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WATERSHED JURISDICTION



CHAPTER 4

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Many entities share jurisdiction over the lands that make up the Sandy City Watershed. This chapter summarizes the responsibilities of major jurisdictions involved in managing the watershed.

A. SANDY CITY WATERSHED AUTHORITY

Sandy City's authority for watershed protection is granted by the Utah Constitution, Utah Statutes, and United States Statutes. The preparation of this document, the 2001 Watershed Management Plan, is another step in carrying out this mandate from federal and state authorities.

1. Utah Constitution

Utah Constitution (Article XI, Section 5), authorizes the state legislature, by general laws, to classify cities in proportion to population. This constitutional provision has been implemented by state legislation to grant authority over watersheds based on this classification system. The Utah Constitution also specifically addresses the authority of municipalities to own and develop water rights. Municipal corporations are forbidden from directly selling, leasing, alienating or disposing of any waterworks, water rights or sources of water supply. Cities are further directed to preserve, maintain, and operate their water rights, waterworks, and water sources in order to supply water to their inhabitants at reasonable rates. Municipal water rights, however, may be exchanged for other water rights (Utah Constitution, Article XI, Section 6). The prohibition against alienating city water rights (except by exchange) prevents Sandy City from selling or leasing its water rights to public and private water users in the Wasatch Canyons.

Sandy City owns water rights in Little Cottonwood and Bell canyons. Little Cottonwood Canyon and Bell Canyon are primary and future sources of Sandy water. Water is treated at the Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake & Sandy's Little Cottonwood Water Treatment Plant, Water Pro's Treatment Plant, and Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District's Southeast Regional Water Treatment Plant.

Water Pro and the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District own water rights in all the mentioned canyons except Little Cottonwood. Salt Lake City, Sandy City, and others own water rights in Little Cottonwood Canyon.

2. State Legislation

The Utah State Legislature has implemented the classification authority granted by the Utah Constitution by dividing municipal corporations into three classes. First Class Cities are municipalities with more than 100,000 people (Utah Code Annotated, 10-1-1). These classifications have been upheld by the Utah Supreme Court (*Salt Lake City V. Salt Lake County*, 1922. 60 U. 423, 209 P. 207).

Cities are granted extraterritorial jurisdiction for the construction, operation, and maintenance of waterworks, and to protect the water from pollution that is “used in and necessary for” city waterworks. Protection of water from pollution for all classifications of cities is explicitly recognized “for 15 miles above the point from which it is taken, and for a distance of 300 feet on each side of such streams” (Utah Code Annotated, 10-8-15).

Additional watershed protection jurisdictions for cities of the First Class, like Sandy City, extend further than other classifications of cities to include protection of the “entire watershed” (Utah Code Annotated, 10-8-15). Therefore, Sandy City is granted management responsibility, anywhere in the canyon watersheds where Sandy City obtains its water supply, to protect canyon waters from activities that are detrimental to water quality or quantity. Cities may enact any ordinances necessary to protect the watershed, “and are authorized and empowered to enact ordinances preventing pollution or contamination of the streams or watercourses in which the inhabitants of the cities derive their water supply” (Utah Code Ann., 10-8-15).

Pursuant to general eminent domain authority in the Utah Constitution, Sandy City may condemn private property for public use with just compensation (Utah Constitution, Article I, Section 22). Specific statutory authority to acquire water, waterworks, and “property connected therewith,” including the power of condemnation for such purposes, has been granted to cities by the Utah Legislature (Utah Code Ann., 10-7-4). The Utah statutes granting extraterritorial jurisdiction to cities over watersheds are broad and give the cities substantial discretion in the management of watersheds to protect water sources. As a First Class City, Sandy City has special powers over entire watershed areas.

B. EXISTING SANDY CITY POLICIES/ORDINANCES

Existing Sandy City land use development policies and practices are reflected through the City’s Land Development Code. These ordinances apply to all properties within the jurisdictional boundaries of Sandy City.

Sandy City Watershed Project Area

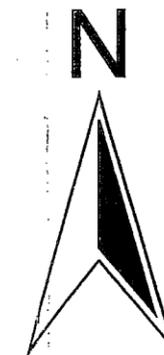


Legend

Watershed

-  Upper Little Cottonwood
-  Lower Little Cottonwood
-  Upper Bell Canyon
-  Lower Bell Canyon
-  Dry Creek / Middle/So Fork
-  Rocky Mouth
-  Big Willow
-  Little Willow

-  Treatment Plants
-  Diversions
-  Waterways



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Due to the City's extraterritorial jurisdictional rights to protect its watershed resources, watershed management ordinances adopted by the City apply to all areas within the City's identified watershed boundaries.

Although the City currently has not adopted specific watershed protection ordinances, several of the City's existing land use regulations complement the community's watershed management objectives. A summary of the City's applicable land use and development ordinances and regulations may be found in Appendix D.

C. EXISTING SALT LAKE CITY POLICIES AND ORDINANCES

Salt Lake City has been very involved in watershed protection and management over the course of the past century. Sandy will continue to work with Salt Lake City toward mutual watershed objectives and improvements.

1. Salt Lake City Watershed Ordinance

Salt Lake City has implemented state statutory authority for watershed protection through the adoption of ordinances. The Salt Lake City Watershed Ordinances may be found under Title 17 of the Salt Lake City Code. Title 17 addresses all ordinances under the jurisdiction of Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities. Chapter 17.04 contains ordinances for Salt Lake City's watershed areas (including Little Cottonwood Canyon, which it shares with Sandy City). The Public Utilities Director is the general supervisor of all city water and watershed related activities.

- a. Article II regulates subdivisions including: construction approval (17.04.070), waste disposal requirements (17.04.080), plans (17.04.090), and sale of lots prior to construction approval (17.04.110).
- b. Article III regulates livestock and other animals within the watershed. This article contains the dog permit requirements (17.04.160) and the prohibition of livestock near streams (17.04.130).
- c. Article IV governs water use and sanitary facilities. Some of the specific items contained in Article IV include rules and regulations (17.04.180), sanitary sewage disposal system requirements (17.04.210), garbage or human waste disposal - permit required (17.04.230), chemical toilets or privies (17.04.250), hauling of human waste required (17.04.280), and prohibited locations of toilet vaults (17.04.290).
- d. Article V regulates water pollution and other unlawful activities. Some of the specific items contained in Article V include nuisances prohibited (17.04.310), pollution of canyon waters prohibited (17.04.320), prohibited acts (17.04.330), camping and campfire restrictions (17.04.340), and garbage deposit prohibited (17.04.350).
- e. Article VI governs enforcement issues in the watershed (except for areas within the Town of Alta at the top of Little Cottonwood Canyon). Section 17.04.380 addresses interfering with officers. Section 17.04.400

addresses trespassing in the watershed. Article VII regulates the appropriations of water and Article VIII regulates the adoption of public law.

An additional ordinance update is currently in the adoption process regarding herbicides and pesticides.

D. SALT LAKE COUNTY LAND-USE CONTROLS

Salt Lake County has primary land-use control jurisdiction in the canyons over private lands. Through the administration of planning, zoning, and coordination of an interagency site development plan approval process, the county balances development and protection of the canyons. The Salt Lake County Public Works Department and more specifically the Planning and Development Services division has the primary administrative role regarding land-use. The planning/development services division is responsible for the preparation of general plans to guide public and private development and for preparation of amendments to the zoning ordinance. The county zoning ordinance is periodically revisited in order to better reflect changing conditions. The division also maintains development standards to insure uniform quality of design and construction.

According to the division, the uniformity, consistency, and quality of design of private development in the county is a direct reflection of the site design and development standards adopted by and enforced by the county. In an attempt to maximize the potential benefits of these standards, the county administers a comprehensive site plan review and approval process. That process incorporates input from both county and non-county (e.g. municipal, state, federal) agency representatives and authorities pertinent to the proposed development of property under consideration. A broad range of issues (culinary water, effluent disposal, natural hazards, urban hydrology, excavation, grading, resource protection, site planning, engineering, traffic management, etc.) are customarily addressed in this process. Oft-times, modification of submitted development proposals, as necessary to ensure compliance with adopted ordinances, standards, and procedures, is the objective of the county's site plan review and approval process. The same applies to building and related construction code compliance requirements.

At the beginning of a proposed project, builders, and developers meet with staff members to coordinate the requirements of their projects. These staff members coordinate the engineering review of plans and administer the issuance of building permits. After a permit is issued, planning/development services has the responsibility to inspect structures for compliance with building codes.

1. Zoning

Salt Lake County canyon zoning was first implemented in 1973 with the establishment of forestry zones. Previously, applicants for canyon developments only had to comply with the existing building code and the

health department requirements. Designations of forestry zones include: F-1, FR-0.5, 1, 5, 10, 20, and FM - 10 and 20. The F-1 zone is not less than 20,000 square feet and is limited to single family dwelling. The numbers in each FR zone designate the minimum lot size in acres. The numbers included in each FM zone designate units per acre allowed (twice the number of guest rooms are permitted).

All the canyons in the watershed are included in the Foothill Canyon Overlay (except for the area within the Town of Alta at the top of Little Cottonwood Canyon). The C2ZC zone is specified for commercial development based on a conditional use which is subject to review by the planning commission.

Revised Sensitive Lands Protection Regulations were adopted by Salt Lake County on January 21, 1998. The Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone was revised to include the following watershed-related concerns.

- a. First, the stream set-back for new buildings was extended from 50 to 100 feet. This new regulation will strengthen current watershed protection measures already in place.
- b. The second significant change involved site development. A new standard was developed called "limits of disturbance," which specifies an area that construction and development activity must be contained. This new standard, located in the "Foothills and Canyons Overlay Zone," formerly the "Hillside Protection Zone," will decrease the amount of lands that are disturbed through accidental or uninformed construction practices.

Conditional uses are also outlined in the zoning ordinance. These are special uses that are more intensive than the permitted uses under a given zoning classification. These uses require a site specific review and recommendations by the planning commission. Examples of conditional uses are the limited commercial developments that have occurred in the Wasatch Canyons in forestry zones.

As necessary, Planning Commission recommendations are subject to inter-agency review. The Planning Commission in turn requests recommendations from the following: development services, engineering, hydrology, fire department, traffic engineer, Salt Lake Valley Health Department, building inspector, U.S. Forest Service, environmental health, Sandy City Department of Public Utilities, Sandy City Planning Division, Utah Department of Transportation, Sheriff's department, and cities within a half-mile of the proposed development. Sandy City Department of Public Utilities is usually asked for a recommendation in cases where water service for a property is questioned. Decisions concerning watershed protection are made by the Forest Service and Sandy City Public Utilities Department. Any agency involved in the

recommendation process may request additional information from the developer.

2. Site Plan Approval

Site plan approvals for permitted uses are processed through the Salt Lake County planning/development services division. Permitted uses, which are outlined in the zoning ordinance, can be approved by the planning/development services staff without a recommendation by the planning commission. The developer is required to meet the criteria set forth in the zoning ordinance to receive final approval. For sensitive canyon developments, the planning/development services staff may request additional recommendations from the Salt Lake County Planning Commission.

E. SALT LAKE VALLEY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Salt Lake Valley Health Department (Health Department) can play an important role in watershed management. The Health Department is created by state statute to serve as a regional health agency for all valley local governments. With representation from the local government, the Health Department acts as a policy-making body. Under Section 26-24-20, Utah Code annotated, 1953, the Health Department prescribes its own health regulations for watersheds (Salt Lake Valley Health Department Regulation #14, Watersheds). These regulations seek to prevent damage to property, the spread of disease, the creation of nuisances, and air and water pollution. The regulations establish standards for setbacks from water sources, animal use, waste disposal systems, and water supply certification.

The Health Department reviews specifications, reports, and plans for development proposals before a building permit is issued by the Salt Lake County Planning/Development Services Division. Inspections, including sampling and analysis of soil and water, on public and private property are authorized in the watersheds to verify compliance with regulations. Reviews and comments are made on proposed contracts or agreements between any district, city, county, government or person for the use or occupancy of watersheds within Salt Lake County. The Health Department administers necessary watershed regulation enforcement activities. The governor and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have designated the Health Department as the area-wide water quality management agency. Under this designation, the Health Department is also responsible for the implementation of some federal water quality programs. Additionally, the Health Department is required to approve all septic systems in canyon areas.

F. UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

The Forest Service (USFS) is the largest land manager in the plan area. United States lands were reserved from the public domain for the establishment of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest in 1904. Forest Service management is directed by several statutes dictating multiple-use management.

1. Forest Management and Planning

The 1985 Wasatch-Cache National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan directs the activities of the Forest Service within the plan area. The Forest Service's planning and management activities in the plan area are oriented primarily to watershed management, developed and dispersed recreation, wilderness areas, and grazing. The Forest Service is a major provider of developed and dispersed recreation in the plan area for local residents and visitors. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest leads the nation in visitor days for any National Forest. A substantial amount of these visits were made to the Wasatch Canyons. The close proximity of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest has made it a favorite local choice for family and individual recreation activities.

Ski resorts on National Forest System lands are a major provider of recreation. Alta and Snowbird, in Little Cottonwood Canyon, are dependent on Forest Service special-use permits for the majority of their development. The Forest Service issues and manages special-use permits for existing private recreation residences on National Forest System lands. Currently, the Forest Service directs residential development to private lands only, but still honors existing permits. These residences are under strict permits administration by the Forest Service for house-addition permits and other on-site activities, including gardening and landscaping. The Forest Service provides trail heads and parking facilities for summer and winter dispersed recreation. A wide variety of dispersed recreation activities take place on these lands including hiking, cross country skiing, fishing, hunting, backpacking, and nature study. The Forest Service operates and maintains picnic and camping facilities in Little Cottonwood Canyon.

Under the provisions of the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978, the Lone Peak Wilderness Area was created. Lone Peak is located between Little Cottonwood and American Fork Canyons. Under the goal of protecting the watershed resource, the Forest Service is committed to conducting water quality analysis in wilderness areas on municipal watersheds and to enforce a prohibition of camping within 200 feet of any water source in Little Cottonwood Canyon.

The 1985 Wasatch-Cache National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan established the goal to protect the watershed in order to successfully accomplish Forest Service programs mandated by congressional actions and executive orders. Under the provisions of the Organic Administration Act (1897), the Forest Service is charged with "securing favorable conditions of water flows." This language has been interpreted by Forest Service hydrologists as the minimum stream flows necessary to provide for the self-maintenance of stream systems.

The Forest Service Channel Maintenance Program is intended to secure rising and receding flows, which produces a smooth transition between peak and base flows. This circumvents flood discharges and minimizes channel erosion and sediment deposition associated with instability or disequilibrium conditions. Flow maintenance is further intended to reduce the threat of channel aggregation, channel erosion, flood plain encroachment, vegetation encroachment, changes in hydrologic geometry, and channel capacity.

The channel maintenance program will establish a regime of flow requirements representing the rising and falling limb of the natural stream hydrograph from base flow to bank full in the spring and again from bank full to base flow after peak flows occur. Flows necessary to maintain channel capacity have been quantified for Little Cottonwood and have been filed as part of the Utah Lake-Jordan River water rights adjudication. An update of the Forest Service Plan is in progress.

2. Coordination with Salt Lake City

Under the provisions of federal statutes and regulations, the Forest Service plays a special role in the management of Salt Lake City's municipal watersheds. In order to protect the water supplies for Salt Lake City, the Forest Service has entered into formal agreements with authorized cities to restrict the use of U.S. Forest Service land from which the water supplies are derived, when necessary. In 1981, the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Salt Lake City Corporation prepared a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to carry out these federal mandates.

The MOU cites the congressional acts that recognize Salt Lake City's extraterritorial jurisdiction in the watershed and the need to prevent the contamination of streams or water courses from which the City inhabitants derive their water supply. The MOU also outlines responsibilities for the Forest Service including coordination with the city for any federal land-use planning in the watersheds, authorization of improvements needed by the city to protect and develop water, consultation with the City for any Forest Service water development, and assurances for the provision of necessary services such as garbage collections and maintenance of sanitary facilities.

Under the provisions of the MOU, the City is authorized to provide the Forest Service with water to supply recreation and administrative sites, and to assume management responsibilities for recreation and sanitation facilities in City Creek, Mountain Dell, Parleys, and Lambs Canyons. Joint activities are outlined by the MOU including: cooperation on toilet pumping at recreation sites, cooperation in law enforcement, land acquisition for ownership consolidation, information sharing, reviews of all land transactions, and the preparation of a specific watershed management strategies plan.

It is possible for Sandy City to pursue a similar MOU with the United States Forest Service.

G. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SALT LAKE & SANDY

The Metropolitan Water District of Salt Lake & Sandy (MWDSLS) is comprised of Salt Lake City and Sandy City. Sandy City applied for annexation into MWDSLS in 1990 and the Board of Directors unanimously approved their annexation petition. MWDSLS was first created after the prolonged drought of 1934 by the Salt Lake City Commission to provide a long-range water supply for Salt Lake City. The boundaries of the district are conterminous with the boundaries of its member cities. Through taxing capability, MWDSLS gives Salt Lake City and Sandy City the ability to provide alternative means of financing large-scale water projects that would otherwise exceed the City's constitutional debt limitation. Development of Deer Creek Reservoir as a water supply, and MWDSLS becoming a principal stockholder in the Provo River Water Users' Association in the 1940s, was the main catalyst for creation of the district. Since 1935, MWDSLS has assumed the lead role for supplying water to Salt Lake City and subsequently to Sandy City. MWDSLS projects include Deer Creek Reservoir, Little Dell Reservoir, and the Little Cottonwood Water Treatment Plant.

Salt Lake City, Sandy City, and MWDSLS have enjoyed close cooperation and conjunctive management. MWDSLS Board of Trustees is appointed by the city councils of each city. Salt Lake City appoints five board members and Sandy City appoints two board members, which comprise the seven-member Board of Trustees. MWDSLS, by statute, provides water to Salt Lake City and Sandy City on a preferential right basis at rates fixed by the District. Surplus water is sold to other water distributors in Salt Lake County, principally the Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District. MWDSLS also owns water rights for Little Dell Reservoir in Parleys Canyon.

H. TOWN OF ALTA

Alta is an incorporated municipality in the upper reaches of Little Cottonwood Canyon that includes the Albion Basin. Within its boundaries, Alta exercises land-use jurisdiction by maintaining planning and zoning controls, public safety standards, and an enforcement apparatus. It uses Salt Lake City water through a surplus water contract. Alta has displayed concern over watershed impacts in Little Cottonwood Canyon. Existing standards and measures developed by Salt Lake City for watershed protection are applicable in the Town of Alta. As a result of the Salt Lake City planning effort, the Town of Alta has adopted regulations about the shared watershed that are in line with Sandy's plan. Sandy will seek to encourage the Town of Alta to maintain current watershed regulations.

I. JORDAN VALLEY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

The Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District (JVWCD) plays an important role in Salt Lake Valley water issues and owns some water rights in the plan area.

JVWCD serves as the primary water distributor to many of the communities in the south and west portions of the Salt Lake Valley.

J. OTHER FEDERAL AND STATE AGENCIES

Several other federal and state governmental agencies play indirect roles in the Wasatch Canyons under review in this plan. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for administering two important statutes affecting the watersheds: the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. These two acts are representative of primacy legislation. States, upon approval of programs consistent with the statutes, are given principal responsibility for implementing the provisions of the acts.

The State of Utah, through the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), has primacy over the implementation of the Clean Water Act and the Safe Drinking Water Act. DEQ has established the state water standards that the Health Department and the Division of Drinking Water administer in community watersheds. The provisions of the Clean Water Act most applicable to the plan area are the anti-degradation standards. The anti-degradation standards seek to protect classified pristine waters from water quality degradation. Under the provisions of Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, no new point sources, treated or otherwise, are allowed to enter into designated streams or any contributing drainage.

With passage of the Water Quality Act of 1987, states were given additional support and direction for comprehensive implementation of non-point source controls statewide and in local jurisdictions. Programs include monitoring the effects of recharging urban runoff into groundwater. It would be expensive and difficult, due to the nature of the subsurface materials, to implement a monitoring system to assess the effects of existing non-point discharges in the canyons. All of the streams in the plan area are classified for anti-degradation protection. The streams in the defined watershed area fall under one or more of the following classifications: Class 1C, Class 2B, or Class 3A. Class 1C is protected for use as a raw water source for domestic water systems, with prior treatment by standard complete treatment processes as required by the Utah State Division of Environmental Quality. Class 2B is protected for in-stream recreational use and aesthetics such as boating, water skiing, and similar uses except for swimming. Class 3A is protected for in-stream use by beneficial aquatic wildlife including species of game fish and cold water aquatic life and aquatic organisms necessary in their food chain.

- Little Cottonwood Creek and its tributaries have been classified 1C, 2B, and 3A.
- Bell Canyon Creek and its tributaries have been classified 1C, 2B, and 3A.
- Middle Fork/South Fork Canyon Creeks and their tributaries have been classified as 1C, 2B, and 3A.
- Rocky Mouth Canyon Creek and its tributaries have not been classified under R317-2.

- Big Willow Canyon Creek and its tributaries have been classified 1C, 2B, and 3A.
- Little Willow Canyon Creek and its tributaries have been classified 1C, 2B, and 3A.

The Safe Drinking Water Act, as amended in 1986, establishes drinking water standards for the nation. The Act and its implementing regulations establish limits and monitoring requirements for several constituents to assure that drinking water supplies are maintained in healthful conditions. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for carrying out Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, which regulates dredging and filling wetlands. Any stream alteration, dredging, or wetland filling, requires a 404 permit from the Corps. This permitting process helps control erosion and activities that could adversely affect stream quality. The Corps also has general flood control responsibility. The Utah State Division of Water Rights also requires a permit for any stream alteration practices.

In addition, the state is implementing a groundwater protection strategy to protect Utah's groundwater supplies from contamination. Within the State Division of Water Rights, the State Engineer is responsible for water rights issues within the watershed.

Other entities are involved with or influence watershed management in the Wasatch Canyons. Salt Lake County Service Area #3 provides water and fire protection services at Snowbird and adjacent areas. The Salt Lake County Sheriff enforces watershed ordinances and county land-use ordinances. The Utah Division of Parks and Recreation, through implementation of the Parks and Recreation River Enhancement Program, could develop a program for one or more of the Wasatch Canyon streams in cooperation with other governmental entities. Finally, the Utah Department of Transportation maintains highway responsibilities in Little Cottonwood Canyon.

OTHER PLANS & ISSUES RELEVANT TO THE WATERSHED AREA

A. Wasatch-Cache National Forest Land/Resource Management Plan

The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Service Plan), completed in 1985, is intended to guide all natural resource management activities and establish management standards and guidelines for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest. The Forest Service Plan describes long-term management practices, levels of resource production, and availability of lands for resource management. It contains the overall direction and activities that will be required to achieve the desired condition of the forest and consists of an analysis of the management plan situation, issues, forest management direction, and implementation.

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Forest Service Plan selected a preferred plan alternative. In response to public input, this alternative

balances market and non-market resources while providing environmental protection. Under this alternative, the Forest Service budget would increase to provide increased resource use, and developed and dispersed recreation, and wilderness uses. Forest resources addressed in the plan include recreation, wilderness, fish and wildlife, range, timber, water, and minerals. Currently, the Forest Service is updating the 1985 Wasatch-Cache Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

B. Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan, 1999

Salt Lake City adopted the first Watershed Management Plan in 1988 to maintain high water quality for the future. This plan was updated in 1999. Prior to the update, the watershed was receiving increasing pressures from commercial and residential development and a variety of recreational uses. Visitor numbers increased rapidly throughout the early 1980's and management guidelines were needed to ensure high water quality for the next ten years. The watershed planning effort involved all the major jurisdictional agencies involved with the watershed, along with affected communities and businesses. The Watershed Management Plan contained the following sections: Watershed Jurisdiction and Ownership, Watershed Physical/Environmental Characteristics, and Policies for Salt Lake City Watershed Management. The Watershed Management Plan has been successful in providing the guidelines and management direction necessary to effectively manage the watershed.

C. Salt Lake County Planning Division Plans and Studies

The Wasatch Canyons Master Plan (Canyons Master Plan) was adopted by Salt Lake County in 1989. The purpose of the plan is to provide clear guidance and coordination of future uses in association with existing resources in the seven major Wasatch Canyons through the year 2010: "The Salt Lake County Wasatch Canyons Master Plan goal is to provide diverse opportunities for public enjoyment of the Wasatch Canyons within the constraints of a limited geographic setting and the capacities of the natural environment to accommodate uses without significantly diminishing either the quality of the canyon resources or the quality of the canyon experience." The Wasatch Canyons plan addresses land-use issues in the plan area. It specifically addresses policies governing various recreational uses, transportation, canyon plans, and general policies. The Canyons Master Plan calls for an update ten years after adoption.

In 1998, Salt Lake County adopted a new set of zoning ordinances aimed at protecting sensitive lands. These new ordinances provide the watershed with increased protection. Items such as stream setbacks for development have been increased from 50 feet to 100 feet. Tighter standards regarding the amount of disturbance allowed to the natural landscape during construction are also included.

D. Town of Alta, General Plan, 1992

The 1992 General Plan for the Town of Alta in Little Cottonwood Canyon provides a comprehensive framework and direction for the use, development and conservation of land and water resources.

In regards to watershed protection and water quality, in the General Plan, the Town of Alta pledges to "support and enforce the policies, regulations and plans" of its partners (namely, Salt Lake City, Sandy City and the Forest Service) in canyon management. The plan stipulates that no further development be allowed in areas not served by the public sewer system. Additionally, the Town recommends that provisions for sanitary facilities and trash receptacles be made to assist hikers and bikers in preserving water quality and following watershed recommendations designed to protect the water resources of the Alta area.

Protection of the watershed is one of the major emphases guiding the plan and serves as the basis for development philosophy. The 1992 plan is currently being revised. The revision is scheduled to be completed and adopted in late 2001.

E. PUBLIC/PRIVATE LAND EXCHANGES

Public land management is hampered in some canyons by the scattered nature of the publicly-owned land holdings. Currently, no exchanges are being discussed. However, Sandy may seek to acquire and exchange more land within the watershed area in order to better manage the water resources.

F. BELL CANYON PURCHASE

Sandy City purchased the land within Bell Canyon from the Bell Canyon Irrigation Company in order to protect the waters of Bell Canyon, which represents an integral part of Sandy's future water vision.