

Narrative Explanation of Alta Ski Lifts-Grizzly Gulch Legislative Draft and Map

The following option has been refined from the 11/13/18 version sent out by CWC Executive Director Ralph Becker. Additional options for Alta Ski Lift's participation in the NCRA are likely to develop after the 11/19 meeting.

Alta is removed from the NCRA (Amended CWC proposal of 10/26)

Alta Ski Area's private lands, lands under Forest Service special use permits, and lands within the Town of Alta boundary are acknowledged and removed from the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area. There is no land--exchange authorization in the legislation, but Alta Ski Lifts could continue to pursue administrative land exchange proposals. The objective is remove the Alta Ski Lifts area from the Legislation and to hold Alta Ski Lifts harmless for future expansion proposals. (Except for specific, minor ski area adjustments, the CWNCRA prevents ski area expansion on Forest Service lands. By removing the Alta Ski Lifts area from the CWNCRA, Alta Ski Lifts is left in the same position after the Legislation is enacted as it is today.)

Overview:

- This removes Alta's legislative authorization to exchange private lands for base area lands - would not prevent Alta from pursuing administrative land exchanges.
- Lands adjacent to the Alta's private lands in the boundaries of the Town of Alta would not be included in the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area.
- Patsy Marley Avalanche Protection Zone (Forest Service Permit area) would not be included in the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area.
- Preserves Alta's flexibility to pursue a connection to Big Cottonwood Canyon on its private lands.
- Preserves ability Alta Ski Lifts has now to propose expansion of its resort boundaries on Forest Service adjacent lands. Legislative language explicitly allows for Alta Ski Lifts to apply to the Forest Service for expansion administratively; the legislation is neutral on Forest Service decision making.
- No additional culinary water for a 100 room hotel, retail shops or transit hub, or snowmaking water. This opportunity was tied to a land exchange authorized in HR 5716 that would have exchanged Alta Ski Lifts private lands in Grizzly Gulch for Forest Service base lands in Alta.