

CHAPTER 4. LAND USE POLICIES

Policies in this Chapter apply to land uses in the Plan area generally and are the official position of Salt Lake County on major Canyon issues.

SKI AREA EXPANSION

SALT LAKE COUNTY SKI RESORT BOUNDARIES SHOULD BE RETAINED WITHIN EXISTING U.S. FOREST SERVICE PERMIT AREAS AS APPROVED IN THE 1985 WASATCH-CACHE NATIONAL FOREST LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN WITH THE EXCEPTION LISTED BELOW. RESORTS MAY EXPAND CAPACITIES ON PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LANDS WITHIN THE PERMIT AREAS UP TO THE LEVEL PROVIDED FOR IN THE 1985 NATIONAL FOREST PLAN.

CONSISTENT WITH THIS POLICY, SKI AREA BOUNDARY EXPANSION BEYOND U.S. FOREST PERMIT AREA BOUNDARIES ON ADJACENT PRIVATE LAND WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED WITHOUT AMENDMENT TO THIS PLAN. SALT LAKE COUNTY MAY CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT INVOLVING EXPANSION ONTO PRIVATE LANDS OUTSIDE THE 1985 FOREST SERVICE PERMIT BOUNDARIES PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS ARE MET:

1. ALL REASONABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EFFICIENT SKI AREA EXPANSION WITHIN THE EXISTING FOREST SERVICE PERMIT AREA HAVE BEEN UTILIZED.
2. STATE OF THE ART STUDIES SHOW THAT WATER QUALITY WILL NOT BE DEGRADED.
3. OTHER LAND USERS, AFFECTED LANDOWNERS AND THE WASATCH CANYONS COORDINATING COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN CONSULTED.
4. AN ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS IS PREPARED INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANALYSIS OF TRANSPORTATION, VISUAL EFFECTS, SAFETY, SERVICE, RESOURCE, LAND USE CONSTRAINTS AND CUMULATIVE EFFECTS.
5. FULL PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED THROUGH THE CONDITIONAL USE PERMITTING PROCESS.
6. EXPANSION WILL OCCUR ONLY ON SUITABLE TERRAIN.
7. THIS MASTER PLAN IS AMENDED.

ADDITIONAL PARKING LOTS ARE NOT ALLOWED AT SKI AREAS ON PRIVATE LANDS UNLESS THEY CONTRIBUTE TO SOLVING TRANSPORTATION PROBLEMS AND IMPROVE THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT.

Deep powder snow, the scenic beauty of the Wasatch Range, and easy access from a major airport and the Salt Lake Valley combine in the canyons to afford some of the finest and most convenient

downhill skiing opportunities in the United States. The canyon ski areas serve more people than any other canyon use and are important components of the local economy.

The ski resorts must be able to adapt to changes in market size and composition and to innovations in equipment and physical facilities in order to compete in the national market. The Forest management plan provides for reasonable increases in skier capacities within the present permit areas for the duration of this Plan.

Under the Forest Service Plan, ski resort expansion within existing resort permit boundaries could amount to up to an additional 4,100 Skiers At One Time (SAOT) in Little Cottonwood Canyon and 2,900 SAOT in Big Cottonwood Canyon for a potential total increase of 7,000 SAOT, or a 46 percent increase over current canyon ski resort total skiing capacities. The Forest Plan anticipates the development of approximately 10 new ski lifts at resorts in Big Cottonwood Canyon and Little Cottonwood Canyon that would open up new downhill skiing terrain and expand access to existing terrain within ski area boundaries. The Forest Plan ski area permit boundaries encompass considerable terrain that is not presently utilized by ski areas.

Ski area expansion beyond U.S. Forest Service permit boundaries, except for minor technical adjustments (for administrative or environmental reasons), would be inconsistent with this plan, except for limited instances where lifts access private land. The Forest Service Plan boundary was not necessarily prepared with full consideration of an appropriate final boundary for ski resort expansion onto adjacent private land. Salt Lake County would consider expansion beyond the Forest Service boundary on private lands only under the conditions outlined on page 33. The applicant for potential expansion onto private land should consult the Wasatch Canyons Coordinating Committee (see p. 28 for a discussion of that Committee) early in the planning process to insure that all agency concerns are addressed in the environmental analysis. Proposals must have full public review. Final decisions will be the responsibility of the jurisdictions having regulatory authority.

Ski demand projections completed for this planning process showed a future average annual skier visit growth rate of 2 percent in the Cottonwood Canyons, slightly lower than the 3 percent growth rate identified in the 1985 Forest Service Plan. The Plan's additional research demonstrated no clear need to deviate from the Forest Service established policies on future ski area expansion in the Canyons. This research was based on historical use and trends. Ski industry marketing, snow conditions or other factors could affect the real rate of growth. Growth in skier use should

be monitored, and reviewed by the Wasatch Canyons Coordinating Committee (see p. 28 for a discussion of that Committee). By effecting ski area expansion within existing permit area boundaries, alpine skiing can meet substantial growth in demand in the coming years without affecting uses on other terrain. It is anticipated that if an amendment is proposed to the Forest Service Plan, that parallel amendments would be proposed to this Plan.

Under the 1985 Forest Service Plan, additional skier parking lots are not allowed on National Forest lands. The limitation on additional parking lots at ski areas is consistent with that policy and with the transportation goals of this Plan. Ski resorts are affected by transportation policies of this Plan (see Page 51).

OLYMPICS

APPROVALS OF THE HOLDING OF OLYMPIC EVENTS WITHIN THE CANYONS SHOULD BE CONTINGENT UPON THE SPECIFIC EVENT, ITS IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM IMPACTS, THE PROVISION FOR SUCCESSFUL MITIGATION STRATEGIES, AND SPECIFIC CRITERIA.

This Plan limits potential Canyon Olympics competitive events to nordic track in Parleys Canyon which could be conducted without long-term impacts on canyon resources. This is consistent with the present Olympics proposal.

Because of widespread public interest it is recommended that a referendum on the Olympics be conducted by the sponsoring entity.

SALT LAKE COUNTY APPROVALS FOR CONDUCTING OLYMPIC EVENTS IN PARLEYS CANYON WILL BE CONTINGENT UPON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1. **CONSTRUCTION OF PERMANENT FACILITIES MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH THIS PLAN** (including, but not limited to, lodging, snowsheds, road improvements, parking, restaurants, sanitation facilities, event apparatus, and other visitor and participant facilities that benefit long-term management of the canyon);
2. **REMOVAL AND MITIGATION OF EFFECTS OF TEMPORARY FACILITIES.**
3. **A VIABLE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM** to accommodate Olympic use which is tied to and consistent with a Mountain Transportation System.
4. **A FAVORABLE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, INCLUDING ANALYSIS OF SUITABILITY OF ALTERNATIVE SITES, PREPARED WITH COUNTY PARTICIPATION; RESOLUTION OF IDENTIFIED ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS.**

5. ISSUANCE OF NECESSARY FOREST SERVICE PERMITS.
6. ISSUANCE OF NECESSARY SALT LAKE COUNTY CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS.

NORDIC TRACK

THE EXISTING BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON FACILITY AND THE EXPANDED PARLEYS CANYON TRACK ARE ANTICIPATED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE NORDIC TRACK FACILITIES.

Nordic track skiing is growing in popularity, but the rate of growth in demand is uncertain. The existing Big Cottonwood Canyon track, coupled with the doubling of the Mountain Dell Track in Parleys Canyon, should satisfy demand through the plan period. If warranted by demand, further track development is possible depending upon site suitability and potential affects on other canyon uses.

Future improvements at the Big Cottonwood Track, cited in the 1985 Forest Service Plan, including lighting of the Silver Lake Flat Loop, winter use of the Evergreen Summer Home access road, and a potential new base facility on Silver Lake Flat are consistent with the Plan.

It is also considered important to maintain the traditional access to the Big Cottonwood Track from Brighton Village to afford use by patrons of both downhill ski areas in the Canyon and by people using the Brighton Loop/Silver Lake areas.

BACKCOUNTRY SKIING

NECESSARY PROGRAMS SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED TO MAINTAIN THE EXISTING BACKCOUNTRY SKI AREAS INDICATED ON THE BACKCOUNTRY/TOURING SKI USE MAP AND TO PROVIDE CONTINUED OR IMPROVED ACCESS TO TRAILS AND TRAILHEADS. A FUTURE CORRIDOR FOR A MOUNTAIN TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM MAY AFFECT BACKCOUNTRY SKIING TERRAIN.

Backcountry skiing utilizes the same general areas as many other dispersed recreation activities addressed in the plan. The activity has only minor impacts on canyon terrain and provides a quality recreational experience for a growing number of people.

Refinements in equipment, technique, and skill have introduced this use to terrain which was previously inaccessible in the winter. Its popularity in the Canyons is in part attributable to Wasatch deep powder snow, the opportunity to have a serene, quiet experience with nature, and the test of stamina and skill involved in skiing up, and down, steep mountain slopes. During plan

hearings it was emphasized that a primary attraction of the canyons was being able to ski undisturbed, powder slopes; that intrusion of other uses or overuse, would substantially detract from the experience and diminish the rewards of trudging to the top of a high mountain slope. There are canyon terrain limits to this kind of experience and some enthusiasts may have to seek alternative opportunities outside of the Wasatch Canyons.

The popularity of backcountry skiing and improved equipment, coupled with competition from helicopter skiing, have led to increasing conflicts in the Tri-Canyon area. It is recommended to the U.S. Forest Service that the issue of backcountry skiing safety and quality of experience be monitored to preserve this use in the Wasatch.

This plan supports consideration and evaluation of a mountain transportation system to link Salt Lake Valley, ski resorts in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons, Park City and the Heber Valley. If such a system were developed, it may be necessary to provide a transportation corridor through existing backcountry ski terrain. Such a corridor could be consistent with this Plan, as long as the criteria listed for such a system (page 52) are met.

Backcountry skiing occurs on suitable terrain, whether private or public ownership exists. In some cases backcountry skiers trespass on private lands; the issue of trespass by backcountry skiers and other dispersed recreation users may ultimately have to be resolved through acquisition of rights to use private ground.

Additional benefits of this backcountry skiing policy are that these same areas will largely be preserved in their natural state for summer hiking and their scenic beauty.

HELICOPTER SKIING

HELICOPTER SKIING AS CURRENTLY OPERATED UNDER U.S. FOREST SERVICE PERMIT SHOULD BE CONTINUED AS A DISPERSED RECREATION USE.

Helicopter skiing provides quick access to backcountry ski terrain. When properly managed conflicts with other users can be reduced and long-term environmental impacts can be minimized.

Permit holders should continue to be sensitive to other backcountry users and should consider establishing an information center where other users could learn which part of the permit area is going to be used on a specific day and could choose to avoid that area and perceived user conflicts.

Through their rescue capabilities, helicopter skiing permit holders provide a vital life-safety service.

Salt Lake County recommends that the Forest Service further assess avalanche hazards in steep terrain and monitor helicopter and backcountry high use ski areas for conflict. Avalanche hazard awareness training and education should continue to increase.

Existing Forest Service management policy for helicopter skiing within the Plan area includes continuing the one current special use permit; restricting helicopter skiing to the runs identified in that permit; excluding helicopter skiing from certain high use areas (north side of Big Cottonwood to the Mill Creek divide from Butler Fork east to Mill F Canyon, Catherine's Pass, and Twin Lakes Area); identifying use areas and landing points on maps for public use so other users can avoid potential conflicts; and monitoring use in popular areas for possible health or safety conflicts.

SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

SALT LAKE COUNTY WILL LIMIT NEW RESIDENTIAL LOTS, SUBDIVISIONS, AND PERMITS TO THE MOST SUITABLE SITES, SUBJECT TO COMPLIANCE WITH ESTABLISHED SUITABILITY STANDARDS.

PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD'S) ARE ENCOURAGED FOR ANY SUBDIVISION OVER ONE ACRE.

EXISTING LARGE-LOT ZONING WILL BE RETAINED AND CONSOLIDATION OF SUBSTANDARD (SMALL) LOTS INTO LARGER PARCELS WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO CREATE MORE VIABLE BUILDING SITES.

COUNTY ORDINANCES WILL BE IMPLEMENTED TO ACQUIRE EASEMENTS OR ACCESS TO TRAILHEADS/PUBLIC LANDS FOR NEW SUBDIVISIONS AND AS A CONDITION TO LAND-USE APPROVALS AS WARRANTED.

Year-round residences and seasonal cabins have been located in the Canyons since the early days of Salt Lake Valley settlement and are appropriate canyon uses today. Only City Creek and Red Butte Canyons have no residential use.

It is important to be sensitive to the rights of private landowners in the canyons. The Plan policies seek to balance protection of landowners' rights with protection of the scenic beauty, general public use of the canyons, and watershed protection needs. Previously approved lots and subdivisions within the canyons will largely be unaffected by this Plan. (For a summary of Salt Lake County's development regulations in the Canyons, see page 100, and Appendix 8,9,10 and 11.)

Twenty percent of the land within the Canyons is privately owned. Residential development on private lands may proceed if it is on a lot of record, complies with zoning requirements and standards, verifies its water supply, and has acceptable wastewater treatment.

Existing regulations guide location, nature, and density of residential development on private property. County zoning applicable to all the Canyons addresses mitigation of natural hazards, Board of Health approval (including drinking water, water storage for fire protection, and adequate wastewater systems), use of appropriate building materials, grading and revegetation to eliminate erosion, parking, and placement of utilities. Zoning also specifies minimum lot sizes from 0.5 to 20 acres and prohibits development of new lots on slopes exceeding 30 percent.

For National Forest lands, the 1985 Wasatch-Cache National Forest Plan policy is to retain existing recreation residence special-use permit areas, but to issue no new additional permits.

There are about 1,100 single family dwelling units in the Canyons with over 850 of them in Emigration and Big Cottonwood Canyons. There are nearly 2,000 unoccupied, previously recorded residential lots, 1200 in Emigration Canyon, 680 in Big Cottonwood, and the remainder in Parleys and Little Cottonwood. All of these lots of record may not qualify for a building permit because of an inadequate water supply or for other reasons.

Salt Lake City, the holder of most Canyon water rights, has outstanding contracts for water connections to 267 lots not including Emigration Canyon. Its 1981 moratorium halted additional surplus water sales. The Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities has notified the County that a lifting of the City's moratorium would be accompanied by the following policies:

1. Available water within the canyons is a constraining factor in development in the canyons. Surplus sales will be limited to springs which meet acceptable standards in regard to protection zones, water quality and quantity.
2. Drilling of wells, construction of surface water treatment facilities, importation of water from outside the canyons and the transfer of water rights from the valley up stream into the canyons will be opposed.
3. Existing surplus sales contracts will only be honored from the source identified in the contracts. These cannot be transferred or another source used.

Salt Lake County has approved (either finally or preliminarily) Emigration Oaks, Criterion Solar, and Perkins Hollow developments for a total of 217 residential lots in Emigration Canyon. Salt Lake County receives an average of twenty applications a year for canyon single family residential development.

By directing new development toward larger lots, negotiating public access through new subdivisions, encouraging consolidation of existing small lots, and seeking planned unit development, the visual intrusions of new development will be reduced. By acquiring trailhead access where needed as a condition for new land-use approvals, rights-of-way can be established to reduce user/landowner conflicts. Acquisitions of specific parcels prior to possible development will reduce the potential for future conflicts among developed use, public recreation, and environmental protection and may reduce public trespass on private property.

Limiting new lots and subdivisions to the most suitable sites would direct development toward areas which meet residential suitability criteria including analysis of such factors as water availability, utility service, road access, natural hazards, zoning, environmental and critical wildlife habitat protection, and other uses.

LOCATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES

FOR BIG AND LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYONS, FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF ALL COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES, LODGING, AND CONDOMINIUMS SHOULD BE CONSOLIDATED AT EXISTING COMMERCIAL AREAS HAVING SUITABLE TERRAIN IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF THE SKI RESORTS TO PRESERVE THE NATURAL APPEARANCE AND AVOID THE PROLIFERATION OF COMMERCIAL AREAS IN THE CANYONS. FOR OTHER CANYONS, COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT WILL BE LIMITED TO EXISTING COMMERCIAL ZONED AREAS.

At ski resort areas in Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons, including Brighton Village and Alta, there are numerous ski-related business activities including lodging, shops, restaurants, multi-family residential units, and other retail/service businesses. The Town of Alta manages commercial development within its own jurisdiction. Outside of the ski resort areas, there are only a few commercial enterprises within the Canyons.

Salt Lake County zoning and other management restrictions limit areas within the Canyons where commercial enterprises may be located. The FM zone permits high density residential, limited commercial and other uses on private lands. Commercial visitor (CV) also exists in some canyons. These zoning classifications require environmental protection measures addressing natural hazards, Board of Health approval, building materials, grading, natural vegetation, parking requirements, and utilities.

The 1985 Forest Service Plan does not allow the location of any new commercial overnight lodging facilities on National Forest Lands, but from prior approvals would allow third floor expansion of the Mt. Majestic Lodge at Brighton since it was part of the original Forest Service-approved design.

A major objective of this Plan is to preserve the natural beauty of the Canyons. The addition of new, free standing stores, gas stations, restaurants or multi-family housing outside of the existing resort areas would not be appropriate to the canyon setting and would offer services already available only a short distance from any portion of the canyons.

Due to limited suitable terrain, other canyon uses, traffic considerations and the proximity to commercial services in the Valley, future non-ski resort commercial enterprises should be located outside of the canyons in the Salt Lake Valley.

Several existing commercial establishments are fixtures in the canyons which the public accepts and enjoys and which are intended to remain. Existing commercial structures should comply with new standards when permits are issued for building changes. Outside of the Cottonwood Canyons, there are existing commercially zoned areas in Emigration and Mill Creek Canyons. New commercial enterprises would be limited to existing commercial zones in those Canyons.

For ski-related commercial development, other than proposed modifications to existing downhill ski facilities, the only commercial development currently in the approval process is for 280 condominium units at Solitude contingent upon construction of a sewer line in Big Cottonwood Canyon. An additional parking terrace was previously approved for Snowbird.

Any proposals for additional Canyon lodging are subject to existing building and zoning requirements, suitability reviews, water availability, aesthetic guidelines, and sewer connections.

CAMPING AND PICNICKING

CAMPING AND PICNICKING FACILITY SHORTAGES WILL BECOME MORE SEVERE AS DEMAND INCREASES IN THE CANYONS. EXISTING CANYON SITES SHOULD BE REHABILITATED, CONNECTED TO SEWER SERVICE WHEN AND WHERE FEASIBLE, AND BE SUBJECT TO USER FEES AND GROUP RESERVATIONS. ADDITIONAL FACILITIES SHOULD BE CONSTRUCTED ON THE LIMITED SUITABLE TERRAIN WHICH IS AVAILABLE. SITES SHOULD BE DEVELOPED OUT OF THE PLAN AREA TO ACCOMMODATE DEMAND.

In 1987, Forest Service Canyon campgrounds and picnic areas supported 307,000 visitor days. There was also heavy visitor use of canyon facilities operated by Salt Lake City. Demand projections for camping and picnicking facilities indicate an average annual 1.5 percent growth over the next 20 years. Given current levels of use, facility shortages, and limited suitable terrain for additional facilities, the canyons cannot accommodate the projected demand for this use. Even today, many camp and picnic sites show deterioration from overuse.

The most suitable camping and picnicking terrain is largely already used for this purpose. Suitability analysis conducted as part of this Plan, reveals that particularly in the tri-canyon area, there is a critical lack of suitable picnicking and camping terrain. Suitable sites are available in Emigration and Parleys Canyons, and Salt Lake City intends to make minor additions to its facilities in Parleys Canyon. These additional sites and possibly increased capacity at some Forest Service camp and picnic sites in Big Cottonwood and Little Cottonwood Canyons will be helpful, but will not go far in relieving pressure on popular existing sites in Mill Creek, Big Cottonwood, and Little Cottonwood Canyons.

Instead of relying on expansion of canyon facilities to meet demand, Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation Department should develop alternative camping and picnicking sites outside the Canyons. A public information program to acquaint the user public with these new sites can help to shift demand to them.

This shortage means existing sites will need to be managed better and there will be more competition among users. Implementation of user fees and of reservations for groups beyond existing requirements should be phased in based on the levels of site use, need to control overcrowding, and administrative efficiencies.

Current heavy use has contributed to deterioration of some sites. Existing sites should be rehabilitated, including the hardening (paving) of camp and picnic surfaces so they may better withstand the use pressure they now experience. Where feasible, stream access should be controlled to reduce contamination, parking should be improved, and sanitation facilities should be connected to existing or future sewers. As facilities are updated or replaced, site and facility design should be barrier free to accommodate the handicapped.

HIKING AND BACKPACKING

QUALITY HIKING OPPORTUNITIES SHOULD BE PRESERVED BY MONITORING AND MAINTAINING THE EXISTING TRAIL SYSTEM, ASSURING ACCESS TO TRAILS, PROVIDING BETTER USER INFORMATION ON TRAILS AND TRAIL COURTESY, AND CONSTRUCTING SPECIFIED NEW TRAILS.

Hiking is a popular, dispersed, and in most cases, non-intensive use of the canyons which affords recreational opportunities for a broad range of the public.

Three new trails are recommended for construction: a trail in Little Cottonwood Canyon from Alta to Tanners Flat; a trail in Big Cottonwood Canyon from Brighton to the Spruces; and a special trail for people with physical disabilities. The two Cottonwood trails, for year-round use, should be designed and have public use rights-of-way to provide for hiking, cross country skiing, and accommodating snowcats to evacuate the upper canyons in the event of winter highway closure or avalanche hazard.

The trail for people with disabilities would afford them a new Canyon recreational opportunity. It should be planned in consultation with handicapped groups, the Forest Service, and with reviews of similar facilities elsewhere. An appropriate location may be at Silver Lake in Big Cottonwood Canyon.

Access to trailheads has become a priority concern as developments near the canyons and within the canyons have in some cases jeopardized access. Purchase of easements, selective acquisition of private property, and provision for trail access as a condition of land-use approvals should be pursued where appropriate to protect access to trailheads or to provide trailhead parking.

Some trails have or may experience overuse and may require more intensive maintenance and/or temporary closure or restrictions on use on a case-by-case basis.

Improved user education programs could help preserve a quality hiking experience and reduce conflicts. A program to inform canyon users about trail courtesy, pack-in/pack-out, respect for private property, fire safety and dangers, pet, stream, and wilderness restrictions, and general protection of the natural environment will become increasingly important as trail use increases. Trails should be marked where they enter and leave private lands and where they enter a wilderness.

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE USE

THE WASATCH CANYONS COORDINATING COMMITTEE SHOULD CONDUCT A REVIEW OF OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE USES AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN THE USE AREAS; IDENTIFY IMMEDIATE AND LONG-TERM PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH SUCH USE; AND RECOMMEND FUTURE MANAGEMENT AND/OR CLOSURE OF OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE AREAS ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, MORE INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT OF OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE USE AREAS AND MORE STRINGENT ENFORCEMENT IN PROHIBITING OFF-HIGHWAY USE IN NON-DESIGNATED AREAS IS ESSENTIAL.

LANDS OUTSIDE OF THE CANYONS SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED FOR THESE RECREATIONAL PURSUITS AND A PUBLIC INFORMATION PROGRAM CONDUCTED TO ACQUAINT THE PUBLIC WITH THEM.

Guardsman Pass and Cardiff Fork roads have been available for Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use. Mineral Fork has been available for trail bike use. These uses and activities within the canyons are appropriate, but only if they are adequately managed and if the user public observes existing restrictions and regulations for such use. Off-road use (leaving established paved or dirt roads) is prohibited anywhere in the canyons.

There are some areas where users have left roadways and where degradation has occurred. Further efforts must be made to erect barriers and signs where people are tempted to drive off roads or parking areas, and to have more vigorous enforcement of OHV restrictions by the appropriate authorities.

Preparation of the U.S. Forest Service Travel Plan may provide opportunities for Coordinating Committee review and County policy recommendations.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

A LIMITED NUMBER OF TRAILS OR ROUTES SHOULD BE DESIGNATED FOR OFF-ROAD MOUNTAIN BIKE USE. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THESE TRAILS, BIKES SHOULD BE RESTRICTED TO ROAD USE WITHIN THE CANYONS.

Mountain Biking has enjoyed a rapid increase in popularity in the canyons and should be provided for when not in conflict with other users or with other goals of this Plan.

Mountain biking usually occurs on paved and unpaved roads, but there is some trail use, usually on gentler-sloped trails. In some cases trail degradation may be accelerated with mountain bike use and there are conflicts with foot traffic on trails. On the other hand, some trails are too steep or rough for most mountain bike access. By designating some trails for mountain bike use, hikers would be aware that the trail is also used by mountain bikes,

mountain bikers should be directed to the most suitable trails for that use, and trail maintenance could be intensified if necessary. Mountain bike use is not allowed in the wilderness areas.

Anticipated amendment to the Forest Service Travel Plan may further address canyon mountain biking issues.

ROCK CLIMBING

ACCESS AND PARKING FOR ROCK CLIMBING SHOULD BE PROVIDED.

Currently, rock climbers park where they can, often risking citation and jeopardizing public safety, and then find restricted access to some of the most popular, challenging rock climbing areas near the mouth of the Canyons. Rock climbing is an appropriate canyon activity which will occur whether or not it is provided for and efforts should be made to accommodate these users and to provide public access to popular rock climbing areas. As discussed for dispersed parking, heavy-use areas should have sanitation and trash collection facilities provided.

GRAZING OF DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK

EXISTING FOREST SERVICE GRAZING PERMITS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE THROUGH THEIR TERMS. IT IS RECOMMENDED TO THE FOREST SERVICE THAT EXISTING GRAZING BE PHASED OUT OVER TIME AS PERMITS EXPIRE, PARTICULARLY IN CANYONS USED FOR WATER SUPPLY, TO ELIMINATE CONFLICTS WITH RECREATIONAL USERS AND TO FURTHER PROTECT THE WATERSHED.

Grazing has been a historical use in the canyons since pioneer days. However, with ever-increasing recreational use and water quality concerns, grazing of domestic livestock is not an appropriate long-term future use of the Canyons.

The U.S. Forest Service continues to allow limited grazing operations in the canyons for existing permits, but does not issue new permits. A Forest Service grazing permit is issued for a term of ten years and is renewable unless there is some substantial reason to deny its continuance.

MINING RIGHTS

RIGHTS TO MINERALS UNDER MINING CLAIMS OR THROUGH OWNERSHIP OF PRIVATE PROPERTY SHOULD BE RESPECTED. CONDITIONS TO MINING USE APPROVALS SHOULD FOLLOW THE SAME STANDARDS FOR WATERSHED PROTECTION, ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS AS REQUIRED OF OTHER PRIVATE PROPERTY INTERESTS.

The canyons, particularly Big and Little Cottonwood Canyons, served as major mining districts for gold and silver in the latter

part of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A colorful part of the history of the Wasatch Mountains and the State of Utah is reflected in this rich mining area. Today, there are no mining activities in the canyons, but much of the private lands are mining claims that were patented, and thereby became private property. The potential exists for mining operations to resume on unpatented mining claims and on private land in the future.

Salt Lake County requires a conditional use permit for mineral extraction and processing within FR zones of the canyons. The permit stipulates requirements for mine activity before, during, and after the mining operation. Miners on unpatented mining claims in the canyons are subject to regulation by the U.S. Forest Service and state and local governments for surface protection. Miners on private lands are subject to state and local government regulation.

Because mining is not actively pursued at this time in the canyons, it does not conflict with other uses. However, Salt Lake County will evaluate any proposals to re-open mining operations in the Canyons assuring protection of the watersheds, and considering implications for transportation, public safety, and the full realm of local governmental concerns.

Continued reclamation of abandoned mine sites, including tailings and the closure of abandoned mine shafts, is supported for purposes of aesthetics, stabilization of tailings, water quality, and public safety.

HORSEBACK RIDING

PRIOR TO ANY FUTURE POLICY DECISIONS WHICH MAY AFFECT EQUESTRIAN USE IN THE CANYONS, USERS SHOULD BE PROVIDED A FORUM FOR EXPLORING WITH POLICYMAKERS OPTIONS REGARDING SUCH USE.

Horseback riding is a long-established and traditional use in the canyons, predating many other recreational pursuits of the 20th Century. Today, use of horses is only permitted in Emigration and Mill Creek Canyons. Water quality concerns primarily have led to the prohibition of horses in the other plan area canyons. Relatively few open, unfenced, trail areas remain in the immediate vicinity of the Salt Lake Valley for horseback riding.

As preparations are made for culinary utilization of Mill Creek water, domestic animal policies for that canyon will be reviewed by Salt Lake City and the City/County Board of Health. It is recommended that these entities provide an opportunity for horseback riding enthusiasts to participate in policy decisions on future use in Mill Creek Canyon and in suggesting alternative management policies.