

Meeting Notes

Recreation System Group Meeting #1

This meeting covered an introduction to the Mountain Accord, the system group roles, process and schedule, and a presentation and discussion on Existing Conditions.

Presentation Summary

The initial portion of the presentation, which is available on the project website, focused on setting up the Mountain Accord project including the study area, description of the four system groups, and the schedule for Phase I. The next portion of the presentation focused on the process as it relates to the recreation system which is to develop a vision for the central Wasatch. The first step in the process is to identify the existing conditions and data sources that define those conditions. The data presented in this meeting will be strengthened by additional data provided by the stakeholders that will be reviewed by the group during Recreation System Group Meeting #2. Through future meetings, an idealized future recreation condition will be developed which will be combined with the idealized future conditions from the other system groups to determine a preferred scenario which may require a local, state, and/or federal action (Phase II).

Next, the group was asked “what is the most important issue facing the Wasatch?” (see below).

After the first discussion question, the group was presented with information regarding the existing condition of the recreation system in the context of past and anticipated population growth, study area history, recreational activities that occur in the study area, and existing information about recreational use and recreation resources gathered to date. The data have been categorized as summer recreation data (recreation that does not involve snow), winter recreation data (recreation involving snow), and the recreation setting (e.g., recreation opportunity spectrum and land jurisdiction). This data is available for review on the online map viewer (<http://bit.ly/1cIMGnQ>) and a workshop will be held at EPG’s office (208 East, 800 South, Salt Lake City) on Thursday, March 13 from 1-3 p.m to review and edit data depicting existing recreation settings.

Following the presentation, the group was asked, “What additional information is needed to summarize the existing condition of the recreation system?” (see below).

After the second survey question, the discussion moved to the next system group meeting which is scheduled for April 1, 2014 from 9-11 a.m. This meeting will focus on finalizing the existing recreation condition and introducing draft trends for system group review.

Survey:

What is the most important issue facing the Wasatch?

- Pressured related to population growth
- Transportation to and within the canyons
- Access to canyons in summer and winter
- Lack of an area-wide recreation plan and trail connectivity between different jurisdictions
- Water quality
- Climate change, especially in relation to winter recreation opportunities
- Conflicts between users
- Lack of education on recreation safely
- Preserving existing recreation resources
- Lack of availability of commercial permits
- Maintaining the whole recreation experience (from origin to destination) for future generations
- Maintaining backcountry terrain
- Conservation of area from future development
- Funding and staffing limitations for various agencies resulting in unmanaged recreation and dilapidation of facilities
- Increase of backcountry use
- Balance between ski resorts and backcountry

New Information Discussion and Requests:

What additional information is needed to summarize the existing condition of the recreation system?

- Understanding of how population growth and climate change will lead to increasing user conflicts
- Review similar models from other cities which developed recreation/transportation solutions (e.g. Los Angeles)
- Commercial use data
- A method to evaluate aesthetic, solitude, and other qualitative elements important to recreation
- Funding for recreation including operation and maintenance of facilities
- Use data to understand level of use and where. Resort skiing use is the best documented but what about other uses?
- Show recreation in context with a healthy economic condition and in balance with environmental issues
- Understanding of where existing user conflicts occur
- How do adjacent areas, including Emigration Canyon and Utah State Parks, affect the core decision area for study?
- Data from outdoor retailers about sales and how this relates to use in Wasatch

Decisions

No decisions were made at this meeting. System group members will review data available on ArcGIS online and provide comments. Stakeholders will also review the catalog of existing plans and provide

additional information, data, and studies that have not been incorporated into the information presented at the meeting.

Action Items

| No. | Action Item | Responsible | Note |
|-----|--|------------------|----------|
| 1 | Send schedule for all the upcoming meetings including Outlook meeting invites | Loretta Markham | |
| 2 | Review recreation data available on ArcGIS online link and plan catalog on Mountain Accord website. Provide existing recreation-related data describing existing conditions by Friday, March 14, 2014. | All stakeholders | |
| 3 | Distribute link to recreation map viewer | Reid Persing | Complete |
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