



MOUNTAIN ACCORD

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# Vision, Goals, and Metrics

Draft

July 28, 2014

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## WHY MOUNTAIN ACCORD?

Mountain Accord is a collaborative effort that will make critical, integrated decisions regarding the future of Utah's Central Wasatch mountains. The Central Wasatch mountains are a beautiful and an irreplaceable resource – and the time for future-focused decision-making is now. Mountain Accord has brought together over twenty organizations that are committed to planning collaboratively and regionally to ensure that the Wasatch mountains are resilient in the face of future challenges. The first phase will culminate in a broad agreement on a preferred scenario that will identify optimal areas for preservation, development, and environmentally-sustainable transportation corridors and modes.

The legacy of the Central Wasatch mountains is framed by its natural history and environment and is sustained through the last century of stewardship and conservation by the human inhabitants that call this region home. The water emanating from the mountains is a defining element of the last 150 years of development, growth, and prosperity of the urbanized valleys. The Central Wasatch mountains are home to 7 world-class ski resorts. They form the iconic backdrop for Utah's population centers and serve as the gateway for the state's 12 billion-dollar-a-year tourism industry which draws regional, national, and international visitors. For more than a century, the Central Wasatch mountains have been a welcome retreat into the quiet and solace of nature. They are the back yard to our urban areas and are loved by our residents for the diverse recreational opportunities they offer and the role they play in promoting active lifestyles.

The purpose of Mountain Accord is to preserve this legacy through a modern, environmentally-sustainable transportation system, responsible stewardship of natural resources, quality recreation experiences, and a vibrant economy.



## WHY VISION, GOALS, AND METRICS?

The Phase 1 work of Mountain Accord is built around a systems approach to planning. We have formed four System Groups, corresponding to Mountain Accord's four primary goals – environment, recreation, transportation and economics. The System Groups are populated with policy-level and technical subject matter experts, community and advocacy groups, and staff from agencies and organizations with an interest or mandate related to that system.

Each System group has developed a **Vision** statement that briefly articulates, in a broad sense, a shared description of the desired future state of that System in the Central Wasatch. It is meant to be inspirational and reflective of the communities' values and highest desires for that System. The Vision provides a foundation for determining more specific goals. It is stated in the present tense, as though describing how that System will be performing in its idealized state in the future.

The **Goals** describe the specific desired outcomes for the System by the year 2040. They give more specificity to the Vision. They address the question: What are the key outcomes we need by 2040 in order to achieve our long term vision for this System? The goals are intended to represent outcomes that can be accomplished through the proposed actions that will be recommended through Mountain Accord.

The **Metrics** are essentially the criteria for evaluating potential Idealized Systems and Combined Scenarios. They will be used to measure how well proposed actions (project and policy proposals) address the Goals, using data or information that is available in Phase 1.

The remainder of this document outlines the Vision, Goals, and Metrics that have been developed and approved by each System Group.

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*We would appreciate your feedback on the Vision, Goals, and Metrics! Please visit [www.mountainaccord.com](http://www.mountainaccord.com) by August 8<sup>th</sup> to submit a comment.*

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## ECONOMY SYSTEM GROUP

**Vision:**

By 2040, the Central Wasatch Mountains achieve a balance of broadly shared economic growth, high-quality development and high-value transportation infrastructure that is attractive, sustainable, and provides opportunity for visitors and residents. The Central Wasatch brand is clearly differentiated as high quality, convenient, and unique in the world, with diverse use and access options. Prioritized protection of natural and scenic resources ensures that quality of life and quality of experience are enhanced over the long term.

Goal	Metrics
Grow the year-round, destination-based travel, tourism, and recreation economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total annual skier spending</li> <li>• Quarterly hotel utilization</li> </ul>
Maximize the financial resources available to reinvest in improving and protecting Central Wasatch assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual tourism-related tax revenue</li> <li>• Assessed value of all property within ¼ mile of key Mountain Accord investments</li> <li>• Annual public investment used to enhance the natural and built environment</li> </ul>
Improve the quality of experience for residents and visitors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total day use visits accommodated; perceived quality of visitor experience</li> <li>• Visitors that can reach key destinations without an automobile in less than an hour</li> </ul>
Improve quality of life for residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resolves land-use and property-rights conflicts</li> <li>• Compatibility with community character objectives</li> <li>• People want to live here; attractive for employers/employees</li> </ul>



## ENVIRONMENT SYSTEM GROUP

**Vision:**

The Central Wasatch is a natural ecosystem that is conserved, protected, and restored such that it is healthy, functional and resilient for current and future generations.

Goal	Metrics
Protect, maintain and improve watershed health, water supply, and water quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Degree of impairment or improvement to watersheds</li> <li>Protection of existing and future water supply sources</li> </ul>
Protect and improve air quality for protection of public health, environmental health, and scenic visibility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction in vehicle miles traveled in project area (compared to existing condition)</li> <li>[Placeholder for new metric regarding haze]</li> </ul>
Protect and restore functioning and connected aquatic and terrestrial habitats and ecosystems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Degree of impact or improvement in core areas and connectivity areas (direct effects)</li> <li>Degree of fragmentation of corridors connecting core areas</li> </ul>
Preserve additional lands to avoid loss of critical conservation values, and restore existing degraded lands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional acres of land with conservation values (Watershed, Scenic, Historic/Cultural, Wildlife/Ecological, Connectivity)</li> <li>Restored acres of land with conservation values (Watershed, Scenic, Historic/Cultural, Wildlife/Ecological, Connectivity)</li> </ul>
Mitigate the severity of climate change and develop adaptive capacity to reduce vulnerabilities to local climate change impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Net reduction of greenhouse gases</li> <li>Extent that climate change vulnerabilities have been accessed and addressed</li> </ul>
Develop legal, regulatory, financial and integrated governance structures that provide long-term and sustainable support for achieving the environment system goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amount of funding to support adaptive management strategies to protect, maintain and improve environment system</li> <li>Positive/neutral/negative impact to legal, regulatory, financial and governance structures (e.g., Does proposed action set new precedence re. existing ordinance? Would it result in additional stress to agency resources?)</li> </ul>



## TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM GROUP

### Vision:

The Central Wasatch transportation system is integrated within the fabric of community values and lifestyle choices, supports land use objectives, and connects to the overall regional network. We meet the growing demand for access to and within the Central Wasatch Mountains through a dynamic and sustainable multi-modal mountain transportation system that provides year-round transportation choices to residents, visitors and employees, improves safety and efficiency, and is compatible with the unique environmental characteristics of the Central Wasatch.

Goal	Metrics
Provide integrated multimodal transportation choices for residents, visitors, and employees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase percent of trips to-and-from mountain destinations accommodated by alternate modes (i.e. non-SOV, mode split)</li> <li>• Provides access to a range of destinations (activity and development centers as well as dispersed recreation)</li> <li>• Provides benefit within the regional transportation system (e.g. reduces demand or provides an alternate choice on congested corridors)</li> </ul>
Ensure the transportation experience is reliable and facilitates a positive experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce system susceptibility to risks caused by avalanches, rockslides, inclement weather, and incidents</li> <li>• Leverage parking to support the transportation system and provide reliable user experience</li> <li>• Flexible capacity to accommodate daily and seasonal fluctuations in demand</li> </ul>
Ensure the transportation experience is safe and promotes health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive influence on high-accident locations</li> <li>• Ability to provide evacuation alternatives</li> <li>• Accommodate and encourage bike and pedestrian use of transportation corridors</li> <li>• Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) to improve air quality and provide other environmental benefits</li> </ul>
The transportation system supports the natural and intrinsic values of the Central Wasatch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigates need to expand surface parking in sensitive natural areas</li> <li>• Avoids negative impacts to priority environmental areas</li> </ul>



## RECREATION SYSTEM GROUP

<b>Vision:</b>
The recreation system in the Central Wasatch is balanced, sustainable, and provides a range of settings that accommodates increasing demand for year-round outdoor recreation opportunities while protecting solitude, naturalness, and other backcountry values by encouraging stewardship and high levels of use at thoughtfully designed locations with convenient access.

Goal	Metrics
Identify and establish high use areas to focus where future growth in recreation occurs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Score based on checklist of desirable high use nodes.</li> <li>• Average number of user level types (casual, active, committed) served at high use nodes by season.</li> <li>• Average number of uses (e.g., resort and backcountry skiing) at high use nodes by season.</li> </ul>
Preserve special, unique recreation areas and settings to maintain opportunities for solitude and naturalness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggregate score based on checklist of areas to be preserved with a suggested level of management (e.g., wilderness, special management area, backcountry skiing areas with no helicopter access, permitted access, etc.) with relative scores measuring desirability of different management options.</li> </ul>
Provide a well-designed, appropriately maintained, well-signed, and interconnected trail network that meets demand and can adapt to evolving uses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Score based on checklist of desirable trail connections completed.</li> <li>• Qualitative assessment of trail system quality by area (Big Cottonwood Canyon, Little Cottonwood Canyon, Parley/Millcreek canyons, and Wasatch Back) and overall system, by scoring 6 qualitative components on a scale of 1-3 for a total of 18 points.</li> </ul>
Pursue the most appropriate and feasible means of securing legal public access to critical recreational opportunities while mitigating conflicts on privately-owned lands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aggregate score based on checklist of key areas where acquiring public access is desirable.</li> </ul>
Establish appropriate levels of access and designed settings in harmony with the desired recreation experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Qualitative ranking of responsiveness of the designed recreation environment to the desired recreation setting by scoring 4</li> </ul>

	<p>qualitative components on a scale of 1-3 for a total of 12 points for each node (node scores will be averaged by area [Big Cottonwood Canyon, Little Cottonwood Canyon, Parley/Millcreek canyons, and Wasatch Back])</p>
<p>Establish an organization, with authority to act based on public support, that fosters long-term success of the Central Wasatch recreation system by promoting collaborative and united management, user education, and acquisition of ongoing funding for continued system maintenance, evolution, and management.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of participating agencies with authority to act and the means to provide and secure ongoing funding (e.g., U.S. Forest Service, Salt Lake City, Wasatch County, etc.).</li> <li>• Annual recreation budget for a Central Wasatch recreation organization.</li> </ul>

