CHAPTER 6. CANYON PLANS

Each of the canyons is unique and uses have evolved differently in each of them. The character and uses of each canyon will determine canyon-specific application of plan policies. In addition, individual Canyons have exceptional circumstances for which site-specific policies are needed. This Chapter provides canyon specific policies, notes the application of area-wide policies to individual canyons, and provides more detailed background information canyon-by-canyon.

Several minor canyons on the west flank of the Wasatch Mountains in Salt Lake County are not included in the Plan area. For those canyons not specifically covered by the Plan (Tolcats, Heughs, Dry Hollow, Ferguson, Neffs, North Fork, Deaf Smith, Bells, Little Willow, and Willow Creek), it is recommended that the general principles and policies of the Plan be applicable to lands and issues under Salt Lake County's jurisdiction.

CITY CREEK CANYON

City Creek Canyon's role is as a residential, memorial and urban park in the lower canyon and a nature area and watershed above Bonneville Loop road.

The first Mormon settlers camped near the mouth of City Creek Canyon in 1847 and water from City Creek was used by the new community as its initial source for drinking and irrigation. In 1857 Brigham Young was deeded land at the Canyon mouth by the territorial legislature upon which he operated a sawmill, flour mill and silk mill. During the 1860's and 1870's, he sold off parcels marking the beginning of residential development at the canyon mouth. Early this century, parks were developed near the mouth of the canyon and the stream was diverted into an underground conduit where it enters residential areas.

In 1914 the U.S. Congress withdrew federal lands within the Canyon from appropriation and entry under the federal mining laws to protect Salt Lake City's water supply.

Salt Lake City owns 56 percent of the surface lands in City Creek Canyon; 6,569 acres. The U.S. Forest Service holds 29 percent of the land; 3,417 acres, mostly in a checkerboard configuration intermingled with City lands. Smaller private landholding totalling 1,676 acres are located at the mouth of the canyon and along ridge lines. A proposed land exchange between the Forest Service and the City would reduce Forest Service landholding within this canyon and eliminate the checkerboard Forest Service/City land configurations.

City Creek Canyon has served as a valuable watershed and recreational area of local significance. Salt Lake City promotes the use of the canyon as a nature preserve and city park with limited vehicular access. Currently, the 845-person picnic sites are often used to capacity on summer weekends and holidays, with continued heavy use throughout the week. Recent restrictions limiting the canyon to pedestrian traffic on alternate days has caused an overall decrease in the use of the developed facilities, but jogging and biking activity has increased dramatically. Fishing and hunting by permit also occur in the canyon.

Management of City Creek Canyon falls primarily under the authority of Salt Lake City. The City Creek Master Plan was completed in 1986 to act as the chief planning document addressing land-use and circulation issues in the canyon. The primary plan goal is to have City Creek Canyon serve as a valuable watershed and recreation open space amenity of City-wide significance. According to the plan, such uses should take precedence over other land-use alternatives. Additional policies include preservation of the canyon above Memory Grove Park for watershed and limited public recreation, and promotion of the City Creek Park concept for the entire canyon. Areas extending into the canyon as a formally maintained park should be retained as today, with only minimal improvements to enhance recreational opportunities, to stabilize hillsides, and to define public/private property boundaries near the mouth of the canyon. The plan recommended land ownership consolidation by the City and Forest Service, and City annexation of the Canyon to resolve overlapping jurisdictional responsibilities in the Canyon.

The 1988 Salt Lake City Watershed Plan recommends implementation of the City Creek Master Plan, no further development of water resources, maintenance of instream flows below the water treatment plant for aesthetic and environmental purposes, and maintenance of high water quality.

Wasatch Canyons Master Plan Policies - City Creek Canyon

This Master Plan does not specifically address activities or land-use within City Creek Canyon except as Canyon-wide policies may apply. The Salt Lake City, City Creek Master Plan (1986), and Watershed Management Plan (1988) are applicable to the Canyon.

RED BUTTE CANYON

Red Butte is a near-pristine canyon whose role is a preserve for a broad range of research related to the natural environment. Strict management of Red Butte Canyon following the pioneer era of quarrying, timber harvesting, grazing and water development has resulted in a near-pristine area within the Salt Lake metropolitan

area. Initially the canyon was used for irrigation water by the valley settlers.

In October of 1862, Fort Douglas was established at the mouth of Red Butte Canyon. The newly created military reservation extended into the entire canyon and the U.S. Army assumed total control.

Measures to protect the quality of the canyon were taken in the early part of this century. In the early 1910's Red Butte was closed to the general public and to livestock grazing. In 1914, it was included in Federal legislation to withdraw Federal lands in the northern canyons from mineral location and surface disposal as a means of protecting the water resource. In 1969, jurisdiction for Red Butte was transferred from the U.S. Army to the U.S. Forest Service to be managed as a Research Natural Area.

The Federal Government owns 83 percent of the lands within the canyon: 4,501 acres. Salt Lake City owns 508 acres and private interests hold 415 acres. A proposed City/Forest Service land exchange would eliminate City landholding within the canyon.

Uses in Red Butte Canyon are limited to nature study and research. Fishing is allowed by veterans utilizing the nearby Veterans Administration Hospital. Traffic in the canyon is limited to that necessary for the maintenance and operation of research and monitoring activities. The U.S. Geological Survey uses the Creek as a national base station for water quality.

No uses are allowed that would diminish the natural values of the canyon. U.S. Forest Service policy limits uses to research, study, observations, monitoring, and educational activities that are nondestructive, nonmanipulative, and that maintain unmodified conditions. The Red Butte Canyon Steering Committee maintains a liaison between interested management agencies including the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, U.S Army, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, University of Utah, U.S. Geological Survey, and the Intermountain Forest and Range Experiment Station.

Wasatch Canyons Master Plan Policies - Red Butte Canyon

The Plan does not address activities or land use within Red Butte Canyon except as canyon-wide policies may apply, but supports Red Butte's continued management as a pristine canyon with limited human use and access.

EMIGRATION CANYON

Emigration Canyon constitutes a unique residential environment and its continued development in that role along with exploring opportunities for public use is anticipated within the restraints

of its mountain setting and highway constraints. The existing Emigration Canyon Master Plan remains in place.

Emigration Canyon was the route used by Mormon pioneers to enter the Great Salt Lake Valley in 1847. Early uses of the Canyon included ranching, limited farming, quarrying, and summer resorts. Private summer homes, many converted to year- round use, began to be built in the pioneer era and new homes continue to be constructed on private lands within the Canyon.

Emigration Canyon has a relatively large proportion of its lands in private ownership - 42 percent - totalling 4,856 acres. The amount of private lands has made possible a level of residential use not experienced in the other canyons. The U.S. Forest Service manages 3,210 acres (28 percent of the lands) and Salt Lake city owns 3,540 acres (30 percent). A proposed Forest Service/Salt Lake City land exchange would transfer most of the City land to Forest Service ownership in the Canyon.

The canyon's primary use is year-round residential with limited commercial development. Residential development has continued the past decade. Some hiking occurs in the canyon, but there are no developed trailheads or related facilities. Essentially the entire canyon is a hunting safety zone, where big game hunting is not allowed within one mile of buildings. Highway FAS 133, a County Highway, provides access for canyon residents and a route to Parleys and East Canyons. The canyon road is also a popular route for jogging and bicycling.

Salt Lake County has the lead planning and management role in Emigration Canyon. The Emigration Canyon Master plan was prepared by the Salt Lake County Planning Division Staff and adopted by the Salt Lake County Commission in 1985. The 1985 plan establishes a long-range, comprehensive framework for growth based on specific implementation strategies. The Plan identifies areas suitable for development considering the health, safety and welfare of the present and future canyon residents.

The plan determines development suitability based on the constraints of zoning, deer winter range, erosion and hillside slippage, hydrology and slope. Areas determined to be suitable for development are further subjected to development policies, including the phasing of development.

In addition to the plan, zoning is a critical element in the planning policy of Emigration Canyon. On September 25, 1980, the Hillside Protection Zone Ordinance was adopted for Emigration Canyon. This special zone reduces development density as the slope increases (prohibiting development on slopes of greater than 30 percent), and allows the Planning Commission to require additional information such as soils reports, revegetation plans, geologic

hazard reports, etc., to insure that a development will not adversely affect the canyon environment. The Hillside Protection Zone provides protection in canyon areas which were zoned before the establishment of Forestry and commercial zones.

In July 1987, Emigration Canyon underwent a downzoning in which residential densities were decreased and areas zoned commercial were changed to better reflect county-wide commercial classifications and the sensitive canyon environment.

The Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan recommends development of sewer services for Emigration Canyon in order to establish long-term water quality improvements. To facilitate development of a sewer line, the City could allow connection to and use of the City sewer lines, and could promote annexation. The City Plan further urges that the City determine the best means to utilize its water rights in Emigration Canyon. Land management improvements through exchange with the U.S. Forest Service for ownership consolidation is supported.

Wasatch Canyons Master Plan Policies - Emigration Canyon

The 1985 Emigration Canyon Master Plan establishes guidelines for development in the canyon. It is not intended that these policies be revisited. However, there may be components of this Plan which are applicable and beyond the scope of the Emigration Plan and in such cases they should be applied.

Although Emigration Canyon residential use issues currently dominate Emigration canyon policies, significant public lands are accessible from the Canyon and at its head. Access to public lands and their recreational opportunities should be preserved.

The development of suitable camping and picnicking sites is encouraged to meet canyon recreation demand and expand Emigration Canyon opportunities for public use. However, studies must be performed in consultation with the Emigration Canyon Community Council and major land owners to determine environmental, traffic and other impacts as well as land use compatibility prior to making any decisions regarding public recreation in the canyon.

New commercial enterprises should be limited to the commercially zoned areas in the canyon.

Development and implementation of a traffic plan to alleviate congestion is vital to public safety. Transportation and traffic problems should be reviewed and a plan developed by traffic engineers, the County Planning Division, and the Emigration Canyon Community Council.

Canyon resident concerns about increased congestion from expanded, diversified Canyon use is recognized. Increased jogging and biking, recreation site development, and completion of Little Dell Reservoir in 1992, would all further compound Canyon traffic congestion. Jogging and biking on the highway is an immediate public safety concern. Increases in this use should not be encouraged until separate lanes or other safety measures can be considered and implemented.

Existing and potential snowplay activities at Little Mountain are an appropriate Canyon activity. It is suggested that trash cans and sanitation facilities be provided and maintained in this area in the winter.

PARLEYS CANYON

Parleys Canyon has been a major transportation route for many years, yet it is suited for a wide variety of recreation-related activities that are compatible with that role.

Early use of Parleys Canyon included timber cutting, livestock grazing and water supply. In response to the Park City mining boom, a railway was built through the Canyon during the 1880's. It was eventually replaced by a new railway which has also since been abandoned. With the advent of the automobile, and the construction of U.S. 40, Parleys Canyon became a major route for transcontinental travel. In the late 1960's U.S. 40 was replaced by Interstate 80 which now carries large volumes of traffic on six lanes of divided freeway. Construction of I-80 radically altered the lower reaches of the canyon.

Mountain Dell Reservoir was constructed in 1917 and was raised to its present height in 1925.

The Federal Government is the largest landowner in Parleys Canyon with the Forest Service managing 13,994 acres, 42 percent of the Canyon. Forest Service holdings are concentrated in the lower portion of the canyon and in Lambs Canyon. Salt Lake City has consolidated landholdings in Little Dell Canyon and holds 12,207 acres in the canyon (36 percent of the land). Private ownership of 6,810 acres is largely in Lambs and Mount Aire side canyons where residences have been built. Salt Lake County owns 155 acres in Parleys Canyon. A proposed Forest Service/Salt Lake City land exchange would consolidate their respective landholdings in the canyon.

Uses within the canyon include summer cabins in Mount Aire and Lambs Canyons, the major transportation corridor of I-80 and recreational uses including picnicking, golf, hiking, bicycling, nordic track skiing, snowmobiling, fishing and hunting. Salt Lake City uses the Canyon for water storage at the Mountain Dell

Reservoir. Little Dell Reservoir is under construction and is scheduled for completion in 1992. Salt Lake City Parks and Recreation will operate the recreation uses of Little Dell. The uses will be limited to picnicking and non-motorized recreation on and around the reservoir.

No master plan has been completed for Parleys Canyon. The 1977 208 Technical Land Use Plan included Parleys Canyon but did not address many current planning issues. The 208 Plan also projected a large recreational impact from the Little Dell project. However, Little Dell subsequently was down-sized.

Parleys Canyon is protected under FR Zoning which has been established to permit the development of the canyon area for forestry recreation and other uses compatible with the protection of the natural and scenic resources of these areas. Salt Lake City owns all available water rights in the Canyon and has foreclosed further surplus water sales under a water sales moratorium since 1981.

Wasatch Canyons Master Plan Policies - Parleys Canyon

Completion of Little Dell Dam is scheduled for 1992. Recreation-site development is encouraged to include picnic sites, hiking and jogging trails, fishing, and non-motorized boating.

Continued use and expansion is supported for the camp and picnic sites at Affleck Park and picnic sites in Lambs Canyon operated by Salt Lake City Corporation.

Expansion of the Salt Lake City Mountain Dell Golf Course, the overlaying winter-use Nordic Track facilities, and increased parking capacity at the Mountain Dell site is supported. Salt Lake City Parks and Recreation is encouraged to allow winter use of the expanded parking for winter dispersed recreation use.

Major sporting events have been proposed for Parleys Canyon. Construction of permanent new facilities for such purposes should only occur if they fill long-term recreation needs and are compatible with this Plan. Mass transit should be used to shuttle spectators to the event sites from Valley staging areas.

Private property above the dam site in Dell Canyon and from Parleys Summit to Lambs Canyon should be publicly acquired.

Development of alpine skiing in Parleys Canyon would be inconsistent with this Plan's policy regarding ski area expansion outside of existing Forest Service ski area permit boundaries.

Other plan canyon-wide policies may apply to Parleys Canyon.

MILL CREEK CANYON

Mill Creek Canyon is primarily a day-use canyon providing picnicking and related activities to the residents of the Valley.

Since early settlement of the Salt Lake Valley, Mill Creek Canyon has served as a popular recreation area. Other historical uses included timber harvest and saw milling, and livestock grazing. The 1904 establishment of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest provided management direction for the Canyon. By early in this century, picnicking and camping sites had been established in many areas of the Canyon. Although Salt Lake City owns most of the water rights, it has not used the creek for culinary purposes. The creek was used until late 1949 as a hydroelectric power source by Utah Power and Light Company.

The Forest Service has consolidated land ownership of 12,314 acres in the Canyon (81 percent). Private land ownership is 19 percent, or 1,600 acres, and is mostly in the lower portion of the Canyon except for one large block near the Canyon head.

Mill Creek Canyon uses are characterized by intensive summer developed and dispersed recreation and moderate, however increasing, dispersed winter recreation. A limited number of summer recreation residences have been constructed, but there has been no new construction in the past decade due to limited private land and Forest Service policy against additional Forest Service land leasing for private residential purposes. Two restaurants and a Boy Scout camp are located in the canyon.

The Forest Service Plan provides for minimal expansion of developed facilities, and maintenance and redevelopment of existing facilities; the focus over the next decades will be providing and managing increased dispersed recreation.

All of the private land in Mill Creek Canyon is covered by County FR-20 zoning with the exception of one commercially zoned area where an existing restaurant is located. Another restaurant is located on Forest Service land and operates under a Forest Service permit.

In anticipation of development of Mill Creek for culinary use, the Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan recommends management strategies which may affect the future of Mill Creek Canyon, including a review of improvements in picnicking facilities, domesticated animal use, and the effects water supply development may have on downstream instream flows.

Wasatch Canyons Master Plan Policies - Mill Creek Canyon

Heavy day-use of picnic sites in Mill Creek Canyon has contributed to significant deterioration of the immediate terrain and groundcover. Some Mill Creek Canyon recreation sites have experienced use beyond their ability to sustain a natural environment.

Measures should be implemented in the immediate future to rehabilitate the canyon's heavy use areas, to assure protection of the natural features, to maintain a quality user experience, and to anticipate use of the canyon stream for culinary water supply. The following actions are suggested:

Intensive use of the Camp Tracy complex and past stream channel flood damage warrant special attention by the Boy Scouts of America to assure visual quality, rehabilitation of the stream area, and the protection of water quality through its property. Salt Lake County will cooperate with the Boy Scouts of America in assessing the need for stream impact mitigation, and in reviews and updating of its conservation plan for the camp. The Boy Scouts of America camp use has approached its maximum capacity and alternative camp facilities or modified use policies at the camp will be necessary in the future. It is suggested that increased stream water quality monitoring in conjunction with anticipated use of Mill Creek water for culinary purposes include monitoring above and below the camp to ascertain if there are water quality impacts associated with the facility.

Picnicking, hiking and dispersed recreation should continue to be the major uses in the canyon.

Public acquisition should be pursued for the section of privately owned land at the head of the Canyon for watershed protection and public recreation purposes.

It is recommended that the Forest Service impose fees for use of picnic sites and require reservations for their use by groups. Some sites have been monopolized by groups which limits opportunities for others to use them. Fees and group reservation systems will better control the duration, nature, and availability of canyon picnic sites.

Improved public information should be provided on the status of Mill Creek Canyon, on impacts from overuse at intensely used areas, and on seeking public cooperation in rehabilitation of the Canyon's picnic and heavy-use areas.

The road in the upper end of Mill Creek Canyon is in need of substantial repair and maintenance work. The road is maintained by Salt Lake County through a Forest Service Special Use Permit and provides access to private property within the Canyon as well as to recreational opportunities for the public at large. The road should be repaired within the existing right-of-way and County/Forest Service cooperation should determine shared decisionmaking/costs on construction of a parking area near the winter gate which closes the upper road to winter traffic. Such a parking facility would better enable off-season walking, biking, cross-country skiing and other dispersed recreational use of the seasonally closed road and upper Canyon.

Existing parking should be improved and limited additional parking should be provided for existing picnic sites.

Future transportation options are to be considered to reduce peak summer-use congestion. For the long term, the feasibility of mass transit for Mill Creek Canyon during high-use summer periods should be explored with a park-and-ride staging area in the valley. Private property owners in the canyon would be granted permits for private vehicles. Other private vehicles would be banned during high-use periods.

Non-motorized uses should be permitted on the highway above the gate once the highway is closed for the winter season.

Canyon-wide Plan policies having specific application to Mill Creek Canyon include the following:

Ski area expansion into Mill Creek Canyon outside of existing Forest Service ski permit area boundaries would be inconsistent with this Plan.

It is recommended to the Forest Service that grazing of domestic livestock be phased out as Forest Service grazing permits expire, particularly when Mill Creek begins to be used for culinary water supply.

As public picnic facilities are improved, modifications should be made to restrooms to make them barrier-free.

Jogging and biking lanes should be added to the County Road if feasible.

Improved hiker trail information and identification of private lands and public lands should be provided.

Designation of mountain bike routes or trails may be appropriate.

Horseback riding, which may be affected by designation of Mill Creek Canyon as a watershed, should be carefully reviewed by watershed managers in consultation with horseback riders prior to policy decisions. (See Watershed and Water Quality Protection p.27)

Other Canyon-wide policies may apply.

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON

Big Cottonwood Canyon has served for many years as a predominantly day-use summer and winter recreation area for the residents of Salt Lake County. Developments in the Canyon are characterized by cabins and single family residences, except for a few buildings associated with the ski resorts. The type and character of uses in the Canyon are continued into the future in this Plan.

Until the arrival of the first white trappers, Big Cottonwood Canyon served native Indians as a hunting ground. After the 1847 settlement of the Salt Lake Valley, the canyon became important for lumber and mining. Public recreational use of the Canyon was also popular in the early days of valley settlement.

In 1863 mineral outcroppings were discovered in Big Cottonwood Canyon and the West Mountains Mining District was established. Big Cottonwood Canyon soon became one of the richest mining districts in the State. Mining operations were especially active in the Mill D South Fork (Cardiff Fork), and Silver Fork. Ores contained lead, silver, and small quantities of gold, zinc, and copper. A power plant was built to serve the mines, and camps for miners and their families were established. An 1873 slump in silver prices diminished mining activity and by the turn of the century, only one producing mine remained.

The Canyon's streams furnished power to operate sawmills to process abundant timber. The charter to build the first saw- mill was granted in 1857. As mining increased in the 1860's, use of wood to fuel mining machinery boomed. Timber demand was further compounded by construction of residential housing for a quickly growing valley population. Around 1875 the Big Cottonwood Lumber Company operated four sawmills with water power and another with steam. By the turn of the century massive deforestation had taken place.

In 1871, William and Catherine Brighton began operating a cafe and in 1874 the first hotel was built at Brighton near the head of the Canyon.

As the mines faded from the scene, a new activity to the region, skiing, began in Big Cottonwood Canyon. It appears the first recorded organized Canyon ski activity occurred on January 22, 1915. The first facility for skiing in the Brighton area was a home-made T-bar tow, constructed in 1936. A single chairlift was added to the existing T-bars and rope tows in 1947 and in 1954 the first double chairlift in the Intermountain area began operation.

Solitude ski area began operation in 1959. Due to mechanical and sanitation problems, Solitude closed March 31, 1974. In 1977, after new ownership and massive renovation, Solitude reopened.

Big Cottonwood Canyon is largely under U.S. Forest Service ownership, 25,242 acres, or 78 percent of the Canyon. There are also substantial blocks of private land totalling 6,937 acres, 21 percent. Private ownership is primarily in the higher elevations toward the ridgelines and in the residential areas off the canyon road near Reynolds Flat, Silver Fork, and Brighton. Salt Lake County owns one block of land in Mill D South Fork. Salt Lake City has a small landholding near Brighton.

During the last 40 years, recreational use of Big Cottonwood Canyon has grown steadily in relation to the population growth of the Salt Lake Valley. There is a wide variety of uses in the Canyon including ski resorts, year-round residences, picnicking, camping, summer homes, fishing, hunting, hiking, alpine, rock climbing, backcountry, and nordic track skiing, snowmobiling, and snowplaying.

The most current documents regarding Big Cottonwood Canyon are the 208 Technical Land Use Plan, the Forest Service Wasatch-Cache National Forest Management Plan, and the Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan.

In 1972 Salt Lake County zoned all of the public and private lands in the Canyon. New developments were subject to conditional use permitting and subdivision review prior to development. The County has maintained a close relationship with the Big Cottonwood Community Association.

The Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan recommends that the City support watershed protection measures and the development of a sewer line. City support for the sewer line is subject to the condition that all commercial facilities, feasible recreational facilities and residences be required to tie into the line from the mouth to the top of the canyon.

Wasatch Canyons Master Plan Policies - Big Cottonwood Canyon

Construction of a sewer line in Big Cottonwood Canyon is endorsed and encouraged. All commercial operations within the Canyon should be required to utilize the sewer line when completed. All other sewage sources are encouraged to hook up and use the line if feasible.

The consolidation of existing substandard lots, which are deficient due to size, slope, soils, etc, into larger lots is encouraged. High visual quality standards compatible with the Canyon surroundings should be maintained in the construction of any new structures.

The Silver Fork drainage is a popular area for hiking and other dispersed recreation and should remain available for those uses. Current development plans for the Solitude Resort do not envision utilization of Silver Fork for ski area expansion. In addition, the Forest Service amendment to the Forest Plan removed Silver Fork from the Solitude ski permit area.

Improvements included in the Forest Service Plan at the Big Cottonwood nordic track facility are acceptable. However, access to the track from Brighton Village must be maintained.

In 1982 Salt Lake County gave preliminary approval for a conditional use permit for the construction of 320 condominium units by Solitude Resort. On December 15, 1988, preliminary approval was provided for a modified Solitude Resort proposal consisting of 280 units. This will introduce a relatively large overnight use and a new dimension to uses in the Canyon. The number and type of accommodations granted preliminary approval in 1988 should be used to establish the maximum intensity of use in considering future design and composition proposals for the resort. Outside Brighton and Solitude, the rest of Big Cottonwood Canyon should maintain its traditional role and character.

Any future overnight lodging or commercial campgrounds in the Canyon should be visually compatible with the present character of the canyon.

Selective public acquisition of private lands within the Canyon on a case-by-case basis is encouraged to assure public access to trails, backcountry areas, and public lands in general; to improve watershed protection; to reduce user and property owner conflicts; and to maintain sensitive canyon terrain in its natural state for the long-term public enjoyment.

Priorities and funding for land acquisitions in Big Cottonwood Canyon should be coordinated with other entities as described on page 28 under Private Land Acquisition. However, the Donut Falls area is one in particular which should be given priority consideration. The area has suffered significant degradation due to off-highway vehicular use. Because the area includes privately-owned lands, restriction of off-highway vehicular use has been frustrated. It is recommended that the affected private lands be publicly acquired for purposes of eliminating off-highway vehicular terrain damage and for protecting the watershed from further degradation.

Better management practices are needed on public and private lands for summer and winter off-highway vehicle use. More intensive management of these activities is recommended to the Forest Service for National Forest Lands and the County should more diligently enforce off-highway use restrictions on private lands. If better management practices are unsuccessful in controlling damage from OHV use, elimination of OHV use in Cardiff Fork may be necessary.

Snowmobile use in the Reynolds Flat and Cardiff Fork area has caused conflicts with private property owners, backcountry skiers, and families involved in snow play activities. It is recommended that the U.S. Forest Service review snowmobile use on National Forest lands in Cardiff Fork and with Salt Lake County consider phasing out snowmobile use in this area by the end of the Plan period.

It is recommended to the Forest Service that new barrier-free facilities at Silver Lake, removal of barriers at the Spruces Campground and Jordan Pines picnic area, and cooperation with the County in the construction of a special trail for individuals with disabilities be priorities.

Canyon-wide Plan policies having specific application to Big Cottonwood Canyon include the following:

Ski area expansion is supported within existing Forest Service permit area boundaries, including privately owned lands, consistent with the 1985 Forest Service Plan with up to 2,900 additional S.A.O.T. Potential ski area alterations should be jointly reviewed by the affected jurisdictions.

Private land, with potential for alpine skiing, exists adjacent to ski area permit boundaries in Big Cottonwood Canyon.

Any consideration by Salt Lake County of ski area expansion would be subject to the criteria listed on page 33.

Additional ski area parking on private lands would not be allowed unless it is consistent with resolving transportation problems and would improve the physical environment.

Approval of conducting Olympic events is contingent upon specific proposals and their meeting Plan criteria.

Backcountry ski areas are to be preserved, while allowing for a potential Mountain Transportation System corridor.

Consideration of a Mountain Transportation System will include Big Cottonwood Canyon. Use of a proposed conventional chairlift/ski terrain interconnect system or the Guardsman's Pass road by themselves would not meet Mountain Transportation System criteria nor provide satisfactory year-round inter-canyon/resort transportation.

Reduction of peak winter vehicular traffic will be pursued through incentives for mass transit use, disincentives for private car use during peak periods, and multi-jurisdictional/ski resort cooperation. Ski resorts will be requested to evaluate and mitigate projected traffic impacts associated with proposals to expand resort capacities.

Small parking lots for dispersed recreation use will be constructed on a case-by-case basis and provision will be made for mass transit stops.

Large lot zoning will be retained.

Any future commercial development will be consolidated in close proximity to the resorts.

Aesthetic standards will be applied to future design and construction of structures.

It is recommended to the Forest Service that user fees be extended to picnic sites and that existing sites should be rehabilitated as warranted.

Grazing under Forest Service permit is recommended to be phased out by the Forest Service as permits expire.

Mining activities would be under a County Conditional Use permit with provisions for environmental controls and site rehabilitation.

Handicapped barriers will be removed at public facilities as they are improved.

Trails and trail access will be maintained, and some use restrictions may need to be imposed on a case-by-case basis. A new trail for summer hiking and winter cross country skiing should be designed, rights-of-way acquired, and built from Brighton to the Spruces.

Jogger and biking lanes should be added where safe and feasible.

Appropriate routes or trails for mountain bike use should be considered and designated by the Forest Service.

Other canyon-wide polices may apply.

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON

Uses in Little Cottonwood Canyon are mostly recreational with hiking, camping, backcountry skiing, rock climbing, and the largest Canyon use, alpine skiing. Alta Ski Area has been in operation for 50 years, and since the early 1970's, the Snowbird Ski Resort and has been a primary Canyon recreation center attracting guests worldwide to its numerous facilities, deep powder snow and challenging slopes. The Plan provides for existing Canyon roles to continue. The Town of Alta manages land use at the top of the Canyon for commercial facilities, residential, and recreational activities.

The early history of Little Cottonwood Canyon is most strongly associated with mining. In 1864 the first mineral discovery was made at the head of Little Cottonwood Canyon at what would later become the world famous Emma Silver Mine at Alta. The completion of the first transcontinental railway on May 10, 1869 made larger scale mining in the area feasible. Alta supported an estimated population of 5,000 by 1873. Between 1862 and 1877 an estimated $20 million in silver was taken from the Alta Mining area.

In 1904 the Wasatch-Cache National Forest was established including Little Cottonwood Canyon. Up to this point however, the Canyon had not been used for recreation as extensively as its sister canyons to the north.

The development of the Alta Ski Area began when the first lift was built up Collins Gulch in 1938. Private land was deeded by several mining companies to the U.S. Forest Service and a cooperative private, civic and Forest Service effort resulted in the development of the ski area. The establishment of the Avalanche Research Center during the first winter of operation constituted the first such facility in North America.

In conjunction with the development of the Ski Resort in 1937, Snowpine Lodge was built in 1939. The Alta Lodge was built in 1939 with 16 rooms. It was subsequently expanded in 1959, 1964, and in 1968. The Peruvian Lodge, was built in 1946 and expanded in 1967. The original Rustler Lodge was built in 1947; additions were built in the 1960's and 1970's. Gold Miners Daughter was built in 1962 and additions were subsequently made.

Prior to 1971, the majority of visits to Little Cottonwood Canyon were for day use. After several years of planning, a new resort, Snowbird, opened its first phase of operation in December of 1971 with a 162 room hotel/condominium. Over the next 16 years, an additional 740 units were constructed.

Land ownership in Little Cottonwood Canyon is dominated by the Forest Service with holdings of 13,853 acres, or 81 percent of the canyon. Privately held lands total 3,227 acres and are located at the canyon mouth, Wasatch Resort, Snowbird, Town of Alta, and various mining patents. Several land exchanges involving Salt Lake City, the U.S. Forest Service, Trust for Public Lands, and private landowners have altered the land ownership pattern in the Canyon by placing more private property in public ownership.

Land use in Little Cottonwood Canyon is primarily recreational. Hiking, rock climbing, camping, picnicking, resort activities and sightseeing are the most common summer activities with backcountry and downhill skiing occurring in the winter and spring.

The Alta/Little Cottonwood Canyon General Plan (1973) and the 208 Technical Land Use Plan have been the primary management documents for the Canyon in the past one-and-a-half decades. A review and updating of these plans may be timely.

The Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan recommends that Salt Lake City maintain existing watershed management practices in the Canyon, and develop interlocal agreements with other municipalities with water rights. Private lands in critical watershed areas should be considered for acquisition.

The Town of Alta is an incorporated municipality in upper Little Cottonwood Canyon, including Albion Basin. Within its boundaries, Alta exercises land-use jurisdiction. Alta maintains its own planning and zoning controls, public safety standards and enforcement apparatus.

Wasatch Canyons Master Plan Policies - Little Cottonwood Canyon

Current uses of White Pine should be preserved. White Pine Canyon is one of the most popular dispersed recreational use areas

in the Canyons. It serves picnickers, hikers, backcountry skiers, helicopter skiers, downhill skiers who traverse to it from the Snowbird ski area, and other users. White Pine offers one of the only remaining areas in Little Cottonwood Canyon for beginning and intermediate backcountry skiing.

White Pine Canyon is almost entirely National Forest lands. The 1985 Wasatch-Cache National Forest Plan states that development of White Pine for downhill skiing would "require further study and support of an environmental analysis." It is recommended to the Forest Service that White Pine Canyon be retained in its natural state for dispersed recreational use. This policy on White Pine Canyon is consistent with the Plan's position on limiting ski area expansion to within existing Forest Service ski permit area boundaries.

If in the future it is determined that it is appropriate to add terrain to Little Cottonwood Ski Resort permit areas, opportunities for ski resort boundary expansion could be explored outside of the Plan area, where user conflicts are less intense. It should also be noted that opportunities remain for expansion within existing ski area boundaries which may provide for more efficient skier utilization of terrain.

If the Forest Service were in the future to approve proposals inconsistent with this Plan for downhill ski area permit expansion into White Pine, this Plan, to be consistent with the Forest Service decision, would have to be amended.

Although the Plan relies upon supplemental mass transit utilization for addressing short-term peak transportation problems in Little Cottonwood Canyon, it should be noted that the County has approved construction of an additional Parking Terrace at the Snowbird Resort. This additional parking capacity is compatible with the winter and summer use peak-use needs at the Resort, but the added Snowbird facility shouldn't diminish cooperative efforts to encourage use of mass transit and discourage use of private vehicles in Little Cottonwood Canyon.

A Forest Service land exchange has recently added public property near the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon. Forest Service efforts to use this newly acquired property for dispersed recreation opportunities are supported.

Cooperation is requested from the LDS Church to allow public access for rock climbing enthusiasts and the provision for parking for that use near the mouth of the Canyon.

Canyon-wide Plan policies having specific application to Little Cottonwood Canyon include the following:

Ski area expansion is supported within existing Forest Service permit area boundaries, including privately owned lands, consistent with the 1985 Forest Service Plan with up to an additional 4,100 S.A.O.T. Potential ski area changes should be jointly reviewed by affected entities.

Additional ski area parking on private lands is not allowed unless it is consistent with resolving transportation problems and would improve the physical environment.

Approval of conducting Olympic events in the Canyon is contingent upon specific proposals and meeting the Plan criteria.

Backcountry ski areas are to be preserved while allowing for a potential Mountain Transportation System corridor.

Consideration of a Mountain Transportation System includes Little Cottonwood Canyon. Use of a conventional chairlift system to link ski areas in Little Cottonwood to other Canyons and ski areas is not by itself a viable Mountain Transportation System.

Reduction of winter vehicular traffic will be pursued through incentives for mass transit use, disincentives for private car use during peak periods, and multi-jurisdictional/ski resort cooperation. Ski resorts will be required to evaluate and mitigate project traffic impacts associated with proposals which would increase their use capacities.

Unobtrusive small parking lots for dispersed recreation use will be constructed on a case-by-case basis and provision will be made for mass transit stops.

Existing large lot zoning will be retained.

Any future commercial development will be consolidated in close proximity to the resorts.

Aesthetic standards will be applied to the future design and construction of structures.

Mining activities would be under a County Conditional Use Permit with provisions for environmental protection and post-mining site rehabilitation.

The dewatering of Little Cottonwood Creek near the mouth of the Canyon is regrettable. Salt Lake County supports provision for maintenance of water flows in Canyon streams in future decisions affecting canyon water use and recommends that owners of water rights review the potential for committing water rights to instream flows on a canyon-by-canyon and case-by-case basis.

It is recommended that the Forest Service rehabilitate camp sites as warranted. As public facilities are improved, handicapped barriers should be removed.

Trails and trail access will be maintained and some use restrictions may be imposed on a case-by-case basis. A trail for summer hiking and winter cross country skiing should be designed, rights-of-way acquired, and built from Alta to Tanners Flat.

More intensive management of off-highway vehicular use should be pursued.

Jogger and biking lanes should be added to the highway where feasible. Appropriate routes or trails for mountain bike use should be considered.

Other Canyon-wide policies may apply.

WASATCH CANYON MASTER PLAN

SOURCE INFORMATION

Roads and Hydrology from:
U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute quad maps. 1:24,000 scale.

Backcountry/Ski Touring/Climbing Areas from:
Wasatch Mountain Club Members.
March 1988. 1:24,000 scale.

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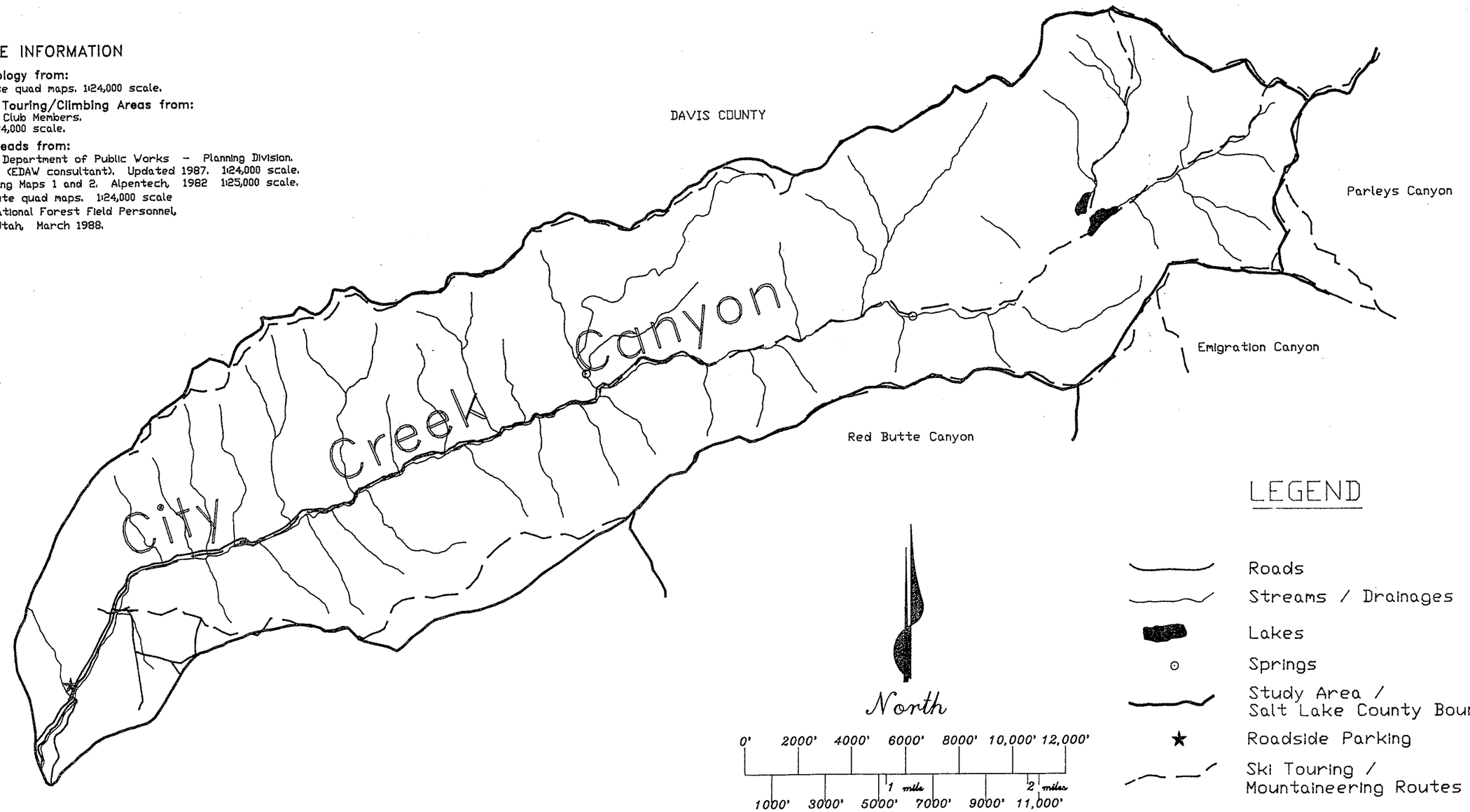
Salt Lake City, Utah, March 1988.



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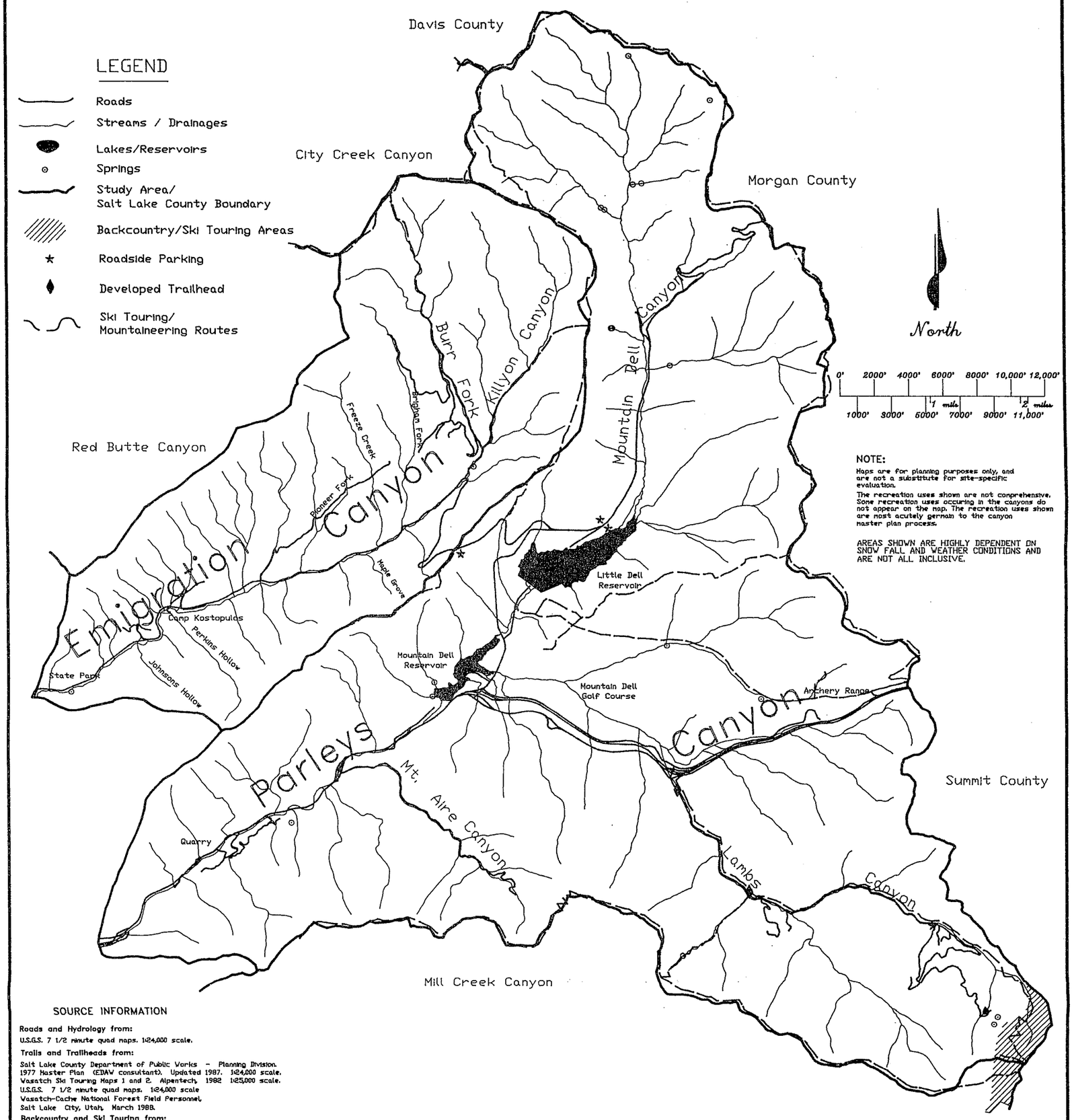
AREAS SHOWN ARE HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON SNOW AND WEATHER CONDITIONS AND ARE NOT ALL-INCLUSIVE.

BACKCOUNTRY / SKI TOURING AREAS
CITY CREEK CANYON

PREPARED BY SALT LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PLANNING DIVISION
DATA COMPILED BY UTAH STATE AUTOMATED GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCE

APRIL 1989

WASATCH CANYON MASTER PLAN



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Salt Lake City, Utah, March 1988.

Backcountry and Ski Touring from:

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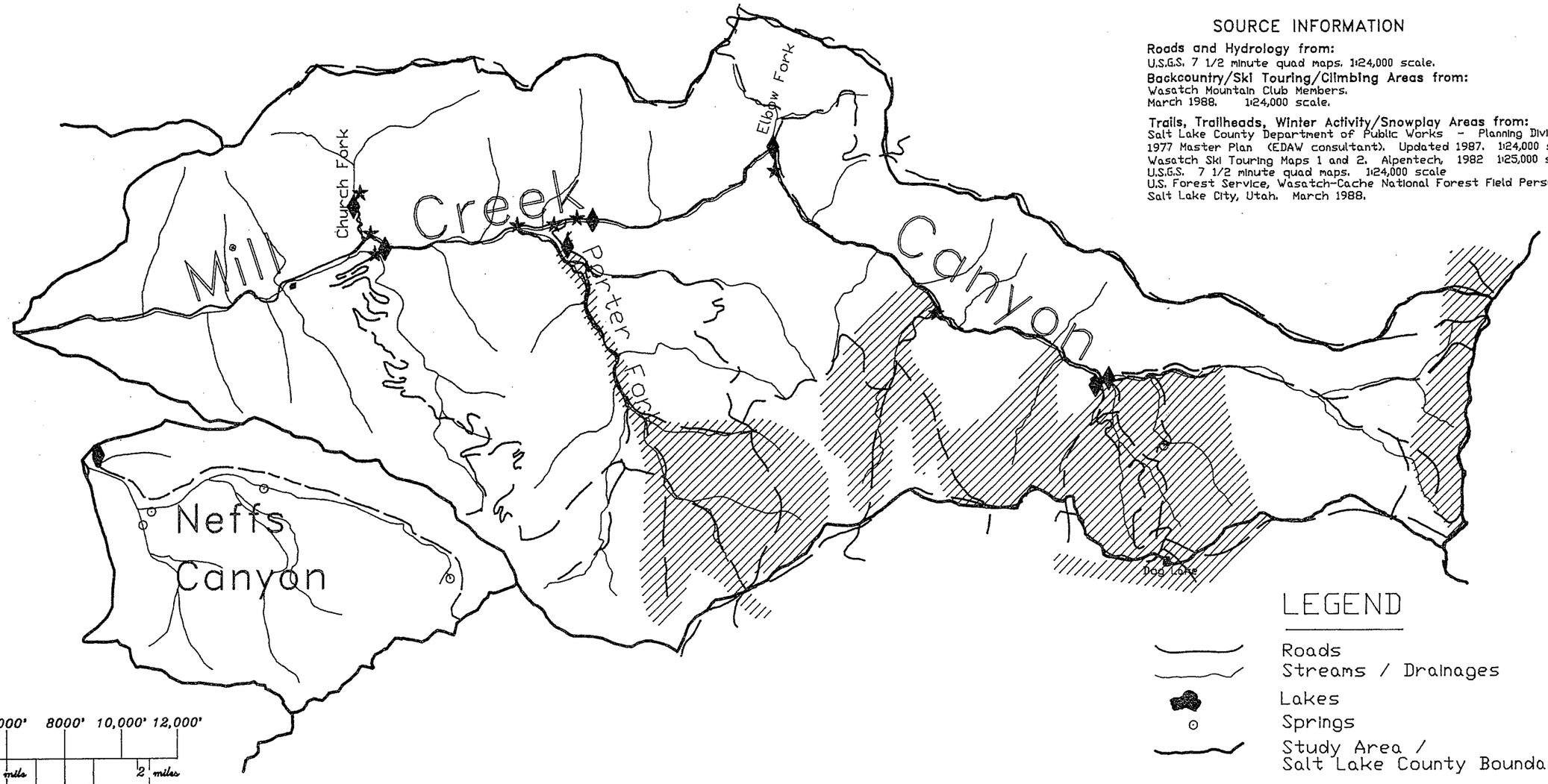
March 1988, 1:24,000 scale.

BACKCOUNTRY/SKI TOURING AREAS
EMIGRATION and PARLEYS CANYONS

PREPARED BY SALT LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PLANNING DIVISION

DATA COMPILED BY UTAH STATE AUTOMATED GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCE APRIL 1989

WASATCH CANYON MASTER PLAN



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U.S. Forest Service, Wasatch-Cache National Forest Field Personnel, Salt Lake City, Utah. March 1988.

LEGEND

- Roads
- Streams / Drainages
- Lakes
- Springs
- Study Area / Salt Lake County Boundary
- Backcountry/ Ski Touring Areas
- Roadside Parking
- Developed Trailhead
- Ski Touring / Mountaineering Routes

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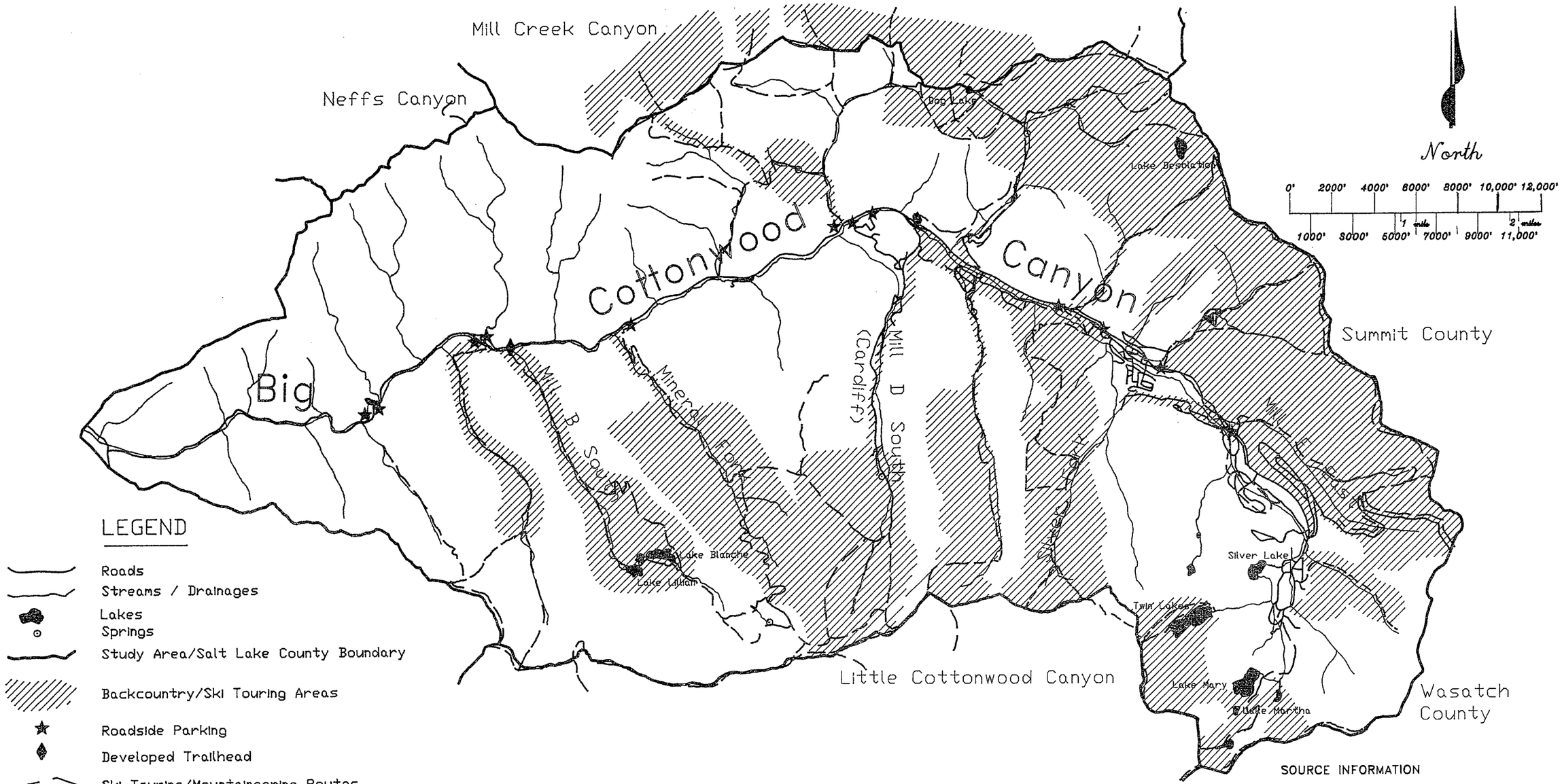
BACKCOUNTRY/SKI TOURING AREAS
MILL CREEK CANYON

PREPARED BY SALT LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PLANNING DIVISION
DATA COMPILED BY UTAH STATE AUTOMATED GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCE

MARCH 1989

WASATCH CANYON MASTER PLAN



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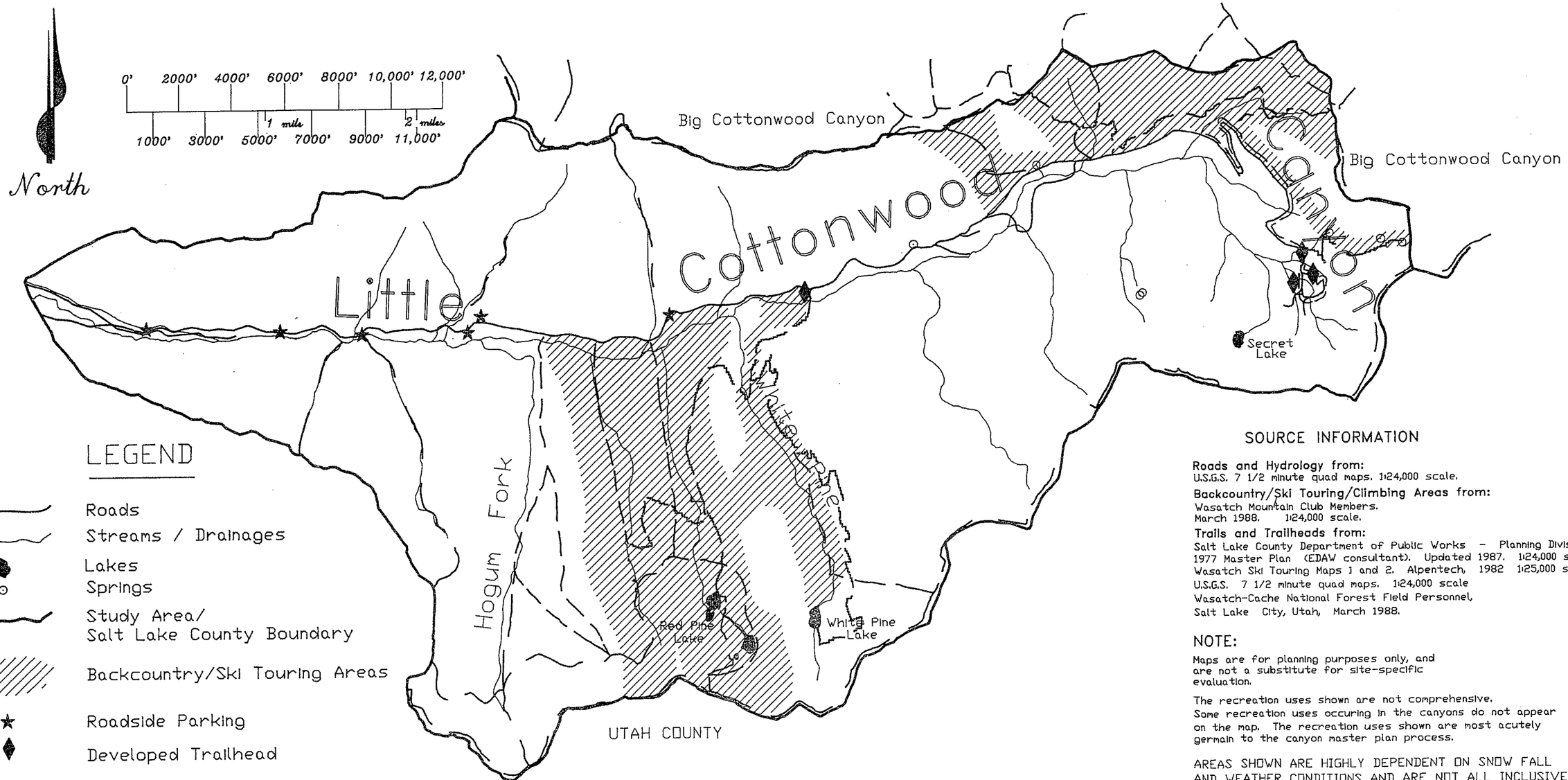
Wasatch-Cache National Forest Field Personnel,
Salt Lake City, Utah, March 1988.

BACKCOUNTRY/SKI TOURING AREAS
BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON

PREPARED BY SALT LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PLANNING DIVISION
DATA COMPILED BY UTAH STATE AUTOMATED GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCE

MARCH 1989

WASATCH CANYON MASTER PLAN



LEGEND

- Roads
- Streams / Drainages
- Lakes
- Springs
- Study Area/ Salt Lake County Boundary
- Backcountry/Ski Touring Areas
- Roadside Parking
- Developed Trailhead
- Ski Touring/ Mountaineering Routes

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BACKCOUNTRY/SKI TOURING AREAS
LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON

PREPARED BY SALT LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PLANNING DIVISION

DATA COMPILED BY UTAH STATE AUTOMATED GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCE

APRIL 1989

WASATCH CANYON MASTER PLAN

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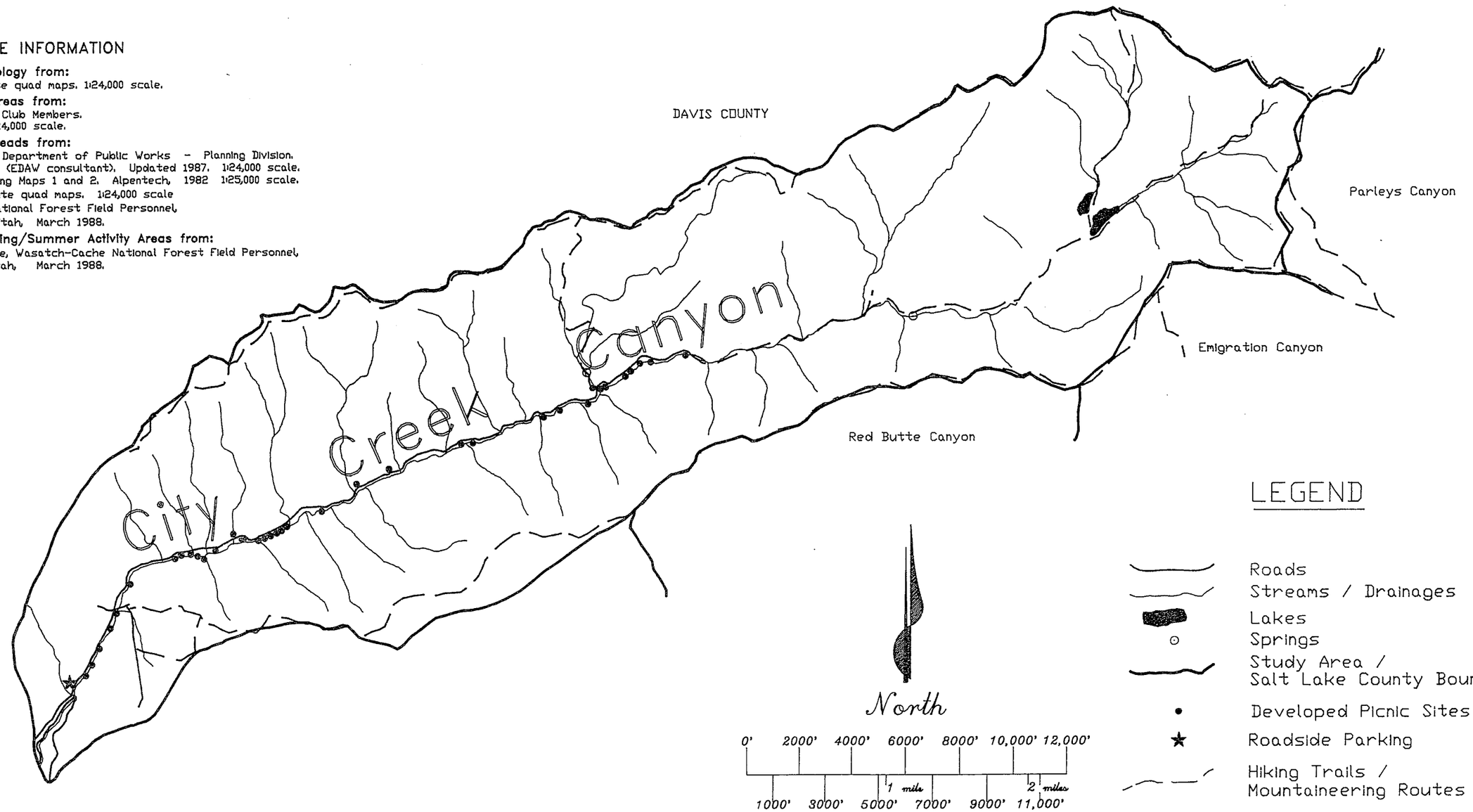

LEGEND

- Roads
- Streams / Drainages
- Lakes
- Springs
- Study Area / Salt Lake County Boundary
- Developed Picnic Sites
- Roadside Parking
- Hiking Trails / Mountaineering Routes

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SUMMER RECREATION AREAS
CITY CREEK CANYON

PREPARED BY SALT LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PLANNING DIVISION
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APRIL 1989

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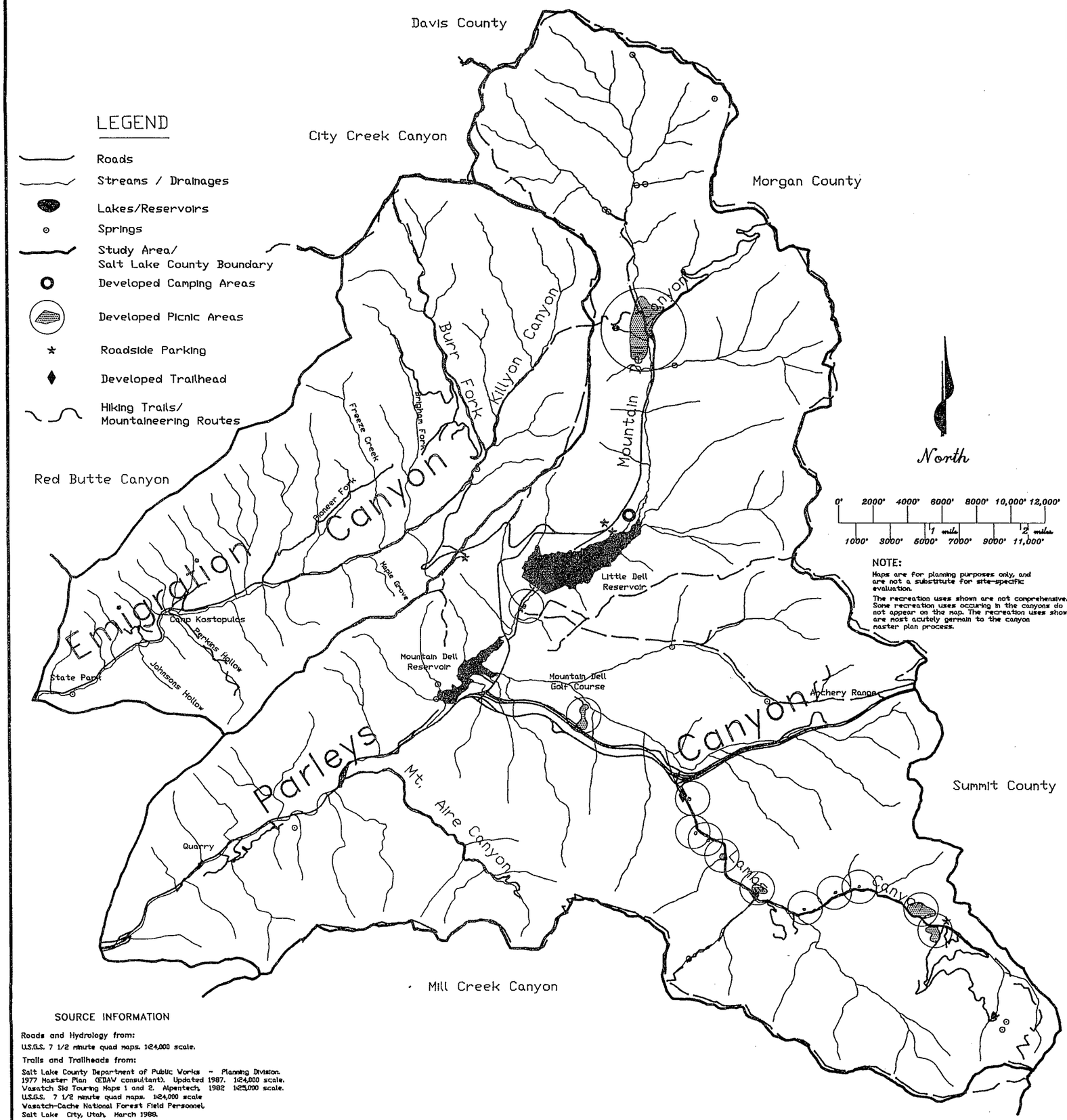

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SUMMER RECREATION AREAS
EMIGRATION and PARLEYS CANYONS

PREPARED BY SALT LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PLANNING DIVISION

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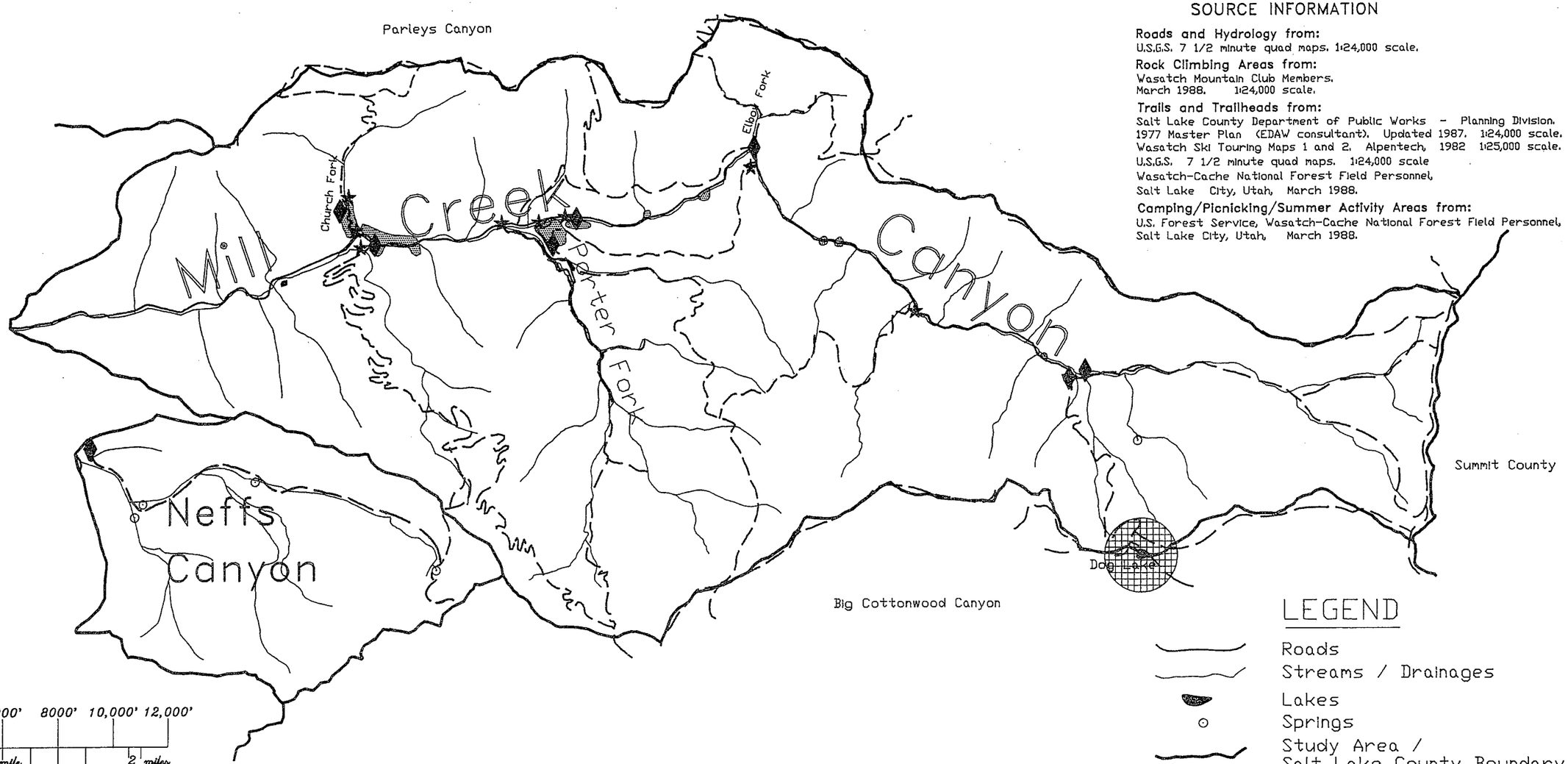

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LEGEND

- Roads
- Streams / Drainages
- Lakes
- Springs
- Study Area / Salt Lake County Boundary
- Developed Picnic Areas
- Summer Activity Areas
- Roadside Parking
- Developed Trailhead
- Hiking Trails / Mountaineering Routes

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SUMMER RECREATION AREAS
MILL CREEK CANYON

PREPARED BY SALT LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PLANNING DIVISION
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APRIL 1989

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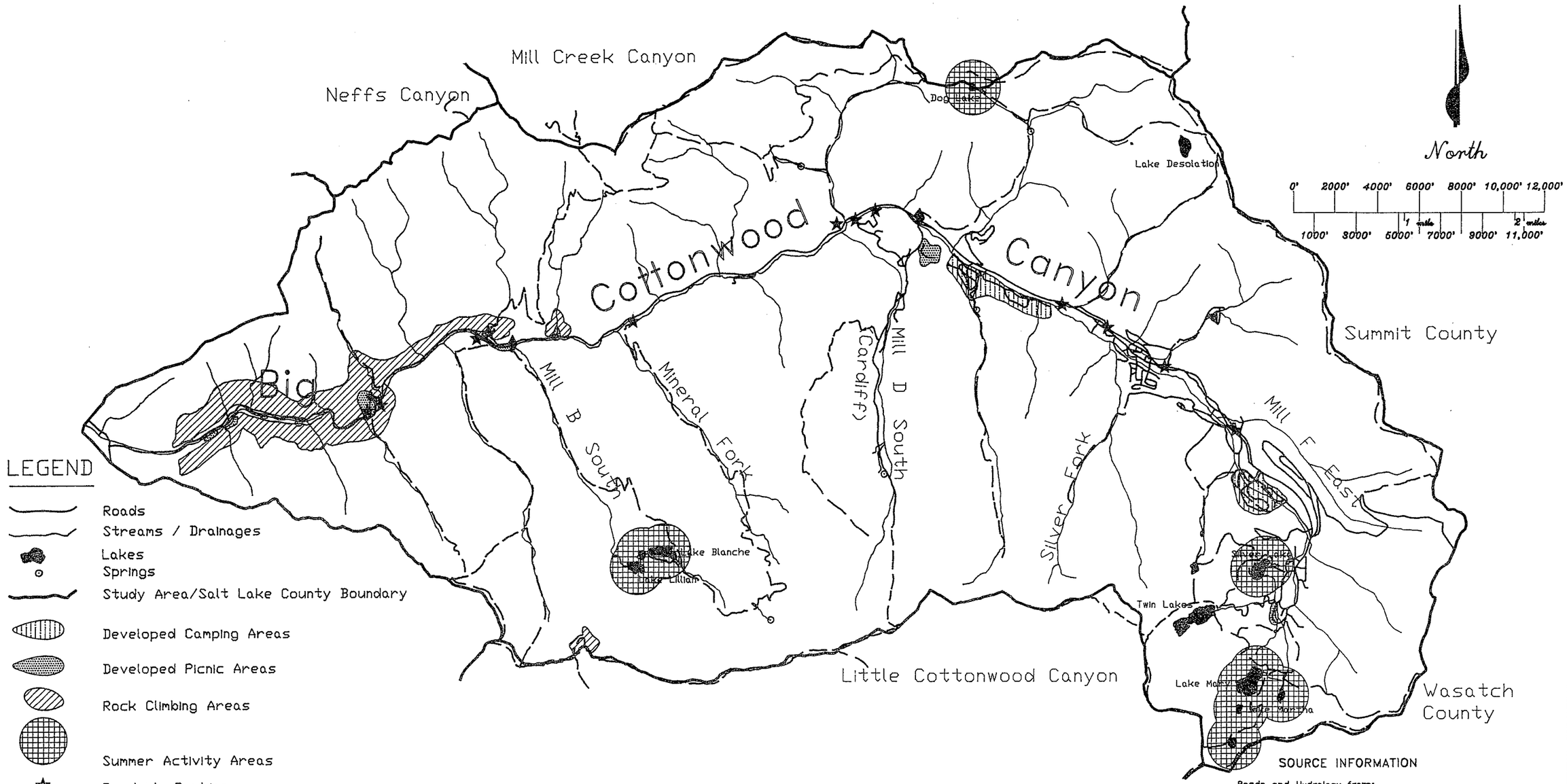

LEGEND

- Roads
- Streams / Drainages
- Lakes
- Springs
- Study Area/Salt Lake County Boundary
- Developed Camping Areas
- Developed Picnic Areas
- Rock Climbing Areas
- Summer Activity Areas
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SUMMER RECREATION AREAS
BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON

PREPARED BY SALT LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PLANNING DIVISION
DATA COMPILED BY UTAH STATE AUTOMATED GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCE

MARCH 1989

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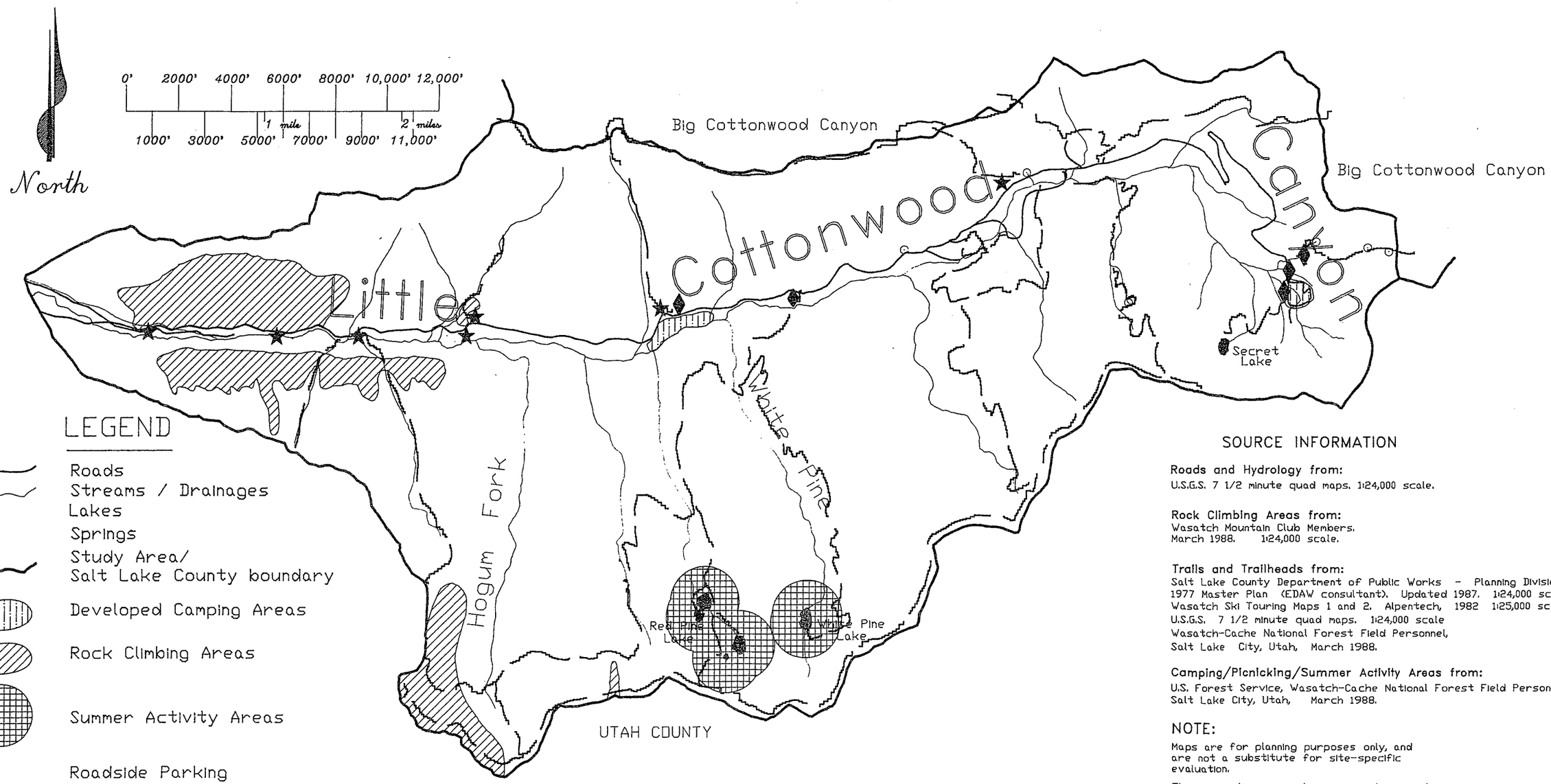

LEGEND

- Roads
- Streams / Drainages
- Lakes
- Springs
- Study Area/ Salt Lake County boundary
- Developed Camping Areas
- Rock Climbing Areas
- Summer Activity Areas
- Roadside Parking
- Developed Trailhead
- Hiking Trails

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SUMMER RECREATION AREAS
LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON

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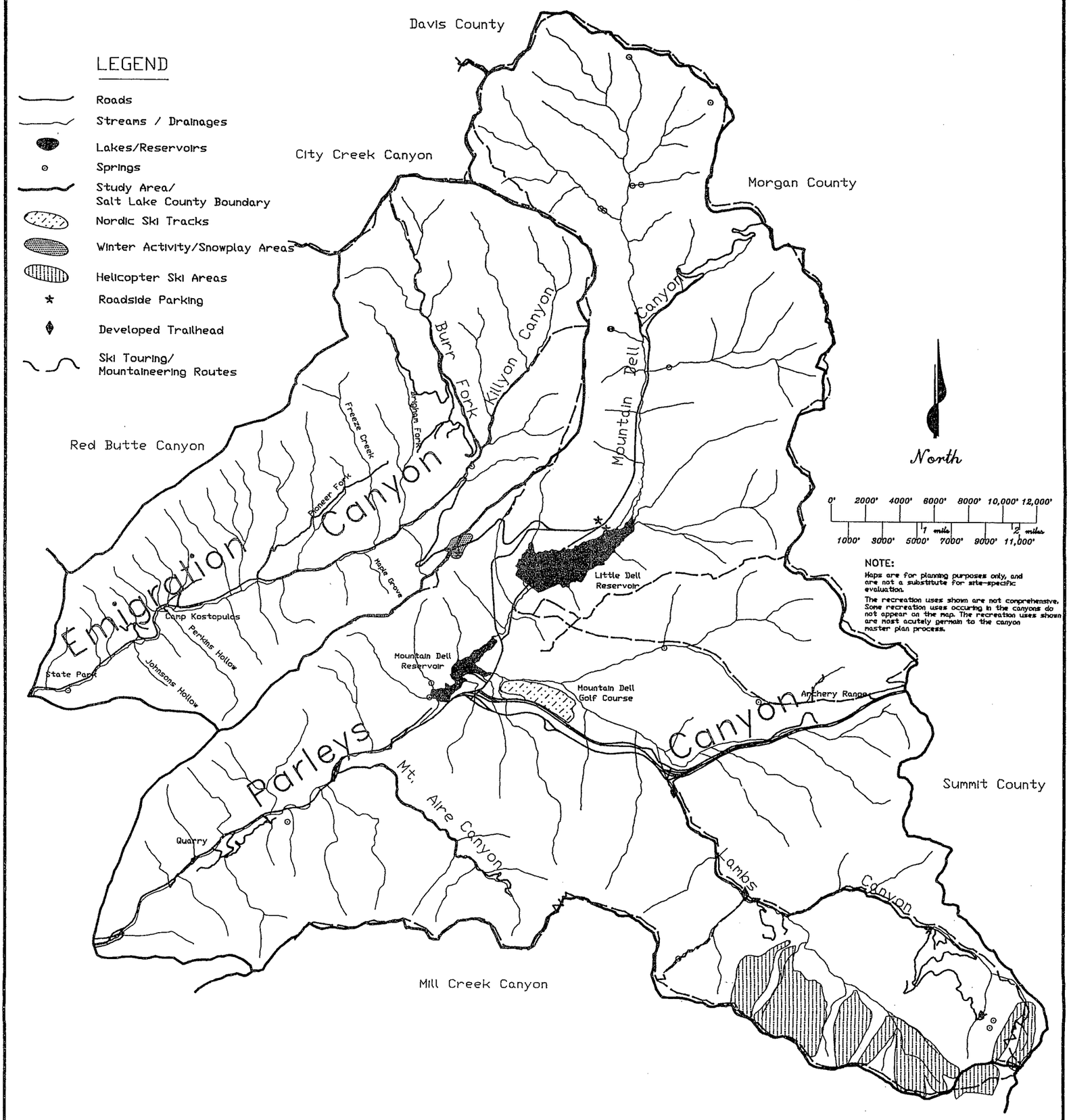

WINTER RECREATION AREAS
EMIGRATION and PARLEYS CANYONS

PREPARED BY SALT LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PLANNING DIVISION

DATA COMPILED BY UTAH STATE AUTOMATED GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCE APRIL 1989

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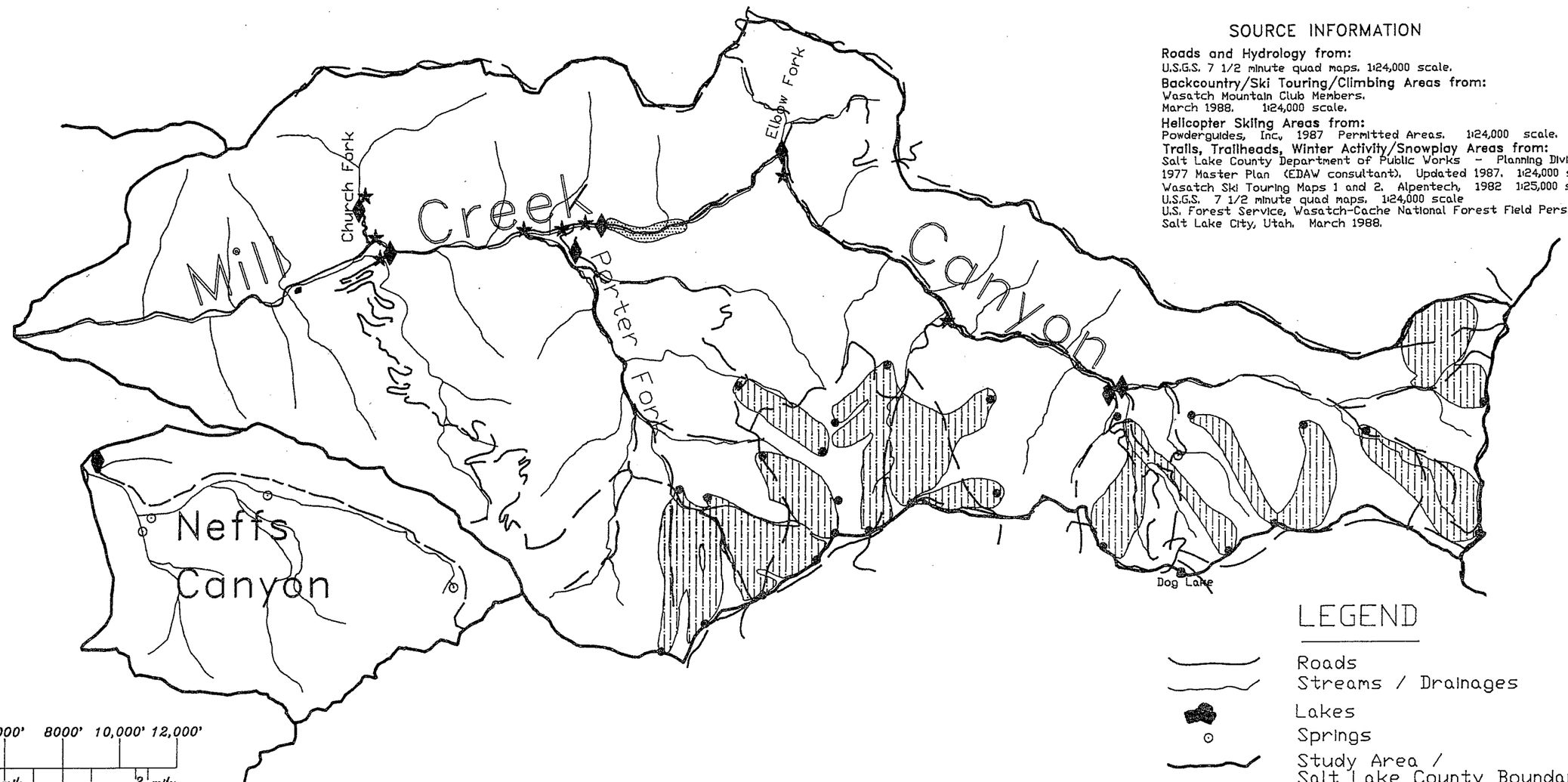

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Helicopter Skiing Areas from:
Powderguides, Inc. 1987 Permitted Areas. 1:24,000 scale.

Trails, Trailheads, Winter Activity/Snowplay Areas from:
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U.S. Forest Service, Wasatch-Cache National Forest Field Personnel, Salt Lake City, Utah. March 1988.

North

0' 2000' 4000' 6000' 8000' 10,000' 12,000'
1000' 3000' 5000' 7000' 9000' 11,000'
1 mile 2 miles

LEGEND

- Roads
- Streams / Drainages
- Lakes
- Springs
- Study Area / Salt Lake County Boundary
- Winter Activity/Snowplay
- Helicopter Ski Areas
- Regular / Occasional Helicopter Landing Sites
- Roadside Parking
- Developed Trailhead
- Ski Touring / Mountaineering Routes

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WINTER RECREATION AREAS
MILL CREEK CANYON

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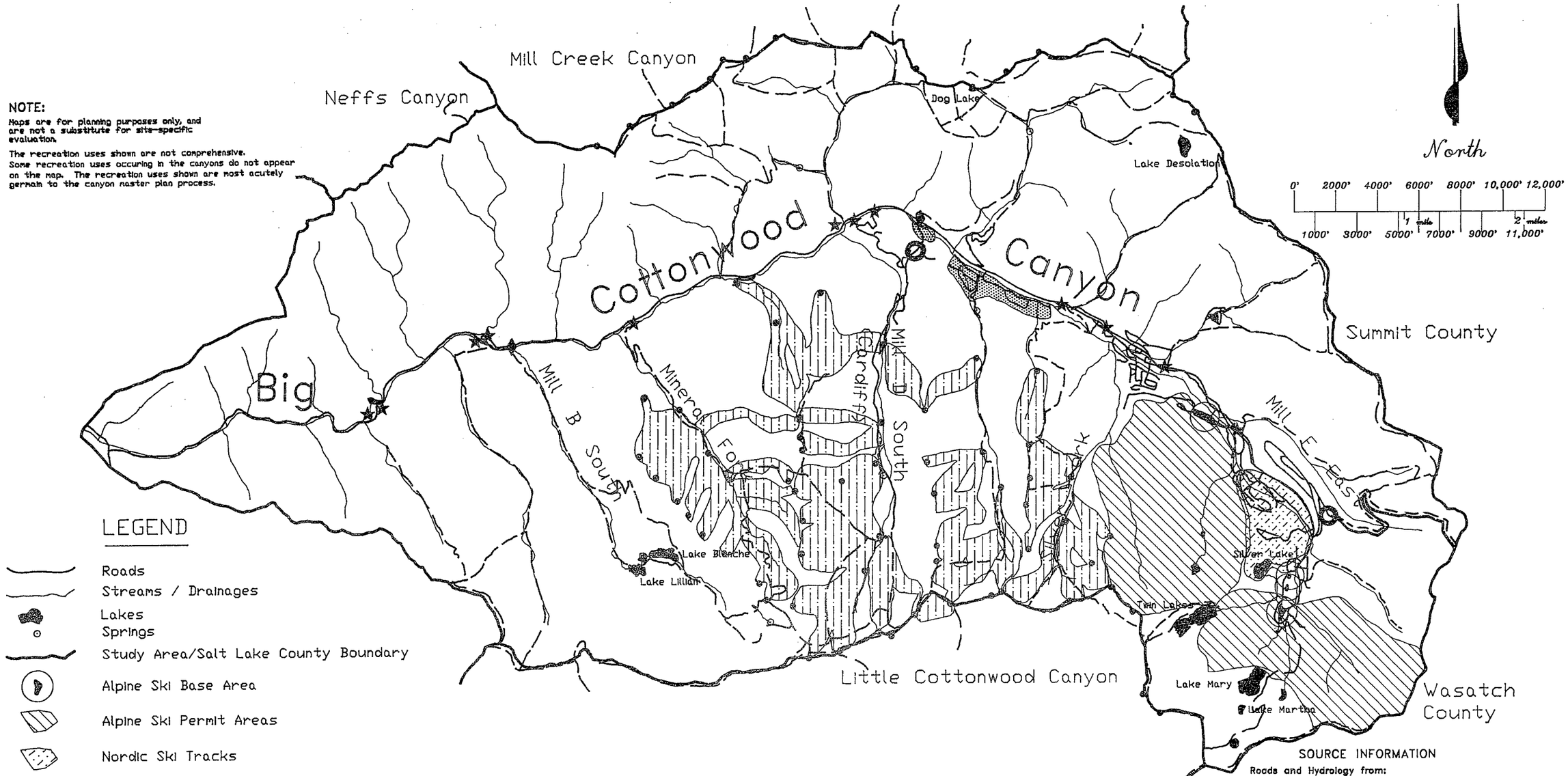

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LEGEND

- Roads
- Streams / Drainages
- Lakes
- Springs
- Study Area/Salt Lake County Boundary
- Alpine Ski Base Area
- Alpine Ski Permit Areas
- Nordic Ski Tracks
- Winter Activity/Snowplay
- Helicopter Ski Areas
- Regular/Occasional Helicopter Landing Sites
- Snowmobile Staging Areas
- Roadside Parking
- Developed Trailhead
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Commercial Ski Areas and Facilities from:
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Nordic Touring Areas from:
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WINTER RECREATION AREAS
BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON

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MARCH 1989

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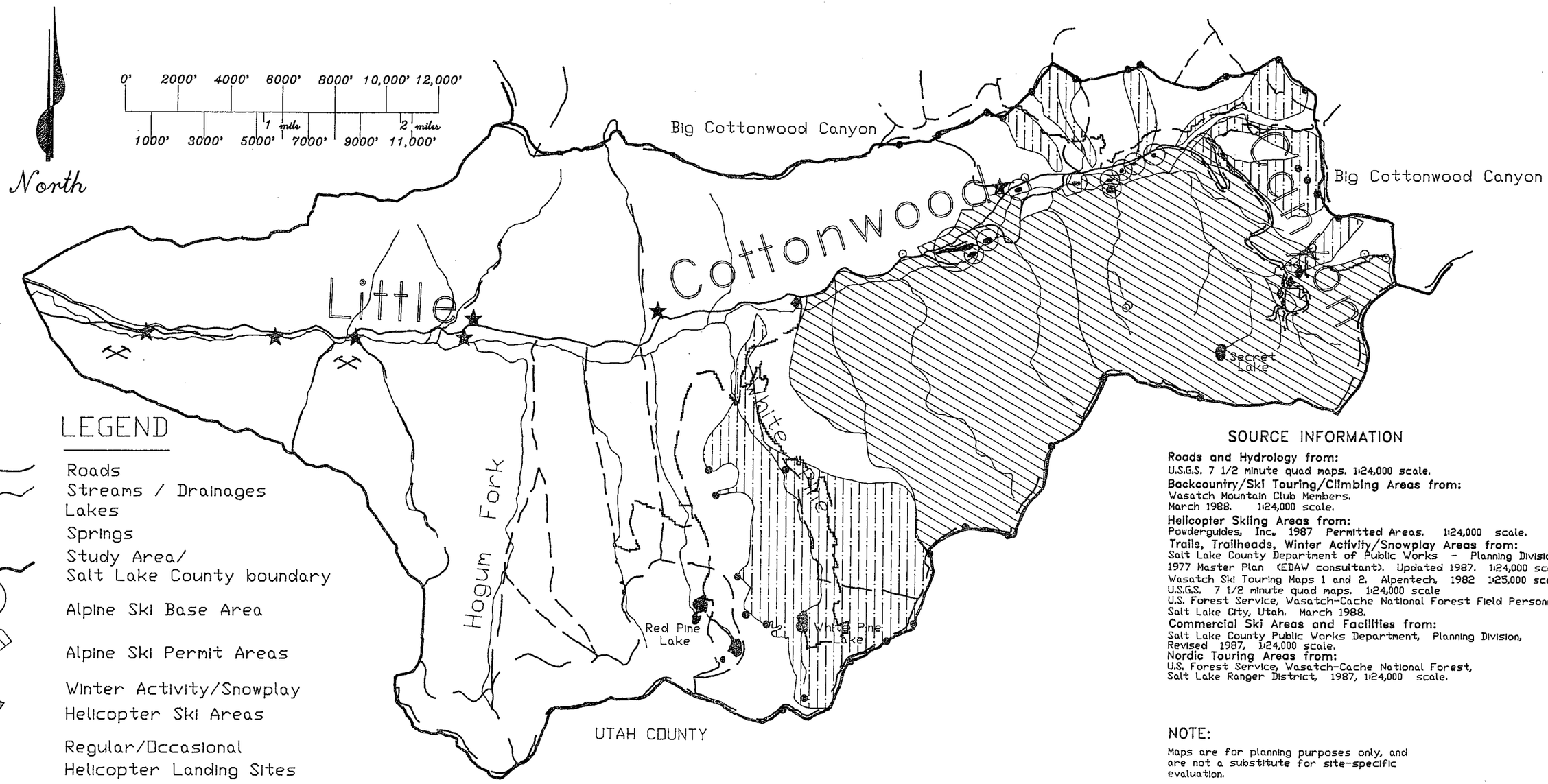


LEGEND

- Roads
- Streams / Drainages
- Lakes
- Springs
- Study Area/ Salt Lake County boundary
- Alpine Ski Base Area
- Alpine Ski Permit Areas
- Winter Activity/Snowplay
- Helicopter Ski Areas
- Regular/Occasional Helicopter Landing Sites
- Ice Climbing Areas
- Roadside Parking
- Developed Trailhead
- Ski Touring/Mountaineering Routes

SOURCE INFORMATION

Roads and Hydrology from:
U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute quad maps. 1:24,000 scale.

Backcountry/Ski Touring/Climbing Areas from:
Wasatch Mountain Club Members.
March 1988. 1:24,000 scale.

Helicopter Skiing Areas from:
Powderguides, Inc. 1987 Permitted Areas. 1:24,000 scale.

Trails, Trailheads, Winter Activity/Snowplay Areas from:
Salt Lake County Department of Public Works - Planning Division.
1977 Master Plan (EDAW consultant). Updated 1987. 1:24,000 scale.
Wasatch Ski Touring Maps 1 and 2. Alpentech, 1982 1:25,000 scale.
U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute quad maps. 1:24,000 scale
U.S. Forest Service, Wasatch-Cache National Forest Field Personnel, Salt Lake City, Utah. March 1988.

Commercial Ski Areas and Facilities from:
Salt Lake County Public Works Department, Planning Division, Revised 1987, 1:24,000 scale.

Nordic Touring Areas from:
U.S. Forest Service, Wasatch-Cache National Forest, Salt Lake Ranger District, 1987, 1:24,000 scale.

NOTE:

Maps are for planning purposes only, and are not a substitute for site-specific evaluation.

The recreation uses shown are not comprehensive. Some recreation uses occuring in the canyons do not appear on the map. The recreation uses shown are most acutely germain to the canyon master plan process.

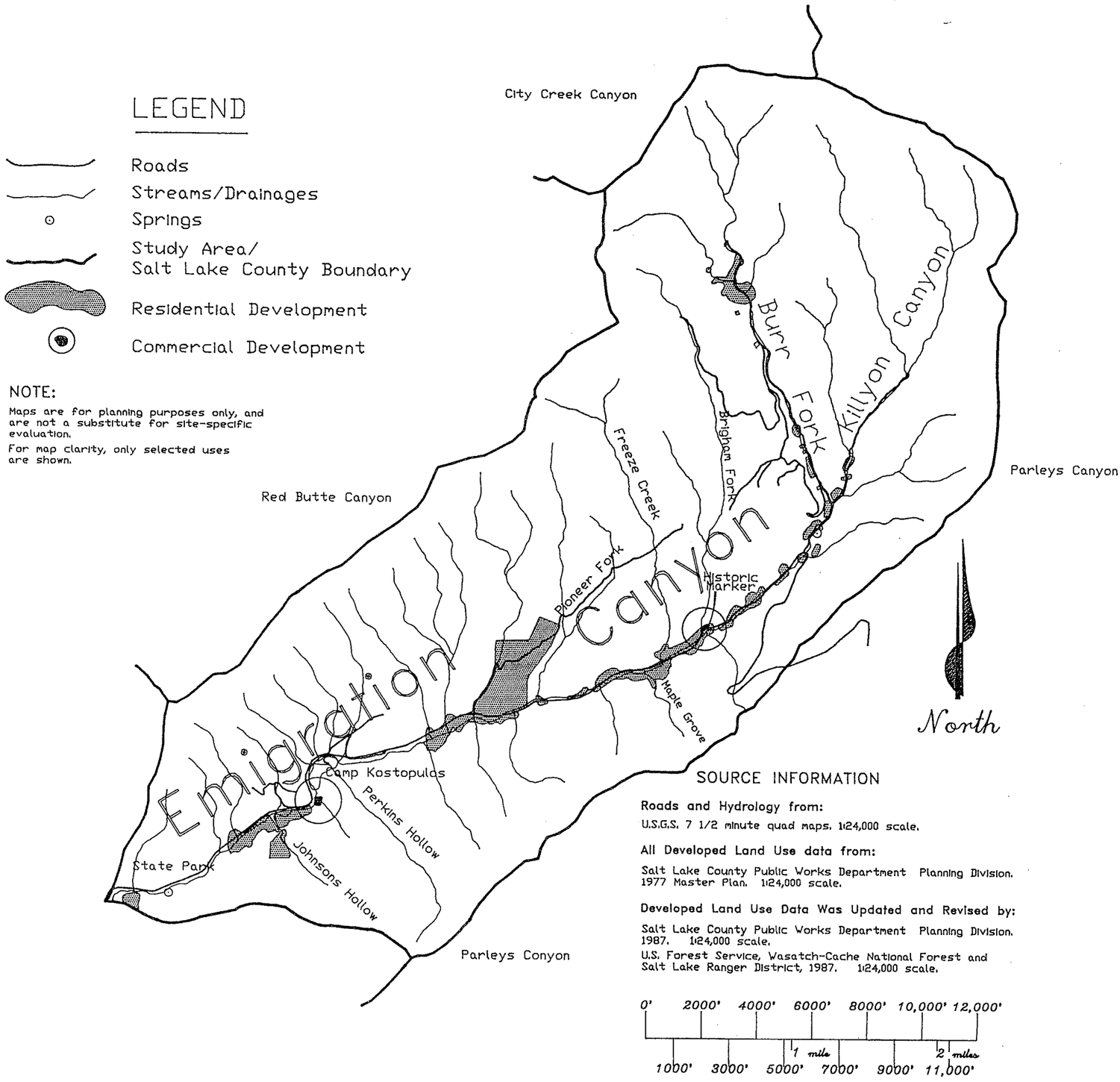
WINTER RECREATION AREAS
LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON

PREPARED BY SALT LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PLANNING DIVISION

DATA COMPILED BY UTAH STATE AUTOMATED GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCE

MARCH 1989

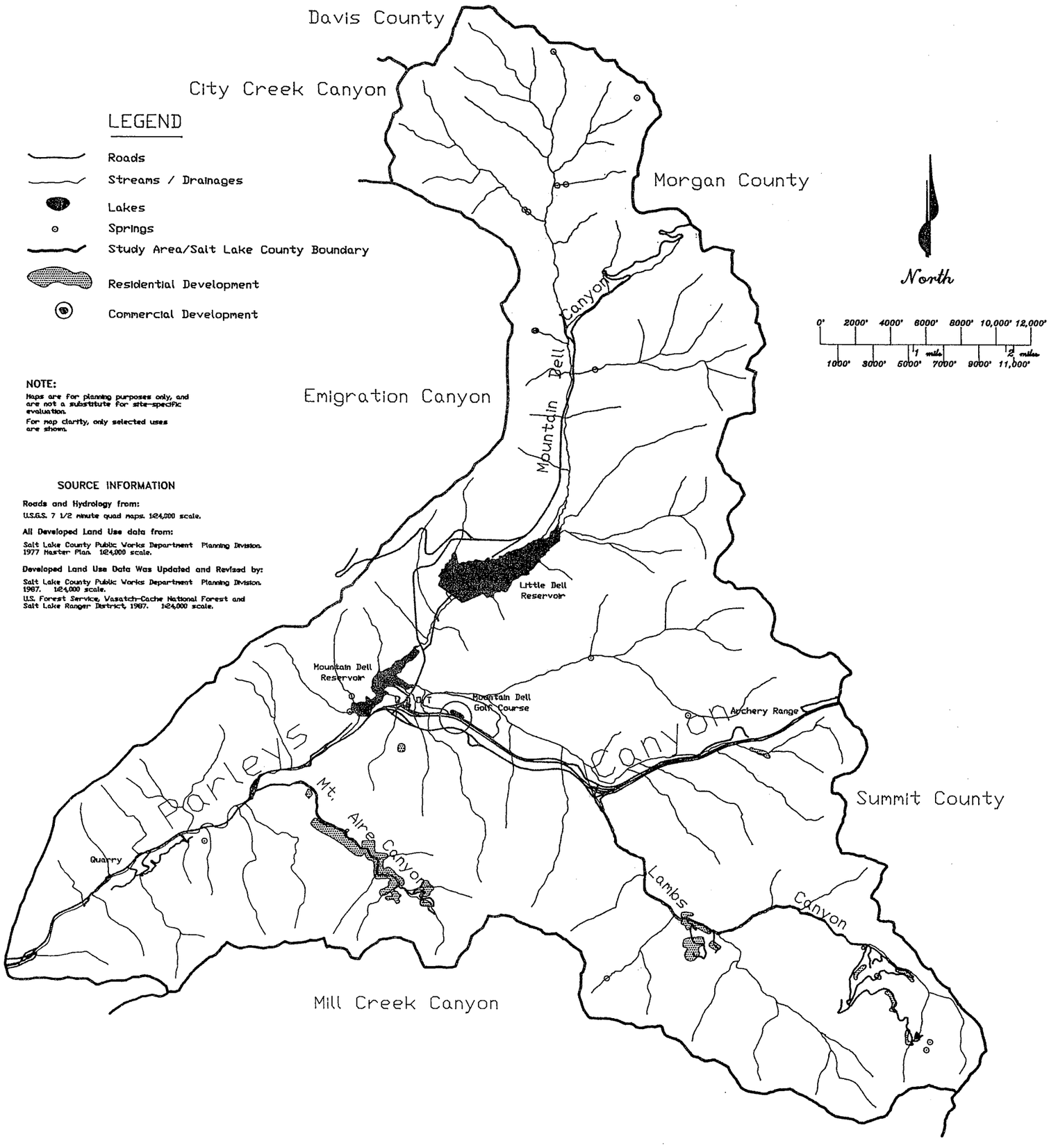
WASATCH CANYON MASTER PLAN



RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL AREAS
EMIGRATION CANYON

PREPARED BY SALT LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PLANNING DIVISION
DATA COMPILED BY UTAH STATE AUTOMATED GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCE APRIL 1989

WASATCH CANYON MASTER PLAN

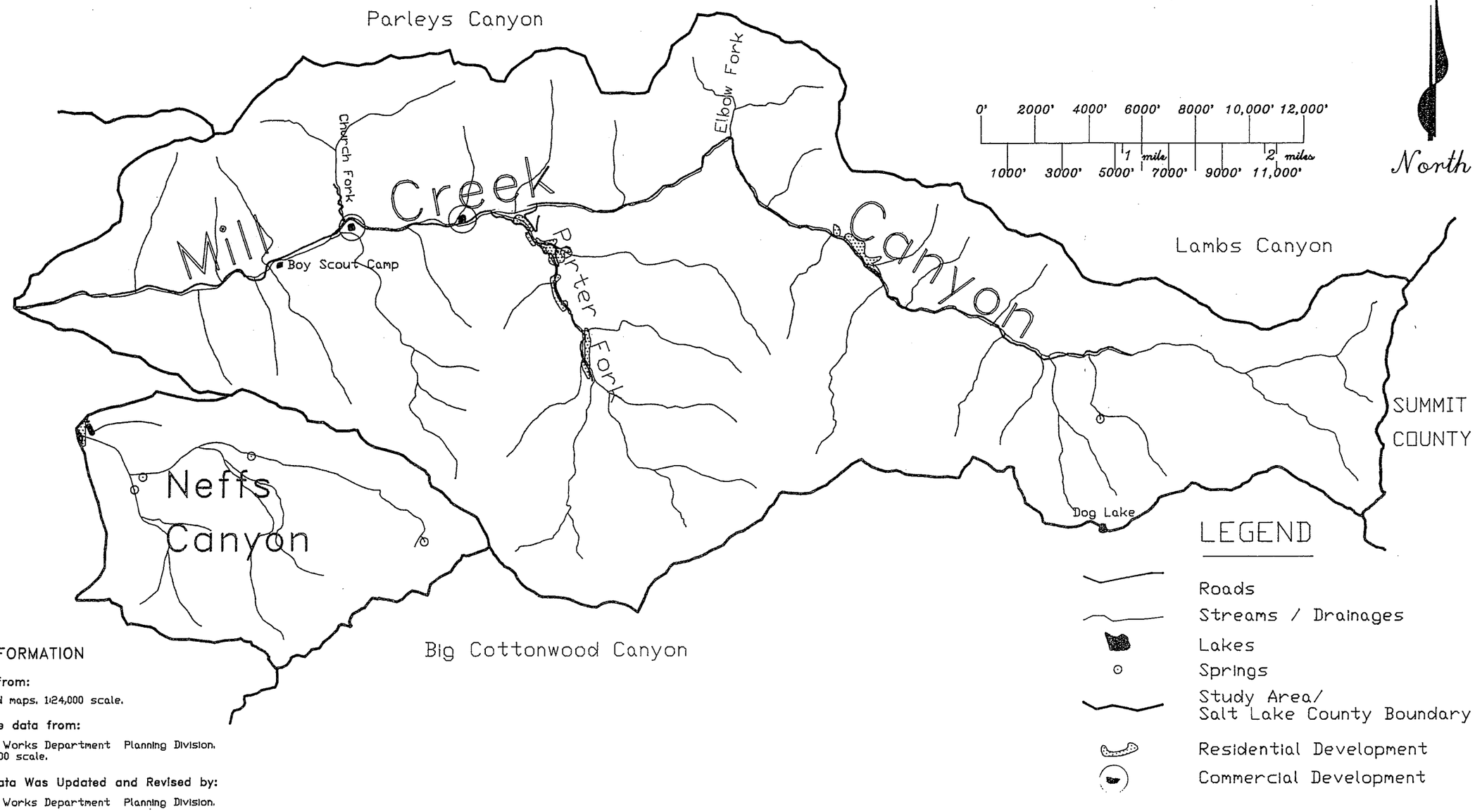


RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL AREAS
PARLEYS CANYON

PREPARED BY SALT LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PLANNING DIVISION

DATA COMPILED BY UTAH STATE AUTOMATED GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCE APRIL 1989

WASATCH CANYON MASTER PLAN



SOURCE INFORMATION

Roads and Hydrology from:

U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute quad maps. 1:24,000 scale.

All Developed Land Use data from:

Salt Lake County Public Works Department Planning Division. 1977 Master Plan. 1:24,000 scale.

Developed Land Use Data Was Updated and Revised by:

Salt Lake County Public Works Department Planning Division. 1987. 1:24,000 scale.

U.S. Forest Service, Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Salt Lake Ranger District, 1987. 1:24,000 scale.

NOTE:

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For map clarity, only selected uses are shown.

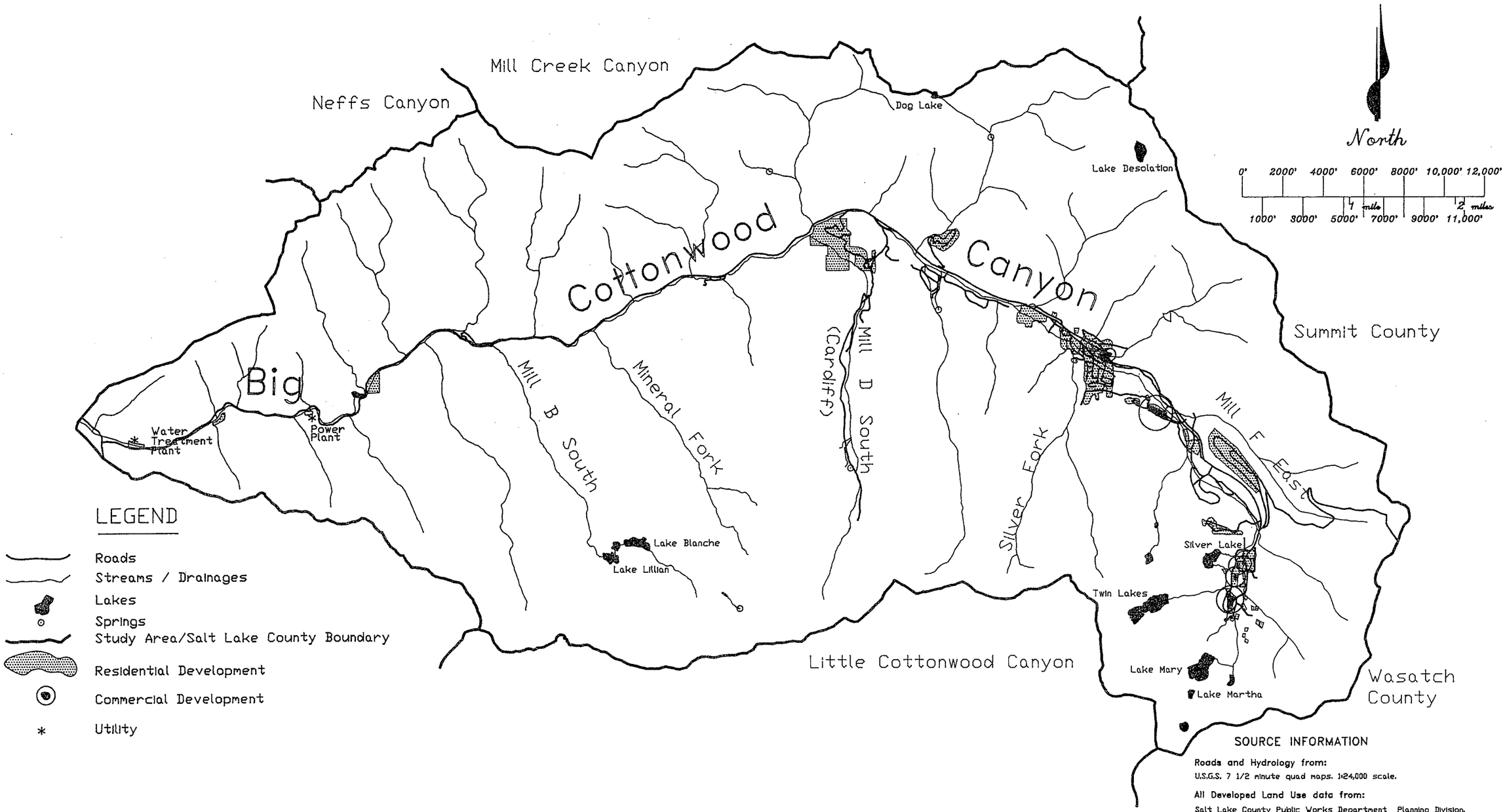
RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL AREAS
MILL CREEK CANYON

PREPARED BY SALT LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PLANNING DIVISION

DATA COMPILED BY UTAH STATE AUTOMATED GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCE

MARCH 1989

WASATCH CANYON MASTER PLAN



NOTE:
Maps are for planning purposes only, and are not a substitute for site-specific evaluation.
For map clarity only selected uses are shown on this map.

SOURCE INFORMATION

Roads and Hydrology from:
U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute quad maps. 1:24,000 scale.

All Developed Land Use data from:
Salt Lake County Public Works Department Planning Division. 1977 Master Plan. 1:24,000 scale.

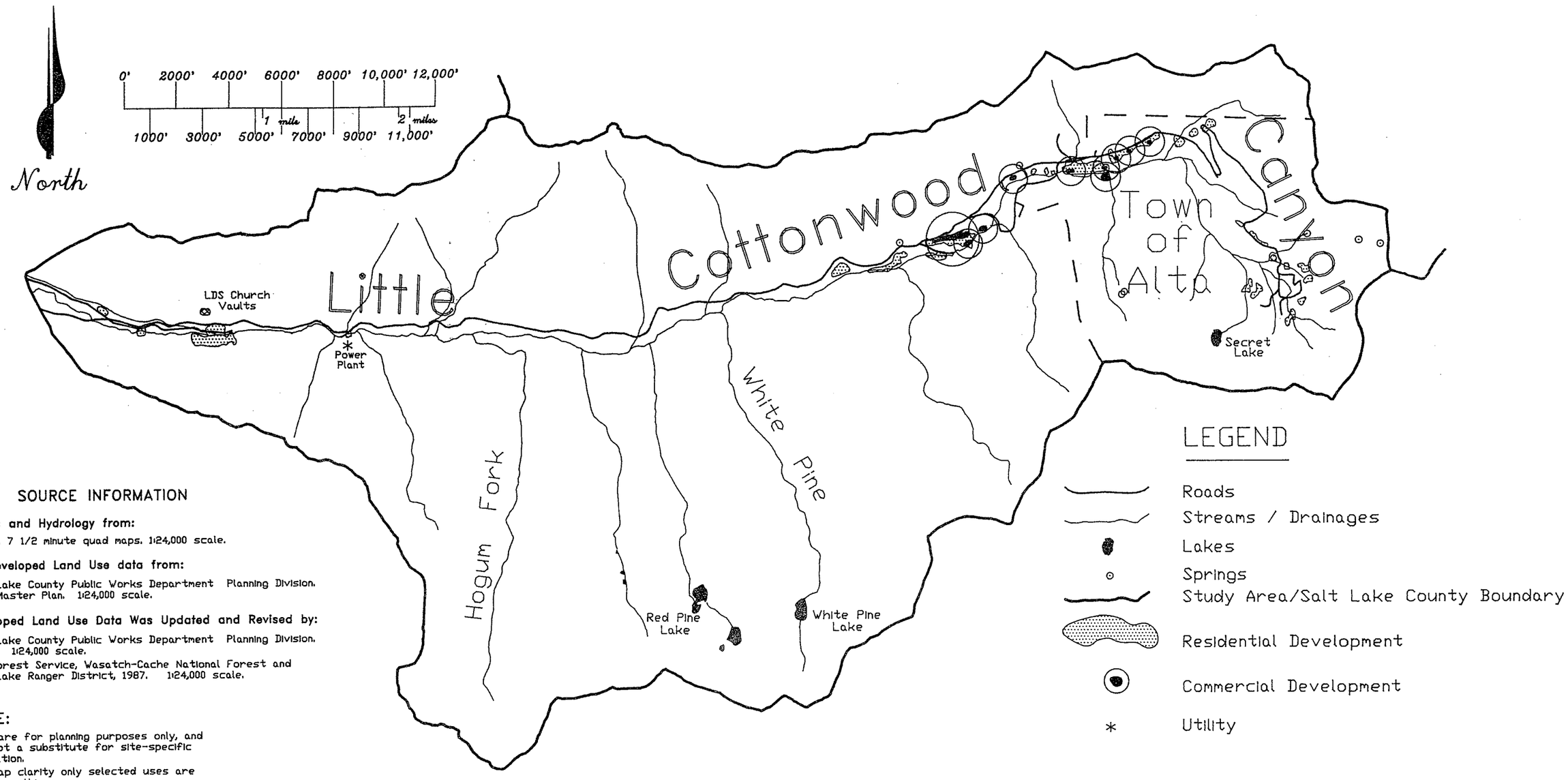
Developed Land Use Data Was Updated and Revised by:
Salt Lake County Public Works Department Planning Division. 1987. 1:24,000 scale.
U.S. Forest Service, Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Salt Lake Ranger District, 1987. 1:24,000 scale.

RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL AREAS
BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON

PREPARED BY SALT LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PLANNING DIVISION
DATA COMPILED BY UTAH STATE AUTOMATED GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCE

MARCH 1989

WASATCH CANYON MASTER PLAN



SOURCE INFORMATION

Roads and Hydrology from:

U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 minute quad maps. 1:24,000 scale.

All Developed Land Use data from:

Salt Lake County Public Works Department Planning Division. 1977 Master Plan. 1:24,000 scale.

Developed Land Use Data Was Updated and Revised by:

Salt Lake County Public Works Department Planning Division. 1987. 1:24,000 scale.

U.S. Forest Service, Wasatch-Cache National Forest and Salt Lake Ranger District, 1987. 1:24,000 scale.

NOTE:

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For map clarity only selected uses are shown on this map.

RESIDENTIAL/COMMERCIAL AREAS
LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON

PREPARED BY SALT LAKE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT PLANNING DIVISION

DATA COMPILED BY UTAH STATE AUTOMATED GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCE

MARCH 1989