

## Recreation System Group Meeting #6 Summary

### August 19, 2014

#### Presentations/Discussions

- Jamie Kent: Wasatch Backcountry Alliance Presentation. Focused on the unique backcountry recreation opportunities afforded by the Central Wasatch. Variety of overlapping uses, history of resort development, and limited availability of terrain not shared with other uses.
- Brad Barber and Reid Persing: Definition of high, moderate, and low use areas/nodes.

#### Mapping Exercise

- **Mapping Exercise**
  - The group broke into four self-selected groups to review and revise a broad-scale design scenario developed using feedback received during Recreation System Group Meeting #5 and the August 13, 2014 Recreation Workshop. The scenario addressed two broad concepts, (1) where should the expected increase in recreation users be focused? and (2) where is land preservation or permanent access acquisition needed to preserve the recreation character of the Central Wasatch?
- **Summary of Scenario(s) Presented**
  - The scenario discussed during the mapping exercise included elements of three concepts the group has discussed previously regarding where increased recreation demand could be focused: (1) ski resorts, (2) key highly used areas, and (3) conveniently accessible trailheads. Areas were mapped to (1) acquire public access and (2) preserve recreation character in areas where the group feels these recreational values are at risk.
- **Feedback from System Group members**
  - The system group members generally agreed with the scenario depicted on the map. Topics of discussion included:
    - Are there enough high use areas to take the anticipated future level of use?
    - Preservation or acquisition of public access needs to consider and allow future recreation uses and avalanche control.
    - Do all of the ski resorts have the desire to become year-round mountain resorts?
    - It will be difficult to maintain winter backcountry recreation experiences with increasing use of easily accessible locations (e.g., areas adjacent to ski resorts).
- **Points of Conflict**
  - The main points of conflict are related to future management of the areas between ski resorts. The group supports interconnecting the resorts with summer trails but is divided over resort expansion or ski lift construction due to loss of winter backcountry terrain and access and changes to the areas' visual and recreational character.
  - Some private landowners disagreed with the system group making suggestions related to actions on private properties. Future maps would call more attention to presence of private lands in order to more accurately facilitate conversation.