



May 24, 2018

Objection Reviewing Officer
USDA-Forest Service Intermountain Region
324 25th Street
Ogden, UT 84401
objections-intermtn-regional-office@fs.fed.us

Re: Objection re: Alta Ski Area Master Development Plan & Draft Decision Notice -
Project #48903

Dear Objection Reviewing Officer:

This letter transmits Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities' (SLCDPU) objection related to Alta Ski Lift's Master Development Plan (Plan) and the Draft Decision Notice issued by the USDA-Forest Service. The Plan concerns projects at and near the top of the Little Cottonwood Canyon watershed. SLCDPU filed comments to the Plan on November 17, 2017. The Salt Lake Ranger District for the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest (UWCNF) issued the Draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact on April 10, 2018.

SLCDPU and UWCNF have a long history of partnership in protecting and managing the Central Wasatch Mountains to ensure clean, reliable water to the residents of the Salt Lake Valley. SLCDPU has concluded that the Plan and Draft Decision unfortunately fail to meet the prior standards that have been adhered to and must object to the Plan and Draft Decision.

The focus of SLCDPU's objection is the lack of compliance with local health regulations concerning Alta Ski Lift's (ASL) past and proposed future developments. Through a cooperative arrangement with Salt Lake County Health Department, SLCDPU and Salt Lake County have joint administrative review of development projects in the Central Wasatch Mountains. This cooperative arrangement is enforced through the County's Health Regulation #14 - Watershed. One of the key components of Regulation #14 is the protection of sensitive wetlands in the watershed.

The Plan and Draft Decision fail to recognize the importance of wetlands that will be impacted by ASL's development plans. Furthermore, ASL has shown a disregard for the wetlands based on its construction project in 2017. This puts SLCDPU in a problematic position because of contractual agreements between SLCDPU and ASL for the provision of water to ASL for both culinary and snow making. These agreements require that ASL comply with the requirements of Regulation #14 and the violation of these provisions puts ASL at jeopardy of having the agreements terminated, which makes the feasibility of the Plan questionable.