

Study Area. Analysis of existing and future conditions will focus on, but not limited to, the Project Area. Conditions, development activity and trends outside the Project Area (including population and economic size and growth, global tourism, climate change, traffic congestion, and others) have influenced and will continue to influence the transportation, recreation, economic and environmental systems of the Central Wasatch. Understanding key conditions and trends outside the Project Area will be important to understanding how these systems function within the Project Area. Therefore, the Study Area for Mountain Accord extends beyond the Project Area. We must consider how trends occurring outside the Central Wasatch could significantly change the future demands on, needs of and impacts or benefits to the Central Wasatch. We will be identifying relevant conditions and trends at four different geographic scales, including:

- *The Region:* the 3-county and 5-county area surrounding the Project Area influences the Central Wasatch in numerous ways. We will map existing conditions and future trendlines for key issues at this scale, in order to understand how regional trends and conditions influence the systems in the Central Wasatch.
- *Western US:* While influence is lower than at the Regional scale, some conditions and trends in surrounding states influence the Central Wasatch. There will be one or more maps at this scale for each system, primarily to understand the context of the Central Wasatch.
- *Continental US:* Some national conditions and trends will influence aspects of the Central Wasatch systems. To-date, the only national trend of importance is the effect of national demographic changes and climate change on ski and snow resort markets and use. We should also consider how the Project Area fits into the national pattern as an economic center, transportation hub and tourist destination. Data, not maps, will be used to describe the relevant national context.
- *Global:* Where relevant, we will consider whether any global trends and conditions will affect the systems within the Project Area. To-date, climate change is the only global influence identified. However, it will be useful to understand the extent to which Utah competes on a global scale for winter tourism, and how that could change in the future. Data, not maps, will be used to describe the relevant global context.

Each system will consider relevant conditions and trends in the above geographic scales, to the extent they are influential to the Central Wasatch. The degree of influence at each scale varies by topic; for example, the future conditions of soils in the Project Area will be determined predominantly by actions in the Project Area itself, whereas the Project Area's tourist economy and activities could be meaningfully affected by future tourism and economic trends at the national and possibly even global scales. It's understood that trends at the larger scales will have little influence on future conditions for some Systems or their elements. Each System Group will determine the extent to which trends at each scale will or will not be likely to have a meaningful influence on the given System within the Central Wasatch.

