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System Group Meeting #2

April 1 and 2, 2014

Meeting #2 Outcomes

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1. Member Poll on Existing Conditions report

2. Feedback on draft of Future Trendlines (and sources for any additional information)

3. Initial input on Vision and goals

Meeting #2 Agenda

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1. Updates and housekeeping
2. Existing Conditions presentation and discussion
3. Poll on Existing Conditions recommendation
4. Comments for Executive Board
5. Future Trendlines presentation
6. Future Trendlines discussion
7. Vision and goals survey
8. Close

Where are we in process?

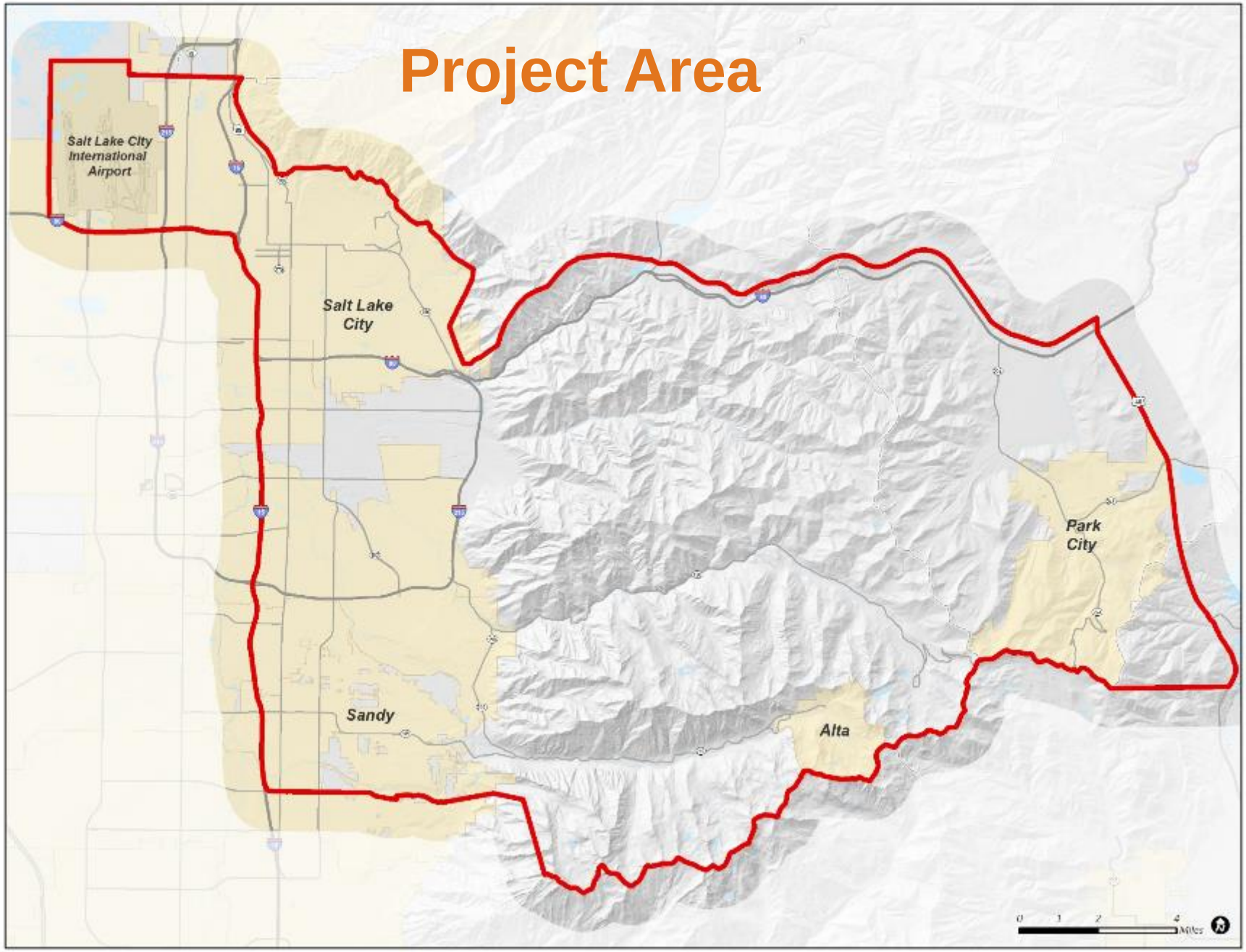
We are here

Existing Conditions						
	Trendlines					
		Vision/Goals/Metrics				
				Idealized Systems		
1 (March)	2 (early April)	3 (late April)	4 (May)	5 (June)	6 (July)	7 (Aug)

= discuss draft information

= discuss revised info and poll group on recommendation(s)

Project Area



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Existing Conditions

Report Overview

Summary of comments received during 1st meeting

The Recreation group needs to:

1. Evaluate the qualities of aesthetics, solitude, and other qualitative elements important to recreation.
2. Address funding for recreation facility development and management.
3. Understand the relative levels of use and locations of heaviest use.
4. Understand where the most substantial recreational issues and conflicts occur.
5. Understand the influence of adjacent recreation destinations on the recreation system in the study area.
6. Address commercial use in dispersed recreation areas.
7. Include elements of disperse recreation economics.

What has changed from the last meeting?

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- New data collection
  - Commercial permits and events
  - User demographics
  - Issues and issue areas
  - Infrastructure (trails, trailheads, etc.)
  - Recreation economics

Data have been summarized for communication of key messages

Regional context

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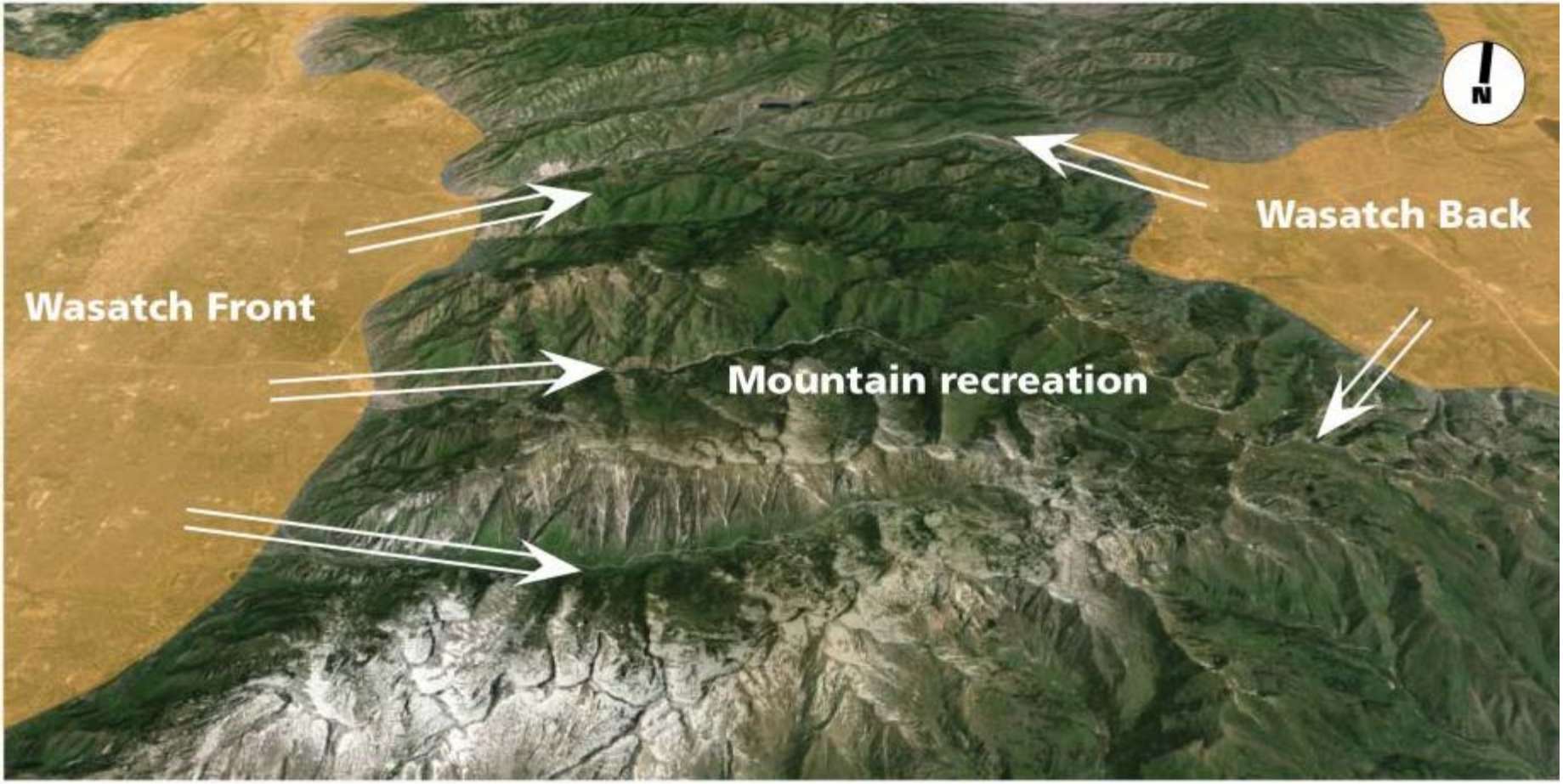

Natural environment

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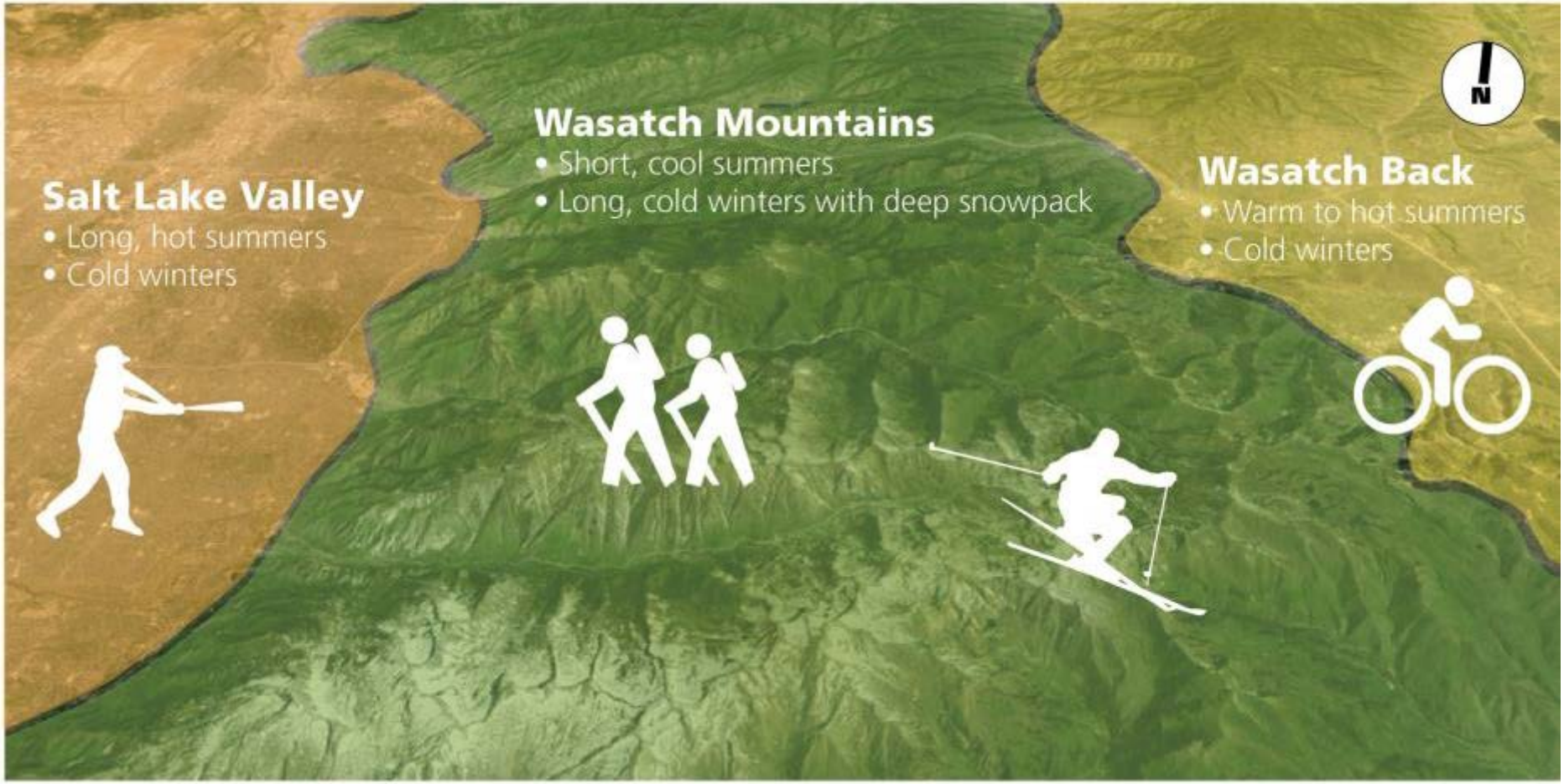

Recreation infrastructure

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Summer

- Trails

Motorized / multi-use paths / hiking / hiking and biking / downhill mountain biking

- Trailheads
- Recreation sites

Rock climbing / campgrounds / picnic areas / bike parks / dog walking areas / resorts

- Transit service

Winter

- Backcountry winter recreation areas

Ski and snowboard touring areas / lift accessed areas / motorized use areas

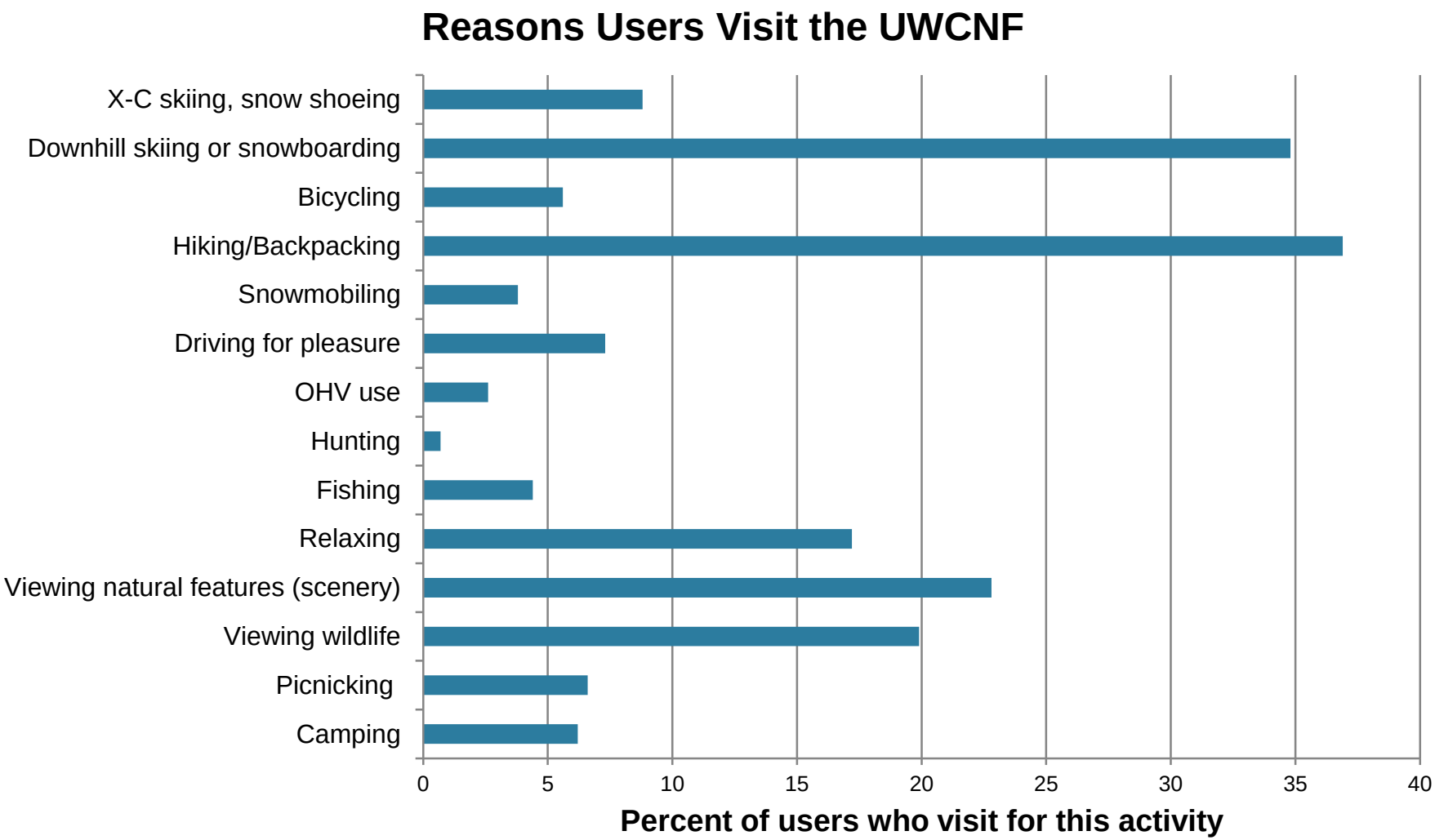
- Ski resorts and Nordic skiing areas
- Transit service
- Trailheads

Recreation setting

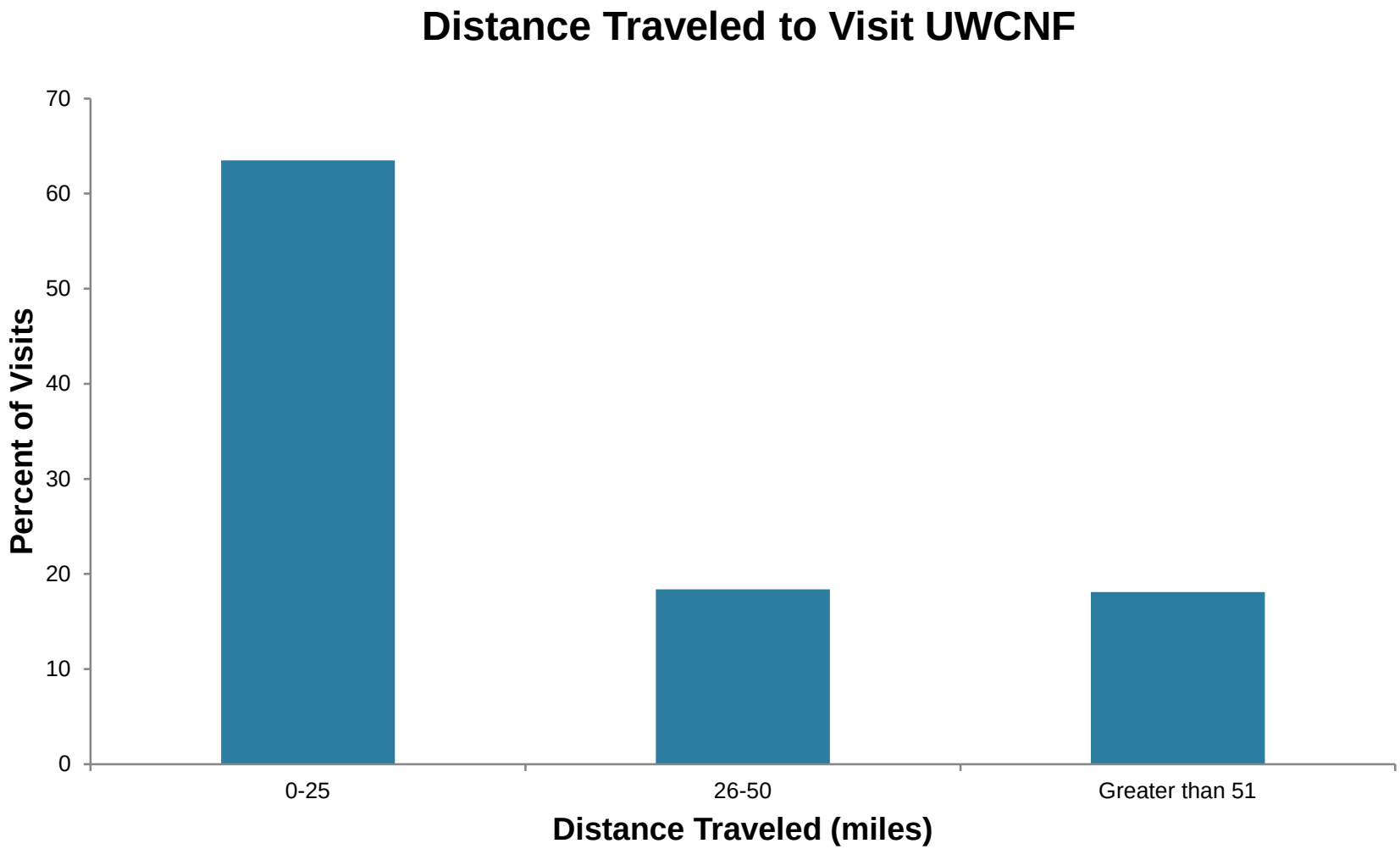
- Setting is driver of:
  - Locations selected for each activity
  - User's enjoyment of the experience
- Workshop March 13, 2014

- Availability of primitive settings with low amounts of social interaction close to population center was identified as key amenity in the Wasatch Mountains

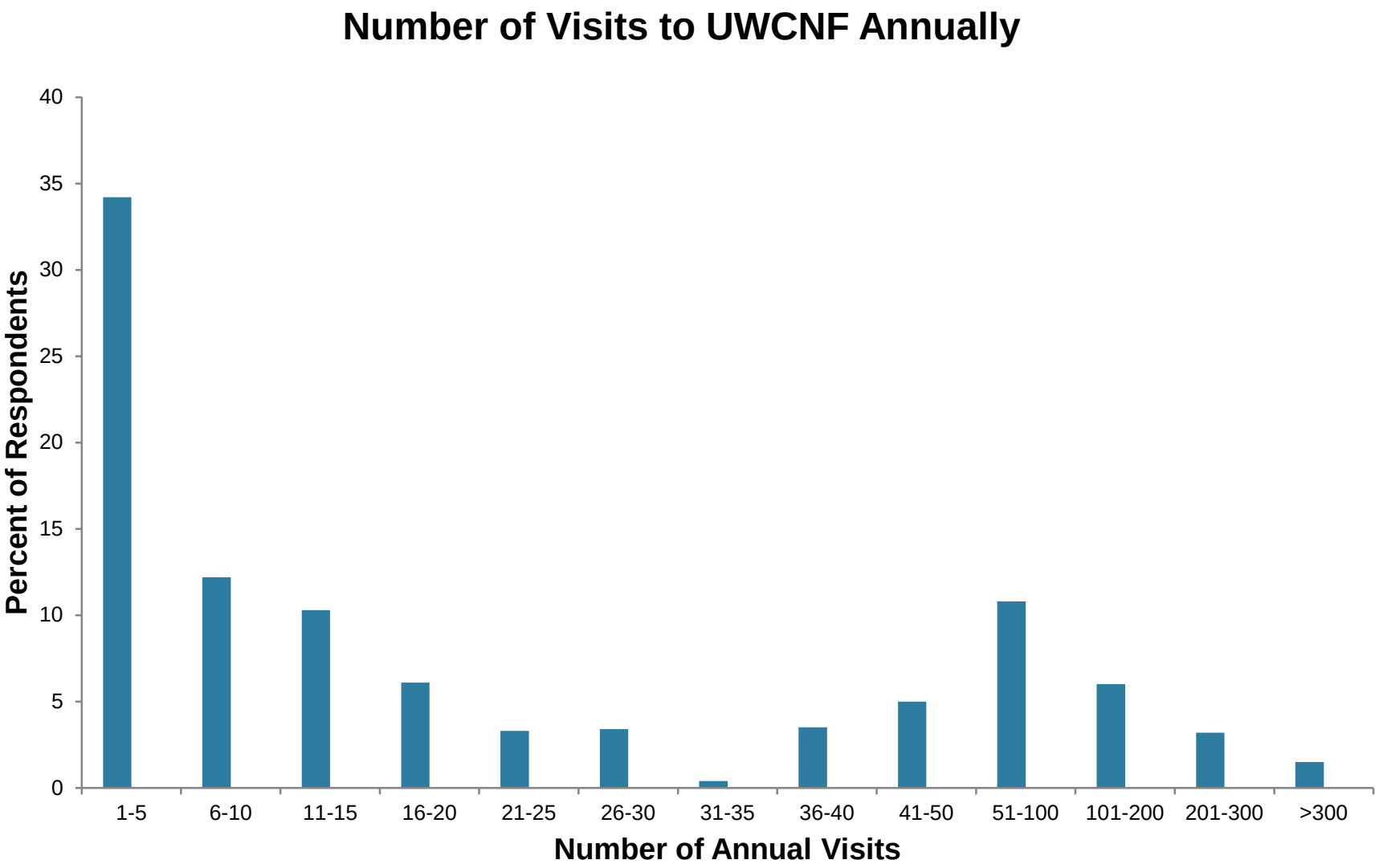
Recreational users



Recreational users



Recreational users



Patterns of recreational use

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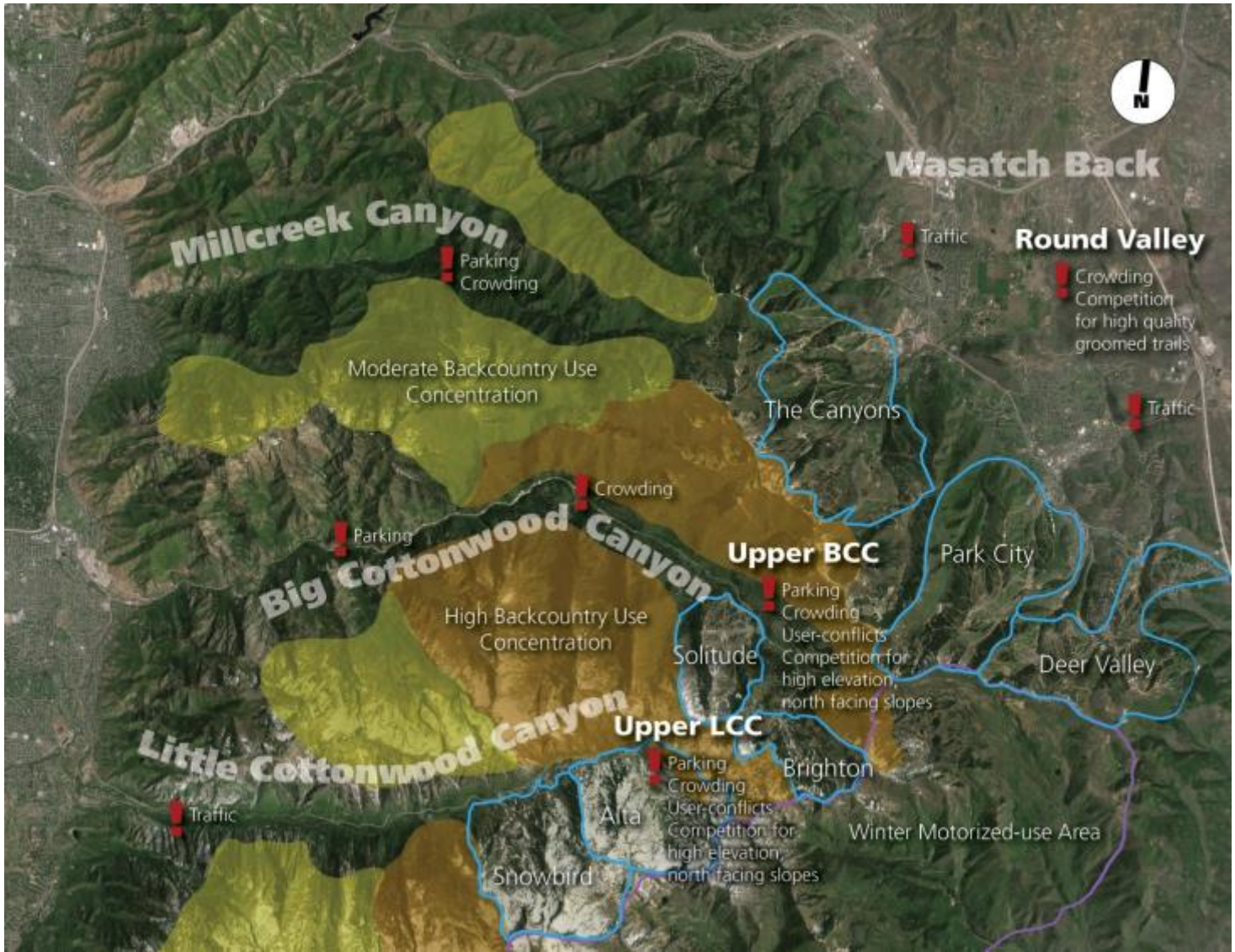
Area	Recreation Activities																					
	Resort skiing/snowboarding	Backcountry skiing/snowboarding	Nordic skiing	Snowmobiling	Sledding	Backpacking	Camping	Dog walking	Fishing	Hiking	Hunting	Mountain biking	Off highway vehicle use	Organized events	Sightseeing/ photography	Picnicking	Road cycling	Rock/ice climbing	Running	Scenic driving	Summer resort concessions	Wildlife viewing
Big Cottonwood Canyon	High use	High use	Moderate use	Not applicable	Moderate use	Moderate use	Moderate use	Not applicable	Moderate use	High use	Moderate use	High use	Moderate use	Moderate use	High use	Moderate use	Moderate use	High use	Moderate use	High use	Moderate use	Moderate use
Little Cottonwood Canyon	High use	High use	Moderate use	Not applicable	Moderate use	Moderate use	Moderate use	Not applicable	Moderate use	High use	Moderate use	Moderate use	Not applicable	Moderate use	High use	Moderate use	Moderate use	High use	Moderate use	High use	Moderate use	Moderate use
Millcreek Canyon	Not applicable	Moderate use	Moderate use	Not applicable	Moderate use	Moderate use	Moderate use	High use	Moderate use	High use	Moderate use	Moderate use	Not applicable	Not applicable	Moderate use	Moderate use	Moderate use	Not applicable	Moderate use	Moderate use	Not applicable	Moderate use
Wasatch Back	High use	Moderate use	High use	Moderate use	Moderate use	Moderate use	Moderate use	Moderate use	Moderate use	Moderate use	Moderate use	Moderate use	Moderate use	Moderate use	Moderate use	Moderate use	High use	Not applicable	Moderate use	Moderate use	Moderate use	Moderate use

Note: High use · Moderate use · Low use · Not applicable

Recreation concentration and issue areas - Winter



Recreation concentration and issue areas - Summer

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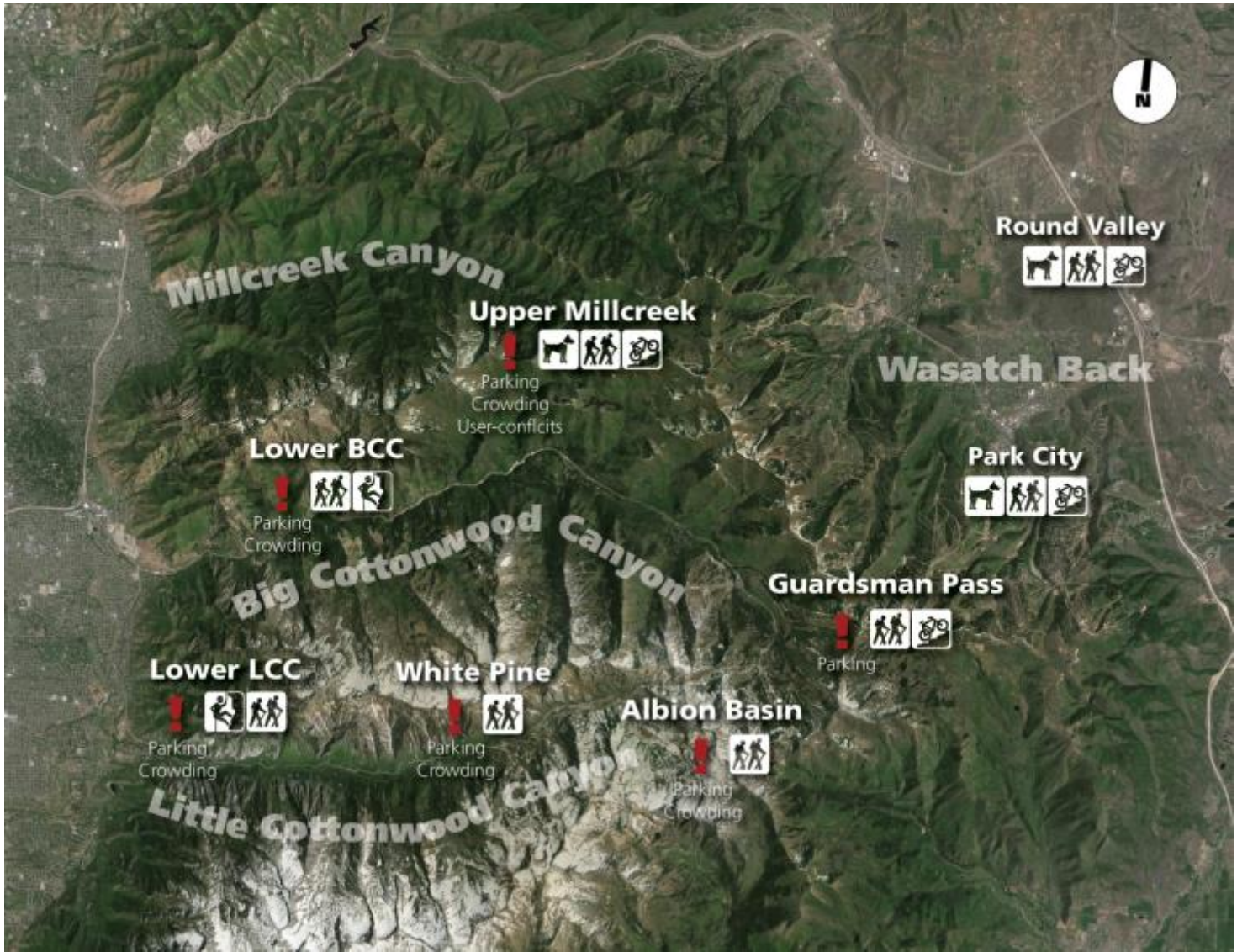

Data requests that could not be filled

- Funding for recreation facility development and management
  - Grant-based funding
  - Long-term maintenance and management

Existing Conditions Discussion and Poll

Amendments to Recommendation?

Poll:

This Report accurately represents currently available information on existing environmental conditions to inform my vote on a future Idealized System.

1) **Concur**
2) **Concur with minor point of contention**
3) **Disagree with outcome but consent to move forward**
4) **Dissent**
5) **Waive or Abstain**

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Future Trends

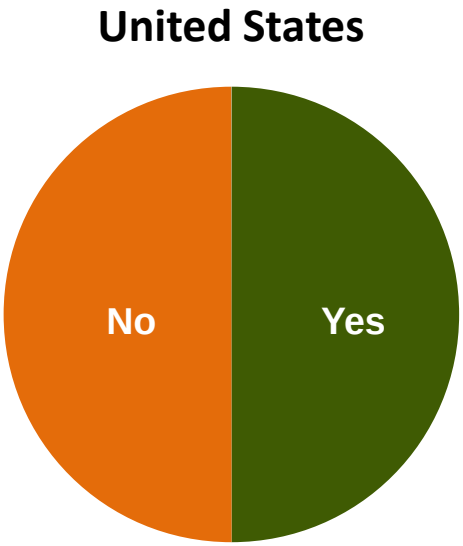
Trends influencing Recreation System

- Population
- Development and land use
- Transportation performance
- Climate change

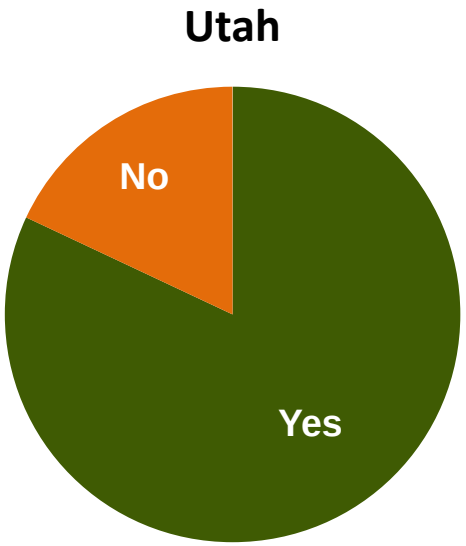
Population growth

- Percentage of population participating in outdoor recreation is relatively stable over time

- Growth in participation results from population growth.



50%



82%

Source: Outdoor Industry Association

Population growth

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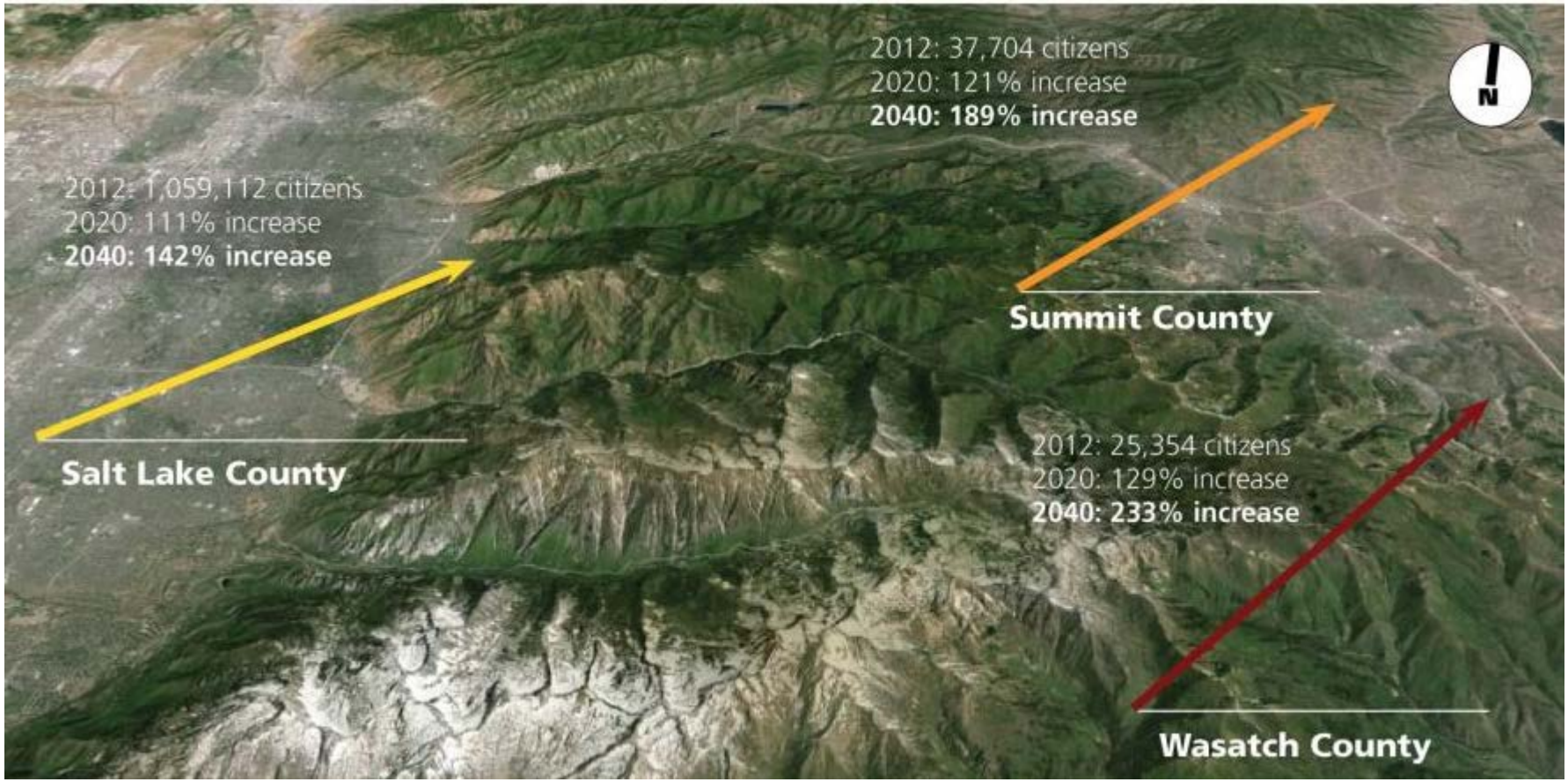

Development and land use

Development and land use affect:

- Amount of open space available for recreation
- Recreational settings
- Access to recreation amenities

Future land use

- **Salt Lake County:** Increasing density in currently developed areas, some expansion in the southwest and western portion of the county
- **Summit and Wasatch Counties:** Future growth will expand the total area occupied by development and increase density

Canyon Land Use / Development

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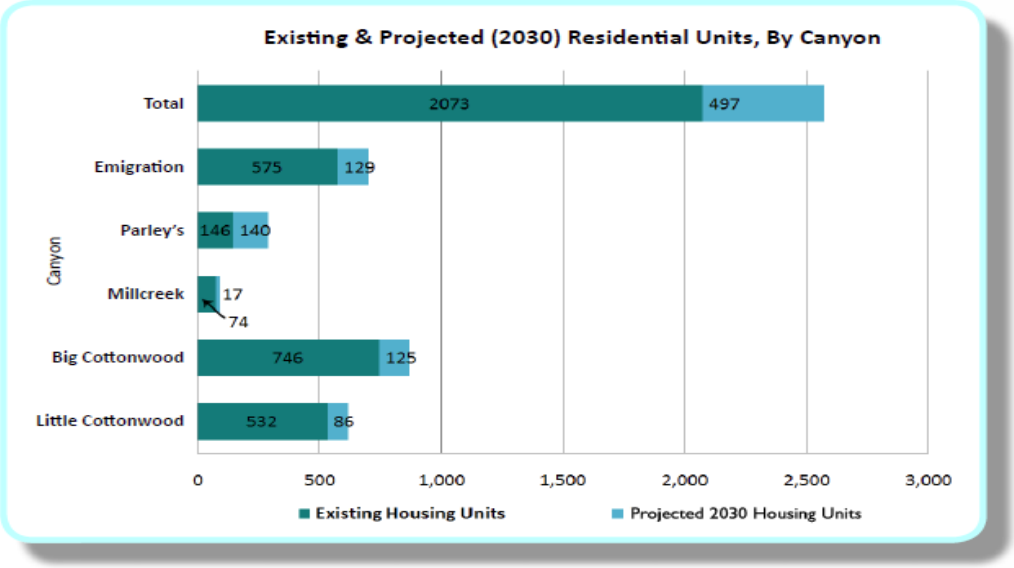

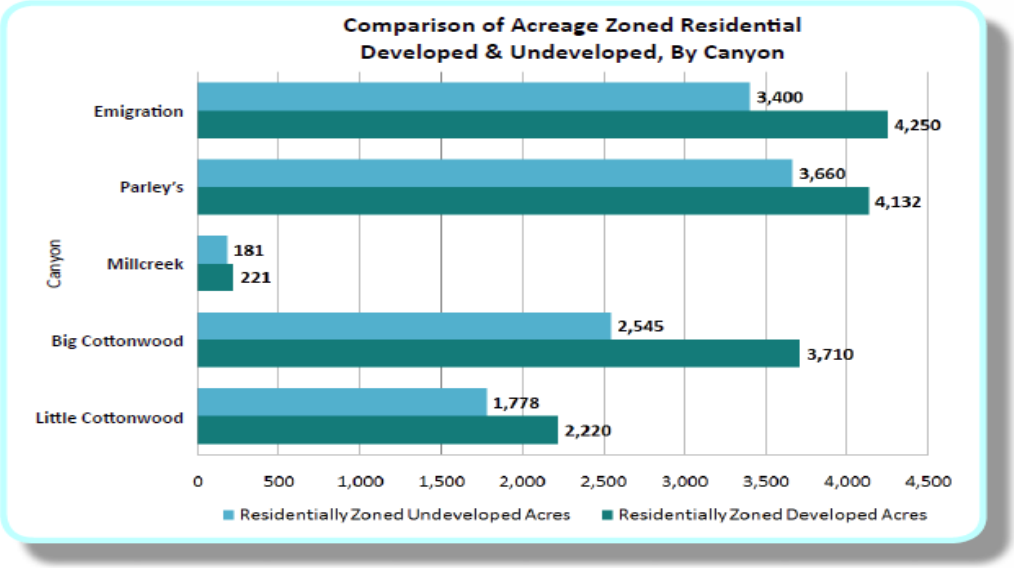

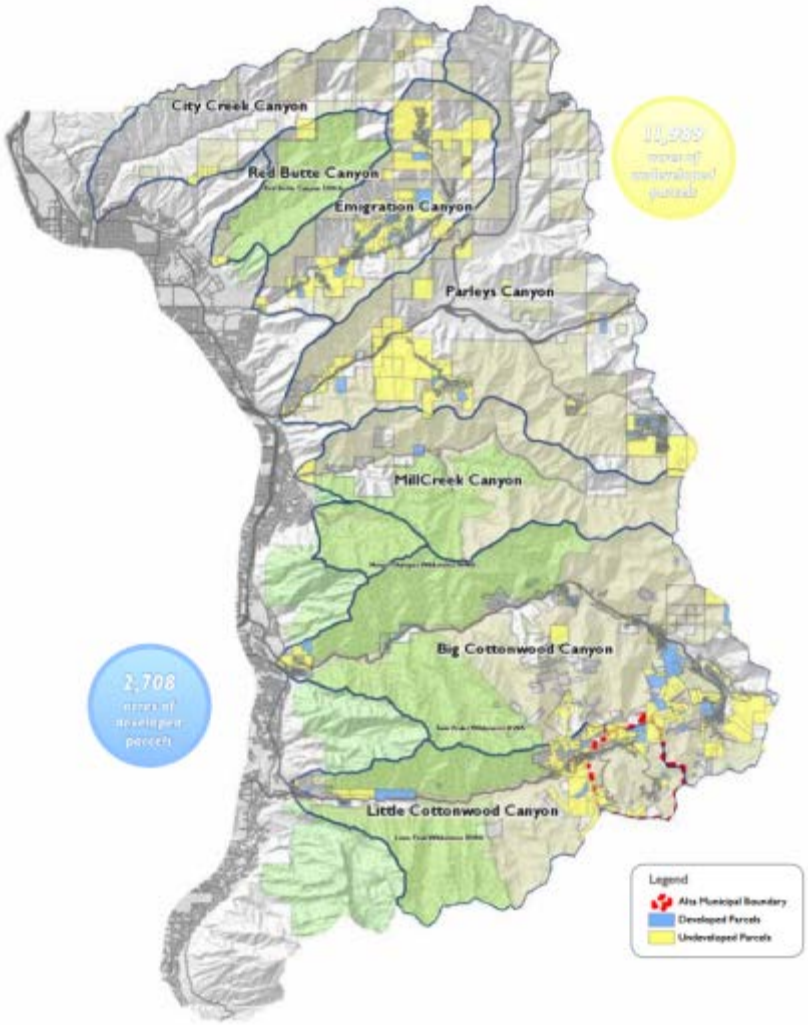

SOURCES: GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING & BUDGET 2014; HEADWATERS ECONOMICS 2014; WASATCH CANYONS TOMORROW

Land Use: Trend Analysis

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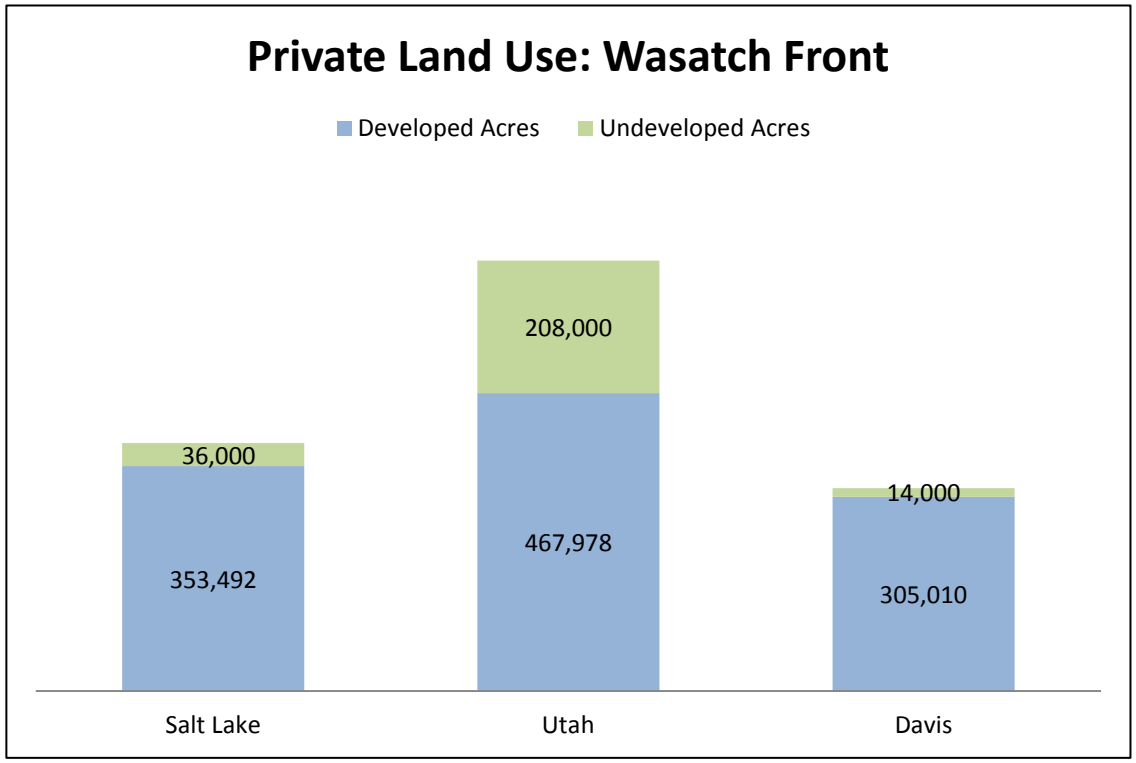
SL/UT/Davis Counties:

- *321K residential + 32K commercial = 353K acres consumed.*
- *SLCO has 36K, UTCO 208K, and Davis 14K vacant acres (258K total). Redevelopment and higher density will be required.*
- *SLCO's east bench in the project area will be essentially built out by 2030.*



SOURCE: GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING & BUDGET 2014; HEADWATERS ECONOMICS 2014; ENVISION UTAH

Land Use: Trend Analysis

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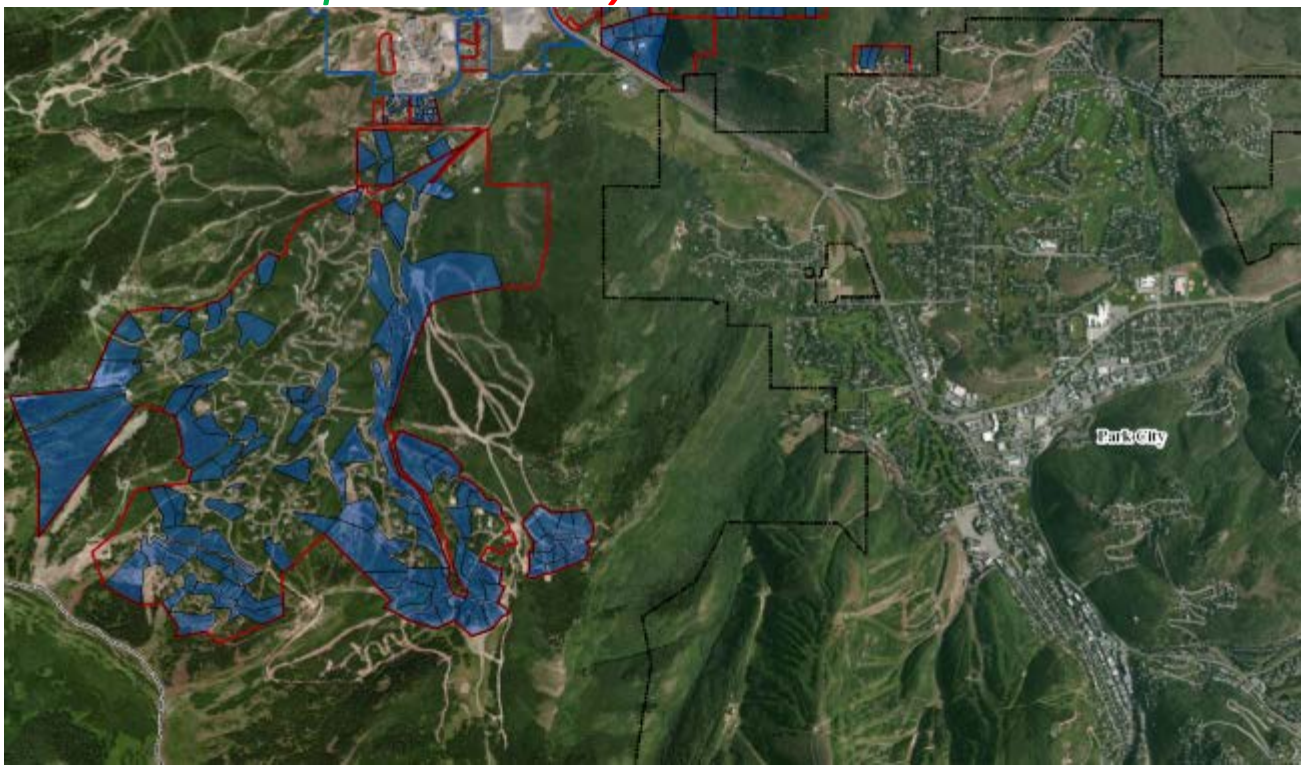
Summit County:

- *From 2000-2010, residential avg INCREASED by .20 ac/person.*
- *If trend continues, much more than 133K acres consumed. Total vacant/developable land not currently known.*
- *Required commercial development likely lower than the 10% standard.*



SOURCE: GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING & BUDGET 2014; HEADWATERS ECONOMICS 2014

Land Use: Trend Analysis

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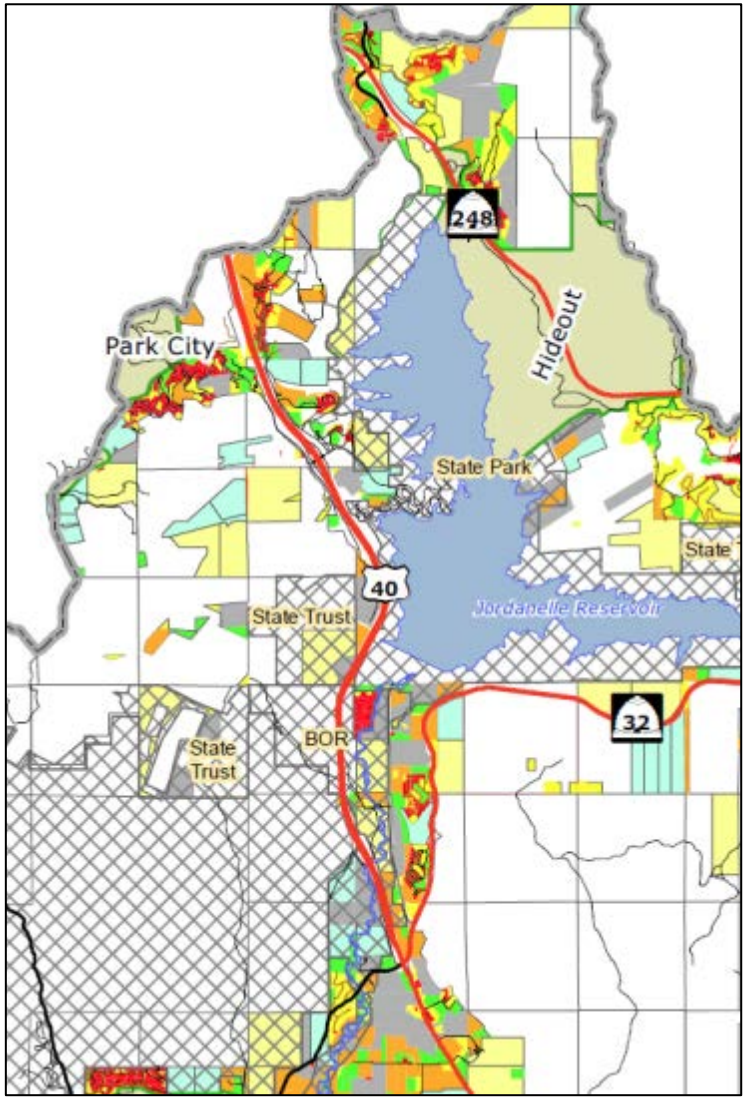
Wasatch County:

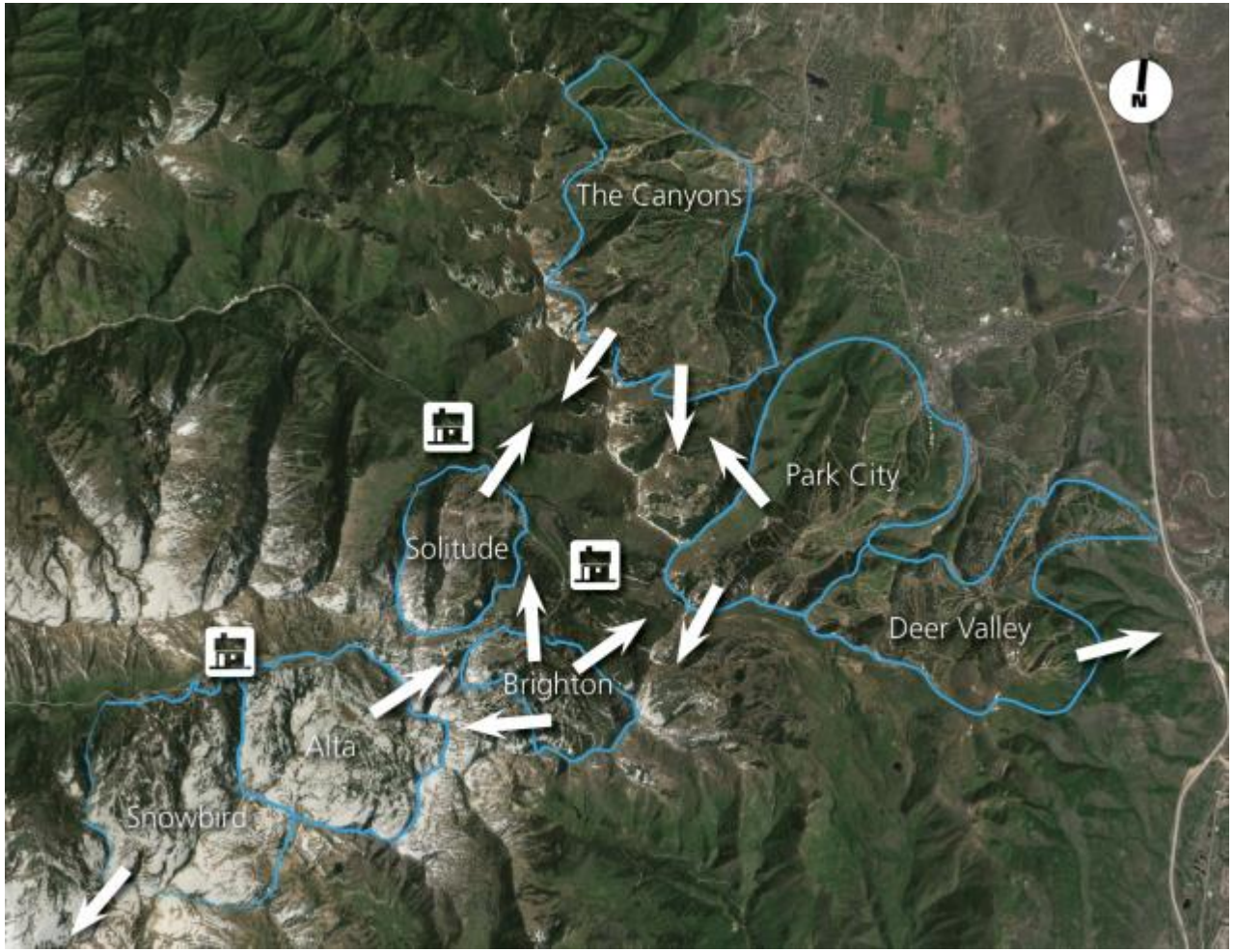
- *From 2000-2010, residential average INCREASED by .08 ac/person.*
- *If trend continues, much more than 87K acres consumed. Total vacant/developable land not currently known.*
- *Amount of required commercial development likely lower than the 10% standard (9K acres) because of low population density.*



SOURCE: GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING & BUDGET 2014; HEADWATERS ECONOMICS 2014

Future land use

- **Within Canyons:** Increasing development on private lands, increasing pressure for resort expansion



Transportation performance

Transportation performance can affect:

- Accessibility of recreation areas
- Full recreation experience (home to home)
- Levels of social interaction between recreational users

Transportation performance

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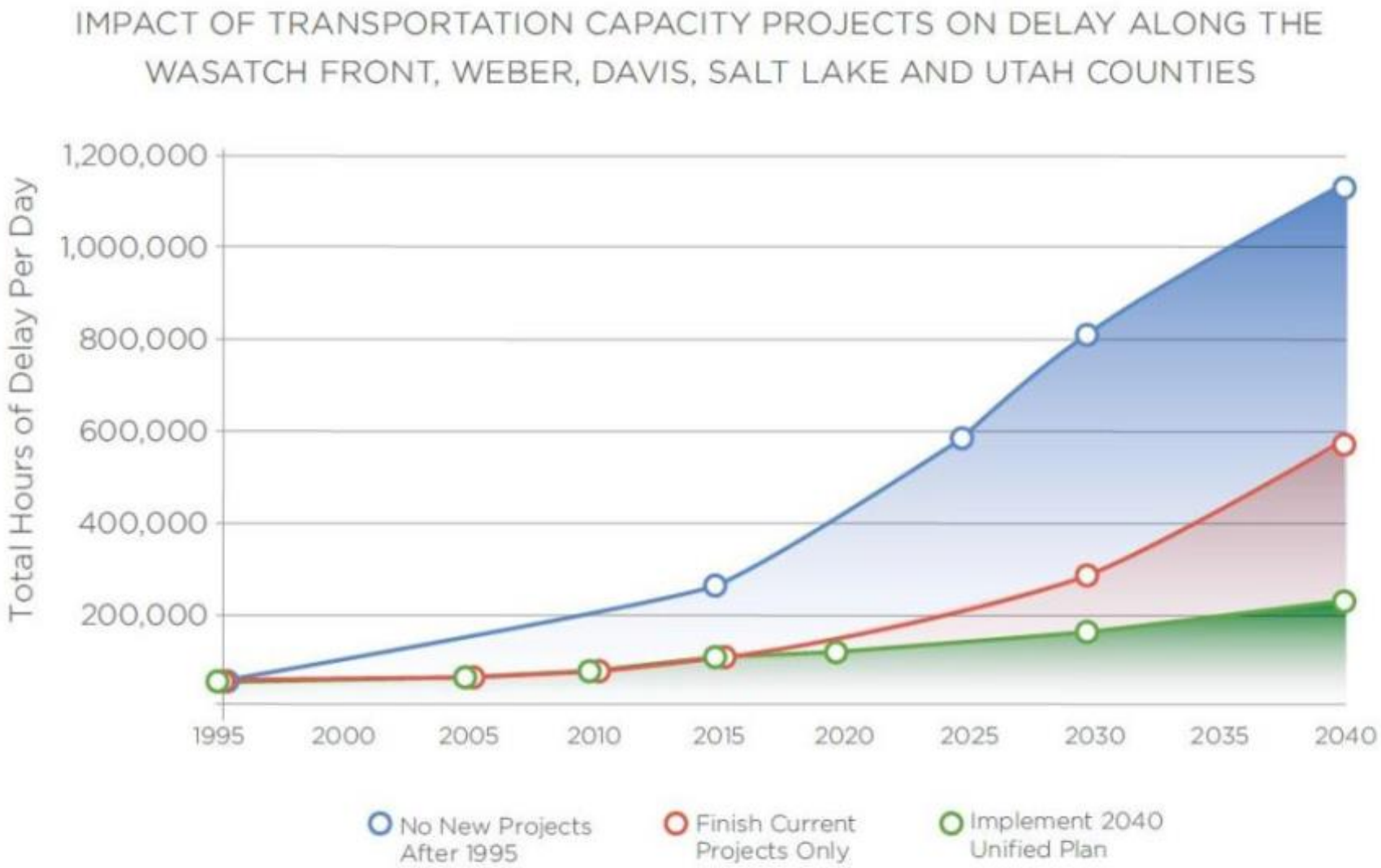

Utah climate projections

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Uncertainty in Climate Projections

- Long-term trends in Wasatch snowpack difficult to quantify
- Utah: transition zone for precipitation projections
  - uncertain whether precipitation will increase or decrease
- Models are suitable for regional predictions (less reliable for individual mountain ranges)
- Different future greenhouse gas scenarios

Utah climate projections

- **Increased temperatures**
  - Longer growing season
  - More heat waves
  - Utah is projected to warm greater than global average (global increases projected 3-7°F by 2100)

- **Reduction in snowpack and snowfall**
  - Early and late winter
  - Lower-to-mid elevations
  - Trends in upper-elevation are less clear

- **Earlier and reduced runoff volume**

Sources:

- *Climate Change and Utah: The Scientific Consensus (Report to Governor Jon Huntsman's Blue Ribbon Advisory Council on Climate Change, 2007*

Snowpack and climate

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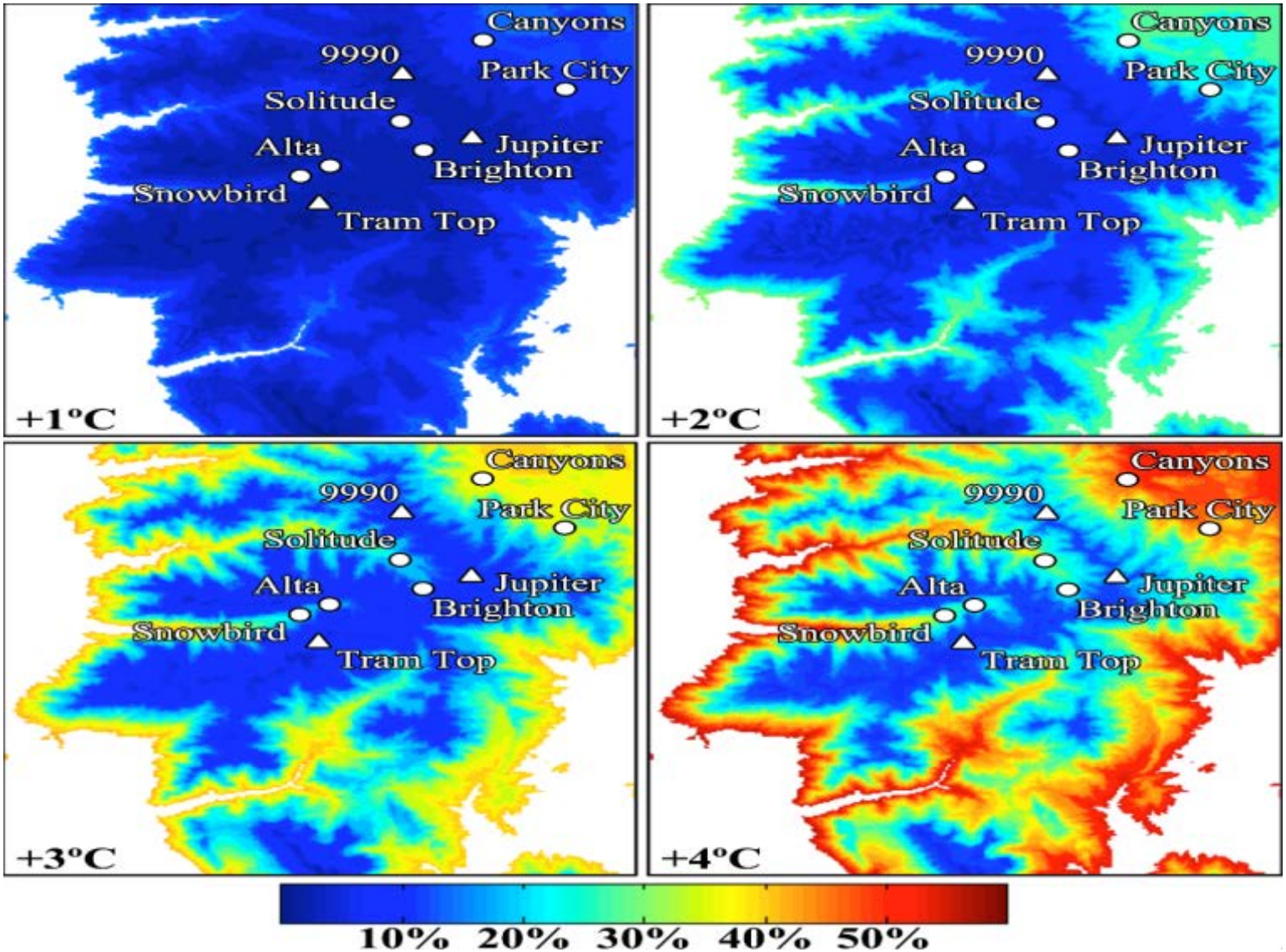

Recreation-focused trends

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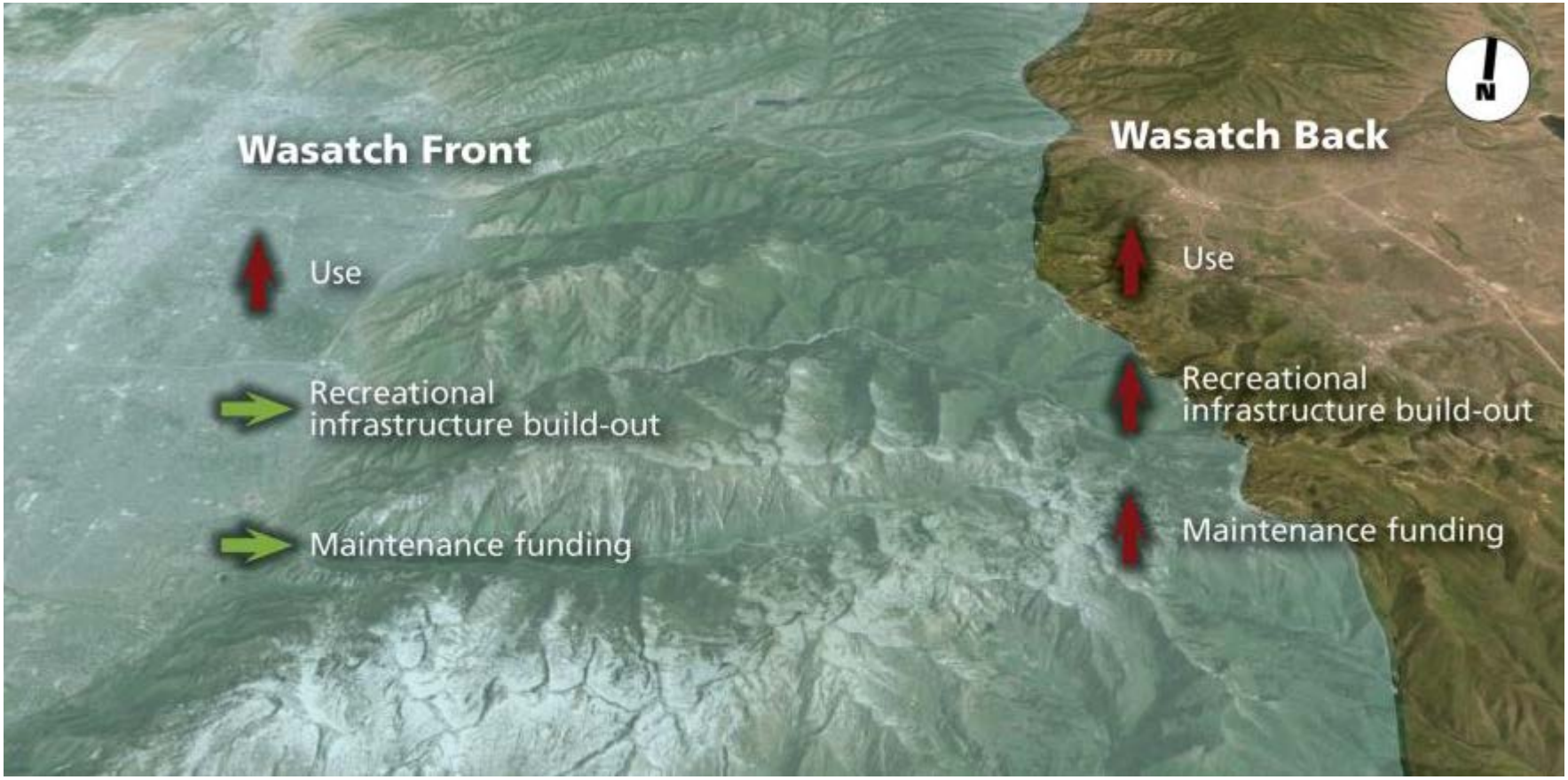

Effects of these trends on the Recreation System

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Increasing

- Number of recreational users
- Social interactions between users
- Crowding at all destinations
- Traffic and congestion in canyons
- Competition for recreation resources (e.g., powder skiing terrain)
- Conflicts between user groups
- Conflicts with landowners
- Environmental impact of recreation
- Unmanaged/unplanned recreation

Decreasing

- Opportunities for solitude
- Open space available for recreation
- Quality of experience (door-to-door)
- Access to open space for recreation
- Snowpack for winter recreation
- Condition of infrastructure

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Group Discussion of Future Trendlines

Future trendline discussion

Which of these changes/trends would be the most critical for the future of this system? Why?

Are there other, more important TRENDS to understand? What existing data have we missed?

i.e., What else is needed to agree with the following statement?

This accurately represents currently available information on future trendlines to inform my vote on a future Idealized System.

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Survey on Vision and Closing

Survey Questions on Vision and Goals

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- What would a successful future look like for this system?
- For the Central Wasatch, what should be the key GOALS for an ideal future system?

Next Meeting (#3)

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April 29, 9-11 am, UTA Promontory Room

Outcomes for Meeting #3:

1. Agreement on Future Trend lines
2. Input on draft of Vision and Metrics