

CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION

RESOLUTION 2025-27

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSED MANDATORY DISPOSAL OF BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT LAND AND NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LAND

WHEREAS, the Central Wasatch Commission (the “CWC”) is an interlocal entity formed in 2017 with the principal purpose to better assure the wise stewardship of the public lands in the Wasatch Mountain Range (the “*Central Wasatch*”) in Salt Lake and Summit Counties, which receives over nine million visitors per year—more than all of Utah’s national parks combined; and

WHEREAS, the CWC’s governing board (the “*Board*”) includes the mayors of Salt Lake City, Millcreek City, Sandy City, Alta, and Brighton, and a member of each of the Park City, Summit County, Cottonwood Heights, and (as of September 2025) City of Holladay councils, as well as leaders of governmental service providers in and adjacent to the Central Wasatch; and

WHEREAS, the CWC also includes a 35-member advisory Stakeholders Council representing economic, environmental, recreation, transportation, and community interests along both geographical sides of the Central Wasatch; and

WHEREAS, the CWC’s core values include preserving and protecting the critical resources of the Central Wasatch—including its land and watershed, recreational areas and natural beauty—so that future generations can continue to benefit from that wonderful and integral part of Utah’s natural environment; and

WHEREAS, in or about June 2025, nearly ten years to the date of the July 2015 Mountain Accord Charter, the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee proposed an amendment to the 2025 Senate Reconciliation Bill that would mandate the disposal of 18.7 million acres of public lands in Utah for housing development and other purposes supportive of housing; and

WHEREAS, the bill could be applied to approximately 27,022 acres of Forest Service land parcels along the Wasatch Front in Big Cottonwood, Little Cottonwood, Millcreek, Parleys Canyons that are proposed for inclusion in the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area (“*CWNCRA*”) designation, and 8,817 acres within the Ski Use Area Permit boundaries of Alta Ski Area, Solitude Mountain Resort, Brighton Resort, and Snowbird; and

WHEREAS, the 2012 proposal for the mandatory disposal of public land was the catalyst for the Mountain Accord process, which culminated in the original H.R. 5718, The Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act, which was introduced to the 114th Congress by Rep. Jason Chaffetz in 2016, and expressly aimed to protect the public lands in the Central Wasatch from future threats of development; and

WHEREAS, the mandated disposal of public land prohibits the sale of lands with special designations, such as National Parks, National Monuments, wilderness areas, or national recreation areas, meaning the CWNCRA designation would have made the Forest Service lands in the Central Wasatch ineligible for mandated disposal, now and in the future; and

WHEREAS, Utah's public lands are beloved by the nation, with over nine million annual visits to the public lands in the Central Wasatch alone – more annual visits than all of Utah's national parks combined, demonstrating that these public lands are in no way underused; and

WHEREAS, the bill could be applied to vast acreages of federal land that are the critical municipal watersheds providing the majority of the water supply depended upon by nearly 500,000 people in Salt Lake City, Sandy City, Millcreek City, the city of Cottonwood Heights, and the City of Holladay, among others; and

WHEREAS, the overarching land management priority for these watersheds is to protect the water supply for current and future generations of Utahns, and due to this and other reasons such as topography, steep slopes, natural hazards, and lack of infrastructure, the land included in the bill is not suitable for disposition or increasing the supply of residential housing; and

WHEREAS, the disposition of land in the Central Wasatch contradicts more than a century of cooperative management, including restoration, natural resource management, and recreation investments between the US Forest Service, local governments, non-profit organizations and the ski resorts for the purposes of watershed protection and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the leaders of the governments most proximate to the Central Wasatch--that comprise the CWC--strongly oppose the sale of public land; and

WHEREAS, after careful consideration, the Board has determined that it is in the best interests of the CWC and its constituents to so act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Central Wasatch Commission that the CWC hereby expresses its strong opposition to the proposed disposal of federal land in the Central Wasatch for housing or for any other reason; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Central Wasatch Commission that the CWC implores the Utah Federal Delegation to act in a manner that will preserve and protect the critical resources of the Central Wasatch to the greatest extent possible by supporting the introduction and passage of the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act, a locally driven, consensus-based bill aimed at protecting the public land, sources of our drinking water, preserving recreational opportunities for the future, and ensuring enjoyment of the Central Wasatch mountains in the face of pressures from a growing population; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of the Central Wasatch Commission that the CWC implores movement by the Utah Department of Transportation and local governments toward coordinated lands protection and transportation action in the Central Wasatch.

This Resolution, assigned no. 2025-27, shall take effect immediately upon passage.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 23rd day of June 2025.

ATTEST:

CENTRAL WASATCH COMMISSION

By: _____
Christopher F. Robinson, Secretary

By: _____
Jeff Silvestrini, Chair of the Board

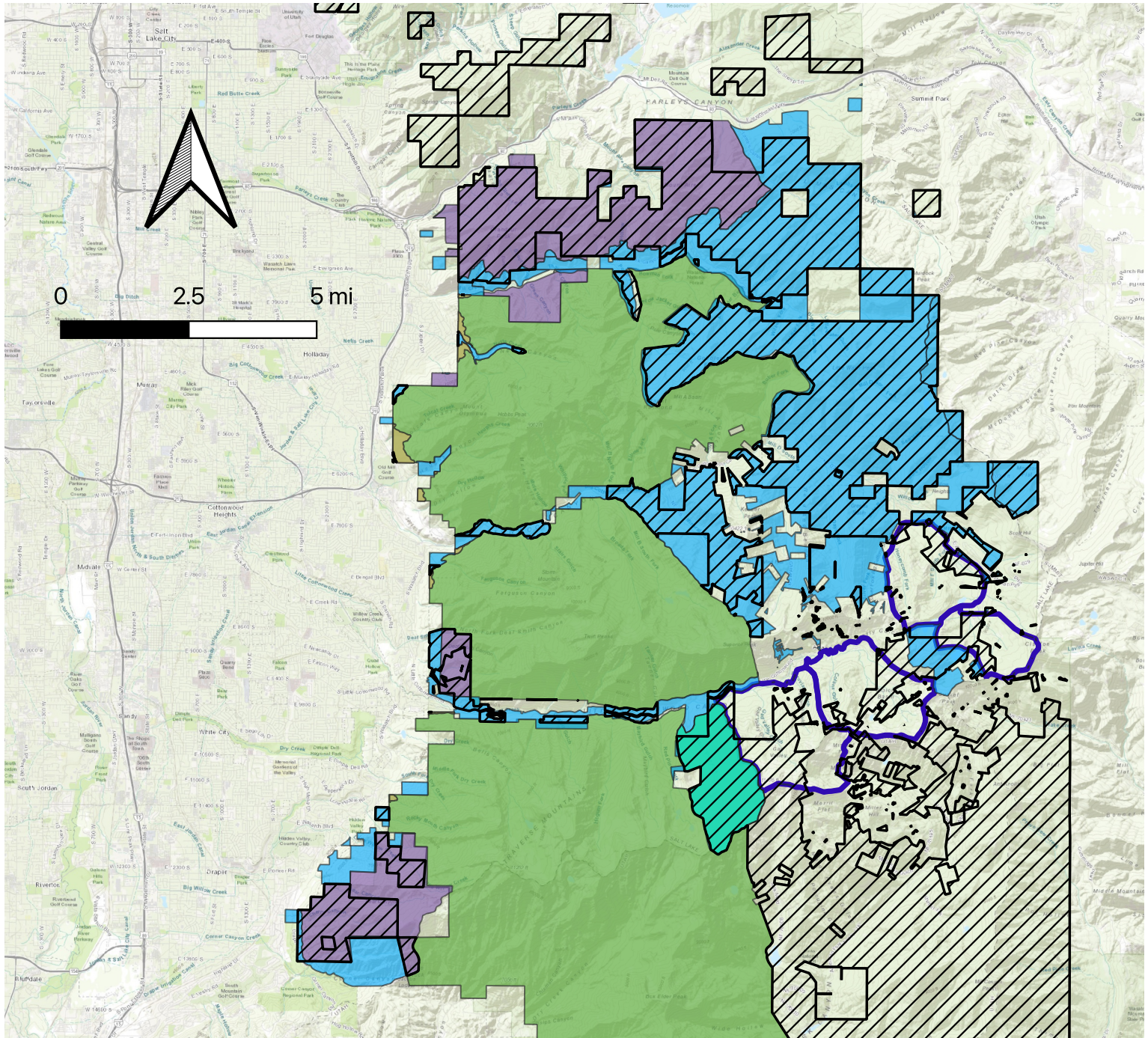
VOTING OF THE BOARD:

Ellen Birrell	Yea	___	Nay	___
Roger Bourke	Yea	___	Nay	___
Bill Ciraco	Yea	___	Nay	___
Dan Knopp	Yea	___	Nay	___
Erin Mendenhall	Yea	___	Nay	___
Christopher Robinson	Yea	___	Nay	___
Jeff Silvestrini	Yea	___	Nay	___
Monica Zoltanski	Yea	___	Nay	___

DEPOSITED in the office of the Secretary this 23rd day of June 2025.

FILED AND RECORDED this 23rd day of June 2025.


Proposed Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area (CWNCRA) Overlaid With USFS Public Lands Eligible For Sale in SENR Bill



 > 27,000 Acres of USFS Lands Within CWNCRA & 2,000 Acres in Ski Resorts Eligible For Sale

 Wilderness Boundary Adjustments as Part of CWNCRA Legislation

 Proposed White Pine Special Management Area Within NCRA

 Public Lands Proposed for CWNCRA Designation

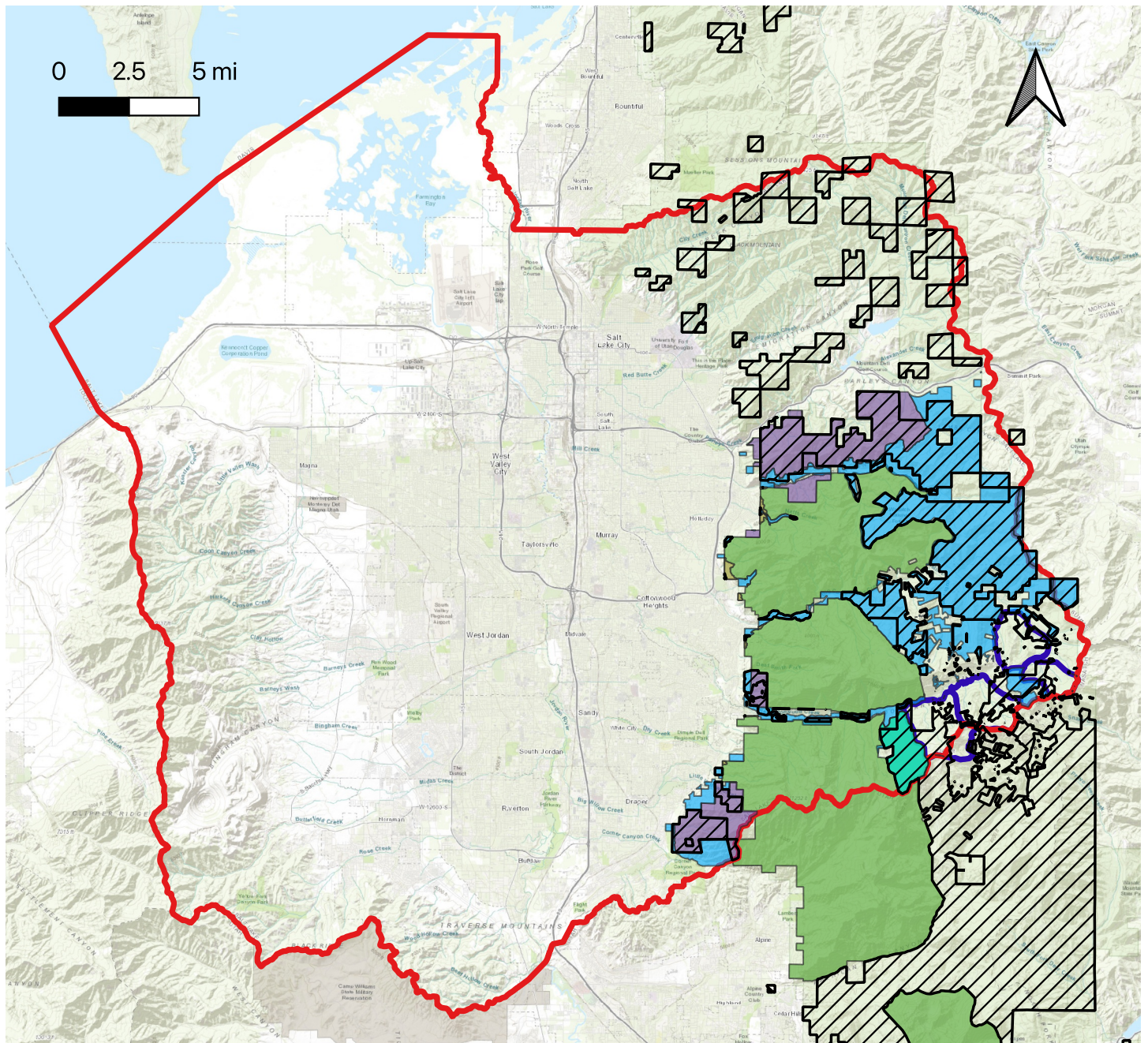
 Proposed New & Expanded Wilderness Included in CWNCRA









 Already Existing Wilderness Areas

 Alta, Brighton, Snowbird & Solitude Ski Resorts

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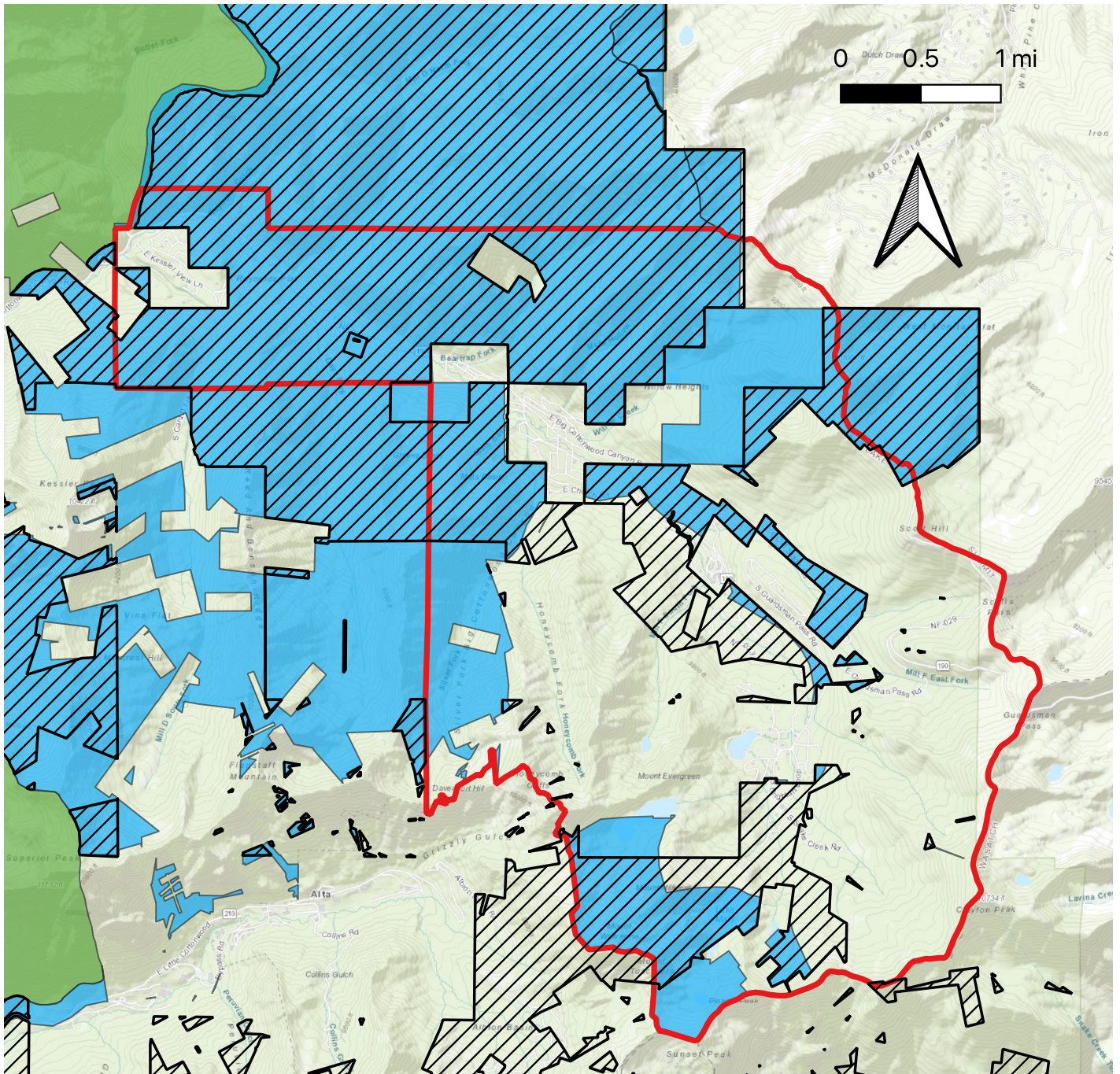
Public Lands Within Salt Lake County Eligible For Sale In SENR Bill That The Central Wasatch National Conservation & Recreation Area (CWNCRA) Would Protect From Mandatory Disposal







-  > 27,000 Acres of USFS Lands Within CWNCRA & 2,000 Acres in Ski Resorts Eligible For Sale
-  Wilderness Boundary Adjustments as Part of CWNCRA Legislation
-  Proposed White Pine Special Management Area Within NCRA
-  Public Lands Proposed for CWNCRA Designation
-  Proposed New & Expanded Wilderness Included in CWNCRA
-  Salt Lake County
-  Already Existing Wilderness Areas
-  Alta, Brighton, Snowbird & Solitude Ski Resorts

ESRI World Topo

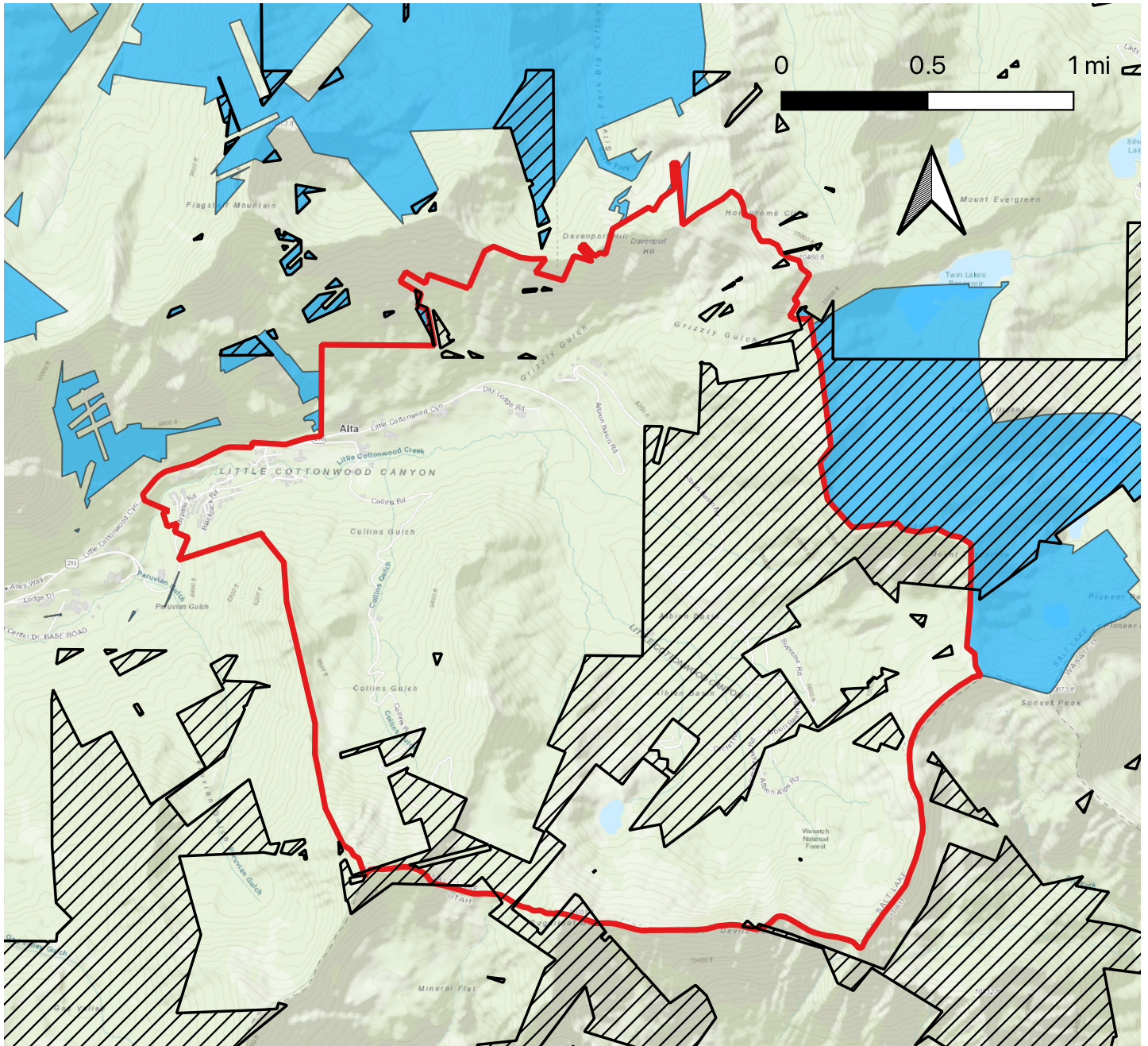
Public Lands Within The Town Of Brighton Eligible For Sale In SENR Bill That The Central Wasatch National Conservation & Recreation Area (CWNCR) Would Protect From Mandatory Disposal






-  USFS Lands Eligible For Sale in SENR Bill
-  Town Of Brighton
-  Public Lands Proposed for CWNCR Designation
-  Already Existing Wilderness Areas

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Public Lands Within The Town Of Alta Eligible For Sale In SENR Bill That The Central Wasatch National Conservation & Recreation Area (CWNCR) Would Prevent From Mandatory Disposal



-  USFS Lands Eligible For Sale in SENR Bill
-  Town Of Alta
-  Public Lands Proposed for CWNCR Designation

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