the canyons during the winter. Provide a shuttle service to take people up and down the canyon. This would cut down on pollution in the canyon and car crashes as well.

Be a good steward of taxpayers’ dollars.

Be less restrictive.

Be more transparent about hunting regulations to educate non-hunters.

Better balance between developed and dispersed recreation.

Better bus service to/from Snowbird.

Better bus system.

Better cellphone coverage.

Better marked hiking trails.

Better mass transit to ski areas.

Better mass transit system up the canyon.

Better organized camping reservations.

Better public transit for the canyons.

Better public transit to BCC/LCC.

Better public transit up canyon.

Better public transportation.

Better public transportation system in the canyons, i.e., more busses maybe smaller ones during peak time.

Better relations with Alta.

Better road clearance.

Better traffic control.

Better trails.

Better transportation.

Better transportation.

Better transportation options.

Better transportation up Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Big traffic days, think about ways to speed up pace.

Bring more snow, One Wasatch would be great.
Build a train to travel up the canyons so cars don't pollute the wilderness and air.

Build a village near Snowbird.

Build more lodges, restaurants, and casinos.

Cars in LCC canyon.

Change nothing.

Clean bathrooms and snow more.

Clean outhouses more often. Make sure they are stocked with toilet paper. Empty garbage cans.

Close LCC road permanently and put a train up it.

Connect all resorts.

Connect all ski areas.

Connect all the ski areas.

Connect all Utah resorts with chair lifts.

Connect front and back resorts.

Connect Park City and Cottonwoods.

Connect Park City to Cottonwoods.

Connect resorts.

Connect resorts.

Connect resorts.

Connect resorts.

Connect resorts.

Connect resorts.

Connect resorts.

Connect ski resorts.

Connect the resorts.

Connect the ski resorts.

Connect them.
Consider air quality and traffic. Work on affective traffic plan for canyons, especially LCC. Weekends require multiple riders in cars to start.

Continue to allow access to backcountry.

Convince UDOT to salt/plow the canyon at night!

Create more opportunities for lower social economic groups to visit nature.

Create off-road vehicle roads to awesome/remote areas.

Create designated dog areas in the mountains. That is if there are any locations that would not affect the watershed.

Create more snow.

Develop more access for skiing. Obtain more land to be designated as Wilderness.

Do not develop or expand.

Do not hinder responsible development.

Do not interconnect Solitude with Park City.

Do not link all the resorts.

Do not link the resorts!

Do not put in a lift between Park City and the Cottonwoods.

Do something about traffic going down canyons on weekends.

Don't allow big money run decisions with the mountains.

Don’t allow expansion of the ski areas into the backcountry areas of the Central Wasatch. Spend some big money on transportation and avalanche sheds and berms to make roads less impactful.

Don't allow much more development.

Don't allow ONE Wasatch development. I don't want to see lifts going through the backcountry. Continue to allow motorcycle off-road travel in the American Fork Canyon area.

Don't allow Utah to acquire federal lands; stop ski links of all kind.

Don't be so restrictive and let ranchers graze cattle.

Don't change.

Don't change them.

Don't connect the ski areas.

Don't let Ski Link happen.

Don't let them create any more wilderness areas, let us use the land.
Don't make it any more accessible, leave it alone.
Don't merge the mountain resorts. Can you prevent any more development?
Don't overbuild.
Don’t connect ski resorts.
Educate public more about environmental impacts.
Encourage Alta to allow snowboarding.
Enforce leash laws for dogs.
Ensure public lands are kept out of private hands.
Everything seems great.
Everything was great. Very good experience.
Expand into Mary Ellen Gulch.
Expand public lands.
Expand ski areas.
Expand ski areas.
Expand the ski area behind Top Supreme lift.
Extend ski resort permits.
Fewer OHV, better conservation.
Figure out better transportation.
Find a way to allow dogs (I know the watershed makes it difficult) in the canyons!
Fine people who bring dogs into LCC and BCC; enforce fishing regulations better.
Force Alta to allow snowboarders. Allow more snowmobile/snowcat access. Don't allow Ski Link.
Forestry management to help the lumber industry.
Free Alta.
Free Alta.
Free camping.
Free lift tickets.
Get more funding for trail/outdoor maintenance.
Give it back to the state.
Give land to the state of Utah.
Have better public transportation access.
Have cheaper public transportation to the canyons.
Have equal access for all motorized etc.
Have more guides to easiest way down.
Have more restrooms in the mountain.
Have more trails for dogs.
Have sheriff office do a better job on monitoring traffic in LCC. Too many speeders, reckless drives, etc.
Historical details (pamphlets/signs).
Hurry up and connect the resorts.
I am "pro" One Wasatch.
I am torn between developing public transit and driving myself.
I like how there are busses that are accessible to the resort. Keep it up.
I like things the way they are.
I think they are doing a great job.

I would ask them to enhance and increase their conservation and protection efforts, both through regulations and public education. Some visitors to Wilderness areas do not practice conservation, while they are in the areas, which hurts the land. I would also ask the agencies to carefully consider any projects that increase access to areas: while I believe many people should be able to appreciate Wilderness, that is only if they can do so responsibly. I also think the agencies should do so responsibly. I also think the agencies should do more outreach to people of color and people with lower incomes.

I'm from out of state and am not familiar with what rules are and are not in play here.

If they can allow "Roger" the porcupine more freedom in the mountain.
Improving access to the back country without the use of lifts.
Improve parking at the mouth of the canyon.
Improve parking, too many people in canyon for existing parking.

Improve road conditions.
Improve roads/public transportation.
Improve the transportation issues in the winter - no reason so many cars, no good, reliable public transportation. Busses too limiting and not enough of them.

In favor of One-Wasatch.

Insist that ski resorts: enforce slow zones that they designate, turn down the load music at restaurants, keep motorized use to a bare minimum, insist on shuttle service except for residence/hotel users, ensure ski resorts respect school truancy rules/regulations.

It appears the natural beauty and functionality of the mountain have been and are being preserved and protected. Good balance for all.

It is perfect.

It would be great to have info on what kids can do on volunteer during the summer to help improve trails, campsites, etc.

It’s about time to connect resorts.

It’s great here. Keep up the good work.

Keep areas open.

Keep Deer Valley out of here.

Keep dogs and personal pets at home.

Keep it as it is.

Keep it clean.

Keep it clean and assist people.

Keep it Federal, I don't trust the state of Utah to properly manage it.

Keep it natural.

Keep it open later in the spring.

Keep it wild.

Keep prices (lift passes) down for locals. I would like to be able to participate in my normal recreation with my income.

Keep roads better.

Keep ski resorts open longer when there is still snow.

Keep ski resorts open longer while there is still snow.

Keep the area as wild as possible.

Keep the beautiful open space as it is.
Keep the oil companies out, no fracking.

Keep the public land the way it is.

Keep these mountains like they are; keep preserving nature.

Keep things wild, don’t allow One Wasatch.

Larger ski areas.

Leave backcountry be.

"Leave no trace" education and enforcement.

Leave pot smokers alone and arrest destructive Boy Scout leaders.

Less motorized access.

Less motorized use, more Wilderness areas.

Less mountain bike restrictions.

Less people, more natural.

Less traffic up canyon.

Let boarders into Alta already.

Let dogs be allowed.

Let dogs in camping areas.

Let dogs in LCC.

Let dogs in the Cottonwood Canyons.

Let me play in the creek.

Let Snowbird build more lifts (White Pine or Mary Ellen Gulch come to mind).

Let snowboarders in Alta.

Let us ride bikes in LCC! Stop tearing down our trails.

Limit # of people in the canyon.

Limit development.

Limit development of resort and private properties. Make roads safer and invest in more snow clearing equipment and personnel.

Limit development to protect the natural environment and untouched elements we have. The natural environment should have priority over economically driven development.

Limit new construction.
Limits on mountain use, some king of reservation system.
Listen to the naturalists and treasure the land. This is important to all.
Look at transportation alternatives to cars during busy periods.
Loosen up on some of the watershed regulations: swimming/fishing in alpine lakes.
Lower lift tickets.
Lower resort fees.
Maintain as much space/public land as possible.
Maintain its scenery by not building new roads or adding construction.
Maintain more trails.
Maintain undeveloped land and BLM primitive camp sites.
Make 1 Wasatch happen.
Make it more accessible for low income families that have never experienced this type of environment before.
Make more places to camp.
Make One Wasatch happen.
Make ski/snowboarding routes easier to follow.
Make skiing cheaper.
Make the busses use natural gas.
Make the Mountain Accord process more open—why such little chance for opposing views?
Manage a way that works with nature rather than against it (conservation of forests, animals, and land).
Manage traffic uphill/downhill for some bike rides.
Marked trails.
Mass transit that is very fast—not a bus.
Mass transit up canyons.
Mass transit, few cars.
Maybe a light rail would be nice.
Millcreek Canyon—trash and poop deposals
Minimize incursions of private ownership.
Monitor traffic speeds and RV traffic to make safer for roads cyclists.
More access.
More access to scenic places for the disabled. Ban motorized stuff in American Fork. Maybe some education, like leave-no-trace and information on minimal impact climbing.
More bars and restaurants on the mountain.
More campsites in the summertime.
More catch and release gold metal fishing.
More catch and release trout streams.
More developed access.
More developed mountain bike options in the Big Cottonwood area.
More dog access, more 4x4 trails re-opened.
More flexibility.
More hikers and bikers, fewer cars in the summer.
More info on trails.
More money for summer multi-use trails.
More mountain bike trails please.
More mountain trails.
More mountain bike trail.
More mountain bike trails.
More mountain bike trails.
More mountain bathrooms.
More opportunities with lakes and rivers.
More parking.
More parking.
More parking areas near trailheads.
More public transit options so people without cars could visit. Prioritize individuals using the area versus resort.
More pet friendly areas.
More public picnic/walk areas.
More public transit.
More public transportation to mountains.
More ranger tours.
More readily available advertising in southern states. No one where I'm from knows about these treasures!
More signage on trails (e.g., this hike is 10 miles long).
More trails and fun events.
More trails and keep development in check.
More trails that are shorter but pretty.
More trash management.
More water for fishing.
More/bigger or trails.
Move much faster in your decision making, improve transportation and parking, improve and upgrade ski resort areas.
Need better transit in LCC/BCC.
No changes.
No more building silly thing—let the mountain be.
No more development.
No more development than currently exists.
No more permanent structures (lifts)!
No more ski trails.
No One Wasatch.
No One Wasatch.
No One Wasatch.
No One Wasatch.
No One Wasatch.
No Ski Link.
No Ski Link. Preservation for backcountry (non-resort) access.
No to Ski Link.
Not enough time spent.
Nothing because the area is immaculate. Maybe more accessibility for beginners with back country skiing.

Nothing comes to mind.

Nothing, it is all beautiful.

Offer free shuttles up the canyon to reduce pollution.

One Wasatch.

One Wasatch.

One Wasatch.

One Wasatch.

One Wasatch.

One Wasatch.

One Wasatch.

One Wasatch.

One Wasatch.

Open more areas for resort access.

Open Alta to snowboarders.

Open Alta to snowboarders.

Open Guardsman Pass during the winter. Make it more accessible.

Open Guardsman Pass in the winter.

Open Guardsman's Pass.

Open more space.

Open more terrain for skiing.

Open the road to Heber City.

Open up a road from Park City to BCC during the winter.

Open up more land for skiing.

Open up more to pets.

Pace yourself.

Parking and car traffic. Let’s get a train.

Preserve.

Plan for everyone.
Please don't allow Interconnect to go through. Restrict private vehicle access.
Please expand on and continue to create private/Forest Service venture.
Please keep additional development to a minimum.
Please protect from development.
Preserve backcountry ski areas.
Preserve nature.
Preserve wild trout fishing and hunting activities.
Pressure UTA to incorporate more runs on each of their routes and spread their times out.
Prevent extreme development.
Prioritize self-powered, non-motorized recreation overall to protect the beauty of the Wasatch for future generations.
Prioritize protection of wilderness/undeveloped areas.
Promote more public transportation.
Protect from development, improve transit.
Protect it from "One Wasatch". We don't need more development, it will only deplete the solitude and beauty of the Wasatch. Let’s not become Colorado.
Protect more, develop less.
Protect nature while still allowing recreation.
Protect the backcountry better. Ski resorts already have enough terrain.
Protect the backcountry from lift served ski area expansion.
Provide better, perhaps mandatory public transportation use to access the Wasatch in order to cut down on congestion in the canyon and reduce air pollution.
Provide continuous public transit throughout the ski day—7am-5pm with gaps no longer than 20 min.
Provide food, control temperature, more seating inside.
Provide food, make it less cold, more seating inside.
Provide more detailed information about recreational activities.
Public transit.
Public transit is a negative. Better signage visible to skiers in snow conditions would be helpful.
Public transportation up the canyon.
Publicize info about watershed protection.

Put a train going up Big and Little Cottonwood Canyon or build large parking structures!

Put in gentler runs for my mum.

Put shoulders on the roads.

Reconsider watershed/no dog rules.

Reduce fees.

Reduce focus on development.

Reduce use of motorized vehicles.

Regulate traffic better.

Regulate the number of cars that can come up one particular canyon at a time.

Require chains on small cars.

Restrict access, increase supervision.

Restrict development.

Restrict motorized vehicles.

Restrict vehicles and improve public transit.

Say no to One Wasatch.

Ski Link just may transform the glorious home mountains in a way that some could be considered a negative.

Slow down building.

Slow growth.

Snowboarders at Alta!

So many animals go to the bathroom up here, why can't dogs be in the Cottonwoods?

Some stretches in Big Cottonwood really should have guardrails and safer roadside parking.

Something about the traffic on busy days.

Stock more fish.

Stop allowing development.

Stop commercial development.

Stop development for rich people.

Stop developing.
Stop developing the area. Too many private homes being built in the area.

Stop Ski-Link.

Stop Wasatch connect lifts!

Stronger enforcement of no-dog policy in watersheds. More mountain biking trails.

The bus never came by our little American hotel this morning so we had to rent a car.

The Wasatch currently provides enough recreation opportunities without further development. I am strongly opposed to One Wasatch.

They are doing a good job, keep it up.

They are doing a great job.

To build a more comfortable lodging experience. Increase the number of high-quality food dining areas in and around the area.

Connect the Wasatch front/back ski areas.

To keep the natural world natural. Keep managing without doing it too much because that will eliminate the Wilderness aspect of the forest.

Make all lifts in all resorts quads so fewer injuries would occur as well to make it easier to get off the lift.

Too many bark beetles killing all of the trees.

Too many people ignoring the rules: fishing without license or taking more than 4 trout, dogs in watershed (need a bigger sign in Big Cottonwood canyon saying "no dogs").

Too much traffic in canyon.

Traffic on main road becoming increasingly heavy.

Traffic: LCC has to be one of the most dangerous and accident prone roads in the Central Wasatch.

Train up canyon.

Transportation up canyon is too crowded! Too many cars and we need a better system.

Very happy how they are managed.

Watershed protection, incentives to carpool. Discount lift tickets to those that take public transit.

We enjoyed the area.

We want more tunnels.

What type of documentation do I need for a service dog?
Why do you charge so much to camp? Why do you limit uphill traffic at most of the resorts?

Would be better to have more signage on the trails.

Yes for 1 Wasatch.
Appendix B: Comments regarding management, protection, and development of the Central Wasatch Mountains.

Do you have any additional comments or thoughts about issues regarding the management, protection, or development of the Central Wasatch Mountains?

1 Wasatch.
Absolutely no tram to Twin Peaks at Snowbird. Too much development already in canyons.
Allow dogs.
Allow dogs.
Allow dogs.
Allow use as much as possible.
Annoyed when I see men peeing everywhere.
Backcountry preservation is important.
Balance is the key.
Beautiful.
Better public transportation.
Better transit or more parking.
Better transportation.
Better transportation.
Better transportation.
Build more hiking/mountain biking trails for summer recreation. Add a commercial or free sledding area for winter recreation.
Combine Alta and Snowbird.
Connect all resorts.
Connect all resorts with the trail.
Connect resorts.
Connect resorts.
Connect resorts.
Connect resorts.
Connect resorts.
Connect resorts.
Connect resorts.
Connect resorts with lifts.
Connect resorts with train.
Connect ski areas.
Connect the resorts.
Do as little development as possible to keep its natural beauty as much as possible.
Do continue to protect them.
Do not allow overdevelopment to happen.
Don't connect the ski areas.
Don't develop more areas.
Enforce leash laws!
Expand ski areas.
Focus should be on preservation, not development.
Good work!
Great job, keep it up!
Guest dog passes would be great for watershed areas.
I am "pro" One Wasatch.
I don't think we need to connect all of the ski resorts and I am not sure if LCC needs more condos.
I favor a large public transport building at the Quarry site. Permits, rangers/info, parking electric or natural gas busses, cafe/restaurant, supplies etc. I favor a fee to drive up that could subsidize bus, etc. I favor issuing permits for use of specific sites to control numbers.
I like how it is less populated up here.
I like the idea of connecting the seven resorts and providing train services to them.
I like the idea of One Wasatch.
I wish we had mass transit to get up the Cottonwood Canyons. I know there is the ski bus but the schedule sucks. More frequent pickups would be nice.
I would be ok with linking resorts, but not Ski Link.
I would like to see more Federal Wilderness protection because I believe this is the best way to protect the scenery and solitude of the Wasatch as well as the drinking water for SLC valley.

I’m concerned this survey will be used to try to justify further commercial development.

Important to maintain wilderness areas.

Improve transportation but keep it environmentally friendly.

Incentives for those who use public transportation.

Increase green runs.

It is amazingly beautiful here! Very impressive.

Just really thankful for wild, open spaces! I'm always glad for my tax money to be spent on wilderness and preservation.

Keep Alta the same.

Keep development to a bare minimum. Do not expand development so that only upper economic classes benefit.

Keep future development restricted.

Keep it as it was.

Keep it clean. Enforce conservation laws.

Keep it natural as much as possible.

Keep it up you are doing awesome.

Keep the backcountry free of lifts.

Keep the backcountry free! No lifts!

Keep them just the way they are, please!

Less cars, more public transit.

Limited development.

Look with care at connecting various areas.

Love the canyons. Preserve the beauty and accessibility. A train would be great for decreasing car traffic and pollution.

Make 1 Wasatch happen.

Make 1 Wasatch happen.

Make one Wasatch happen.

Mass transit.
Mass transportation.
More dog-friendly areas would positively impact tourism in the forest.
More public transit.
More public transportation.
No cougars or bears, that makes me happy.
No expansions to resorts.
No further development!
No interconnect.
No intermountain access from Park City.
No more development, keep it natural.
No more new development; no ski connection.
No One Wasatch.
No One Wasatch; better public transit; biker friendly.
No Ski Link, train service in LCC.
No to Ski Link.
One Wasatch seems like a bad idea.
One Wasatch.
One Wasatch is a bad idea.
Open up to "One Wasatch" connect to drive increased skier visits. There are many more downhill skiers who will use the National Forest through "One Wasatch" than backcountry skiers who complain. Isn't it about getting many people to use the National Forest?
Over development is concerning. We choose Utah over Colorado because it is less commercialized and fewer crowds. This is our first time in Snowbird after 2 trips to Solitude. The crowds at Snowbird and the overall size is a negative for me.
Perhaps handle crowds better! Get more people in to raise awareness about protecting the environment!
Please continue what you are doing!
Please keep Alta close to snowboarding. Please do not interconnect all of the mountains.
Please keep protecting public lands and managing them for future generations to enjoy.
Please keep the mountains pristine and pure.
Please, no more commercial/housing development.

Pro 1 Wasatch.

Protection #1, Mgmt #2, Dvmt #3.

Protection is good so far, we have vast areas of open land and it is good to see more people using it in a respectful manner.

Put up signs saying "Pack your Butt out or keep your Butt out!!"

Realize that there must be access for people of all abilities and ages and not just the highly athletic and skilled!!

Resorts should be connected.

Restrict additional development.

Stop pine beetles.

Stop the "One Wasatch".

Stop the Ski Link!!

Take a balanced approach (everything in moderation).

The enforcement people in the green and white forest service trucks are assholes.

The less development, the better.

There is nowhere to take your dog hiking. Millcreek is too crowded.

They should make the road wider.

This is an incredible area.

Use my tax dollars to protect and steward the Land, as opposed to raising usage and creating rules to keep citizens from using the wild.

Very happy with quality.

Very nice experience, thank you!!

Wasatch One is a great idea.

We drive up to ski, I worry about black ice or snow making us slide off the road and over the cliff, more barriers would be greatly appreciated.

We need faster, cheaper public transportation, cheaper picnic areas - $8.00 is too much.

We need trains going up Canyons and linking resorts, or we will kill the snow and canyon with traffic and pollution and have no more powder days.
We tried to ride the bus in but they never came by the stop. We called the company and they offered to help. This was frustrating.

Widen roads for bikers/runners.

Wider shoulders on the roads for cycling.

Wish there were more trails that were a little less time and around more nature.

Would like to see all the ski areas connected.
Appendix C: Comments by respondents explaining why their out-group encounters positively enhanced their recreational experience.

Add to my fun.
Advice about ski conditions.
All enjoying the resort.
All friendly.
All friendly.
All very friendly and helpful.
Always happy people.
Always interesting talking to people.
Always pleasant people.
Amazing.
Awesome.
Awesome attitudes.
Beautiful.
Being awesome.
Blind skier was value added to watch.
By being stoked.
Cheerful.
Cheerful people.
Common interests.
Community.
Comradery.
Conversation.
Conversations.
Cool people.
Cool people.
Cordial.
Courteous, helpful.
Courteous lift operators.
Directions and advice.
Directions.
Employee customer service at Snowbird is far superior to the other resorts.
Encouragement.
Engaged in friendly chatting.
Enjoy the experience together.
Enjoy the social interaction.
Enjoyed conversation about skiing.
Enjoyed talking to others who also like being outdoors.
Enjoyed talking to them.
Enjoying the mountains together.
Everybody is happy when they ski.
Everybody was happy.
Everybody was happy to be here.
Everyone here is very polite.
Everyone is above the norm with regards to friendliness.
Everyone is friendly and basically happy here enjoying their day.
Everybody is happy to ski early season.
Everybody is just so friendly compared to home (Atlanta).
Everyone is nice.
Everyone is pleasant.
Everyone is pleasant and enjoying themselves.
Everyone is polite.
Everyone is so happy.
Everyone is very friendly and helpful.
Everyone is very happy not to be in long lines.
Everyone is very nice.
Everyone is very nice and helpful.
Everyone positive and fun.
Everyone was friendly.
Everyone was happy and nice.
Everyone was pleasant.
Everyone was pleasant and helpful.
Everyone was very friendly.
Extremely friendly.
Fellow photographers shooting nature.
Fellow skiers always have good stories to tell.
Friendly.
Friendly, knowledgeable.
Friendliness.
Friendly. (mentioned 67 times)
Friendly and accommodating.
Friendly and enthusiastic about the area and ski activity.
Friendly and helpful.
Friendly and helpful.
Friendly and like-minded.
Friendly and nice.
Friendly and sociable.
Friendly atmosphere.
Friendly chat.
Friendly conversation.
Friendly conversation.
Friendly fellow skiers.
Friendly knowledgeable.
Friendly people. (mentioned 7 times)

Friendly people at Snowbird make me happy.

Friendly staff and it is nice knowing there is help nearby.

Friendly, cautious.

Friendly, fun, helpful.

Friendly, helpful. (mentioned 6 times)

Friendly, pointed out wildlife.

Friendly, polite.

Friendly, positive.

Friendly, someone to talk to.

Friendly, welcoming.

Friends.

Fun.

Fun people.

Fun people.

Fun times.

Fun with strangers.

Gathered information.

Gave direction and helped figure out ski runs.

Gave tips.

Generally nice people.

Generous! Positive friendly staff.

Good to meet people.

Good areas to ski.

Good conversation. (mentioned 4 times)

Good friendly people.

Good numbers.

Good people.
Good people.
Good ski information.
Good times, good greetings.
Good to meet new people.
Good to meet people.
Good to see old friends.
Good to see others recreate.
Good to see people enjoying snow/mountains.
Great.
Great friends.
Great information and very friendly.
Great people.
Great people, great fun.
Guiding us to the proper areas for children.
Happy.
Happy.
Happy and positive.
Happy disposition.
Happy people.
Happy people recreating.
Happy, friendly.
Happy, friendly, polite.
Help me find the trail.
Help with directions.
Helped.
Helped give direction to lunch.
Helped me after I fell.
Helped teach me how to ski.
Helped us.
Helped us.
Helped with directions.
Helpful. (mentioned 8 times)
Helpful - nice to talk to.
Helpful and friendly.
Helpful for learning.
Helpful on the mountain.
Helpful with equipment/directions.
Helpful, courteous.
Helpful/friendly.
I enjoy meeting new people.
I enjoy meeting people.
I enjoy their presence.
I like sharing the mountains with people.
I like to see other people skiing.
I like to ski.
I love the lefties.
I received pleasure in filling out this survey.
I run into friends.
If the people I encounter while backpacking/hiking etc. are respectful of nature then I love seeing people.
Info about trails, weather, conditions.
Info on ski trails.
Interacting with members of the Brighton ski team.
Interaction.
Interested in same activity, excited to be here.
Interesting conversation.
It was fun visiting people from all over.
It was not that crowded, like seeing people use the mountains.
It wasn't overcrowded.

It’s good to see others enjoying Utah’s amenities.
It’s good to see people enjoying the slopes.

Its nice meeting new people with similar interests.
Just by being friendly.
Just nice people.

Keep the vibes high.

Kind.
Kind, friendly.

Kind, friendly on ski lift.
Kind of, helpful tips and pointers.

Knowledge of our trip.
Learn about good places to ski.
Learn about local conditions.
Learn about local culture.

Life.
Life is good.

Lift operators were friendly.
Like less people.
Local interest.
Locals very friendly, help guide me on the mountain.

Made conversation.
Made for a quiet day.
Made me laugh.

Met new people.
More excitement and meeting awesome people.

Mormons are nice people.
Most of the fellow skiers at Brighton are always pleasant.
Most of them were friendly and helpful.
Networking on lifts, never know who you'll meet.
Nice. (mentioned 6 times)
Nice and helpful host, nice people.
Nice and pleasant.
Nice and polite.
Nice conversation.
Nice conversations.
Nice crowd.
Nice day.
Nice genuine attitude.
Nice people. (mentioned 15 times)
Nice people all over the mountain.
Nice people some were informative.
Nice people, utilizing this area.
Nice people.
Nice pleasant people.
Nice staff.
Nice talking.
Nice time.
Nice to see people having fun.
Nice to talk to on the lift.
Nice, excited for us.
Nice, friendly.
Nice, friendly, helpful.
Nice, polite.
Normal for resorts.
Not too many, friendly.
Not very crowded for a ski resort.
One gave us a ski area map.
One poured me a beer, another asked how my dog was.
Opened door-nice.
People are friendly.
People are happy.
People enjoying themselves.
People having fun.
People here are very friendly.
People were cool.
People were helpful in understanding the resort and managing 3 kids.
Pleasant. (mentioned 7 times)
Pleasant communication.
Pleasant conversation.
Pleasant conversations.
Pleasant conversation on ski lifts and people serving Alta Ski Resort.
Pleasant people.
Pleasant people, friendly.
Pleasant, friendly information.
Pleasant, happy.
Polite. (mentioned 5 times)
Polite and friendly.
Polite and friendly.
Polite attitude.
Polite conversation.
Polite conversation.
Polite, helpful.
Polite, helpful.
Positive.
Positive and chill people.
Positive and friendly.
Positive and friendly.
Positive attitude.
Positive attitude, friendly.
Positive, friendly.
Positive, happy, fun.
Provide information about recreation activities such as skiing.
Provided helpful information.
Provided instruction at Snowbird.
Provided local knowledge on trials.
Resort employees are helpful and friendly.
Resort staff.
Said howdy.
Saw friends.
Social, friendly.
Seeing old friends.
Shared experiences.
Shared fun times.
Shared information with me.
Shared tables and talked about other resorts.
Shared the slopes, litter free, no smoking.
Shared their experiences/advice.
Sharing ideas.
Sharing stories.
Ski area.
Ski instruction.
Ski instructors helped with better technique.
Ski instructions for my children.
Skiers are happy.
Skiing is enjoyable with others.
Skiing partners.
Slopes nearly empty.
Small talk.
Smiled, friendly.
Smiles.
Smiling faces.
Smiling faces.
Smiling.
Snowbird Staff! Very friendly.
Snowboard lessons.
So nice.
Social. (mentioned 5 times)
Social interactions.
Some are my family.
Some are nice.
Some good laughs. Discuss procedures.
Some people are friendly.
Some were nice.
Supporting the local ski economy.
Talk on lift.
Talked.
Talked on lift.
Talked to people.
Talking in passing.
Talking to people from other areas of the world and learning their thoughts.
Talking to people on the ski lift.
Talking with other people on lifts.
Their love of skiing.
There were nice and helpful.
They are always happy.
They are friendly.
They are out enjoying themselves too.
They are really friendly.
They aren't negative.
They enjoyed the views Snowbird had to offer.
They gave me a good hello.
They gave me lift tickets.
They had good spirit and made me happy.
They helped.
They helped me.
They showed me around.
They were friendly.
They were friendly.
They were friendly.
They were friendly and nice.
They were friendly and nice.
They were friendly and social.
They were happy.
They were having fun.
They were helpful.
They were helpful in assisting me find my way around.
They were kind.
They were kind to me.
They were nice. (mentioned 5 times)
They were nice – positive.
They were nice and helpful.
They were nice and helpful.
They were nice and positive.
They were very helpful.
They were very kind.
They were very kind and happy.
They were very polite.
They’re nice.
They're nice people.
Told us about ski runs.
Too many, but friendly.
Trip talk.
Upbeat, friendly.
Upbeat attitudes.
Usually all people up the mountains are happy and nice.
Using the ski area.
Very cordial.
Very friendly and happy.
Very friendly. (mentioned 8 times)
Very friendly, helpful.
Very friendly, polite.
Very friendly/talkative.
Very helpful. (mentioned 3 times)
Very helpful and friendly.
Very helpful with answering my questions.
Very helpful with great suggestions.
Very helpful, friendly.
Very helpful, friendly.
Very informative.
Very kind, happy people.
Very kind/polite.
Very kind/polite.
Very nice. (mentioned 4 times)
Very nice people.
Very nice to talk to.
Very nice, helpful.
Very nice, very helpful.
Very pleasant.
Very pleasant to talk to.
Very polite.
Very polite, happy, glad to be here.
Very willing to assist and answer question.
Appendix D: Comments by respondents explaining why their out-group encounters negatively affected their recreation experience.

Always better to ski with fewer people.
Bad riders.
Busy runs and lift lines.
Could be less crowded.
Crowded.
Crowded on some runs.
Crowded skiing.
Crowded slopes.
Crowds.
Crowds, but it is a ski resort so it is to be expected.
Crowded at the resort.
Cut me off.
Everyone deserves to be here, but sometimes it takes away from the experience.
Far too many people.
Fewer people is always better while skiing.
I had to wait.
I like less crowded runs, but Monday will be here soon!
I like more solitude.
I try to get away from people.
I want to get away from people.
I wish it was all untracked.
It frustrates me when I occasionally see people who go off trails, use ATV’s, or engage in practice that are destructive to wilderness areas.
It was super crowded today and difficult to get on the slopes.
Littering too much, more signs needed to help protect.
Long lift lines.
Long lines on lift.
No powder left to ski on.

Not a fan of crowds.

One person "cussed" on the snowbird tram.

One person lost their ski on a steep run. His friend sent his ski downhill while he tumbled face first downhill. It was dangerous to others on the run and to the guy himself.

Overcrowded parking.

Overcrowding in a finite space.

Parking lot activates should be monitored.

People snowboarding too close to me.

People weren't paying attention.

Rude, unhelpful, ungrateful.

Situationally inconsiderate.

Ski trails can be crowded.

Skiers/snowboarders that get too close.

Skiing too slowly.

Skiing/boarding too fast and recklessly.

Snowboarders.

Snowboarding aggressively.

Some of the skiers and snowboarders can be disrespectful.

Some people are not friendly.

Some rudeness/lack of friendliness.

Sometimes you have to be careful where you snowboard.

They suck at skiing.

They cut me off and try to run me over.

They detracted from the beauty.

They sniped my line on the cirque.

They were in my way.

They were not aware of those around them.

Too crowded.
Too many.
Too many beaters.
Too many people.
Too many people on public transportation, can't get a seat. Have to wait for next bus because it was too full.
Too many people on slopes.
Unfriendly people.
Wish I was alone.
Appendix E: Places and reasons respondents no longer visit.

"S"-curves area: too many people.
A trail in BCC that has too many ATV's.
Allow dogs.
Alta.
Alta because it's skiers only.
Alta doesn't allow snowboarders.
Alta, they don't allow snowboarders.
ATV's.
ATV's in Mineral Basin.
BCC and LCC can be very crowded, so I avoid them on Saturdays.
BCC/LCC in summer since we cannot bring our dogs in the canyons.
Brighton ski resort.
Brighton ski resort—snowboarders.
Brighton Ski Resort—too crowded.
Busy places on busy days.
Campgrounds, hate them.
Cottonwoods for most activities because of users.
Crowded.
Crowded days.
Designated camping areas.
Developed campgrounds, Dog Lake area, White Pine in summer.
Don't hike in the Wasatch because of the dog policy.
Doughnut falls areas is insane!!
Donut Falls—too crowded.
Donut Falls. Too crowded. Many visitors not prepared to hike up the falls. Inappropriate footwear, no water, etc. Safety concerns.
High ski trails that have been taken over by snowboarders.
I avoid certain places on weekends.
I avoid prime times for using popular bike trails.
I was chased in the woods by a naked stranger at Diamond Fork Hot Springs. It was terrifying.
If a bunch of lifts go in and ruin the Wasatch, it will absolutely ruin all experiences in the future.
Lake Blanche in the summer, too busy.
Millcreek Canyon—dog owners and dog poop.
Millcreek—some other canyons too many people.
Millcreek canyon—number of dogs.
Mirror Lake Trail Head to Granddaddy Basin.
Mountain bikers on busy hiking trails.
Neff's Canyon—poor manners with dog use.
Neff’s Canyon and other trails heads around town have too many vehicle break-ins.
No pets in certain areas.
Other people bother me.
Park City.
Park City and Solitude mountain management.
Parking in the summer can be busy.
Resorts, too many people.
Snowbird.
Snowbird—aggressive skiers.
Snowbird—reckless skiers and boarders.
Snowbird Ski Resort, rude staff in ticket office and on the old lift.
Some undeveloped campgrounds where the roads have been "over improved, allowing enormous RVs and their noisy generators to access areas that should be quiet.
The staff at Brighton are awful.
The top of snowbird tram on a powder day. Too much rudeness and pushing people.
Too crowded on the weekends.
We don't go up to the Lake at Tibble Fork anymore because of all of the 4 wheelers - too loud and they take up the whole parking lot.
Yes, because dogs aren't allowed.
Appendix F: Word map from the following intercept survey question, “If you could choose just one or two words to describe your personal feelings about the Central Wasatch Mountains what would the word(s) be?”
Appendix G: Survey Instrument

Visitor Intercept Survey
Salt Lake Ranger District
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest

Surveyor Introduction:
Hello! I am volunteering to survey visitors using the National Forest here in the Central Wasatch Mountains, as part of a study being conducted by Utah State University’s Institute for Outdoor Recreation and Tourism, and we are very interested in learning more about you as a recreationist.

1. Your information and perspectives on recreational use in the Central Wasatch Mountains are very important!

Your participation in this survey is voluntary and all of your answers to these questions will be kept strictly confidential.

Would you be willing to take a few minutes to complete this survey?
☐ Yes  ☐ No (No = Refusal)

2. Then ask, “Is recreation your primary purpose for visiting the Central Wasatch Mountains today?”  ☐ Yes  ☐ No

If No, ask “What is the purpose of your visit here today?”
☐ Working or commuting to work (thank you and end interview)
☐ Stopping to use the restroom (thank you and end interview)
☐ Only passing through, going somewhere else (thank you and end interview)
☐ Some other reason (thank you and end interview)

******************************************************************************

To Be Completed by Surveyor:
Date: __________  Day: M  Tu  W  Th  F  S  Su
Time: __________  Location: _______________________
a.m./p.m.  _______________________

Surveyor’s Name: ____________________________________
Surveyor’s Telephone Number: _______________________

FLIP PAGE AND HAND SURVEY TO RESPONDENT
Your participation is greatly appreciated, and by participating in this study you are helping in planning for the future of the Central Wasatch Mountains.

The information collected will be useful for the National Forest, Salt Lake City, and Mountain Accord—a multi-phase initiative that seeks to make critical decisions regarding the future of the Central Wasatch Mountains, made up of a collaboration of public and private interests, including state and local governments, federal agencies, and businesses and grassroots organizations.

With a question, when asked, please check (✓) the appropriate box □.

3. Are you a resident of the United States?
   □ Yes  If Yes, what is your Home Zip Code? ______________________________
   □ No  If No, what Country are you from? ______________________________

4. How long are you going to be recreating on this trip?
   □ Short trip under three hours
   □ About half the day
   □ The majority of the day
   □ Overnight
   □ Multiple days – If so, how many? _______ days

5. On this trip, are you planning on visiting any other sites besides this one? □ Yes □ No
   If Yes, how many other sites are you going to visit? _______ sites

6. On average, how many times per year do you visit the National Forest here in the Central Wasatch Mountains? _______ times per year

7. What types of areas do you use most often when recreating here in the Central Wasatch Mountains?
   □ Developed areas, such as developed campgrounds, picnic areas, ski resorts, etc.
   □ Undeveloped areas, such as trails, dirt roads, rivers and lakes, dispersed camping, wilderness, etc.
   □ I use both developed and undeveloped areas equally.

8. Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your visit to the Central Wasatch Mountains today?
   □ Very satisfied
   □ Somewhat satisfied
   □ Neither satisfied or dissatisfied
   □ Somewhat dissatisfied
   □ Very dissatisfied
9. For **TODAY**, please check “✓” all of the Recreation Activities have you participated in (or will participate in). Then, (Circle) your MAIN activity or purpose for visiting the Central Wasatch Mountains **TODAY**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>✓ RECREATION ACTIVITIES</th>
<th>✓ RECREATION ACTIVITIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NON-MOTORIZED ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>CAMPING OR OTHER OVERNIGHT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking</td>
<td>Camping in developed sites (family or group sites)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hiking</td>
<td>Primitive camping (motorized in roaded areas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horseback Riding</td>
<td>Primitive camping (backpacking in unroaded backcountry areas)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road Cycling</td>
<td>Resorts, cabins, or other accommodations on Forest Service managed lands (private or FS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Biking</td>
<td><strong>FISHING &amp; HUNTING</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-motorized water travel (canoe, kayak, raft, sail)</td>
<td>Fishing—all types</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock climbing</td>
<td>Hunting—all types</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ice Climbing</td>
<td><strong>OTHER ACTIVITIES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downhill skiing (Resort)</td>
<td>Picnicking or family day gatherings in developed sites (family or group)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowboarding (Resort)</td>
<td>Gathering mushrooms, berries, firewood, or other natural products</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-country skiing</td>
<td>Relaxing, hanging out</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backcountry skiing</td>
<td>Escaping heat, noise, pollution, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backcountry snowboarding</td>
<td>Exercising</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowshoeing</td>
<td>Walking/Exercising Pet(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sledding, tobogganining</td>
<td><strong>OTHER ACTIVITIES NOT LISTED?</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other non-motorized activities (races, endurance events)</td>
<td>(Please write in below and ✓ to left.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**MOTORIZED ACTIVITIES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motorized Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Driving for pleasure on roads (paved, gravel or dirt)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riding on motorized trails (non-snow, OHV/ATV)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snowmobile travel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other motorized activities (races, games)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VIEWING & LEARNING—NATURE & CULTURE**

| Viewing/photographing wildlife, birds, fish, etc. |
| View natural features, scenery, flowers, etc. |
| Visiting historic and prehistoric sites |
| Nature study |
| Visiting a nature center, nature trail, or other nature study areas |

**OTHER ACTIVITIES NOT LISTED?**

(Please write in below and ✓ to left.)
10. Did you recreate in a protected watershed today?
   □ Yes, I did recreate in a protected watershed, or
   □ No, I did not recreate in a protected watershed.

How familiar are you with the rules and regulations for recreating in this protected watershed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not Familiar</th>
<th>Somewhat Familiar</th>
<th>Very Familiar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. Do you know this National Forest has Congressionally designated Wilderness Areas?
   □ Yes  □ No

   If Yes, have you ever recreated in a Congressionally designated Wilderness Area in this National Forest?
   □ Yes  □ No

   If Yes, what is the name of the Wilderness Area(s) in which you recreated?

   ____________________________________________________________

   □ I don’t remember the name of the Wilderness Area(s).

   What recreation activities do you typically engage in during your visits to Wilderness Areas? (List below)

   ____________________________________________________________
   ____________________________________________________________

12. About how many people outside of your group did you encounter (see, talk to, interact with, etc.) while recreating today? _________ people

What do you think about the number of people you encountered while recreating today?

   Did they positively enhance your experience? □ Yes  □ No

   If Yes, in what ways? Please describe:

   ____________________________________________________________

   Did they negatively affect your experience? □ Yes  □ No

   If Yes, in what ways? Please describe:

   ____________________________________________________________

   □ They neither positively enhanced nor negatively affected my experience.
13. Are there places in the Central Wasatch Mountains you no longer visit because encounters with other forest users/uses have negatively affected your recreational experience? □ Yes □ No

If Yes, please identify the area(s) and explain the type of encounter and why you no longer visit:

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

14. How did you access the recreation site you are visiting today? (Check one)

□ Personal Vehicle—How many people were in your vehicle TOTAL? ______
□ Public Transit (bus, TRAX)
□ Private Shuttle
□ Biked on my own
□ Walked on my own
□ Other Please describe: __________________________________________________________

15. What motivated you to recreate TODAY?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Motivation</th>
<th>Not Important at All</th>
<th>Somewhat Unimportant</th>
<th>Neither Unimportant nor Important</th>
<th>Somewhat Important</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Observe scenic beauty</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For the adventure</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enjoy the sights and smells of nature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience the peace and tranquility</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Because it's challenging</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be with friends enjoying activities</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve my physical health</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get away from crowds</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop my skills and abilities</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do something with family</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Experience solitude</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learn more about nature</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Let my mind move at a slower pace</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Release tension</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Be unconfined by rules and regulations</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escape noise, pollution/bad air quality</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meet new people</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
16. If you could choose just one or two words to describe your personal feelings about the Central Wasatch Mountains what would the word(s) be?

___________________________________________________________________________

17. Are you recreating alone today?  □ Yes  □ No
   If No, how many people (total) are in your group? _______ people
   Of these, how many are under 16 years of age? _______ people

18. Does anyone in your group have any disabilities?  □ Yes  □ No
   If Yes, were the areas and facilities you visited accessible?  □ Yes  □ No

19. Are you a veteran?  □ Yes  □ No
   If Yes, where did you see service?  □ World War II  □ Korean Conflict
   □ Vietnam War  □ Iraq War(s)
   □ War in Afghanistan  □ ________________________
   Are you a wounded or disabled veteran?  □ Yes  □ No

20. Do you consider yourself Hispanic or Latino(a)?
   □ Yes, Hispanic or Latino(a)
   □ No, not Hispanic or Latino(a)
21. With which racial group do you most closely identify?
   □ American Indian/Alaska Native
   □ Asian
   □ Black/African American
   □ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
   □ White

22. In what year were you born? _________________

23. What is your sex:  □ Male  □ Female

24. What is the highest level of formal education you have completed?
   □ Less than a high school degree  □ High school degree or GED
   □ Some college  □ 2 year technical or associate degree
   □ 4 year college degree (BA/BS)  □ Advanced degree (e.g., Master’s, JD, MD, DO, Ph.D.)

25. Information about income is important because people with different incomes come to
    Public Lands for different reasons. What is your annual household income?
   □ Under $25,000  □ $100,000-$149,999
   □ $25,000-$49,999  □ $150,000 or over
   □ $50,000-$74,999  □ Don’t know
   □ $75,000-$99,999

26. We would like to learn more about your recreational experience and your perspectives on
    planning for the future of the Central Wasatch Mountains.
    Would you be willing to participate in a follow-up e-survey, sent to you in a couple weeks
    after your visit today?
   □ Yes  □ No

   If Yes, please provide your first name and e-mail address below:

   First Name: __________________________________________
   E-mail Address: ________________________________________

   (please write clearly)
27. If you could ask the U.S. Forest Service and/or other Public Land Management Agencies to change some things about the way they manage the Central Wasatch Mountains, what would you ask them to do?

28. Do you have any additional comments or thoughts about issues regarding the management, protection, or development of the Central Wasatch Mountains?

Thank you for your time and thoughtfulness in completing this survey. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

Institute for Outdoor Recreation and Tourism
Utah State University