



August 5, 2016

Laynee Jones, Program Director
Mountain Accord
11337 East Silver Snow Lane
Salt Lake City, UT 84212

RE: Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act

Via Email (laynee@mountainaccord.com)

Dear Laynee:

On behalf of Wasatch Backcountry Alliance and Winter Wildlands Alliance, we write to you as the Mountain Accord Program Director to reiterate our serious concerns with the maps to be submitted with the Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area Act ("CWNCR") and to let you know we cannot move forward with support of the legislation until these issues are corrected.

The current maps do not reflect the written Accord, dated July 13, 2015, and have been significantly altered from what the public process previously indicated. While there are many unanswered questions regarding the maps, we have identified four areas of major concern that must be addressed:

1. The Solitude Resort Boundary Adjustment Area. (Image 1)
2. The land exchange for Alta Ski Lifts Company (ASL) involving lands on the north side of the Little Cottonwood Road at the mouth of Grizzly Gulch. (Image 2)
3. The land exchange for ASL involving the western boundary of ASL. (Image 3)
4. The land exchange for the small Forest Service inholdings within the Grizzly Gulch/Honeycomb areas. (Image 4)

During our July 27th meeting, we were told that the maps only represent what has been proposed and that they can be changed. The group decided that all changes would be



made to reflect the written Accord and to reflect maps produced by Mountain Accord during negotiations with Alta Ski Lifts dated June 6, 2016, and that such changes must be produced and submitted for inclusion as the official “consensus maps” per the public process (the Accord) no later than Thursday, August 11, 2016. To that end, WBA has actively engaged in discussions with Solitude regarding the Resort Boundary Adjustment Area to reflect what is contained in the Accord (15 acres vs. 48.99 acres that is on the current land CWNCR map). We have had no discussions with Alta Ski Lifts regarding items 2, 3 or 4 above, all of which were never contemplated by the Mountain Accord and which came as a complete surprise to both of our organizations.

To be clear, our groups want to support the CWNCR and we are fully committed to working with Mountain Accord, the U.S. Forest Service, the ski resorts and other stakeholders to resolve these critical issues. We are fine waiting until the August 11th deadline before communicating concerns to our members, but we also want to be clear we cannot support the CWNCR until these issues are corrected. It is our hope that progress will be made in the next week such that we can support the CWNCR. As you can agree, this is a critical time for the Central Wasatch and we cannot stand on the sidelines with regard to land exchanges that directly threaten our missions and would forever spoil the backcountry we all love. We will continue to work diligently with Solitude regarding item 1 above, and are happy to meet with the Forest Service, Alta Ski Lifts and others as needed regarding items 2, 3 and 4. We welcome any and all suggestions that you have with regard to getting these maps revised in such a way that all stakeholders, including our organizations, can support them and help move the CWNCR forward. Thank you for your tireless work to protect the irreplaceable and matchless lands of the Central Wasatch and for hearing our concerns.

Best regards.

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Jamerson Kent

President
Wasatch Backcountry Alliance

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Mark Menlove
Executive Director
Winter Wildlands Alliance

Cc: Chad Hudson (via email chadhudson@fs.fed.us)
Megan Nelson (via email megan@mountainaccord.com)
Carl Fisher (via email carl@saveourcanyons.org)

