

APPENDIX A

Summary of Related Plans



SUMMARY OF RELATED PLANS

8/2/2010

TRANSPORTATION DOCUMENTS

Transportation Observations, Considerations, and Recommendations for the Tri-Canyons Area of the Salt Lake Ranger District (Transportation Assistance Group and Wasatch-Cache National Forest, December 2006)

and

Salt Lake City Tri-Canyons Presentation (Transportation Assistance Group and Wasatch-Cache National Forest, November 2006)

Purpose: The report documents background and conditions of transportation in the Tri-Canyon region, including the Mill Creek Canyon, Big Cottonwood Canyon, and Little Cottonwood Canyon (LCC) where the Town of Alta and Albion Basin are located. The report also identifies challenges and opportunities to improve system safety, capacity, and performance.

Findings: The report findings provide the following insight related to existing transportation conditions at Albion Basin: 1) Although peak visitation occurs in the winter, the area does draw a significant number of visitors during the summer months; 2) The sinuous road network providing access to Little Cottonwood Canyon frequently experiences high volumes and presents safety issues; 3) Summer traffic occurs in a sensitive ecological area; and 4) Although UTA provides limited commuter service to the LCC, no alternative forms of transportation are available for summer visitors. The presentation accompanying the report also provides specific information on parking counts and shuttle ridership. The report identifies recommendations for planning initiatives (including the consideration of “alternative transportation project initiatives” and general summer visitor access and mobility in Albion Basin), as well as recommendations for strategic planning initiatives for the entire Tri-Canyons area.

Pinnacles National Monument Transportation Study (National Park Service, October 2004)

Purpose: The purpose of the study is to provide background information and recommendations for improving visitor access to and within the east side of Pinnacles National Monument, located south of Salinas, California. This plan is included in background materials for the Albion Basin Transportation Feasibility Study since Pinnacles National Monument has a similar van shuttle system in place.

Findings: The report outlines existing conditions related to transportation in Pinnacles and identifies four alternatives to meet transportation demand and mitigate transportation issues in the park. These include the following: A) No shuttle service with year-round parking; B) Shuttle-only access and no parking on peak days; C) Shuttle service with parking retained on peak days; and D) No Action. The study analyzes the impacts that could be associated with each of these alternatives. It also outlines recommendations for management of parking and the shuttle system and for financing and implementation.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS

Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Alta Ski Area Master Development Plan Update, Wasatch-Cache Forest Plan (Wasatch-Cache National Forest, 1997)

Purpose: The purpose of the document is to approve a Master Development Plan Update and issue a new Special Use Permit to Alta Ski Lifts Company (Alta) for a term of 40 years. The Preferred Alternative involves upgrading and adding additional facilities at Alta including improvements to skier service facilities, infrastructure, snowmaking coverage, trail modifications, and lift replacement. This plan also provides guidelines for managing the vegetation within the existing permit boundary.

Findings: The Preferred Alternative would not significantly change the biological or human environments.

Alta Master Development Plan Revision Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) (Wasatch-Cache National Forest, November 2003)

Purpose: The purpose of the document is to approve revisions to the Alta Ski Area Master Development Plan. The revisions include changes to lifts and buildings in the Collins Gulch area and the construction of a new skier-service facility at the Wildcat base area in response to changes in technology and skier expectations, in order to maintain or increase skier visitation.

Findings: The Preferred Alternative would not have a significant impact on the quality of the biological and human environment.

Vegetation Management Plan for the Alta Ski Area (Lawrence, Olivos, Polish, and Wierenga, May 2002)

and

Executive Summary, Vegetation Management Plan for the Alta Ski Area (Lawrence, Olivos, Polish, and Wierenga, 2008)

Purpose: This document is intended to guide vegetation management of the Alta Ski Area. The plan includes goals, methods, and guidelines for the maintenance and restoration of disturbed sites. Through this plan, the Alta Ski Area intends to achieve the following goals: 1) Repair human caused damage by restoring natural habitats; 2) Reduce the probability that impacts will re-occur; 3) Minimize the area of impacts; 4) Sustain existing native vegetation; and 5) Identify methods to mitigate and reduce impacts.

Findings: The report provides information on vegetation and habitats that currently exist in the Alta Ski Area, and provides an overview of restoration efforts that have been undertaken in recent years. These efforts include topsoil conservation and erosion control, continued native plant community revegetation, minimizing new impacts and disturbances, and noxious and invasive weed control. The plan outlines a disturbance protocol and assessment methods meant to support the goals of the plan.

Phase 1 Investigation: Water Level Monitoring Hydrologic Investigations of the Albion Basin, Utah (Skalbeck, University of Wisconsin-Parkside, October 2007)

Purpose: This report documents technical details related to water level monitoring undertaken between July 2006 and August 2007 on behalf of the Friends of Alta. Water level monitoring was undertaken at the following wetland locations: Catherine's Pass, Albion Basin Fen, and Devils Castle. Samples were also taken in Little Cottonwood Creek just upstream from the Grizzly Gulch.

Findings: Water levels were determined for Catherine's Pass and Albion Basin Fen. The Devils Castle sampling site was not successful, and monitoring was established at Sugarloaf/Collins instead. Sampling was also unsuccessful at the Little Cottonwood Creek. [Note: The April 2009 report summarized below provides more conclusive findings from this study.]

Project Summary Statement: Hydrologic Investigations of the Albion Basin, Utah – unpublished, Wisconsin: University of Wisconsin-Parkside (Friends of Alta/John Skalbeck, April 2009)

Purpose: Summarizes the findings of hydrologic investigations of the Albion Basin that were taken between 2006 and 2009. The samples were specifically taken at wetlands located at Catherine's Pass, Albion Basin Fen, and Sugarloaf/Collins, as well as in the streambed of Little Cottonwood Creek.

Findings: The high variability in water levels at the Albion Fen suggests a precipitation-dominated wetland, while the gradually declining water levels at Catherine's Pass and Sugarloaf/Collins suggest a groundwater-dominated wetland. The report recommends continued monitoring of water levels and water quality in order to develop a better understanding of watershed hydrology.

Alta's Environmental Report, 2003-2004 (Alta Ski Area, 2004)

Purpose: The study provides an overview of the environmental history of Alta, documents efforts made by Alta Ski Area to promote environmental sustainability in the area, and outlines short-term and long-term goals and objectives.

Findings: The study outlines ways in which the ski area practices environmental stewardship and increases sustainability. Efforts in support of sustainability have been made in the following areas: administration/public relations, building construction/maintenance, lifts, restaurants, ski patrol and summer trails, snowmaking and vehicle maintenance-cats/snowmobiles. In the study, Alta Ski Area commits to the following short-term goals: expansion of the recycling program, education of the resort community, and remodeling of the Collins Gulch building facilities. Alta Ski Area also commits to the following long-term goals: increase environmental education activities, promote energy efficiency, replace painted lift towers with galvanized towers, refine power infrastructure so that power can be purchased as one unit, and continue to facilitate public transit.

OTHER DOCUMENTS

Little Cottonwood Canyon Studies Summaries (Author and date unknown)

Purpose: This document provides brief summaries of the following plans and reports:

- Ecological Characterization and Functional Evaluation of Subalpine and Lower Montane Wetlands in the Albion Basin Region of Utah (Environmental Protection Agency and the Town of Alta, June 1993)
- General Plan (Salt Lake City and Town of Alta, July 1973)
- General Plan (Town of Alta, November 1992)
- Mitigation and Conservation Plan (Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation, May 1996)
- Rocky Mountain Headwaters and Mine Waste Initiative – Alta Wetlands “Fen” Pilot Project Interim Project Report (Environmental Protection Agency, February 1997)
- Salt Lake City Watershed Management Plan (Salt Lake County Department of Public Utilities, November 1999)
- Scenario and Policy Options for Salt Lake County Wasatch Canyons Master Plan (Salt Lake County Public Works Department Planning Division, July 1988)
- Snowbird Ski Area and Summer Resort Base Area Master Plan Update and Revision (Salt Lake County Public Works Department, May 2006)
- Soil and Hydrology of Albion Basin (Environmental Protection Agency, June 1993)
- Spot Safety Study (UDOT, July 2005)
- SR-210 Transportation Study (Snowbird, Town of Alta, UTA and UDOT, August 2006)
- A Strategy for a Master Plan for the Town of Alta (Institute of Government Services Brigham Young University, April 1974)
- Survey of Plant Communities in Albion Basin Wetlands (Town of Alta, June 1992)
- Wasatch Canyons Preliminary Master Plan 1989-2009 (Salt Lake County Master Plan Program, November 1988)
- Wasatch Canyons Master Plan (Salt Lake County Master Plan Program, March 1989)