



MOUNTAIN ACCORD

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Mountain Accord to Shape Future of Wasatch Mountains and Canyons

Diverse organizations and the public to make critical decisions regarding one of Utah's most valuable resources; Initial public meetings scheduled for Feb. 4–5

SALT LAKE CITY — Representatives from multiple government agencies, business organizations and nonprofit groups today announced the launch of Mountain Accord, an effort to make critical decisions and implement solutions to help ensure the long-term vitality of the central Wasatch Mountains and canyons.

Mountain Accord is an unprecedented collaboration of more than 20 public and private organizations coming together with the public to evaluate and propose solutions to the issues associated with four areas—transportation, environment, economy, and recreation—in the central Wasatch Mountains and canyons. These diverse groups include the U.S. Forest Service, Salt Lake County, Summit County, Salt Lake City, Save Our Canyons, and Ski Utah, among others.

“The central Wasatch Mountains are so important to our state and to our quality of life,” Salt Lake County Mayor Ben McAdams said. “That’s why so many different groups are collaborating with the public’s help to find balanced solutions for the future of our mountains and canyons.”

Utah’s central Wasatch Mountains and canyons are a significant natural resource for more than 1 million nearby residents and visitors. However, continued population growth in Salt Lake, Summit and Wasatch counties means the availability of efficient transportation, clean air and water, recreation resources, and environmental sustainability will be compromised unless steps are taken now to balance these competing and overlapping demands.

Mountain Accord seeks to preserve the legacy of the Wasatch through a modern, environmentally-sustainable transportation system, responsible stewardship of the natural resources, quality recreation experiences, and a vibrant economy.

In connection with the launch of the program, residents from Salt Lake, Summit, and Wasatch counties are invited to attend one of two public meetings scheduled for Feb. 4 and 5 in Park City and Salt Lake City, respectively. These meetings will provide attendees opportunities to learn more about Mountain Accord and to submit official comments. Public comments will help shape the future of the central Wasatch Mountains by assisting the project team in identifying key issues, goals, and potential solutions.

“We invite all interested residents to attend these meetings and submit your feedback,” Summit County Councilman Chris Robinson said. “Your participation is essential in determining the future of one of Utah’s most important resources.”

Several agencies and government entities have conducted studies in recent years to understand the issues facing the region. Many of these previous plans and efforts called for a comprehensive, formal analysis of long-term solutions, which Mountain Accord will provide. These existing studies have created a framework for managing the land and resources, and their recommendations and conclusions are incorporated into the solutions which Mountain Accord will identify and implement.

The effort will consist of two phases. In Phase One, which is expected to last approximately one year, the project team will work with stakeholders and the public to identify and develop potential future scenarios that incorporate transportation, economic, environmental, and recreational goals. At the end of this phase, a preferred scenario will be selected and proposed actions will be identified that are necessary to achieve the given scenario.

Phase Two of the program will be the implementation phase, where specific actions are carried out. This phase will include necessary studies and approval processes, such as environmental impact statements (EIS). Phase Two is expected to last a minimum of two years.

The study area for Mountain Accord includes portions of Salt Lake, Summit, and Wasatch counties. The area is bounded on the west by the existing transportation backbone in the Salt Lake Valley (Salt Lake International Airport, TRAX/FrontRunner, and I-15), on the east by Park City and Wasatch and Summit counties, on the north by Parley’s Canyon, and on the south by Little Cottonwood Canyon.

For more information visit mountainaccord.com.

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