



Big Cottonwood, Little Cottonwood, & Millcreek Canyons

TRI-CANYON TRAILS PLAN



SUSTAINING DIVERSE RECREATION
IN A HEALTHY WATERSHED

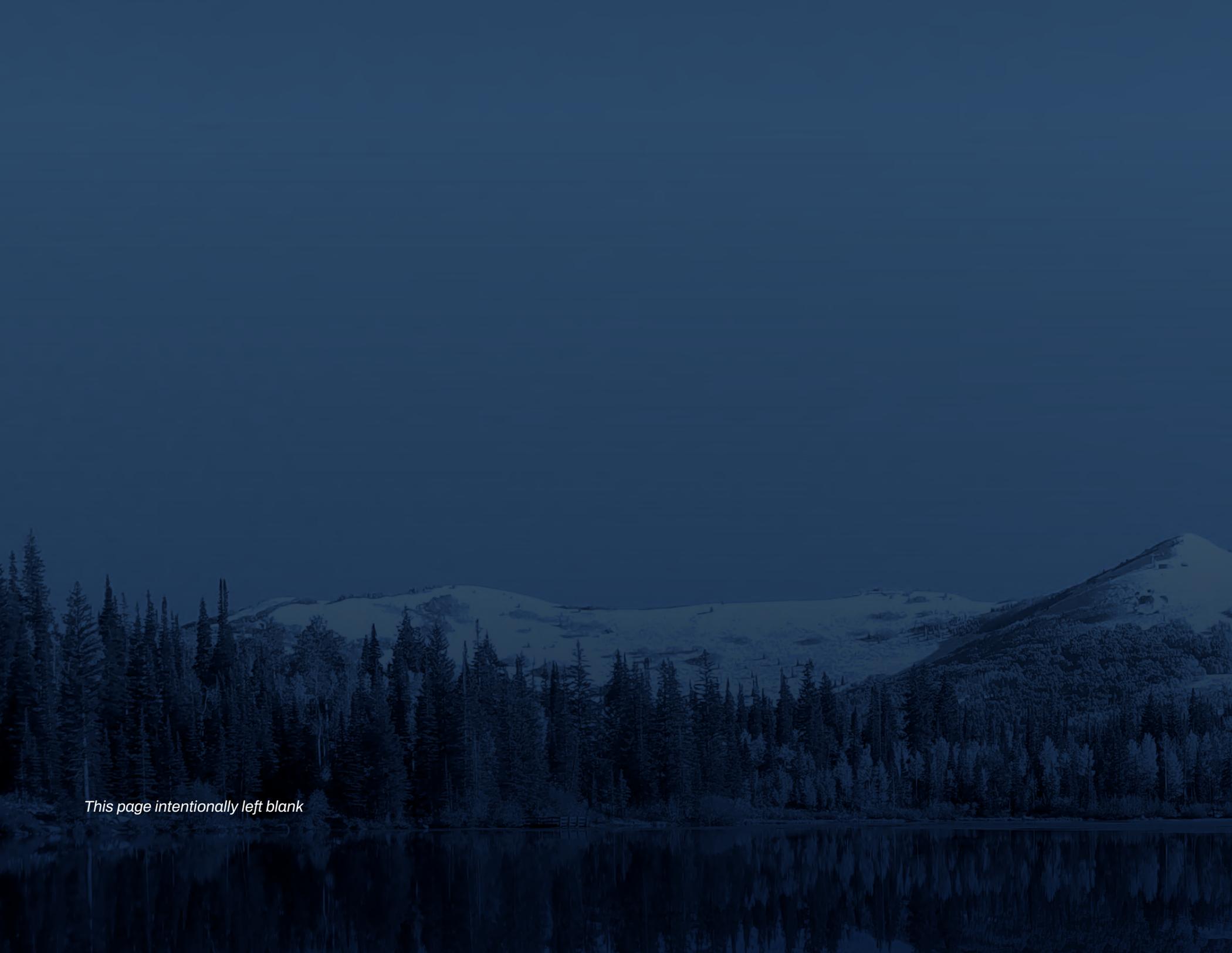
February 2026

This page intentionally left blank

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
1- OVERVIEW	2
Introduction	3
Purpose & Need	3
Background	5
Planning Process & Timeline	5
2- TRAILHEADS	8
Function	9
Classification	10
Recommendations	11
Trailhead Signage	14
3- TRAIL NETWORK	16
A Sustainable Network	17
Phased Implementation	18
Phase 1.....	21
Phase 2.....	39
Phase 3	53
Trail Maintenance	69
4- RECREATION STRATEGIES	72
Managing Recreation to Protect Resources	73
Reduce Visitor Conflict	74
E-bikes	76
Climbing Access Trails	77
Ski Resort Summer Recreation	78
Winter Recreation Opportunities	80
CONCLUSION	82
WORKS CITED	83





This page intentionally left blank

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Tri-Canyons of the Central Wasatch (Millcreek, Big Cottonwood, and Little Cottonwood Canyons), attract over 3.2 million visitors annually. As visitation increases, concerns about impacts on the watershed, ecosystem, and recreational opportunities also grow. The current trail system no longer sustainably meets the needs of today's diverse recreating public.

To address these issues, the U.S. Forest Service's Salt Lake Ranger District (SLRD) developed the *Tri-Canyon Trails Plan* to describe and outline a sustainable future state for the Tri-Canyon trail system. To achieve this, the planning team conducted trail inventories, condition assessments, visitor counts, and listening sessions with stakeholders and the general public. Trail inventories confirmed several key concerns. Unsustainable user-created trails, which are not intentionally designed or built, are experiencing increasing use, causing resource degradation. Visitor counts indicate concentrated visitation in specific areas, highlighting the need for trails designed to accommodate high traffic and offer diverse recreation opportunities. Listening sessions revealed shared concerns about the environment, visitor experiences, and infrastructure, especially as visitation increases. Overall, there is a growing desire for additional recreation opportunities (connections, loops, and family-friendly options), while resources are protected.

The *Tri-Canyon Trails Plan* outlines a phased approach to implement trail improvements through maintenance, reroutes, overhauls, development, removals, and restoration projects. Ultimately, this plan balances diverse recreation opportunities and resource protection through an intentionally designed trail network supported by trailheads and strategic recreation management. This vision will be achieved through collaboration, cooperation, and shared stewardship with partners, stakeholders, local governments, and visitors.



1- Overview

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Purpose & Need
- ▶ Background
- ▶ Planning Process & Timeline



INTRODUCTION

The Salt Lake Ranger District (SLRD) of the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest manages nearly 80,000 acres of National Forest land within the Tri-Canyons (Little Cottonwood, Big Cottonwood, and Millcreek Canyons).¹ This urban backyard Forest provides year-round recreation opportunities to over 2 million residents living within the Wasatch Front. The Tri-Canyons see more than 3.2 million visitors a year, utilizing 170 miles of official trails, three wilderness areas (Mount Olympus, Twin Peaks, Lone Peak), and four ski resorts (Alta, Brighton, Snowbird, and Solitude).^{1,2} Recreational activities range from hiking and nature watching, mountain biking and skiing, picnicking and camping, and much more.¹

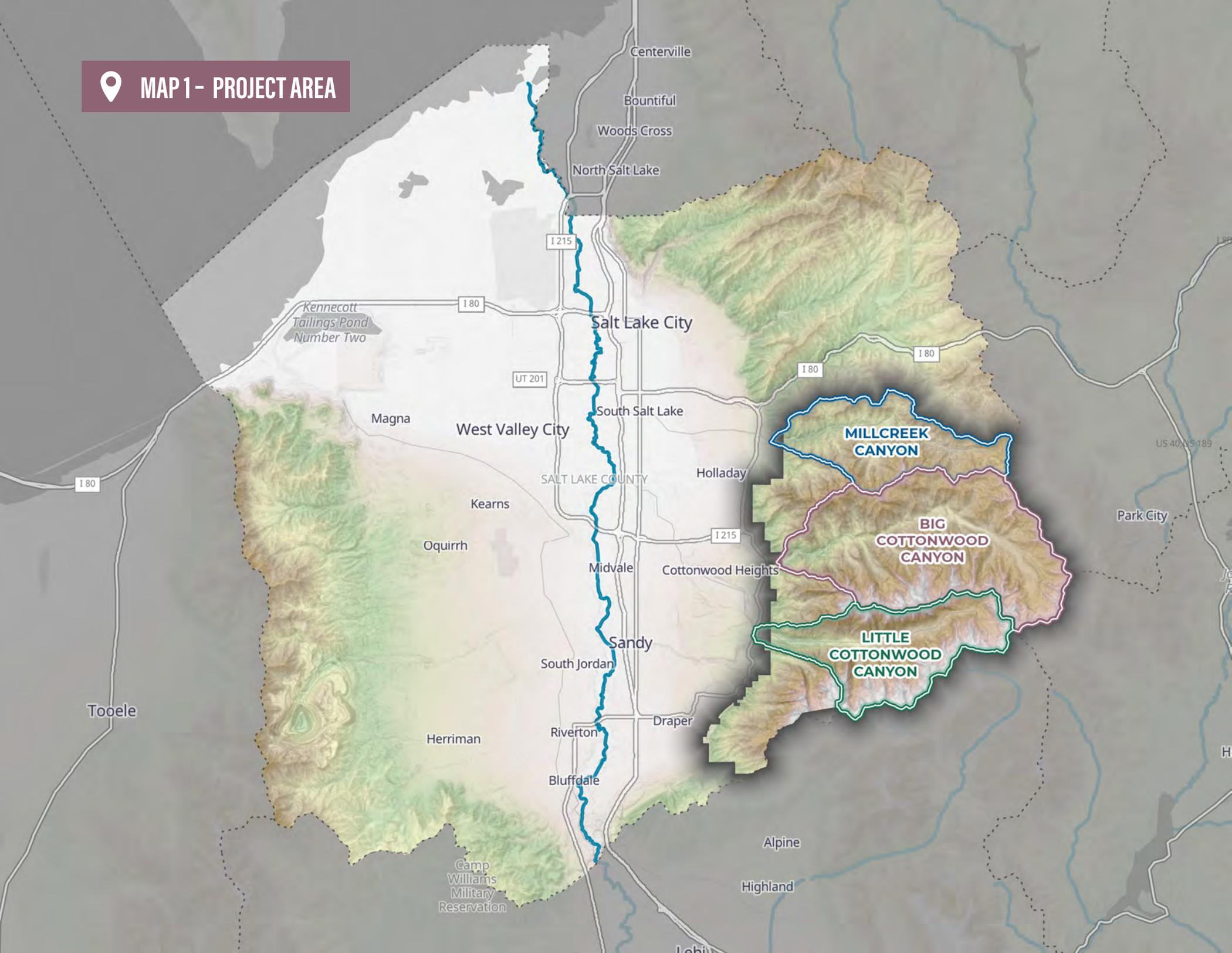
PURPOSE & NEED

The current Tri-Canyons trail network consists of U.S. Forest Service System Trails and user-created trails that no longer sustainably meet the needs of today's visitors. A few short trails see a large concentration of use, highlighting a desire for additional trails, and a need for infrastructure designed for high visitation. Unsustainable user-created trails (not intentionally designed nor maintained) are causing detrimental resource impacts.

This robust and sustainable *Tri-Canyon Trails Plan* outlines how to sustain diverse recreation opportunities in a healthy watershed. To achieve this goal, Salt Lake County and the U.S. Forest Service partnered to develop this long-range plan to address the growing visitation in the Tri-Canyons by assessing the needs of the existing trail network, identifying potential improvements to trailheads and trails, and formulating contemporary recreation strategies. The plan enhances the capacity of the U. S. Forest Service by developing a shared vision of recreation and trails with partners, stakeholders, local governments, and visitors. Additionally, the plan facilitates opportunities for collaboration and project implementation to bolster the trail network via maintenance, reroutes, overhauls, new trails, and trailhead improvements. The plan will be reviewed regularly to reassess or re-prioritize projects to ensure the SLRD remains responsive to changing needs to resource protection and recreation trends.



MAP 1 - PROJECT AREA





BACKGROUND

The Tri-Canyons have a history of providing resources to its visitors - from prehistoric Fremont, Shoshone, and Ute tribes finding fish and game in the mountains to trappers, pioneers, and miners extracting resources, to today's visitors enjoying diverse recreation opportunities.^{3,4} As surrounding urban developments grew, so did concerns for the area's natural resources – especially water. To protect such vital resources, the Wasatch National Forest was created in 1906, legislation was passed to protect Salt Lake City's watershed, and citizens became involved in protecting a shared, backyard National Forest.^{5,6,7}

Decades of rapid growth in the Salt Lake Valley have led to increased visitation in the Tri-Canyons, necessitating planning for sustainable recreation and resource management. This is evident in local initiatives and plans by Salt Lake County, the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities, the Mountain Accord, and the Central Wasatch Commission.^{8,9,10,11} The SLRD shares these concerns and recognizes the current trail network no longer sustainably meets the desires of today's visitors. Additionally, the U.S. Forest Service has direction for recreation and trail planning in federal legislation, agency policies, Wilderness guidance, safeguards for flora and fauna, best practices for managing recreation, and trail building standards.^{12,13,14,15,16}

PLANNING PROCESS & TIMELINE

The *Tri-Canyon Trails Plan* was developed through a multi-year process beginning in 2020 (see **Figure 1**). The planning process began with data collection on trail conditions and recreation trends, followed by stakeholder and public engagement to identify values and concerns. This culminated in a set of guiding principles (see **Figure 2**) to evaluate trailheads, trails, and recreation strategies which were utilized to develop this *Tri-Canyon Trails Plan*.

1 - OVERVIEW

- ▶ **2024:** The *Tri-Canyon Trails Plan Preliminary Draft (2024)* identified interrelated guiding principles (environment, visitors, infrastructure), which were used to screen three focus areas of recreation (trailheads, trail network, recreation strategies) (see **Figure 2**). These principles were used to evaluate types and needs for trailheads (major, medium, primitive), trails (concentrated use, connector, user-created) (see **Figure 3**), and recreation strategies. This analysis identified improvements within the Tri-Canyons that benefit the forest and its visitors.
- ▶ **2025:** The *Tri-Canyon Trails Plan Draft (2025)* was prepared with agency knowledge, input from stakeholders, partners, and the public. Recommended trailhead infrastructure needs are identified, future trail alignments were reviewed or ground truthed, and recreation strategies summarized. Trail projects in this plan are sorted into three implementable phases based on a matrix of attributes essential to trail planning, resource protection, and implementation. These three phases are based on complexity and timing, starting with Phase 1, which, when near completion, will trigger a review and implementation of Phase 2. Phase 3 consists of more complex trail projects often related to separate concurrent projects on the SLRD or Forest. Phases 1 and 2 will individually go through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, which is a review of environmental impacts related to project work.

Proposed trail projects will not alter, or negatively impact concurrent projects planned or occurring on the SLRD. In fact, many of the trail projects in Phase 3 are timed to occur in concert with other projects, details of such are noted in applicable trail project desired outcomes. Examples of concurrent projects include the Recreation Enhancement Act Recreation Fees²¹, Upper Millcreek Canyon Road Improvements Project Federal Lands Access Program²², *Big Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Study*³⁴, and the *Little Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact Statement*²³.

- ▶ **2026:** The Tri-Canyon Trails Plan Final (2026) includes updates to the 2025 draft plan. This 2026 final plan should be reviewed every 5 years to acknowledge unforeseen changes to resources and recreation trends are inevitable—a good plan must be adaptable.

FIGURE 3 – TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS

CONCENTRATED USE TRAILS



Concentrated Use Trails see high visitation, often coincide with major trailheads, provide desirable experiences, and protect natural resources.

Examples: Silver Lake, Albion Meadow, Cardiff

CONNECTOR TRAILS



Connector Trails allow visitors to link trails together to achieve diverse recreation opportunities. Such connections reduce user-created trails.

Examples: Lake Loops, Upper Pipeline, BST segments

USER-CREATED TRAILS



User-Created Trails are not created or maintained by the USFS. Some user-created trails may be formalized where sustainable reroutes exist, while others may be closed and naturalized.

Examples: Formalized - redesigned trail Gloria Falls



2- Trailheads

- ▶ Function
- ▶ Classification
- ▶ Recommendations
- ▶ Signage

2 - TRAILHEADS

FUNCTION

Trailheads are locations where visitors begin and end their recreation experience, transitioning between their transportation and the trail network. Trailheads throughout the Tri-Canyons see different numbers of visitors ranging from consistent and concentrated, to variable, to low. Infrastructure (parking, transit, bathrooms, signage) should be purposefully designed to be welcoming, protect natural resources, and to match the year-round type and number of visitors.

It is important that trailheads and connected trails complement each other. For example, popular trails that see high visitation, should start and end at large trailheads with infrastructure that concentrates visitors to hardened surfaces which reduce detrimental impacts. To facilitate this desired matching, this plan recognizes not all trailheads are the same, by sorting them into three categories—Major, Medium, and Primitive (see **Figure 4**). This categorization is related to visitation levels, available recreation opportunities, and infrastructure (see **Figure 5**).



ALL TRI-CANYON TRAILHEADS SHOULD:

- ✓ Provide safe and legal parking or transit options
- ✓ Be engineered to mitigate environmental impacts
- ✓ Be designed to support a visitor's experience
- ✓ Vary in size according to popularity, available recreation opportunities, and site restrictions

2 - TRAILHEADS

CLASSIFICATION

FIGURE 4 – TRAILHEAD CLASSIFICATIONS

MAJOR TRAILHEADS



Major Trailheads are hubs of activity designed to accommodate large numbers of visitors flowing through concentrated areas on engineered surfaces that reduce environmental impacts. Parking lots have hardened surfaces, accessible parking, and possible future transit options¹². Infrastructure is obvious and welcoming with pathways engineered to reduce trampling and lead visitors to a spectrum of diverse recreation opportunities^{1, 12}. These hubs may feel busy near parking lots or at the beginning of a trail, but with multiple trail options, visitor concentration disperses.

MEDIUM TRAILHEADS



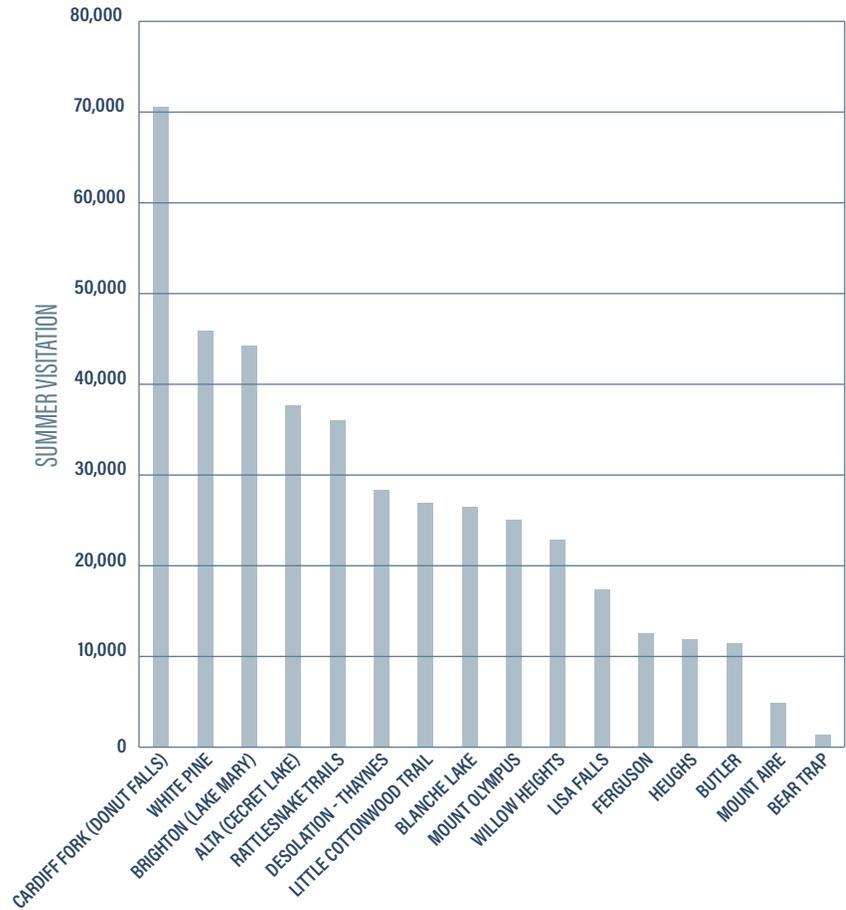
Medium Trailheads are more discrete than major trailheads and appear more natural with less infrastructure. Transitioning from the trailhead to the trail is easy and obvious. Visitors may experience fewer or more specific recreation opportunities and changing trail conditions as they progress along the trail.

PRIMITIVE TRAILHEADS



Primitive Trailheads are discreet with minimal to no infrastructure, appearing inconspicuous since they may have little to no identifiers to attract visitors. These smaller trailheads provide recreational opportunities for discovery, self-reliance, and solitude.

FIGURE 5 – SUMMER VISITATION PATTERNS



The SLRD's Trail Counter Program reveals visitation levels across various trails. This trail data helps match infrastructure needs at related trailheads.

2 - TRAILHEADS

RECOMMENDATIONS

Trailheads in the Tri-Canyons see varying visitation levels, which require different infrastructure to welcome visitors and protect the environment from detrimental impacts. For example, Major Trailheads, which see the highest level of visitation, should have the most infrastructure. **Table 1** summarizes the infrastructure that should generally exist at each trailhead type throughout the Tri-Canyons.

The trailhead classification and the associated infrastructure recommendations are tied to planned improvements within the Tri-Canyons trail network. Proposed trail projects that will or currently attract high visitation are connected to major trailheads (hubs), which are intentionally designed to concentrate impacts and minimize environmental harm. These major trailheads often feature hardened surfaces, parking, restrooms, and visitor information (kiosks, signs) to welcome and educate. This coordinated approach of trailhead and trail network planning supports diverse recreation while protecting the health of the watershed. Plans to implement many of these recommendations will occur through separate, concurrent projects (see **Figure 6**). As trail network improvements progress, additional planning may be needed to ensure trailheads are appropriately upgraded to support evolving use.



FIGURE 6 – PROJECTS & RELATED TRAILHEADS

Little Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact Statement²³

White Pine, Lisa Falls, Bridge

Recreation Enhancement Act Recreation Fees²¹

Cardiff Fork - Mill D, Donut Falls, Spruces, Mill B, Picnic Areas (Birches, Ledgemere, Dogwood), Grit Mill

Big Cottonwood Mobility Plan - SR-190 Ft Union Blvd to Brighton³⁴

Brighton (Lake Mary), Solitude (Moonbeam), Willow Heights, Silver Fork, Spruces, Cardiff

Upper Millcreek Canyon Road Improvement Project²²

Upper Big Water, Lower Big Water, Alexander Basin, Elbow Fork, Maple Grove

Neffs Canyon Emergency Facilities Improvement³⁵

Neffs Canyon Trailhead

TABLE 1 – RECOMMENDED INFRASTRUCTURE BY TRAILHEAD TYPE

INFRASTRUCTURE	MAJOR	MEDIUM	PRIMITIVE
Parking Lot	Y	Y	N
Winter Plow	Y	<i>as appropriate</i>	N
Public Transit	Y	<i>as appropriate</i>	N
Bathrooms	Y	<i>as appropriate</i>	N
Kiosk and Trailhead Signs	Y	Y	<i>as appropriate</i>
Concentrated Visitation	Y	<i>as appropriate</i>	N
Park Ranger Presence	Y	Y	<i>as appropriate</i>

MAP 2 - ALL TRAILHEADS

Legend

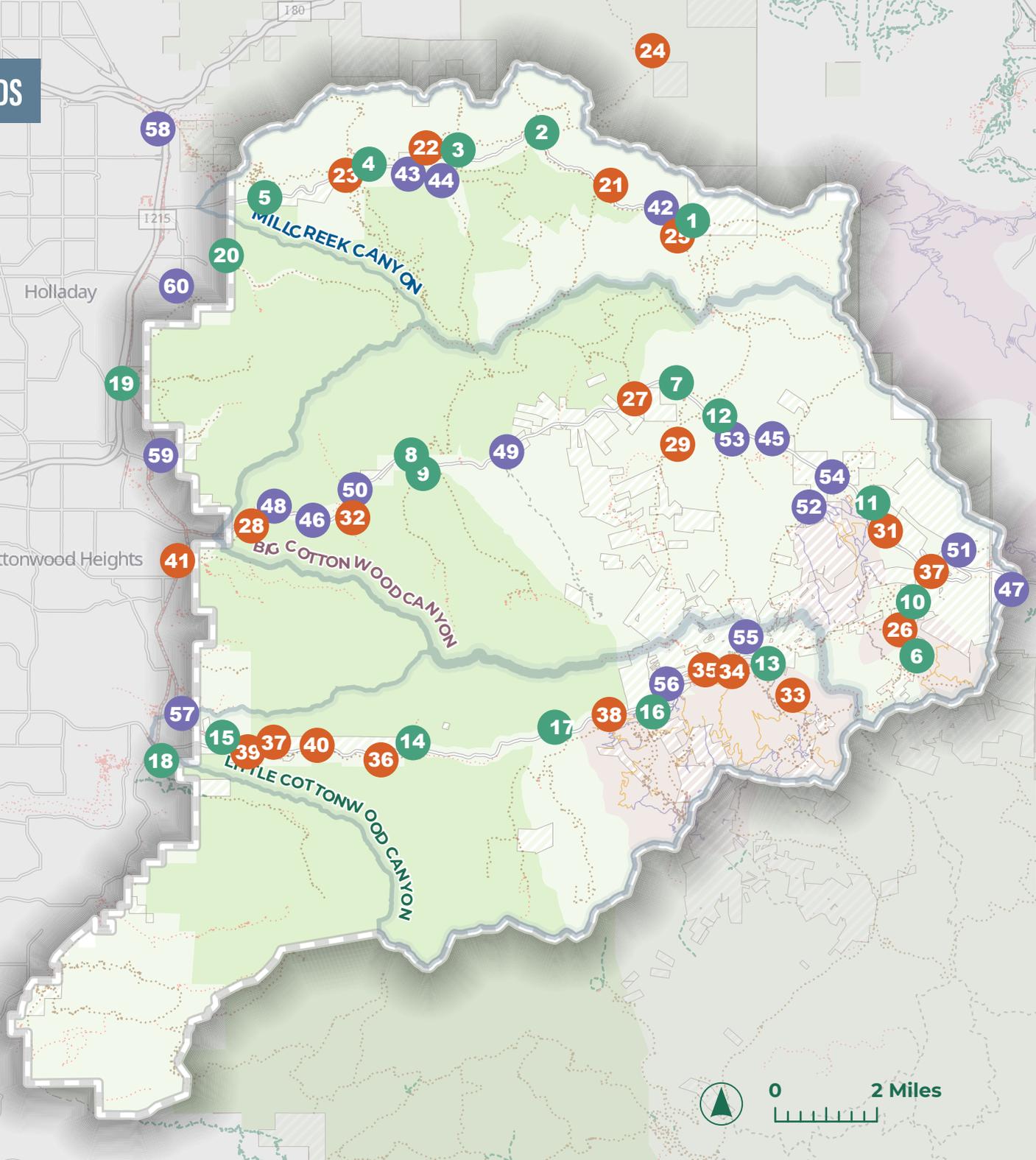
- Major Trailheads (Green circle)
- Medium Trailheads (Orange circle)
- Primitive Trailheads (Blue circle)

EXISTING

- Forest Service Managed Trails (Dotted line)
- Other Managed Trails (Dashed line)
- User Created Trails (Dotted line)
- Ski Resort Trails (Blue line)
- Ski Resort Roads (Orange line)
- Motorized Trails (Red line)

LAND DESIGNATIONS

- Private (Hatched pattern)
- Ski Resort Boundary (Pink shaded area)
- Wilderness (Light green shaded area)
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest (Dark green shaded area)



2 - TRAILHEADS

TABLE 2 – TRAILHEADS BY LOCATION & CLASSIFICATION

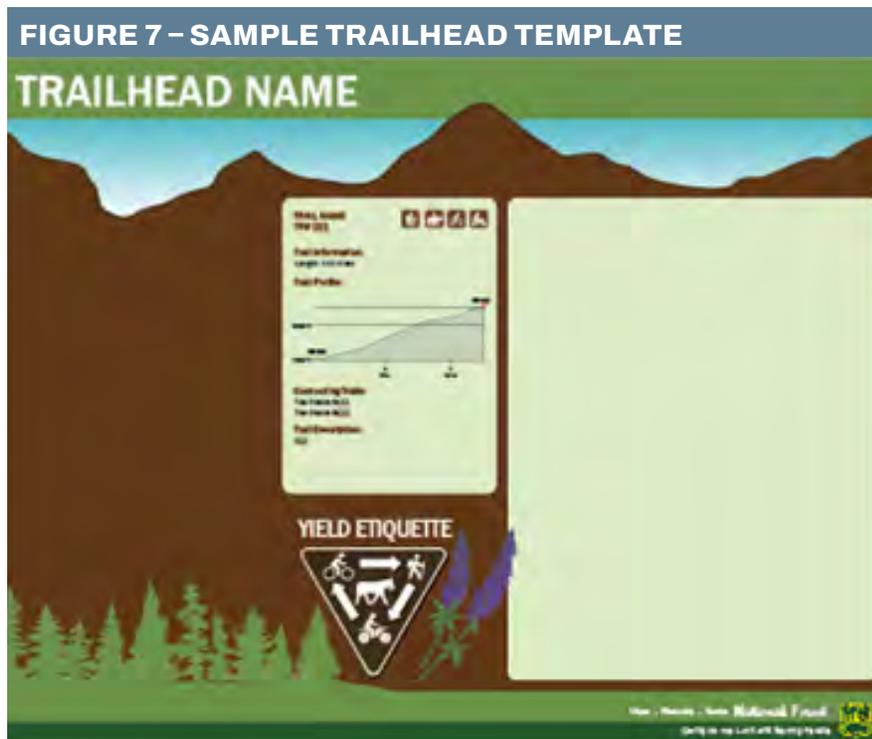
	MILLCREEK CANYON	BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON	LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON	WASATCH FRONT
MAJOR TRAILHEADS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Upper Big Water 2. Elbow Fork 3. Maple Grove (Winter Gate) 4. Desolation - Thaynes 5. Rattlesnake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Brighton (Lake Mary) 7. Cardiff Fork, Mill D 8. Mill B North 9. Mill B South, Blanche, S-Curve 10. Silver Lake 11. Solitude (Moonbeam) 12. Spruces, Days Fork (Winter) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Alta (Albion) 14. Lisa Falls 15. Little Cottonwood Park & Ride 16. Snowbird (Snowbird Center) 17. White Pine, Red Pine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18. Bell Canyon Preservation Trailhead 19. Mount Olympus 20. Neffs Canyon
MEDIUM TRAILHEADS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21. Alexander Basin 22. Burch Hollow 23. Church Fork 24. Lambs Canyon 25. Lower Big Water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 26. Brighton (Millicent) 27. Butler Fork 28. Dogwood (BST) 29. Donut Falls 30. Guardsman (Winter Gate) 31. Solitude (Village) 32. Storm Mountain Picnic Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 33. Alta (Catherine Pass) 34. Alta (Flagstaff) 35. Alta (Wildcat) 36. Bridge 37. Grit Mill 38. Snowbird (Creekside) 39. Temple Quarry (BST) 40. Gate Buttress 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 41. Ferguson
PRIMITIVE TRAILHEADS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 42. Lower Big Water (overflow) 43. Porter Fork 44. Terraces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 45. Bear Trap 46. Birches Picnic Area 47. Guardsman Pass 48. Ledgemere Picnic Area 49. Mineral Fork 50. Quartzite 51. Scotts 52. Silver Fork 53. Spruces, Days Fork (Summer) 54. Willow Heights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 55. Alta (Grizzly Gulch) 56. Superior 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 57. 210 Wasatch (BST) 58. Grandeur (BST) 59. Heughs Canyon 60. Z Trail

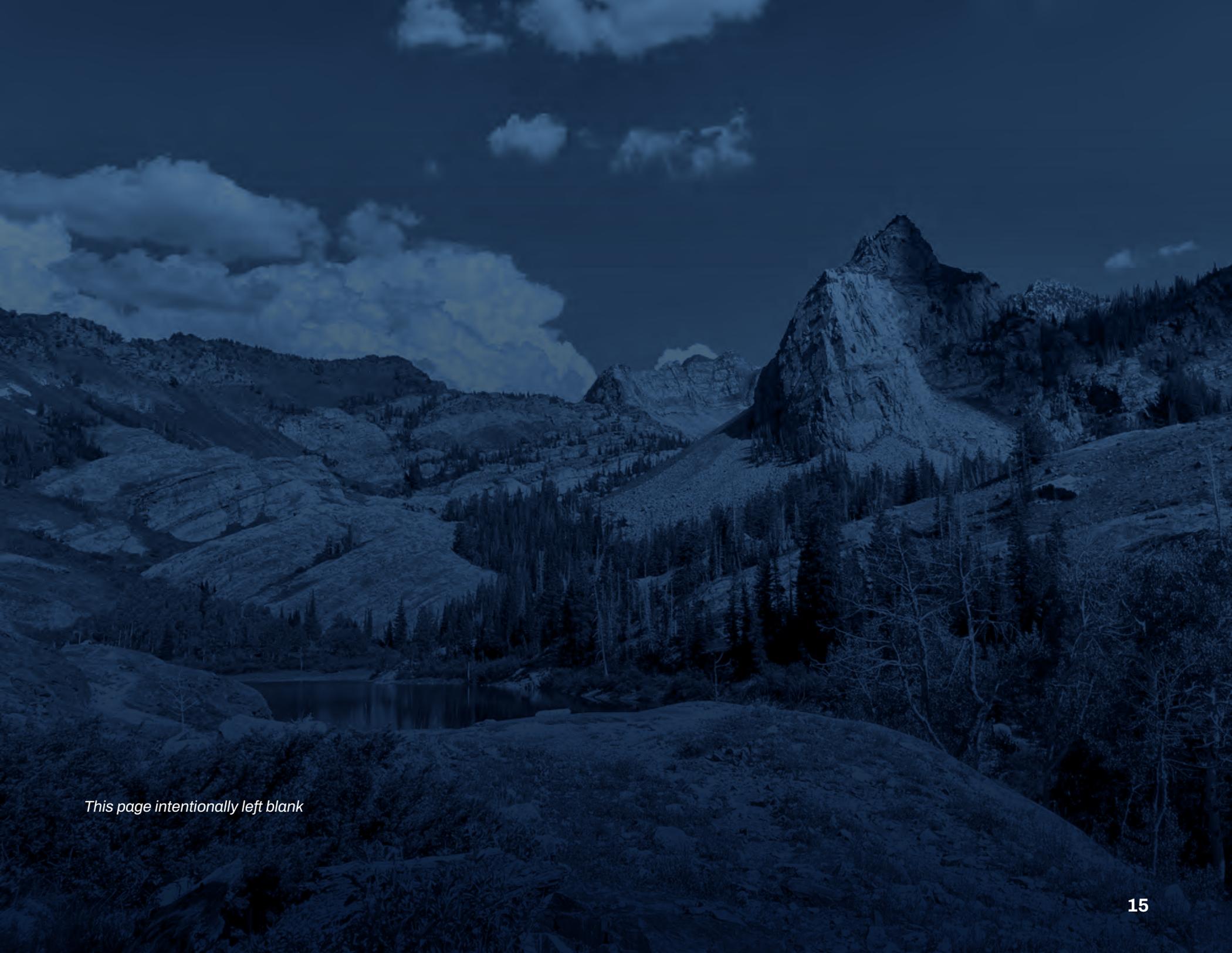
2 - TRAILHEADS

TRAILHEAD SIGNAGE

Kiosks and signage are essential components of trailheads, enhancing both visitor experience and resource protection. The SLRD is working with the Graphic Design and Signage Specialist at the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest to develop consistent, informative signage across the Tri- Canyons. The standardized template will include an area map, relevant trail information, and education on specific regulations, such as watershed (no dogs or swimming) and wilderness rules (no motorized or mechanized use).

Designed for both large and small kiosks, the template is being used throughout the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest and will be tailored to address the specific needs of each trailhead in the Tri-Canyons (see **Figure 7**).





This page intentionally left blank



3- Trail Network

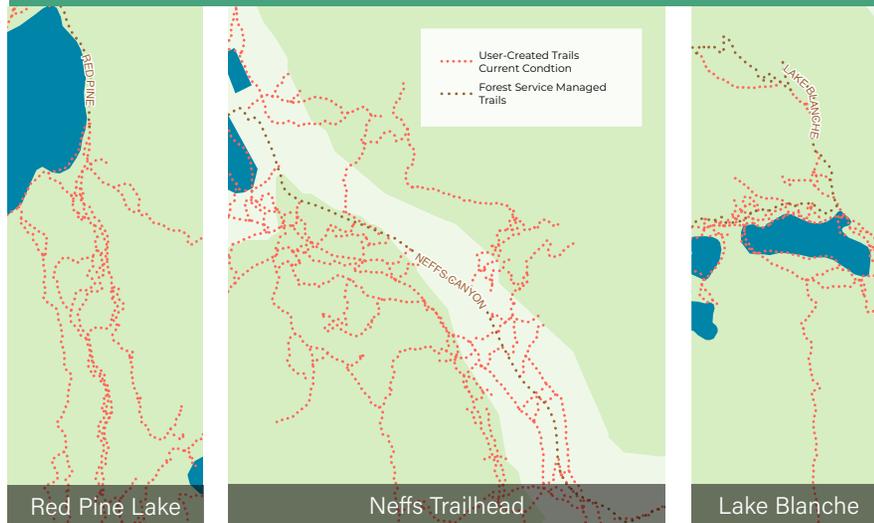
- ▶ A Sustainable Network
- ▶ Phased Implementation
- ▶ Trail Maintenance

3 - TRAIL NETWORK

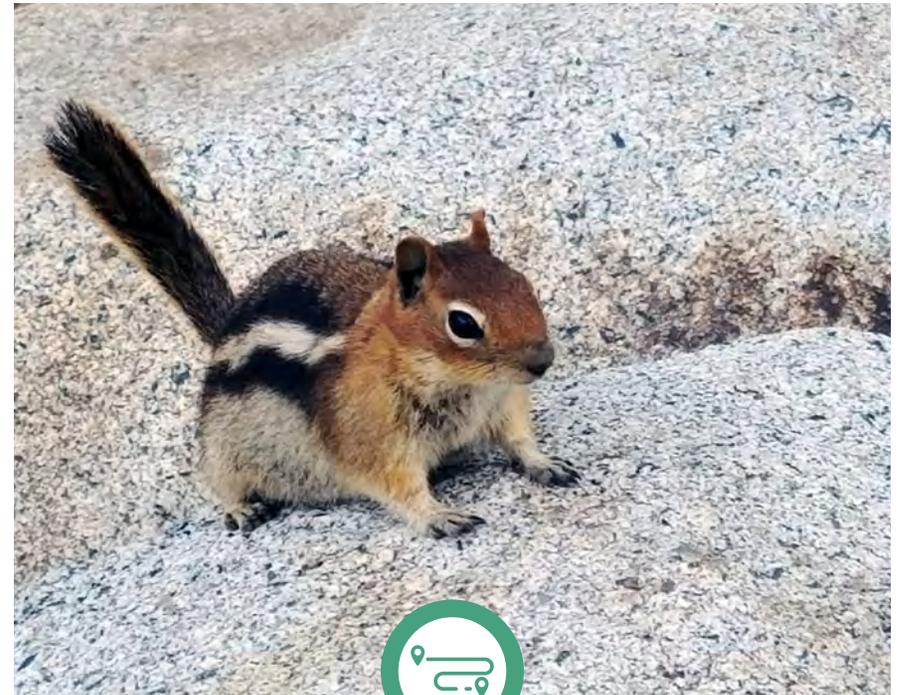
A SUSTAINABLE NETWORK

This plan identifies trail projects to strengthen the Tri-Canyons trail network by building sustainable trails that provide diverse, year-round recreation opportunities. The current trail network consists of U.S. Forest Service System Trails and user-created trails that no longer sustainably meet the needs of today's visitors. A few short trails see a large concentration of users, highlighting a desire for additional family-friendly trails and easy-to-reach destinations. While unsustainable user-created trails (not intentionally designed or maintained) cause resource damage, they show a clear desire for better connections and access to destinations (see **Figure 8** for examples).

FIGURE 8 – UNSUSTAINABLE USER-CREATED TRAILS



These examples of user-created trails illustrate unsustainable parallel and braided trails. Desired outcomes for such areas include formalizing one sustainable trail while closing and restoring all other trails. This action acknowledges a desired recreation experience while protecting resources (watershed and vegetation).



THE TRI-CANYON TRAIL NETWORK SHOULD:

- ✓ Recognize various levels of trail use (concentrated to dispersed)
- ✓ Provide diverse recreation opportunities (busy, solitude, endurance, discovery)
- ✓ Offer seasonal opportunities for recreation (hike, bike, climb, ski, snow play)
- ✓ Utilize existing options (user-created trails, ski resorts)

3 - TRAIL NETWORK

PHASED IMPLEMENTATION

The *Tri-Canyon Trails Plan* is a long-range planning document that sorts individual trail projects into separate implementation phases (1-3). While all trail projects are important, they vary in complexity. Some require longer planning timelines to address factors like private land access, engineering support, or coordination with separate, concurrent projects, which influence phasing in this plan.

Phase 1 consists of ripe or near-ready trail projects, which will be implemented first. Phase 2 will follow with an additional list of trail projects that require additional details or may need to be updated. Phase 3 consists of trail projects related to separate, concurrent projects, or projects that are still conceptual. As the timing for each phase or concurrent project implementation approaches, trail projects will be reviewed for relevancy and reviewed through NEPA.

This plan must be dynamic, requiring a review every 5 years to acknowledge that unforeseen changes to resources and recreation trends are inevitable and that the plan must remain adaptable.

1

PHASE 1

Phase 1 trail projects provide some of the highest resource protections, and are most ready for implementation. Pre-work for some projects may already be initiated, although additional details may still be needed. Several of the Phase 1 projects have scouted alignments, and were reviewed in the 2025 NEPA process. Nearly all trail projects need support, which may mean project adoption by a partner, or financial support through grants or agreements.

2

PHASE 2

Phase 2 trail projects are more complex to plan or implement. U.S. Forest Service or partners might need to acquire access across private property, to enlist engineering support for bridge design, or to engage contractors with specialized construction expertise.

3

PHASE 3

Phase 3 projects must be planned or implemented in coordination with separate, concurrent projects occurring on the Forest. Either the purpose or the alignment of the trail is inherently tied to a larger, concurrent project occurring on a separate timeline.

3 - TRAIL NETWORK

HOW WERE IMPLEMENTATION PHASES CREATED?

Trail implementation phases were prioritized based on current recreational needs and values, utilizing an Implementation Framework Matrix. This framework should be used to review projects and phasing every five years, ensuring the plan remains relevant and responsive to evolving recreation trends and resource protection needs.

Each trail project was analyzed using the Implementation Framework Matrix (see **Figure 10**), which considers seven essential attributes for trail planning, resource protection, and implementation. Each attribute was rated on a scale from 1 to 5, where 1 indicated a positive outcome and 5 indicated a detrimental outcome. Projects were then assigned to one of three implementation phases based on individual attribute ratings and overall averages.

The timing of separate, concurrent Forest projects significantly influenced the phasing of related trail projects. For example, trails in upper Millcreek Canyon are in Phase 1 to align with the Upper Millcreek Canyon Road Improvements Project (2025-2026). Trail projects related to separate, concurrent Forest projects that remain in the planning phase are sorted into Phase three. This thorough review process led to a refined classification of trail projects as new, reroute, or formalize user-created trails (see **Figure 9**). For an illustration of how the matrix was applied, refer to **Figure 11**.

FIGURE 9 – TRAIL CLASSIFICATION

NEW



New trails are intentionally designed, built to be sustainable, protect the watershed, and provide desired recreation experiences and/or connections.

REROUTE



Reroutes of existing trails make trails more sustainable (reduce erosion and runoff), and better provide diverse recreation opportunities.

FORMALIZE



Formalize specific user-created trails involves intentionally designing or modifying existing user-created trails to be sustainable. Leading to possible incorporation into the U.S. Forest Service trail network. In addition, related and nearby user-created trails that are detrimental, redundant, or solicit illegal uses will be closed and restored.

3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 1

FIGURE 10 – IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK MATRIX

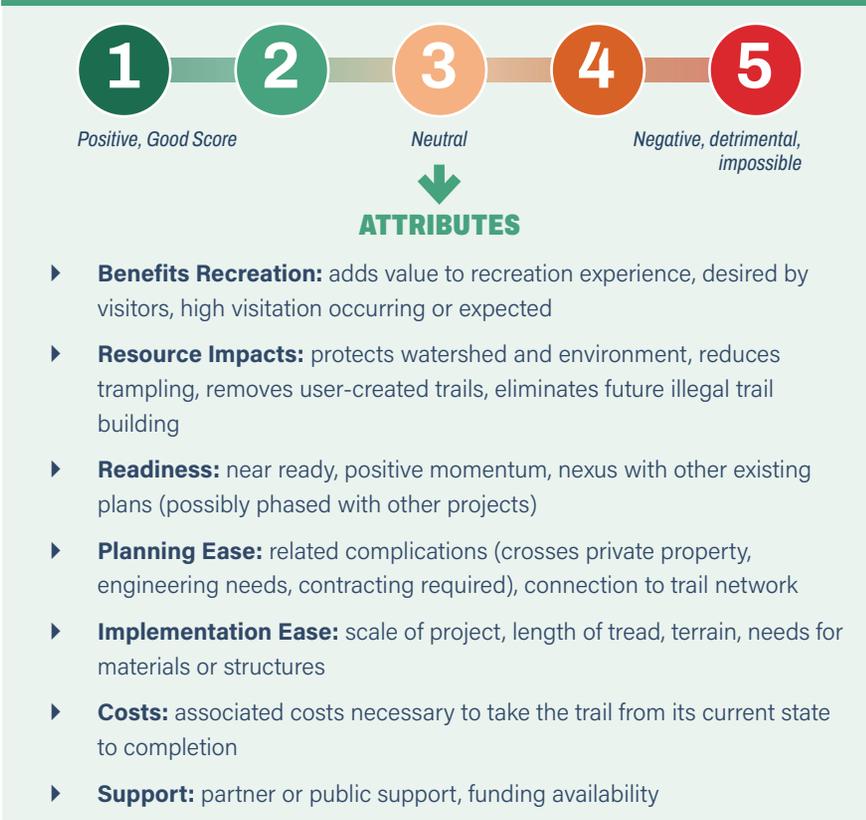


FIGURE 11 – EXAMPLE RATING: GLORIA FALLS

ATTRIBUTE	RATING	EXPLANATION
Readiness	1	Trail alignment approved, NEPA completed, funding requested
Recreation Benefits	1	Popular trail and destination, family-friendly, various recreation opportunities, trails nearby
Resource Importance	1	Moves trail away from creek, protects riparian ecosystem, hardened destination to reduce off trail travel
Planning Ease	2	NEPA specialists reviewed & approved trail alignment for sensitivities, trail connections to FS managed trails
Implementation Ease	2	Hardening destination requires extensive rock work, caution & care needed to close and restore user-created trails nearby
Costs	1	Trail crew time, rock work specialists, no associated engineering or major infrastructure needs
Support	1	Partners and public excited for this trail, collaborated with partners, applied to funding opportunities

3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 1

PHASE 1

Phase 1 trail projects provide some of the highest resource protections, and are most ready for implementation. Pre-work for some projects may already be initiated, although additional details may still be needed. Several of the Phase 1 projects have scouted alignments, and were reviewed in the summer 2025 NEPA process (environmental review). Nearly all trail projects need support, which may mean project adoption by a partner, or financial support through grants or agreements.





MAP 3 - ALL PHASE 1 TRAILS

PROPOSED TRAILS ARE CONCEPTUAL, NOT ACTUAL ALIGNMENTS OR EXACT LOCATIONS

PROPOSED PHASE 1 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 2 TRAILS

- - - New
- - - Reroute
- - - Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 3 TRAILS

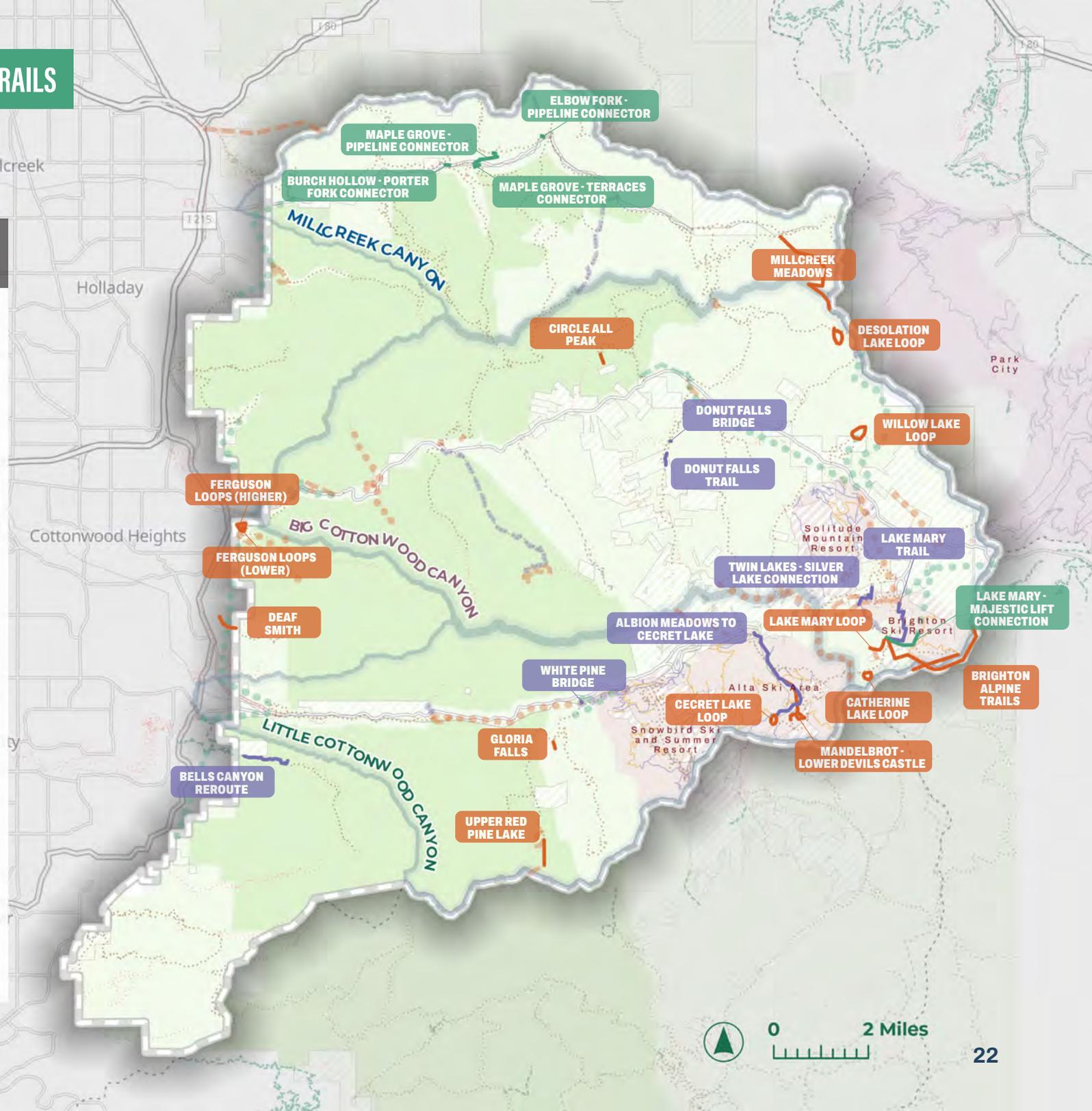
- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

EXISTING

- Forest Service Managed Trails
- Other Managed Trails
- User Created Trails
- Ski Resort Trails
- Ski Resort Roads
- Motorized Trails

LAND DESIGNATIONS

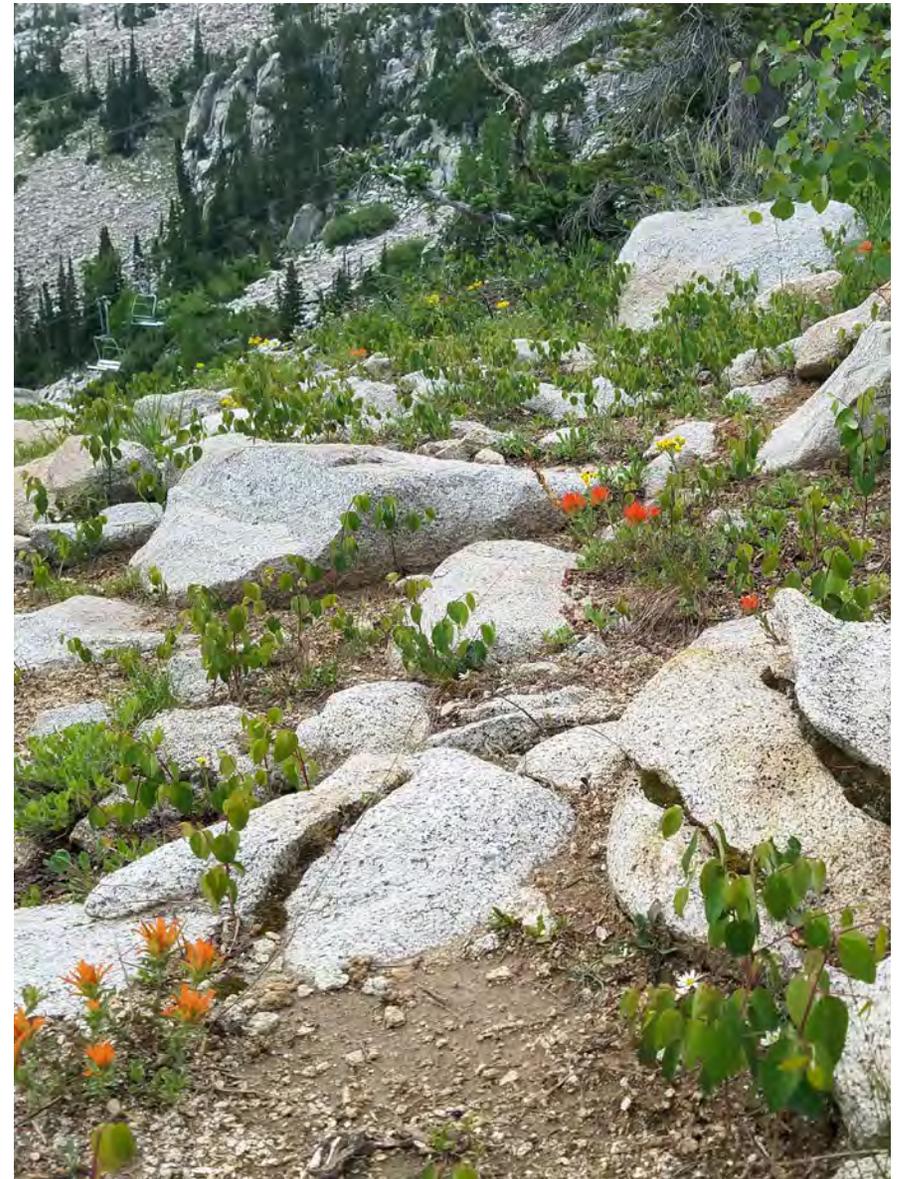
- Private
- Ski Resort Boundary
- Wilderness
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest



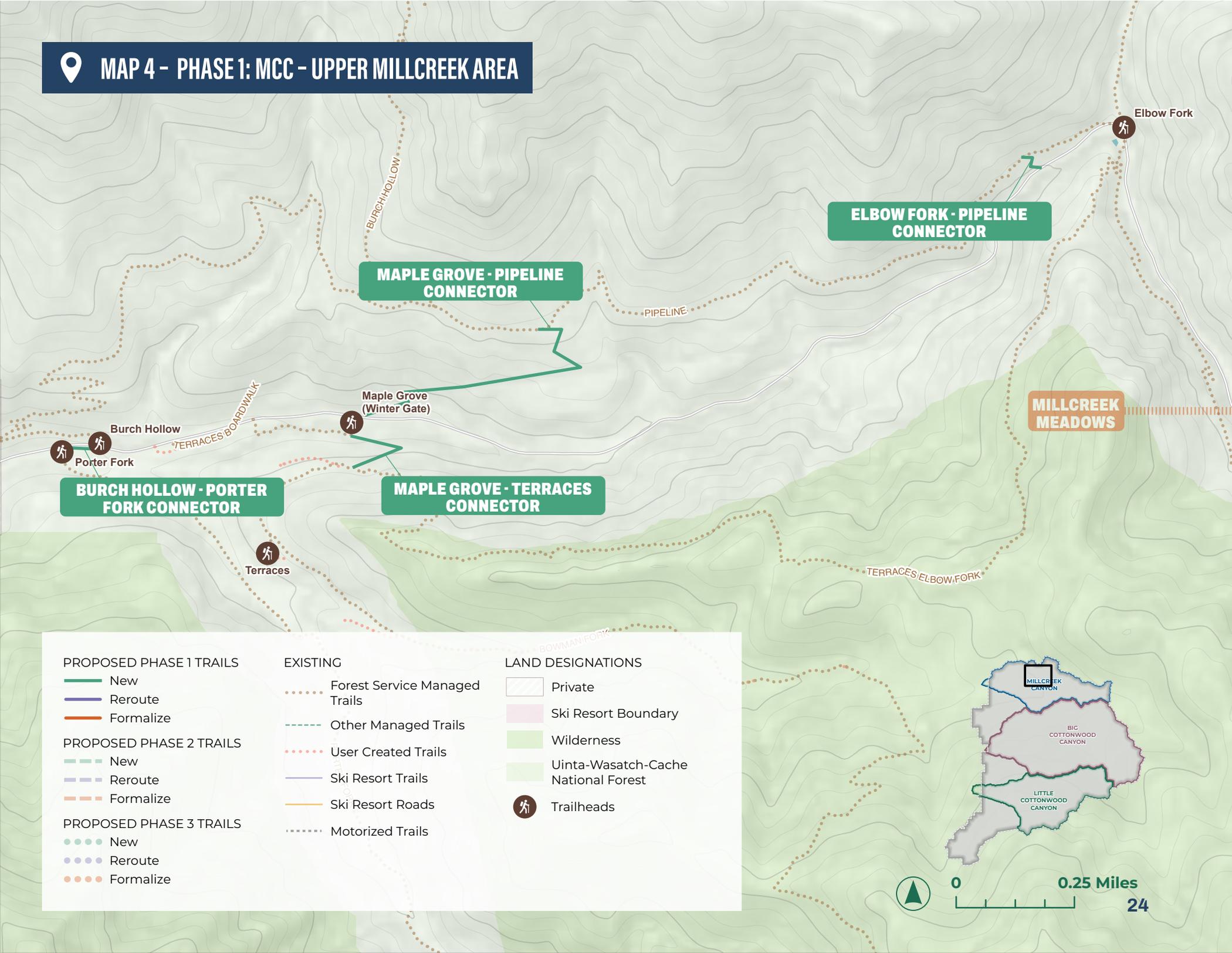
3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 1

TABLE 3 – PHASE 1 TRAIL PROJECTS

CANYON	TRAIL PROJECT NAME	TYPE	MAP/TABLE #
MCC	Burch Hollow - Porter Fork Connector	<i>New</i>	4
	Elbow Fork - Pipeline Connector	<i>New</i>	4
	Maple Grove - Pipeline Connector	<i>New</i>	4
	Maple Grove - Terraces Connector	<i>New</i>	4
	Millcreek Meadows	<i>Formalize</i>	4
BCC	Lake Mary - Majestic Lift Connection	<i>New</i>	5
	Donut Falls Bridge	<i>Reroute</i>	6
	Donut Falls Trail	<i>Reroute</i>	6
	Lake Mary Trail	<i>Reroute</i>	5
	Twin Lakes - Silver Lake Connection	<i>Reroute</i>	5
	Brighton Alpine Trails	<i>Formalize</i>	5
	Catherine Lake Loop	<i>Formalize</i>	5
	Circle All Peak	<i>Formalize</i>	6
	Desolation Lake Loop	<i>Formalize</i>	7
	Lake Mary Loop	<i>Formalize</i>	5
	Willow Lake Loop	<i>Formalize</i>	7
LCC	Albion Meadows to Cecret Lake	<i>Reroute</i>	8
	White Pine Bridge	<i>Reroute</i>	9
	Cecret Lake Loop	<i>Formalize</i>	8
	Gloria Falls	<i>Formalize</i>	9
	Mandelbrot - Lower Devils Castle	<i>Formalize</i>	8
	Upper Red Pine Trail	<i>Formalize</i>	9
WF	Bell Canyon Reroute	<i>Reroute</i>	11
	Deaf Smith	<i>Formalize</i>	11
	Ferguson Loops (higher)	<i>Formalize</i>	10
	Ferguson Loops (lower)	<i>Formalize</i>	10



MAP 4 - PHASE 1: MCC - UPPER MILLCREEK AREA



PROPOSED PHASE 1 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 2 TRAILS

- - - New
- - - Reroute
- - - Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 3 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

EXISTING

- - - - Forest Service Managed Trails
- - - - Other Managed Trails
- - - - User Created Trails
- Ski Resort Trails
- Ski Resort Roads
- - - - Motorized Trails

LAND DESIGNATIONS

- Private
- Ski Resort Boundary
- Wilderness
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
- 🚶 Trailheads



3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 1



TABLE 4 – PHASE 1: MCC – UPPER MILLCREEK AREA	
TRAIL NAME	DESIRED OUTCOME
BURCH HOLLOW - PORTER FORK CONNECTOR	Connect Burch Hollow and Porter Fork trailheads.
ELBOW FORK - PIPELINE CONNECTOR	Design sustainable trail connecting the new Elbow Fork Parking lot and Trailhead with the Pipeline Trail. Phase with Upper Millcreek Improvement project.
MAPLE GROVE - PIPELINE CONNECTOR	Utilize new large parking area at Maple Grove for trail access by designing a short, sustainable trail with easy grades to access other trails. Phase with Upper Millcreek Improvement project.
MAPLE GROVE - TERRACES CONNECTOR	Utilize new large parking area at Maple Grove for trail access by designing a short, sustainable trail with easy grades to access other trails. Phase with Upper Millcreek Improvement project.
MILLCREEK MEADOWS	Reroute eroding trail segments with sustainable grades, reroute out of meadow where necessary.



MAP 5 - PHASE 1, BCC - BRIGHTON AREA

TWIN LAKES - SILVER LAKE CONNECTION

PROPOSED PHASE 1 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 2 TRAILS

- - - New
- - - Reroute
- - - Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 3 TRAILS

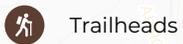
- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

EXISTING

- - - - Forest Service Managed Trails
- - - - Other Managed Trails
- - - - User Created Trails
- Ski Resort Trails
- Ski Resort Roads
- - - - Motorized Trails

LAND DESIGNATIONS

- Private
- Ski Resort Boundary
- Wilderness
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest



LAKE MARY TRAIL

LAKE MARY - MAJESTIC LIFT CONNECTION

LAKE MARY LOOP

BRIGHTON ALPINE TRAILS

CATHERINE LAKE LOOP

Silver Lake

Brighton (Millicent)

Brighton (Lake Mary)

Brighton Ski Resort

MILLCREEK CANYON

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON



3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 1

TABLE 5 – PHASE 1, BCC – BRIGHTON AREA

TRAIL NAME	DESIRED OUTCOME
LAKE MARY - MAJESTIC LIFT CONNECTION	Design a sustainable, contouring, family-friendly trail connecting the Majestic Lift with Lake Mary. Close and restore user-created trails.
LAKE MARY TRAIL	Reroute the start of the trail away from the Alpine Rose. Reroute steep sections with more sustainable grades. Overall the trail should provide easier grades to an engineered hardened destination. Close and restore user-created trails.
TWIN LAKES - SILVER LAKE CONNECTION	Improve existing trail to be easier; reduce trail grades, improve tread, remove large obstacles, engineer hardened destinations.
BRIGHTON ALPINE TRAILS	Coordinate with Brighton Ski Resort to design and connect sustainable Forest Service and user-created alpine trails (Clayton Peak Trail, Big Cottonwood Mine Loop), ridgelines, and peaks, which may some day be accessible by ski lifts (Crest, Snake Creek, Great Western).
CATHERINE LAKE LOOP	Design a sustainable trail around Lake Catherine to protect the watershed and lakeshore vegetation. Close and restore user-created trails.
LAKE MARY LOOP	Design a sustainable trail around the highly visited half of Lake Mary to protect the watershed and lakeshore vegetation. Close and restore user-created trails.



MAP 6 - PHASE 1, BCC - DONUT FALLS AREA

CIRCLE ALL PEAK

PROPOSED PHASE 1 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 2 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 3 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

EXISTING

- Forest Service Managed Trails
- Other Managed Trails
- User Created Trails
- Ski Resort Trails
- Ski Resort Roads
- Motorized Trails

LAND DESIGNATIONS

- Private
- Ski Resort Boundary
- Wilderness
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest



DONUT FALLS BRIDGE

DONUT FALLS TRAIL



3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 1

TABLE 6 – PHASE 1, BCC – DONUT FALLS AREA

TRAIL NAME	DESIRED OUTCOME
DONUT FALLS BRIDGE	Install bridge over creek. May require a different location than previous bridge.
DONUT FALLS TRAIL	Reroute the trail out of the water to reduce impacts to watershed and shoreline vegetation. Design a wide trail with moderate grades to an engineered hardened destination (reduce waterfall climbing). Close and restore old trail and user-created trails.
CIRCLE ALL PEAK	Formalize a short, sustainable trail providing a desired summit recreation opportunity. Close and restore user-created trails.

MAP 7 - PHASE 1, BCC - DESOLATION LAKE AREA

DESOLATION LAKE LOOP

WILLOW LAKE LOOP

PROPOSED PHASE 1 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 2 TRAILS

- - - New
- - - Reroute
- - - Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 3 TRAILS

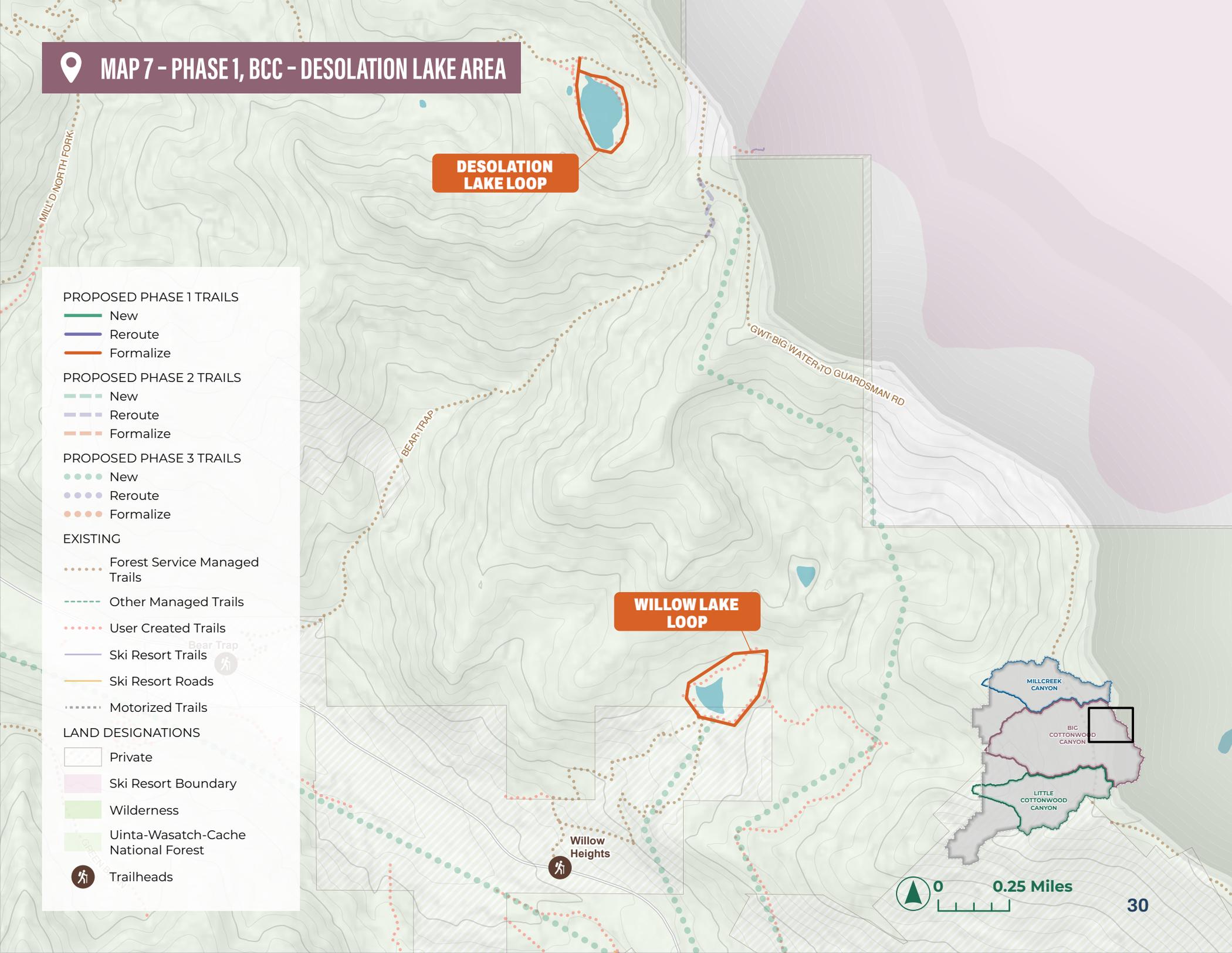
- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

EXISTING

- ⋯⋯⋯ Forest Service Managed Trails
- - - Other Managed Trails
- ⋯⋯⋯ User Created Trails
- Ski Resort Trails
- Ski Resort Roads
- ⋯⋯⋯ Motorized Trails

LAND DESIGNATIONS

- Private
- Ski Resort Boundary
- Wilderness
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
- ⤴ Trailheads



3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 1

TABLE 7 – PHASE 1, BCC – DESOLATION LAKE AREA

TRAIL NAME	DESIRED OUTCOME
DESOLATION LAKE LOOP	Design a sustainable trail around Desolation lake to protect the watershed and lakeshore vegetation. Close and restore user-created trails.
WILLOW LAKE LOOP	Design a sustainable trail around Willow Lake to protect the watershed and lakeshore vegetation. Close and restore user-created trails.



MAP 8 - PHASE 1, LCC - ALTA AREA

Alta (Grizzly Gulch)

Alta (Flagstaff)

Alta (Albion)

Alta (Wildcat)

TRANSVERSE LIFT

SNAKEPIT

ALBION MEADOWS TO CECRET LAKE

PROPOSED PHASE 1 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 2 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 3 TRAILS

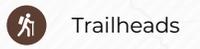
- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

EXISTING

- Forest Service Managed Trails
- Other Managed Trails
- User Created Trails
- Ski Resort Trails
- Ski Resort Roads
- Motorized Trails

LAND DESIGNATIONS

- Private
- Ski Resort Boundary
- Wilderness
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest



Trailheads

Alta Ski Area

MANDELBROT - LOWER DEVILS CASTLE

CECRET LAKE LOOP

Alta (Catherine Pass)

Alta (Albion Basin)

ALBION LIFT

CATHERINE'S PASS

ALBION ALPS HOME 1

ALBION ALPS HOME 2

MILLCREEK CANYON

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON

CECRET-TUNNEL

CECRET LAKE

DEVILS CASTLE LOOP



0 0.25 Miles

3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 1

TABLE 8 – PHASE 1, LCC – ALTA AREA

TRAIL NAME	DESIRED OUTCOME
ALBION MEADOWS TO CECRET LAKE	Design an obvious and continuous trail connecting hikers on a sustainable, family friendly trail, from the Albion Trailhead to Cecret Lake.
CECRET LAKE LOOP	Design a sustainable trail around Cecret Lake to protect the watershed and lakeshore vegetation. Close and restore user-created trails.
MANDELBROT - LOWER DEVILS CASTLE	Design and formalize sustainable trails, popular with mountain bikers in the area.



MAP 9 - PHASE 1, LCC- WHITE PINE AREA

PROPOSED PHASE 1 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 2 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 3 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

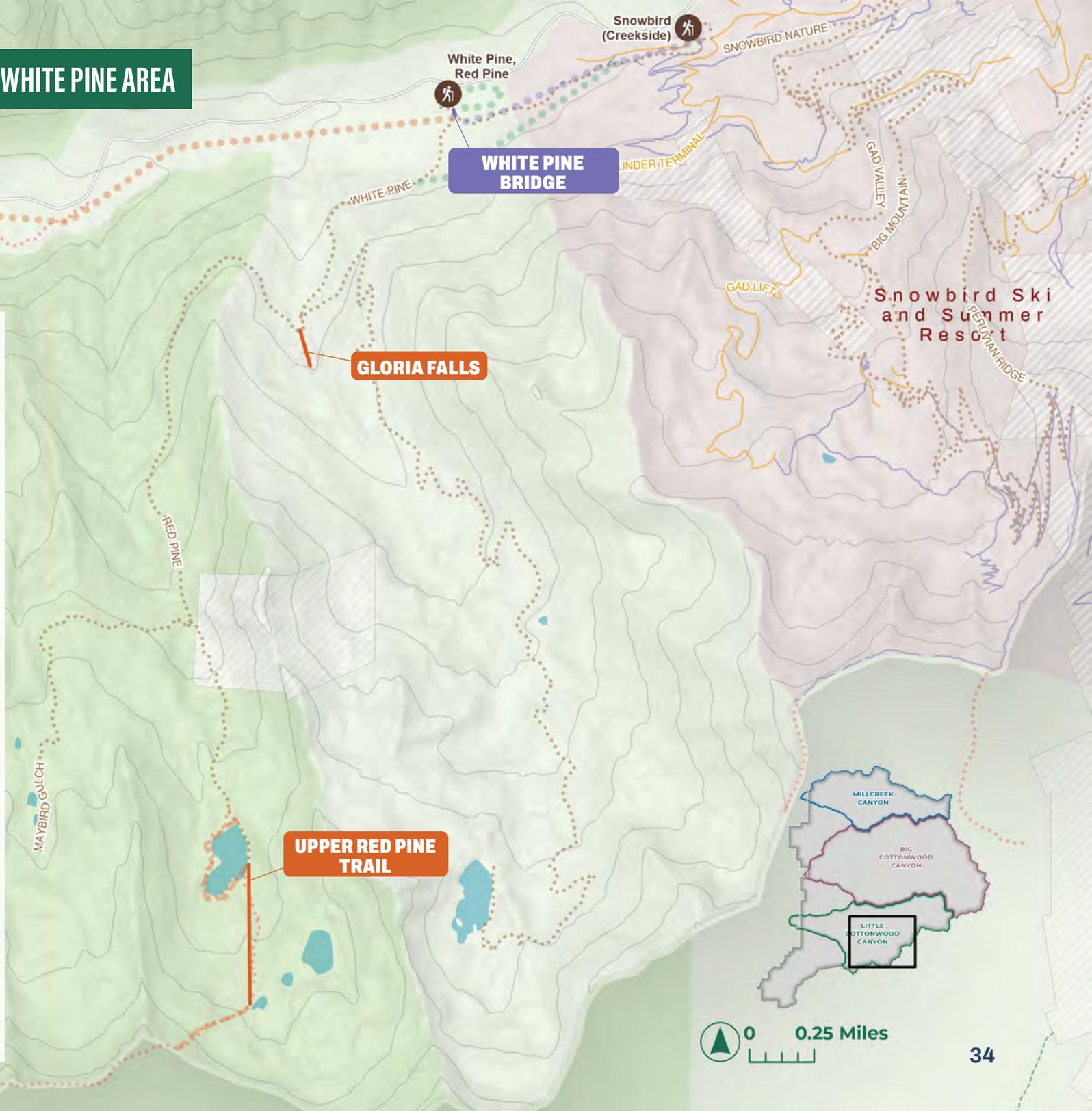
EXISTING

- Forest Service Managed Trails
- Other Managed Trails
- User Created Trails
- Ski Resort Trails
- Ski Resort Roads
- Motorized Trails

LAND DESIGNATIONS

- Private
- Ski Resort Boundary
- Wilderness
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest

- Trailheads



White Pine, Red Pine

WHITE PINE BRIDGE

GLORIA FALLS

UPPER RED PINE TRAIL

Snowbird (Creekside)

SNOWBIRD NATURE

UNDER-TERMINAL

GAD VALLEY

Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort

GAD LIFTS

PERMANENT RIDGE

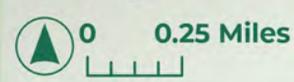
RED PINE

MAYBIRD GULCH

MILLCREEK CANYON

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON



3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 1

TABLE 9 – PHASE 1, LCC- WHITE PINE AREA

TRAIL NAME	DESIRED OUTCOME
WHITE PINE BRIDGE	Install bridge over creek. May require a different location than previous bridge.
GLORIA FALLS	Design trail alignment away from riparian zone. Trail should be wide with easier grades leading up to an engineered hardened destination at Gloria Falls (reduce waterfall climbing). Close and restore user-created trails.
UPPER RED PINE TRAIL	Formalize a sustainable trail with moderate grades between Red Pine Lake and the Upper Red Pine area. Close and restore user-created trails.



MAP 10 - PHASE 1, WASATCH FRONT- FERGUSON AREA

PROPOSED PHASE 1 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 2 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 3 TRAILS

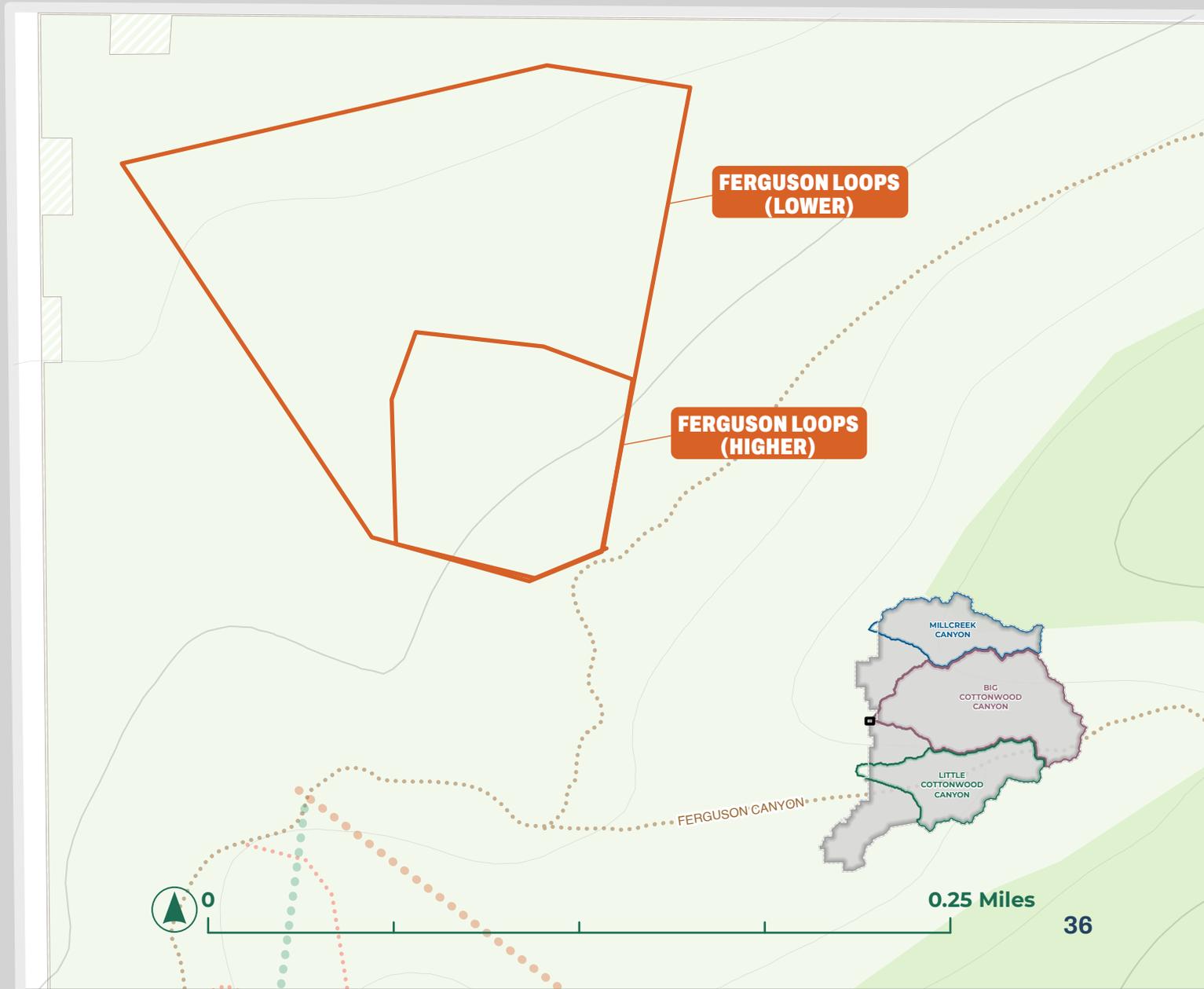
- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

EXISTING

- Forest Service Managed Trails
- Other Managed Trails
- User Created Trails
- Ski Resort Trails
- Ski Resort Roads
- Motorized Trails

LAND DESIGNATIONS

- Private
- Ski Resort Boundary
- Wilderness
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
- Trailheads



3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 1

TABLE 10 – PHASE 1, WASATCH FRONT – FERGUSON AREA

TRAIL NAME	DESIRED OUTCOME
FERGUSON LOOPS (HIGHER)	Design short loop trail, with easy to medium grades in the area just North of the Ferguson Trailhead. Close and restore user-created trails. Slightly shorter loop.
FERGUSON LOOPS (LOWER)	Design short loop trail, with easy to medium grades in the area just North of the Ferguson Trailhead. Close and restore user-created trails. Slightly longer loop.



MAP 11 - PHASE 1, WASATCH FRONT - BELLS CANYON AREA

TABLE 11 - PHASE 1, WASATCH FRONT - BELLS CANYON AREA

TRAIL NAME	DESIRED OUTCOME
BELL CANYON REROUTE	Improve trail alignment with easier grades to an engineered hardened destination with a viewpoint of the waterfall (reduce waterfall climbing). Close and restore old trails and user-created trails.
DEAF SMITH	Coordinate with landowners and Cottonwood Heights on public access and sustainable trail connections.

PROPOSED PHASE 1 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 2 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 3 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

EXISTING

- Forest Service Managed Trails
- Other Managed Trails
- User Created Trails
- Ski Resort Trails
- Ski Resort Roads
- Motorized Trails

LAND DESIGNATIONS

- Private
- Ski Resort Boundary
- Wilderness
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
- Trailheads

DEAF SMITH

BELL CANYON REROUTE

DEAF SMITH

BELLS CANYON REROUTE

210 Wasatch (BST)

Little Cottonwood Park & Ride

Temple Quarry (BST)

Grit Mill

GRIT MILL CONNECTOR

Gate Butress

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CREEK

MILLCREEK CANYON

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON

BELLS CANYON



3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 1

PHASE 2

Phase 2 trail projects are more complex to plan or implement. U.S. Forest Service or partners might need to acquire access across private property, to enlist engineering support for bridge design, or to engage contractors with specialized construction expertise.





MAP 12 - ALL PHASE 2 TRAILS

PROPOSED TRAILS ARE CONCEPTUAL, NOT ACTUAL ALIGNMENTS OR EXACT LOCATIONS

PROPOSED PHASE 1 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 2 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 3 TRAILS

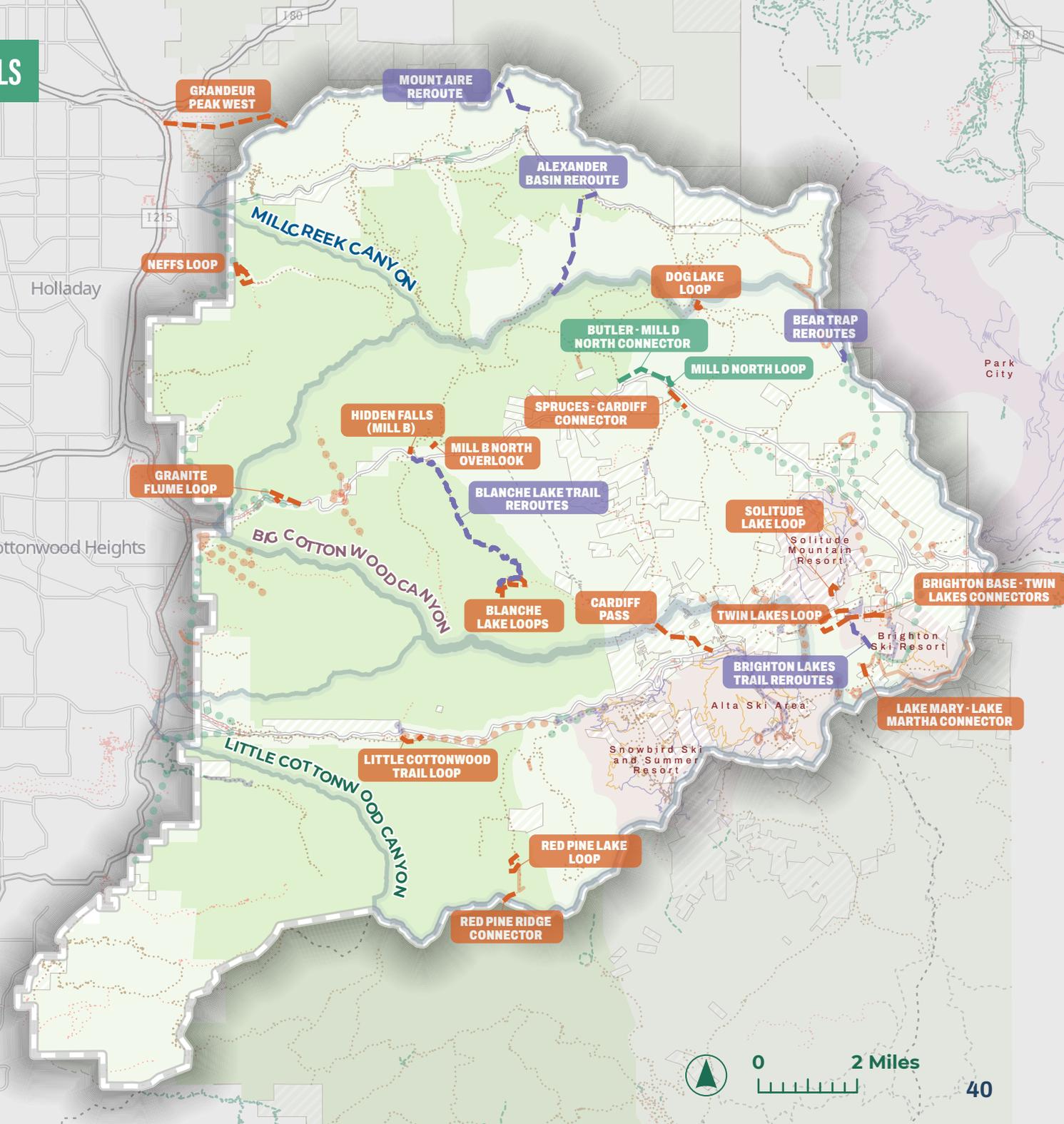
- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

EXISTING

- Forest Service Managed Trails
- Other Managed Trails
- User Created Trails
- Ski Resort Trails
- Ski Resort Roads

LAND DESIGNATIONS

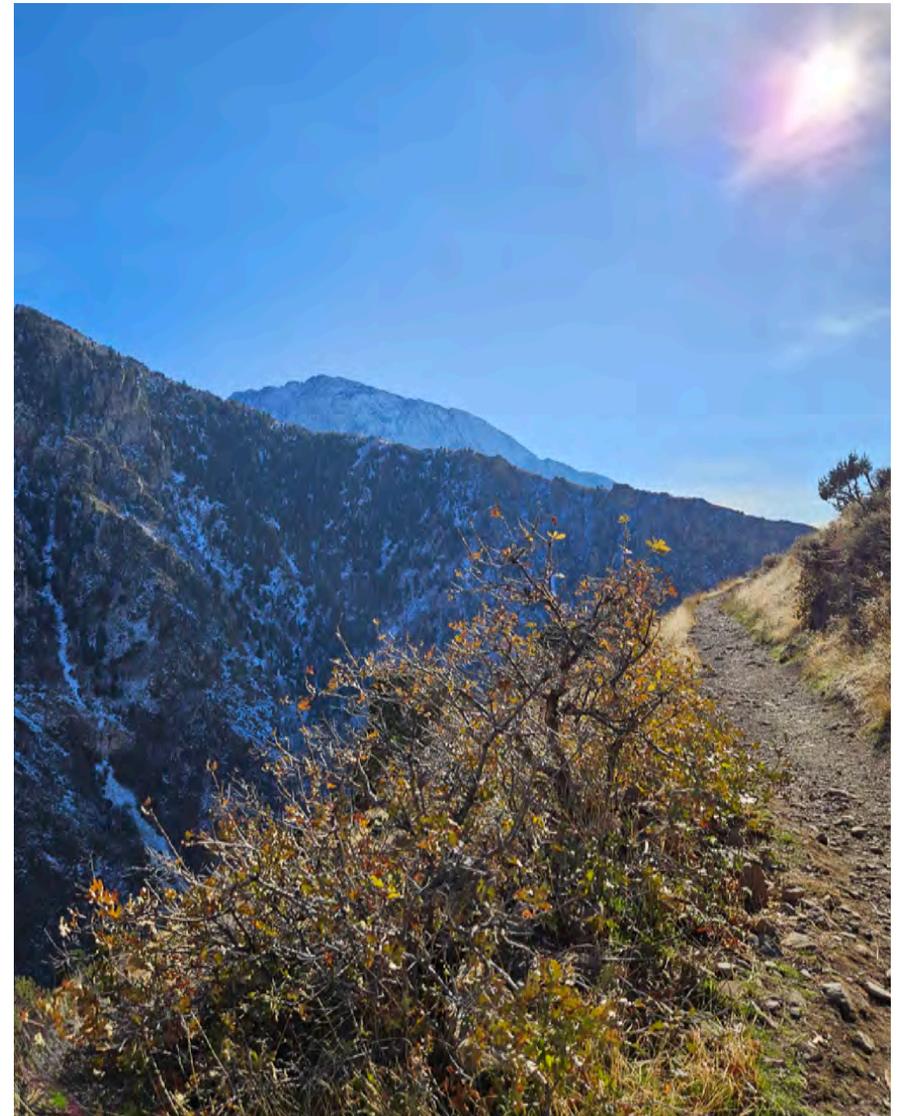
- Private
- Ski Resort Boundary
- Wilderness
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest



3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 2

TABLE 12 – PHASE 2 TRAIL PROJECTS

CANYON	TRAIL PROJECT NAME	TYPE	MAP/TABLE #
MCC	Alexander Basin Reroutes	<i>Reroute</i>	13
	Mount Aire Reroutes	<i>Reroute</i>	13
	Dog Lake Loop	<i>Formalize</i>	13
BCC	Butler - Mill D North Connector	<i>New</i>	15
	Mill D North Loop	<i>New</i>	15
	Bear Trap Reroute	<i>Reroute</i>	15
	Blanche Lake Trail Reroutes	<i>Reroute</i>	16
	Brighton Lakes Trail Reroutes	<i>Reroute</i>	15
	Blanche Lake Loops	<i>Formalize</i>	16
	Brighton Base to Twin Lakes Connectors	<i>Formalize</i>	14
	Granite Flume Loop	<i>Formalize</i>	16
	Hidden Falls (Mill B)	<i>Formalize</i>	16
	Lake Mary - Lake Martha Connector	<i>Formalize</i>	14
	Mill B North Overlook	<i>Formalize</i>	16
	Solitude Lake Loop	<i>Formalize</i>	14
	Spruces - Cardiff Connector	<i>Formalize</i>	15
Twin Lake Loop	<i>Formalize</i>	14	
LCC	Cardiff Pass	<i>Formalize</i>	17
	Little Cottonwood Trail Loop	<i>Formalize</i>	17
	Red Pine Lake Loop	<i>Formalize</i>	17
	Red Pine Ridge Connector	<i>Formalize</i>	17
WF	Grandeur Peak West	<i>Formalize</i>	18
	Neffs Loop	<i>Formalize</i>	18





MAP 13 - PHASE 2, MCC - UPPER MILLCREEK

PROPOSED PHASE 1 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 2 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 3 TRAILS

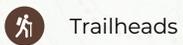
- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

EXISTING

- Forest Service Managed Trails
- Other Managed Trails
- User Created Trails
- Ski Resort Trails
- Ski Resort Roads
- Motorized Trails

LAND DESIGNATIONS

- Private
- Ski Resort Boundary
- Wilderness
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest



MOUNT AIRE REROUTES

ALEXANDER BASIN REROUTES

DOG LAKE LOOP



3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 2

TABLE 13 – PHASE 2, MCC – UPPER MILLCREEK

TRAIL NAME	DESIRED OUTCOME
ALEXANDER BASIN REROUTES	Reroute trail alignment to have sustainable grades where needed.
MOUNT AIRE REROUTE	Improve trail alignment to have sustainable grades, and construct switchbacks out of wet zones.
DOG LAKE LOOP	Design a sustainable trail around Dog Lake to protect the watershed and lakeshore vegetation. Close and restore user-created trails.

MAP 14 - PHASE 2, BCC - BRIGHTON AREA

PROPOSED PHASE 1 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 2 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 3 TRAILS

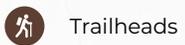
- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

EXISTING

- Forest Service Managed Trails
- Other Managed Trails
- User Created Trails
- Ski Resort Trails
- Ski Resort Roads
- Motorized Trails

LAND DESIGNATIONS

- Private
- Ski Resort Boundary
- Wilderness
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest



SOLITUDE LAKE LOOP

BRIGHTON BASE - TWIN LAKES CONNECTORS

TWIN LAKES LOOP

BRIGHTON LAKES TRAIL REROUTES

LAKE MARY - LAKE MARTHA CONNECTOR

Silver Lake

Brighton (Millicent)

Brighton (Lake Mary)

M/A CAMP

GWT GUARDSMAN TO SUNSET PASS

Brighton Ski Resort

MAJESTIC-A
MAJESTIC-B

STIC

GREAT WESTERN LIFT

CLAYTON PEAK

MILLCREEK CANYON

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON

SNARK CREEK



0 0.25 Miles

3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 2

TABLE 14 – PHASE 2, BCC – BRIGHTON AREA

TRAIL NAME	DESIRED OUTCOME
BRIGHTON LAKES TRAIL REROUTES	Improve trail alignment with sustainable grades, remove the trail from wet zones.
BRIGHTON BASE - TWIN LAKES CONNECTORS	Design sustainable trails to provide access to Brighton Lakes from the parking lots at Brighton (Lake Mary Trailhead and Milly Base area)
LAKE MARY - LAKE MARTHA CONNECTOR	Design sustainable trails connecting Lake Mary, Lake Martha, and existing Forest Service trails.
SOLITUDE LAKE LOOP	Design a sustainable trail around Lake Solitude to protect the watershed and lakeshore vegetation. Close and restore user-created trails.
TWIN LAKES LOOP	Design a sustainable trail around Twin Lakes to protect the watershed and lakeshore vegetation. Close and restore user-created trails.

MAP 15 - PHASE 2, BCC - BIG COTTONWOOD TRAIL

**BUTLER - MILL D
NORTH CONNECTOR**

MILL D NORTH LOOP

BEAR TRAP REROUTES

**SPRUCES - CARDIFF
CONNECTOR**

PROPOSED PHASE 1 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 2 TRAILS

- - - New
- - - Reroute
- - - Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 3 TRAILS

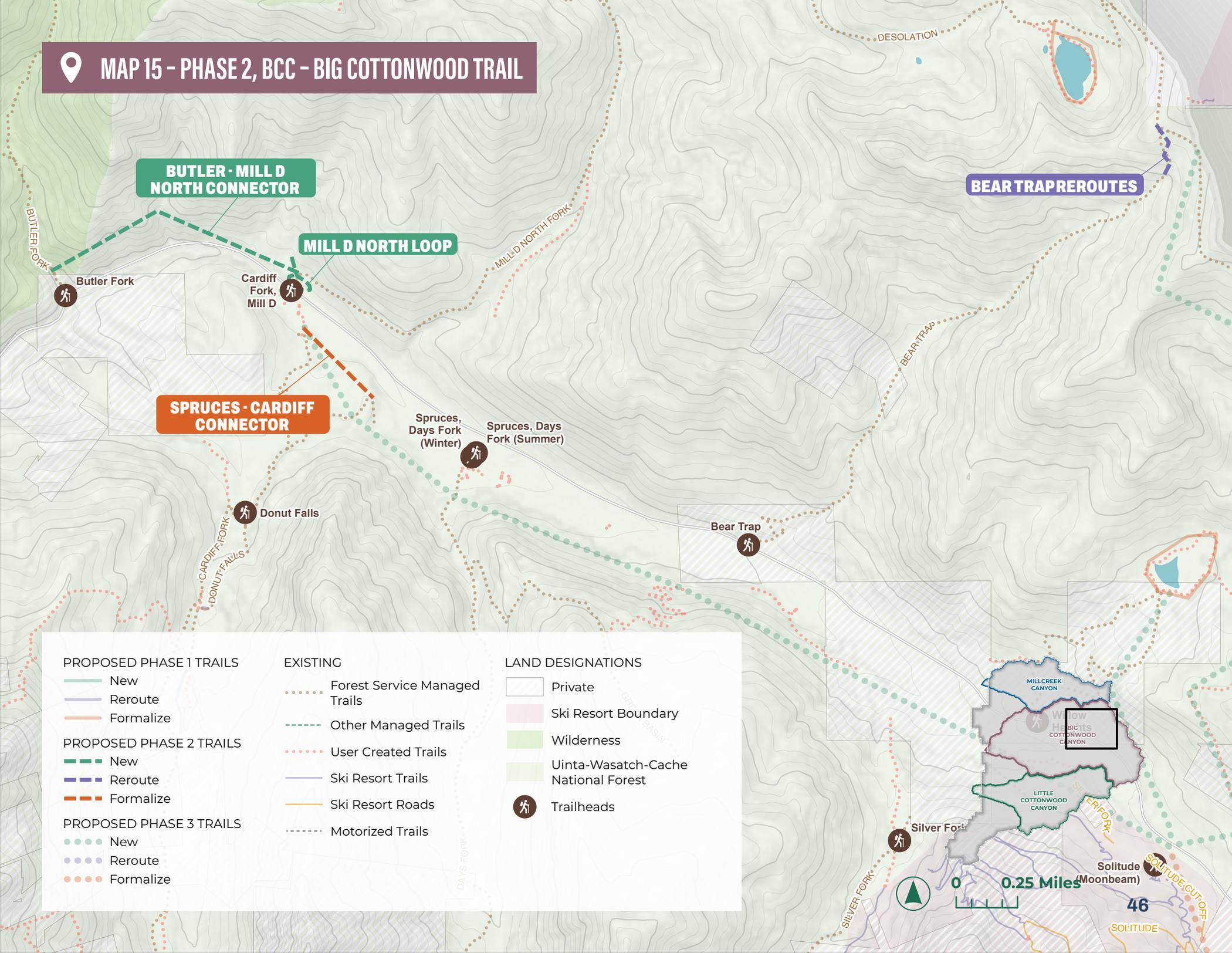
- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

EXISTING

- - - Forest Service Managed Trails
- - - Other Managed Trails
- - - User Created Trails
- Ski Resort Trails
- Ski Resort Roads
- - - Motorized Trails

LAND DESIGNATIONS

- Private
- Ski Resort Boundary
- Wilderness
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
- ⤴ Trailheads



0 0.25 Miles

46

3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 2

TABLE 15 – PHASE 2, BCC – BIG COTTONWOOD TRAIL

TRAIL NAME	DESIRED OUTCOME
BUTLER - MILL D NORTH CONNECTOR	Design a sustainable trail connecting Butler Fork and Mill D North trails.
MILL D NORTH LOOP	Design a short loop trail with easy grades, connecting to a spur trail leading to an old mine.
BEAR TRAP REROUTES	Design a sustainable top section of the trail from its connection with the Wasatch Crest Trail.
SPRUCES - CARDIFF CONNECTOR	Design sustainable easy to moderate trail connecting Spruces campground with desirable recreation opportunities in the Cardiff Boardwalk area.



MAP 16 - PHASE 2, BCC - MILL B AREA



HIDDEN FALLS (MILL B)

MILL B NORTH OVERLOOK

GRANITE FLUME LOOP

BLANCHE LAKE TRAIL REROUTES

BLANCHE LAKE LOOPS

PROPOSED PHASE 1 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 2 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 3 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

EXISTING

- Forest Service Managed Trails
- Other Managed Trails
- User Created Trails
- Ski Resort Trails
- Ski Resort Roads
- Motorized Trails

LAND DESIGNATIONS

- Private
- Ski Resort Boundary
- Wilderness
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
- Trailheads



3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 2

TABLE 16 – PHASE 2, BCC–MILL B AREA

TRAIL NAME	DESIRED OUTCOME
BLANCHE LAKE TRAIL REROUTES	Reroute steep, rocky trail sections with sustainable grades.
BLANCHE LAKE LOOPS	Design a sustainable trail around the lakes to protect the watershed and lakeshore vegetation. Close and restore user-created trails.
GRANITE FLUME LOOP	Design sustainable trail loop utilizing sections of the Granite Flume Trail. Close and restore user-created trails.
HIDDEN FALLS (MILL B)	Design short trail out of water from the Mill B north road crossing to the waterfall with an engineered destination.
MILL B NORTH OVERLOOK	Formalize a short trail with easy grades to an engineered hardened destination (overlook). Close and restore user-created trails.



MAP 17 - PHASE 2, LCC - WHITE PINE AREA & CARDIFF PASS

PROPOSED PHASE 1 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 2 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 3 TRAILS

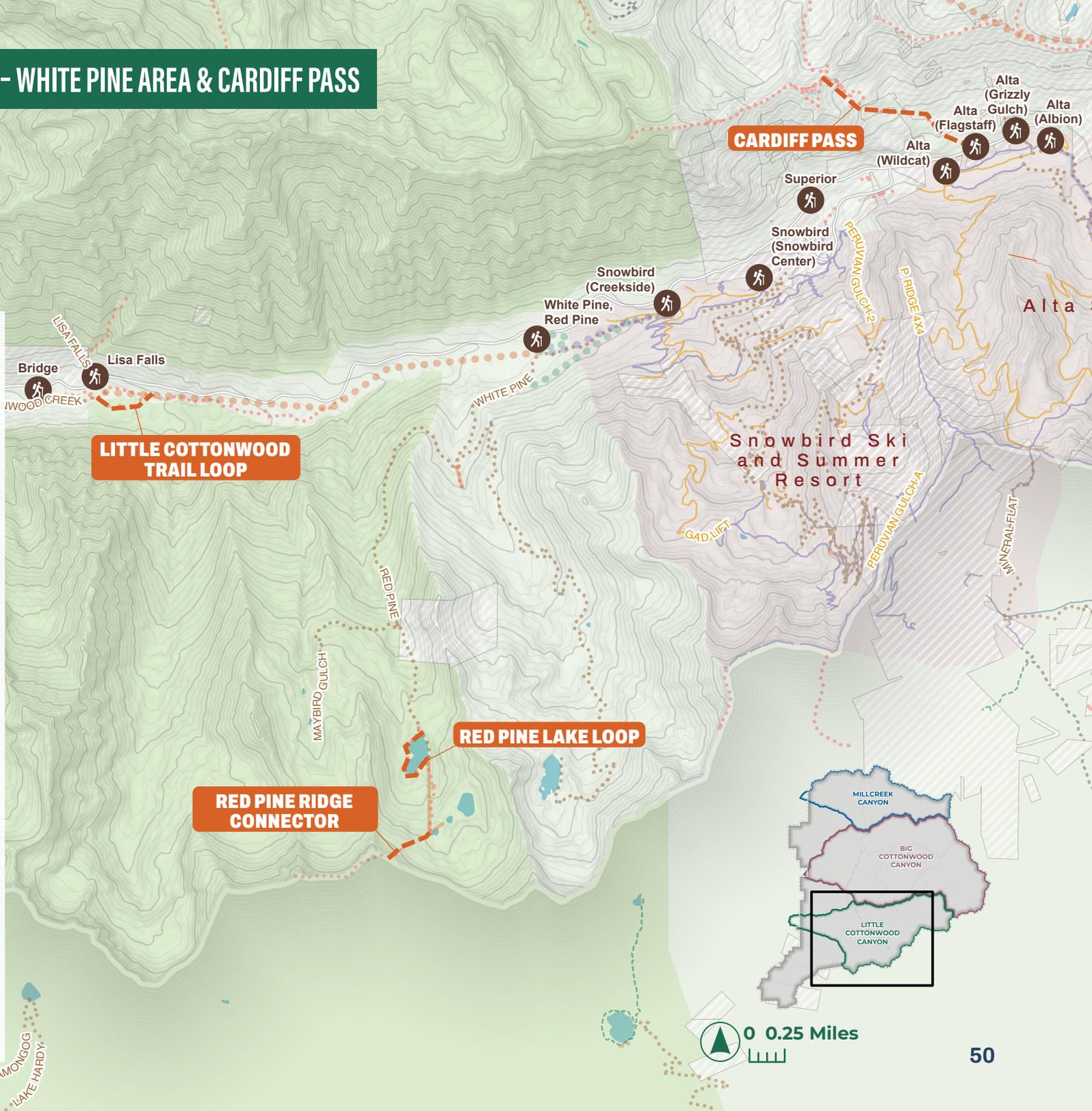
- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

EXISTING

- Forest Service Managed Trails
- Other Managed Trails
- User Created Trails
- Ski Resort Trails
- Ski Resort Roads
- Motorized Trails

LAND DESIGNATIONS

- Private
- Ski Resort Boundary
- Wilderness
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
- Trailheads



3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 2

TABLE 17 – PHASE 2, LCC – WHITE PINE AREA & CARDIFF PASS

TRAIL NAME	DESIRED OUTCOME
CARDIFF PASS	Utilize the mining road to design a sustainable trail from Alta to Cardiff Pass. Coordinate with landowners. Close and restore user-created trails.
LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON TRAIL LOOP	Clarify wilderness boundary and recreation opportunities. Design short loop trail with easy grades that is set back from Little Cottonwood Creek to protect watershed and shoreline vegetation. Close and restore user-created trails.
RED PINE LAKE LOOP	Design a sustainable trail around Red Pine Lake to protect the watershed and lakeshore vegetation. Close and restore user-created trails.
RED PINE RIDGE CONNECTOR	Design a sustainable trail with medium to steep grades to the ridgeline. Close and restore user-created trails.



MAP 18 - PHASE 2, WASATCH FRONT - GRANDEUR PEAK AREA

TABLE 18 - PHASE 2, WASATCH FRONT - GRANDEUR PEAK AREA

TRAIL NAME	DESIRED OUTCOME
GRANDEUR PEAK WEST	Design a sustainable trail with moderate to steep grades, providing a desired recreation opportunity.
NEFFS LOOP	Phase with Neffs Canyon Emergency Facilities Improvement projects. Design short, easy to medium-grade loop options. Close and restore user-created trails.

PROPOSED PHASE 1 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 2 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 3 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

EXISTING

- Forest Service Managed Trails
- Other Managed Trails
- User Created Trails
- Ski Resort Trails
- Ski Resort Roads
- Motorized Trails

LAND DESIGNATIONS

- Private
- Ski Resort Boundary
- Wilderness
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
- Trailheads

Grandeur (BST)

GRANDEUR PEAK WEST

BST-GRANDEUR PEAK TRACKS

Rattlesnake

PIPELINE

Church Fork

Desolation-Thaynes

DESOLATION

SHAWN CANYON

MILLCREEK CANYON

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON

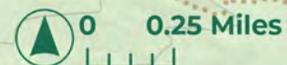
LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON

Neffs Canyon

NEFFS CANYON

NEFFS LOOP

Trail



3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 2

PHASE 3

Phase 3 projects will be planned or implemented in coordination with larger, separate projects occurring on the Forest. Either the purpose or the alignment of the trail is inherently tied to a separate, concurrent project occurring on the Forest, which could have different timelines.

For example, a family-friendly trail to Willow Lake from Solitude's lower parking lot (Moonbeam) will only be appropriate if or when a transit hub and pedestrian cross-walk are in place.

Other phase 3 projects are conceptual, or not yet ready, but may move forward as conditions warrant. For example, when detrimental resource impacts occur, or changes in recreation patterns, etc.





MAP 19 - ALL PHASE 3 TRAILS

PROPOSED TRAILS ARE CONCEPTUAL, NOT ACTUAL ALIGNMENTS OR EXACT LOCATIONS

PROPOSED PHASE 1 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 2 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 3 TRAILS

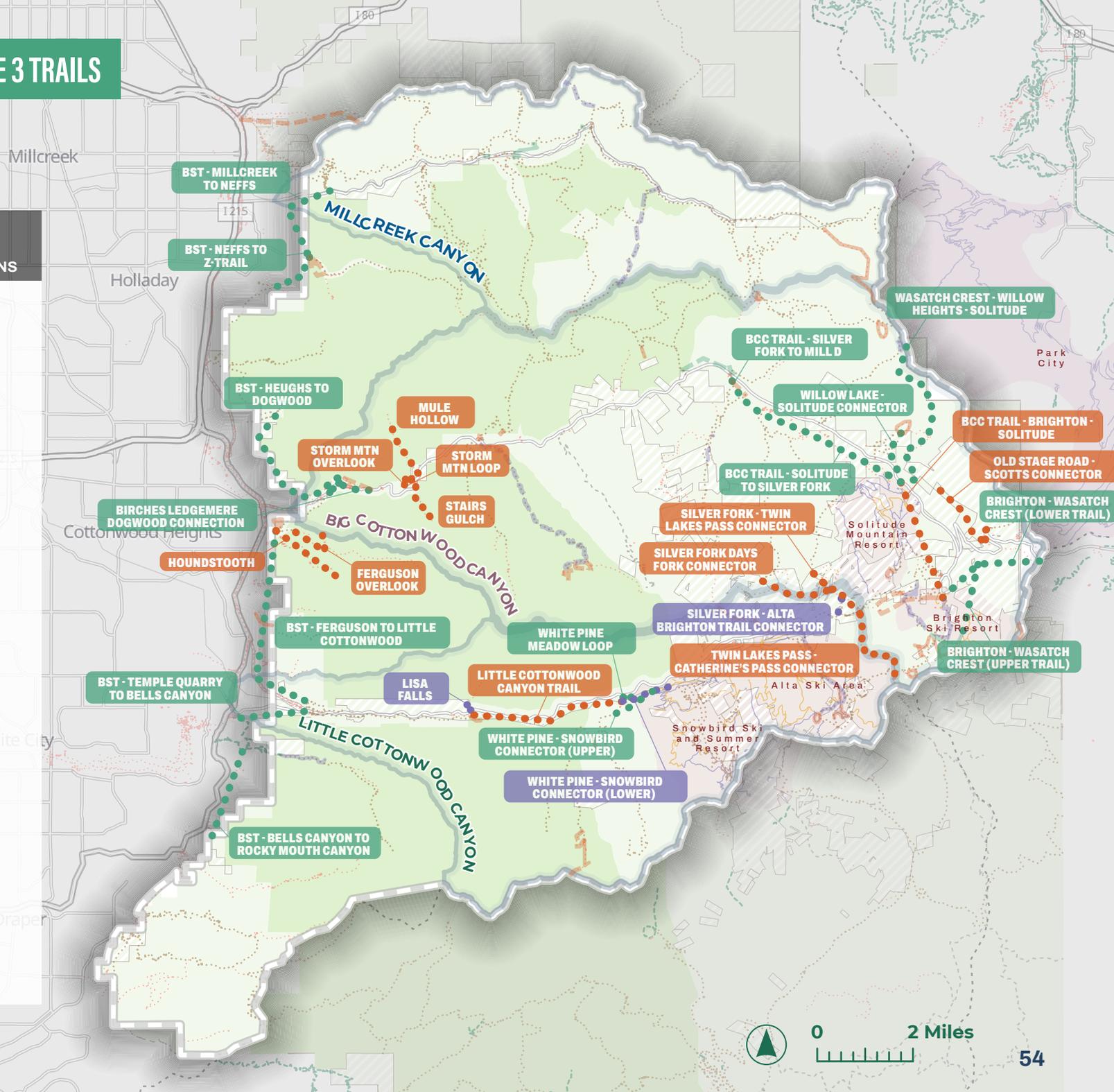
- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

EXISTING

- Forest Service Managed Trails
- Other Managed Trails
- User Created Trails
- Ski Resort Trails
- Ski Resort Roads
- Motorized Trails

LAND DESIGNATIONS

- Private
- Ski Resort Boundary
- Wilderness
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest



3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 3

TABLE 19 – PHASE 3 TRAIL PROJECTS

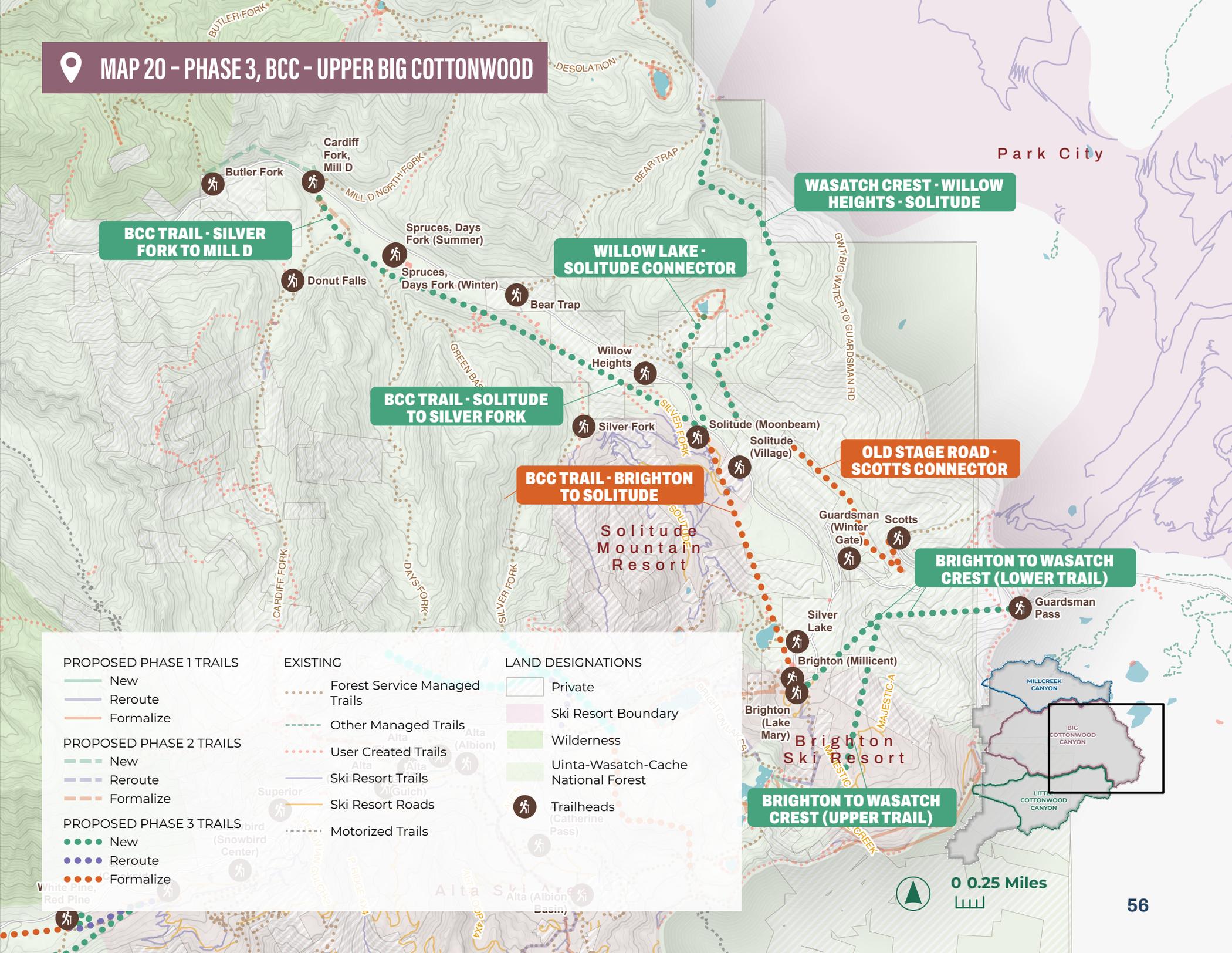
CANYON	TRAIL PROJECT NAME	TYPE	MAP/TABLE #
BCC	BCC Trail - Silver Fork to Mill D	<i>New</i>	20
	BCC Trail - Solitude to Silver Fork	<i>New</i>	20
	Birches-Ledgemere-Dogwood Connection	<i>New</i>	21
	Brighton to Wasatch Crest (lower trail)	<i>New</i>	20
	Brighton to Wasatch Crest (upper trail)	<i>New</i>	20
	Wasatch Crest - Willow Heights - Solitude	<i>New</i>	20
	Willow Lake - Solitude Connector	<i>New</i>	20
	BCC Trail - Brighton to Solitude	<i>Formalize</i>	20
	Mule Hollow	<i>Formalize</i>	21
	Old Stage Road - Scotts Connector	<i>Formalize</i>	20
	Stairs Gulch	<i>Formalize</i>	21
	Storm Mountain Loop	<i>Formalize</i>	21
	Storm Mountain Overlook	<i>Formalize</i>	21
	LCC	White Pine Meadow Loop	<i>New</i>
White Pine - Snowbird Connector (upper)		<i>New</i>	23
Lisa Falls		<i>Reroute</i>	23
Silver Fork - Alta-Brighton Trail Connector		<i>Reroute</i>	22
White Pine - Snowbird Connector (lower, existing)		<i>Reroute</i>	23

PHASE 3 TRAIL PROJECTS CONTINUED

CANYON	TRAIL PROJECT NAME	TYPE	MAP/TABLE #
LCC	American Fork Twins (wilderness)	<i>Formalize</i>	26
	Little Cottonwood Canyon Trail	<i>Formalize</i>	23
	Pfeifferhorn (wilderness)	<i>Formalize</i>	23
	Silver Fork - Days Fork Connector	<i>Formalize</i>	22
	Silver Fork - Twin Lakes Pass Connector	<i>Formalize</i>	22
WF	Twin Lakes Pass - Catherine's Pass Connector	<i>New</i>	22
	BST - Ferguson to Little Cottonwood	<i>New</i>	25
	BST - Heughs to Dogwood	<i>New</i>	24
	BST - Millcreek to Neffs	<i>New</i>	24
	BST - Neffs to Z-trail	<i>New</i>	24
	BST - Temple Quarry to Bells Canyon	<i>New</i>	25
	Ferguson Overlook	<i>Formalize</i>	25
	Houndstooth	<i>Formalize</i>	25
	Mount Olympus (wilderness)	<i>Formalize</i>	26
	Salt Lake Twins (wilderness)	<i>Formalize</i>	26
	Sawmill to Rocky Mouth Canyon Peak (wilderness)	<i>Formalize</i>	26



MAP 20 - PHASE 3, BCC - UPPER BIG COTTONWOOD



BCC TRAIL - SILVER FORK TO MILL D

WILLOW LAKE - SOLITUDE CONNECTOR

WASATCH CREST - WILLOW HEIGHTS - SOLITUDE

BCC TRAIL - SOLITUDE TO SILVER FORK

BCC TRAIL - BRIGHTON TO SOLITUDE

OLD STAGE ROAD - SCOTTS CONNECTOR

BRIGHTON TO WASATCH CREST (LOWER TRAIL)

BRIGHTON TO WASATCH CREST (UPPER TRAIL)

PROPOSED PHASE 1 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 2 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 3 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

EXISTING

- Forest Service Managed Trails
- Other Managed Trails
- User Created Trails
- Ski Resort Trails
- Ski Resort Roads
- Motorized Trails

LAND DESIGNATIONS

- Private
- Ski Resort Boundary
- Wilderness
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
- Trailheads (Catherine Pass)

0 0.25 Miles



3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 3

TABLE 20 – PHASE 3, BCC – UPPER BIG COTTONWOOD

TRAIL NAME	DESIRED OUTCOME
BCC TRAIL - SILVER FORK TO MILL D	Design a sustainable trail with easy grades connecting Silver Fork, Spruces, Cardiff Meadow, and Mill D. Coordinate with landowners.
BCC TRAIL - SOLITUDE TO SILVER FORK	Design a sustainable trail with easy grades connecting Solitude and Silver Fork. Coordinate with landowners.
BRIGHTON TO WASATCH CREST (LOWER TRAIL)	Design a sustainable bike trail to connect lower Brighton (Lake Mary Trailhead) to the Wasatch Crest.
BRIGHTON TO WASATCH CREST (UPPER TRAIL)	Design a sustainable bike trail to connect upper Brighton (Majestic Lift area) to the Wasatch Crest.
WASATCH CREST - WILLOW HEIGHTS - SOLITUDE	Design a sustainable mountain bike trail with moderate grades connecting the Wasatch Crest, upper Willow Lakes, and Solitude. Help reduce traffic on Guardsman Pass, by providing new loop and access points. Verify property ownership and necessary easement.
WILLOW LAKE - SOLITUDE CONNECTOR	Phase with Big Cottonwood Mobility Plan. Connect the major trailhead hub at Moonbeam to the popular Willow Lakes trail. Design wide, sustainable trail with easy grades. Coordinate with Solitude Resort and UDOT on possible highway crossing options.
BCC TRAIL - BRIGHTON TO SOLITUDE	Design a sustainable trail with easy grades connecting Brighton, Silver Lake, Redman Campground, and Solitude. Coordinate with landowners.
OLD STAGE ROAD - SCOTTS CONNECTOR	Design a sustainable mountain bike trail connecting the Old Stage Road and Scotts trail, which will provide additional access to the Wasatch Crest.

MAP 21 - PHASE 3, BCC - LOWER BIG COTTONWOOD



BST - HEUGHS TO DOGWOOD

BIRCHES-LEDGEMERE-DOGWOOD CONNECTION

MULE HOLLOW

STORM MOUNTAIN LOOP

STORM MOUNTAIN OVERLOOK

STAIRS GULCH

PROPOSED PHASE 1 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 2 TRAILS

- - - New
- - - Reroute
- - - Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 3 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

EXISTING

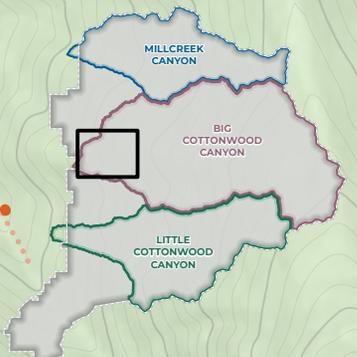
- ⋯ Forest Service Managed Trails
- - - Other Managed Trails
- ⋯ User Created Trails
- Ski Resort Trails
- Ski Resort Roads
- ⋯ Motorized Trails

LAND DESIGNATIONS

- Private
- Ski Resort Boundary
- Wilderness
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
- ⤴ Trailheads



0 0.25 Miles



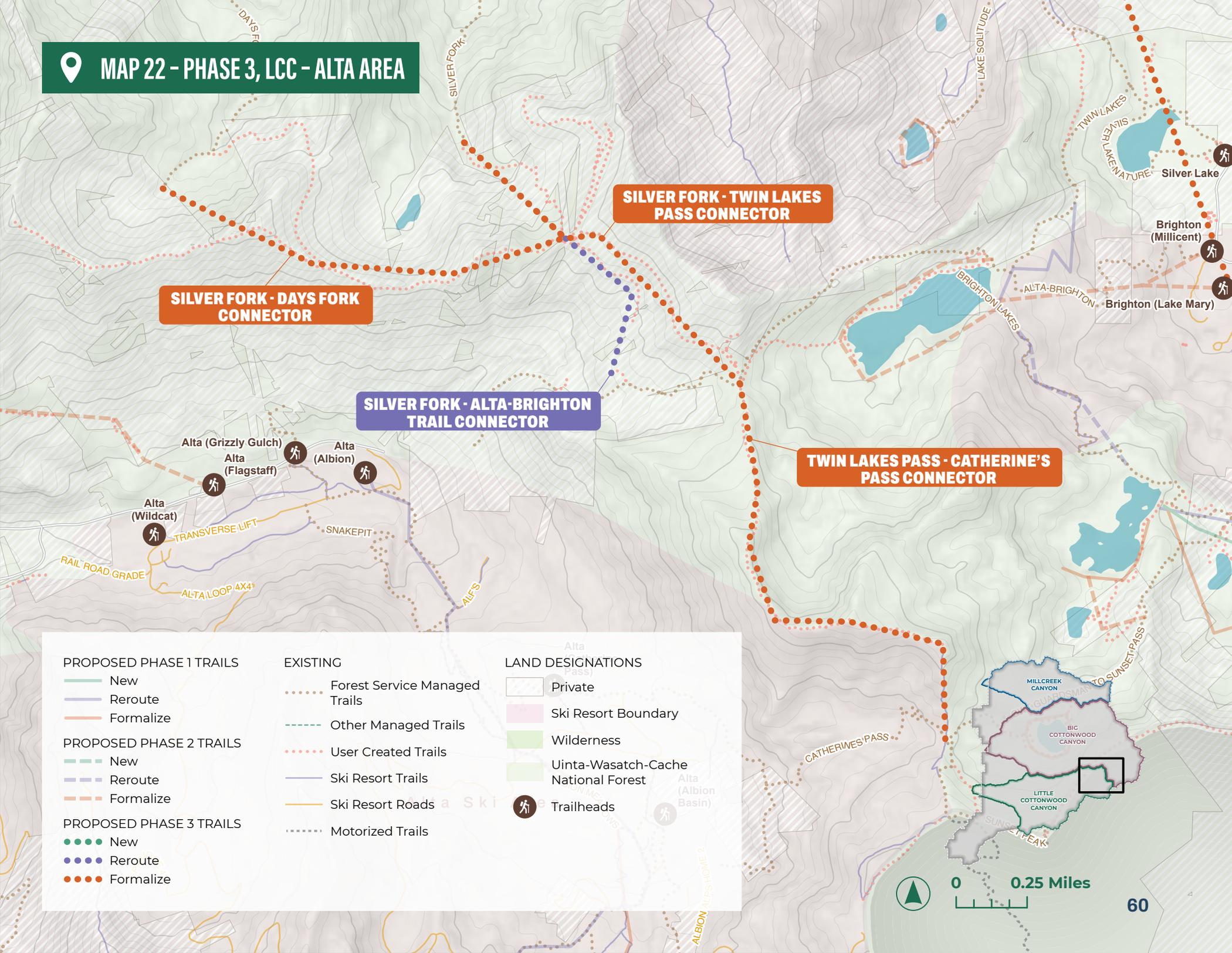
3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 3

TABLE 21 – PHASE 3, BCC – LOWER BIG COTTONWOOD

TRAIL NAME	DESIRED OUTCOME
BIRCHES - LEDGEMERE - DOGWOOD CONNECTOR	Design sustainable trail connecting three picnic areas to provide a desirable recreation opportunity while picnicking. Close and restore user-created trails.
BST - HEUGHS TO DOGWOOD	See <i>Table 24</i>
MULE HOLLOW	Phase with trailhead improvements. Coordinate with Salt Lake Climbers Alliance on community needs. Formalize a sustainable trail with medium to steep grades to reduce erosion and provide desired recreation experience. Close and restore user-created trails
STAIRS GULCH	Phase with trailhead improvements. Coordinate with the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance on community needs. Formalize a sustainable trail with medium to steep grades to provide a desired recreation experience. Close and restore user-created trails.
STORM MOUNTAIN LOOP	Coordinate with concessionaire and trailhead improvements. Design a loop hike around the meadow on a wide trail with easy grades. Close and restore user-created trails.
STORM MOUNTAIN OVERLOOK	Coordinate with concessionaire and trailhead improvements. Design a wide trail with moderate grades to an engineered hardened destination at the viewpoint. Close and restore user-created trails.



MAP 22 - PHASE 3, LCC - ALTA AREA



SILVER FORK - DAYS FORK CONNECTOR

SILVER FORK - TWIN LAKES PASS CONNECTOR

SILVER FORK - ALTA-BRIGHTON TRAIL CONNECTOR

TWIN LAKES PASS - CATHERINE'S PASS CONNECTOR

PROPOSED PHASE 1 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 2 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 3 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

EXISTING

- Forest Service Managed Trails
- Other Managed Trails
- User Created Trails
- Ski Resort Trails
- Ski Resort Roads
- Motorized Trails

LAND DESIGNATIONS

- Private
- Ski Resort Boundary
- Wilderness
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
- Trailheads



0 0.25 Miles

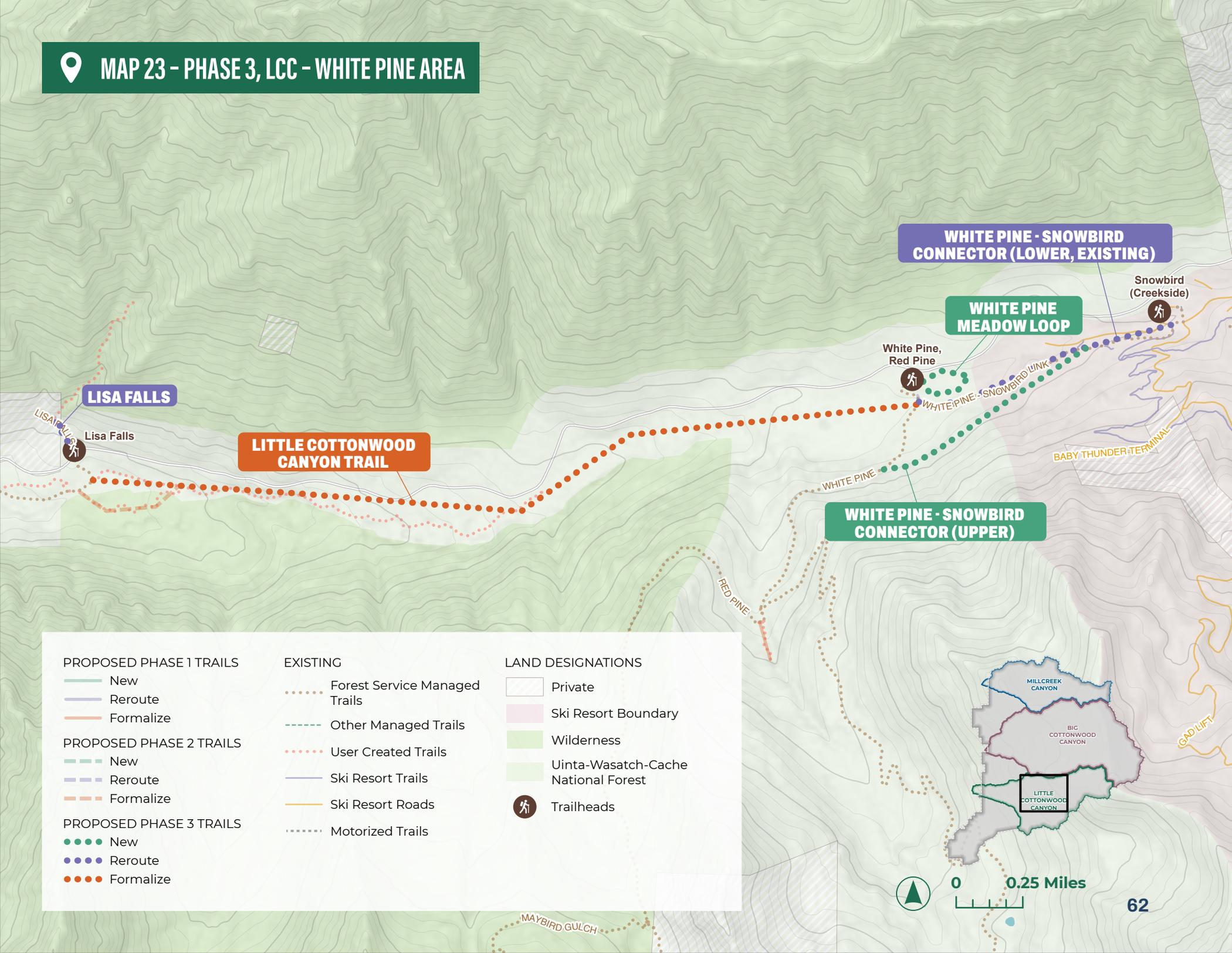
3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 3

TABLE 22 – PHASE 3, LCC – ALTA AREA

TRAIL NAME	DESIRED OUTCOME
SILVER FORK - ALTA BRIGHTON TRAIL CONNECTOR	Design a sustainable trail to connect Silver Fork trail and the Alta-Brighton trail.
SILVER FORK - DAYS FORK CONNECTOR	Design sustainable trails connecting high alpine trails. Connect Silver Fork and Days Fork trails via the ridge over Davenport Hill/East Pass. Close and restore user-created trails.
SILVER FORK - TWIN LAKES PASS CONNECTOR	Design a sustainable trail to connect Silver Fork trail and Twin Lakes Pass (utilize Lazy Prince Trail).
TWIN LAKES PASS - CATHERINE'S PASS CONNECTOR	Design a sustainable trail connecting Catherine's Pass and Twin Lakes Pass (over Patsy Marley, Mt Wolverine, Mt Tuscarora). Coordinate with landowners.



MAP 23 - PHASE 3, LCC - WHITE PINE AREA



LISA FALLS

Lisa Falls

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON TRAIL

WHITE PINE - SNOWBIRD CONNECTOR (LOWER, EXISTING)

WHITE PINE MEADOW LOOP

White Pine, Red Pine

WHITE PINE - SNOWBIRD CONNECTOR (UPPER)

Snowbird (Creekside)

BABY THUNDER TERMINAL

RED PINE

MILLCREEK CANYON

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON

LAND LIFT

MAYBIRD GULCH

PROPOSED PHASE 1 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 2 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 3 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

EXISTING

- Forest Service Managed Trails
- Other Managed Trails
- User Created Trails
- Ski Resort Trails
- Ski Resort Roads
- Motorized Trails

LAND DESIGNATIONS

- ▨ Private
- ▨ Ski Resort Boundary
- ▨ Wilderness
- ▨ Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
- ⚡ Trailheads



0 0.25 Miles

3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 3

TABLE 23 – PHASE 3, LCC – WHITE PINE AREA

TRAIL NAME	DESIRED OUTCOME
WHITE PINE MEADOW LOOP	Design short, family-friendly loop trail in the aspen groves. Phase with Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS proposal for trailhead improvement.
WHITE PINE - SNOWBIRD CONNECTOR (UPPER)	Design a contouring, family-friendly trail from Snowbird Resort to the Red Pine - White Pine trail junction. If separating users, mountain bikes could connect to the White Pine Trailhead via a separate trail (labeled White Pine - Snowbird Connector Lower, Existing).
LISA FALLS	Design a sustainable, family-friendly trail with an engineered destination to view Lisa Falls. Phase with Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS proposal for trailhead improvement.
WHITE PINE - SNOWBIRD CONNECTOR (LOWER, EXISTING)	Improve trail providing access from Snowbird Resort to White Pine trailhead. If separating users, this trail could allow mountain bikes, while a separate hiker trail (labeled White Pine - Snowbird Connector upper) connects at the White-Red Pine trail junction.
LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON TRAIL	Formalize a sustainable multi-use trail, or separate uses, on trails running the length of Little Cottonwood Canyon. Utilize existing trails where possible. Phase with Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS.

3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 3

TABLE 24 – PHASE 3, WASATCH FRONT - BONNEVILLE SHORELINE TRAIL (BST) NORTH

TRAIL NAME	DESIRED OUTCOME
BST - HEUGHS TO DOGWOOD	Continue to implement sections of the BST - a mixed-use recreation trail connecting the Wasatch Front. Connection with Granite Flume (out of the Dogwood Trailhead) section needs a sustainable trail with easy to moderate grades. It's south-facing, lower-elevation trails provides winter hiking options. This connection, via Granite Flume, needs bridges, engineering support, and historical review. Close and restore user-created trails.
BST - MILLCREEK TO NEFFS	Continue to implement sections of the BST - a mixed-use recreation trail connecting the Wasatch Front.
BST - NEFFS TO Z-TRAIL	Continue to implement sections of the BST - a mixed-use recreation trail connecting the Wasatch Front.

MAP 25 - PHASE 3, WASATCH FRONT - BONNEVILLE SHORELINE TRAIL (BST) SOUTH

PROPOSED PHASE 1 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 2 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

PROPOSED PHASE 3 TRAILS

- New
- Reroute
- Formalize

EXISTING

- Forest Service Managed Trails
- Other Managed Trails
- User Created Trails
- Ski Resort Trails
- Ski Resort Roads
- Motorized Trails

LAND DESIGNATIONS

- Private
- Ski Resort Boundary
- Wilderness
- Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
- Trailheads

BST - TEMPLE QUARRY TO BELLS CANYON

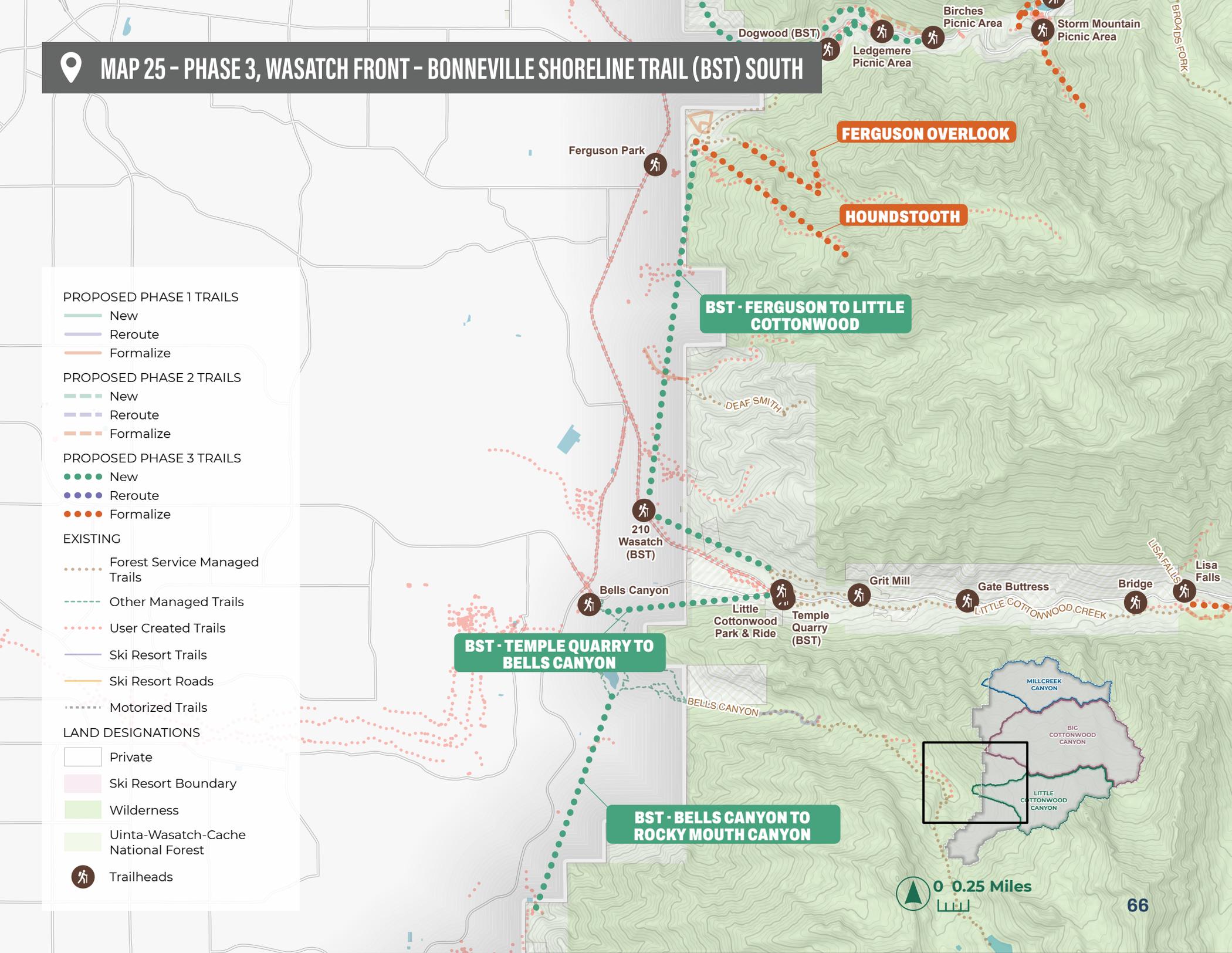
BST - FERGUSON TO LITTLE COTTONWOOD

BST - BELLS CANYON TO ROCKY MOUTH CANYON

FERGUSON OVERLOOK

HOUNDSTOOTH

0 0.25 Miles



3 - TRAIL NETWORK, PHASE 3

TABLE 25 – PHASE 3, WASATCH FRONT – BONNEVILLE SHORELINE TRAIL (BST) SOUTH

TRAIL NAME	DESIRED OUTCOME
BST - BELLS CANYON TO ROCKY MOUTH CANYON	Continue to implement sections of the BST - a mixed-use recreation trail connecting the Wasatch Front.
BST - FERGUSON TO LITTLE COTTONWOOD	Continue to implement sections of the BST - a mixed-use recreation trail connecting the Wasatch Front.
BST - TEMPLE QUARRY TO BELLS CANYON	Continue to implement sections of the BST - a mixed-use recreation trail connecting the Wasatch Front.
FERGUSON OVERLOOK	Sustainable trail with moderate grades up to a ridgeline with an engineered hardened destination. Close and restore user-created trails.
HOUNDSTOOTH	Design a sustainable trail with moderate to steep grades providing a desired recreation opportunity. Close and restore user-created trails.

3 - TRAIL NETWORK

ALPINE TRAILS

As visitation to the Tri-Canyons becomes more popular so do its peaks, ridgelines, and alpine trails. When visitation along these routes increases so should attention to needed formalization, rerouting, and restoring of user-created trails.

WILDERNESS TRAILS

All 3 phases of trail implementation propose actions on user-created trails within designated wilderness areas. Such trail projects call for a sustainable reroute, formalization, and the restoration of unnecessary user-created trails in the area. The Wasatch-Cache National Forest Plan provides specific guidance for trails in wilderness:

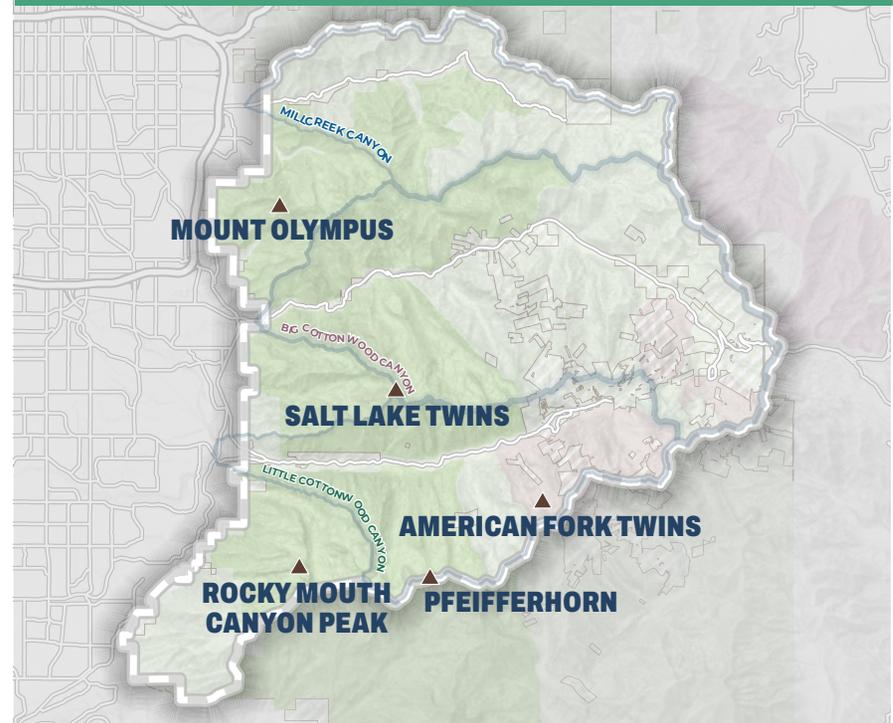
- ▶ *Additional trails will not be built into the wilderness except to facilitate short segments of the Bonneville Shoreline Trail along the wilderness Wasatch Front boundary and only where absolutely necessary to minimize resource impacts or to better manage visitor use. Wilderness character and values will be maintained, especially in pristine low-use areas where deterioration is prevented. Those user-created routes that receive high use will be evaluated for inclusion in the trail system and, if included [formalized], will be properly maintained.¹²*

To preserve wilderness character a general practice for user-created trails in wilderness is to balance the miles of user-created trails made sustainable and formalized with miles of user-created trails closed and restored. This often looks like identifying a sustainable trail in a nest of braided user-created trails, that is formalized while all other trails are closed and restored (see **Figure 8** on page 17).

TABLE 26 – PHASE 3, WILDERNESS AREA TRAILS

CANYON		TRAIL NAME
LCC		AMERICAN FORK TWINS
LCC		PFEIFFERHORN (WILDERNESS)
WF		MOUNT OLYMPUS (WILDERNESS)
WF		SALT LAKE TWINS (WILDERNESS)
WF		SAWMILL TO ROCKY MOUTH CANYON PEAK

MAP 26 – PEAKS



3 - TRAIL NETWORK

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

Trail maintenance, or the upkeep of existing trails, is crucial to a sustainable trail network, and must occur simultaneously with the phased implementation of trail projects. Trail maintenance should be regularly scheduled to maintain both old and new trails, each of which is vital to the Tri-Canyons trail network.

Forest Service funding is currently insufficient for the Tri-Canyon's operation and maintenance (O&M) schedules and its deferred maintenance backlog. Minor trail maintenance is accomplished yearly, but larger maintenance projects outspend the SLRD's capacity (time, labor, funds). Though the SLRD has amazingly supportive partners, grants, and volunteers, this is not an efficient or a sustainable model for the future.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE COSTS CONSIST OF:

1. Operations and maintenance (O&M), such as clearing down trees, cleaning waterbars, repairing tread, brushing back plants growing into a trail.
2. Deferred maintenance includes repairing or replacing bridges, retaining walls, washouts, signage.



IDEAS TO RESOLVE THE FOREST'S LIMITED CAPACITY FOR TRAIL MAINTENANCE:

- ✓ Secure dependable long-term funding source(s) for O&M
- ✓ Harness separate funding opportunities for deferred maintenance projects
- ✓ Seek adequate Forest Service funds to align with SLRD needs (currently, bigger forests are not guaranteed or given bigger funds)
- ✓ Capitalize on local funding opportunities for our backyard Forest
 - National Visitor Use Monitoring shows the majority of visitors to the Tri-Canyons drive an average of 8-miles from their homes to recreate in the Forest¹¹

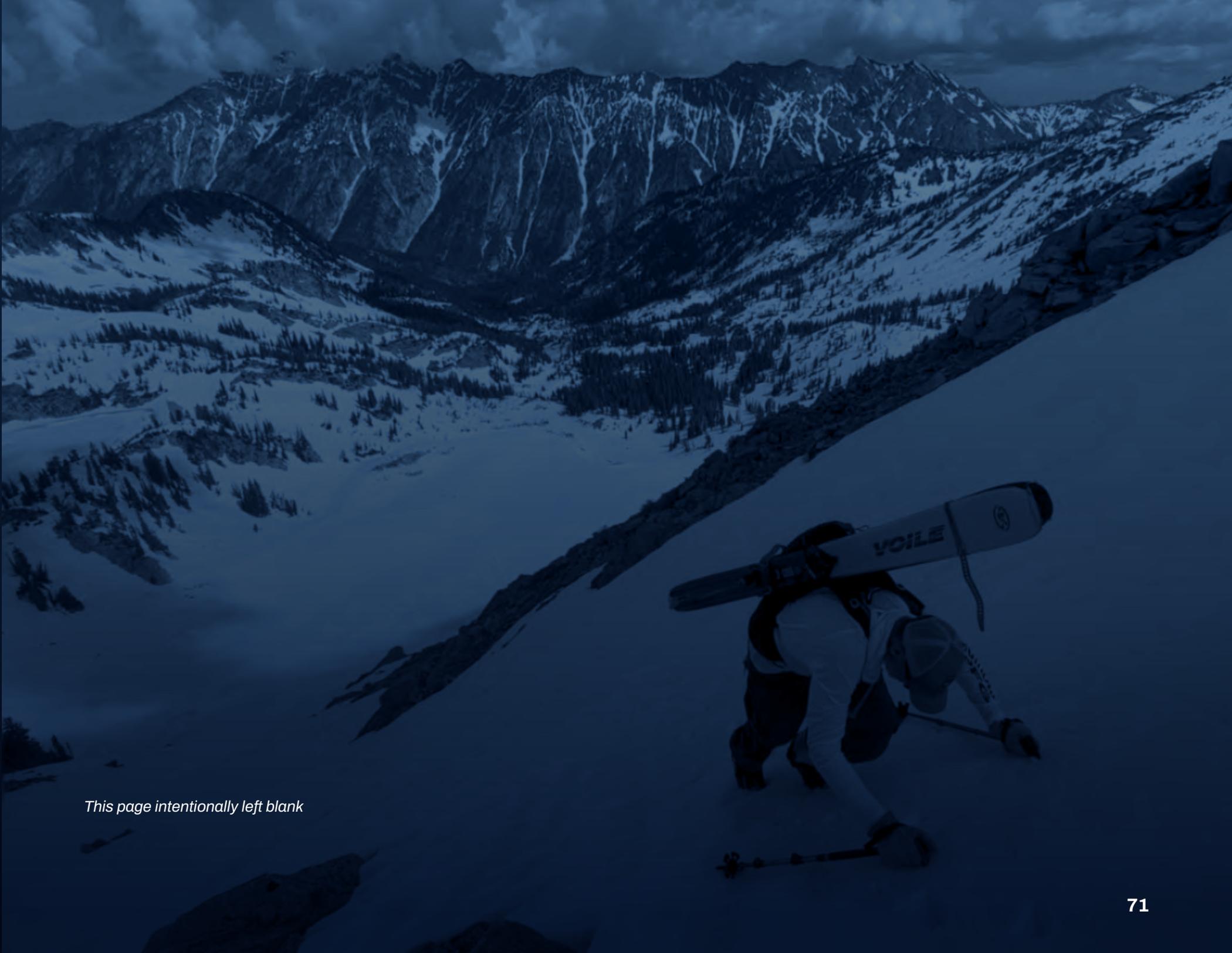
3 - TRAIL NETWORK



TRAIL MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

All U.S. Forest Service trails are intentionally designed with agency Trail Management Objectives (TMOs), which include a purpose and specific criteria. TMOs are a management tool that supports trail planning by requiring each trail to have a description of its intended purpose, management needs, and trail specifications. These specifications include trail type (standard, snow, water), trail class (development level), design parameters (width, surface, grade, etc.), and use types (hike, bike, horse, ski).

TMOs help trail planners identify the intended use and user of each trail, the correct specifications for trail building and maintenance, and sustainable design for various landscapes. For example, a hiking trail can be intentionally built as steep when there is a desire for that type of recreational opportunity and if the trail can be sustainably built in that landscape (i.e. mountainous terrain). In contrast, a different trail may be designed to be wide and flat, with hardened surfaces to accommodate high use and welcome people with all abilities. This intentional approach to trail building considers both the desire for different types of recreation and whether a trail can be sustainably built on the landscape to meet that need. TMOs recognize that not all trails are the same, nor are they all meant for the same uses!



This page intentionally left blank



4- Recreation Strategies

- ▶ Management
- ▶ Visitor Conflict
- ▶ E-bikes
- ▶ Climbing Access Trails
- ▶ Ski Resort Summer Recreation
- ▶ Winter Recreation Opportunities

4 - RECREATION STRATEGIES

MANAGING RECREATION TO PROTECT RESOURCES

The U.S. Forest Service utilizes various recreation strategies to meet its top priority of protecting natural resources while offering diverse recreation opportunities. Such strategies may include but are not limited to education, talking points, planning processes, policies, rules, and regulations.

Recreation strategies are implemented by the U.S. Forest Service using the adaptive management process, a structured and cyclical process that utilizes feedback from monitoring to test assumptions and guide decisions under changing conditions. This approach, along with guidance from the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Plan, will be applied when reviewing the various components of recreation in the Tri-Canyons.

RECREATION STRATEGIES:

- ▶ Reduce Visitor Conflict
- ▶ E-Bikes
- ▶ Climbing Access Trails
- ▶ Ski Resort Summer Recreation
- ▶ Winter Recreation Opportunities



TRI-CANYON RECREATION STRATEGIES SHOULD:

- ✓ Implement actions that achieve Forest Plan Desired Future Conditions
- ✓ Protect natural resources from detrimental impacts
- ✓ Provide diverse recreation opportunities
- ✓ Facilitate positive recreation experiences

4 - RECREATION STRATEGIES

REDUCE VISITOR CONFLICT

U.S. Forest Service trails in the Tri-Canyons have historically allowed multi-use (hiking and biking) on the same trail. With rising visitation, user-conflicts have increased in some areas, prompting the need to review strategies to reduce both conflicts and related detrimental resource impacts.

Recreation Strategies range from education and signage, to trail designs and designations, to restrictions of days or user groups. Trail design may reduce visitor conflict by separating visitors or encouraging direction of travel. Regulations restricting user type may be necessary when no other solutions exist, and will be used sparingly to avoid both confusion and reduction of recreation opportunities.



RECREATION STRATEGIES TO REDUCE VISITOR CONFLICT

- ▶ **Utilize a spectrum of strategies including education, recommendations, and regulations¹⁸**
- ▶ **Use regulations restricting use or user type sparingly to avoid confusion, reduce recreation opportunities, or remove access**
- ▶ **Implement strategies where:**
 - Similar management exists
 - Forest Service presence is high
 - No other solution exists
 - Existing use patterns are reflected
 - No visitor group feels a major loss
- ▶ **Utilize trail design options to separate visitor types or to encourage directional travel**
- ▶ **Consider existing recreation patterns and conflicts when designing new trails and applying recreation strategies (directional travel, single use trails, odd/even day use)**

4 - RECREATION STRATEGIES

TABLE 27 – RECREATION STRATEGIES TO REDUCE VISITOR CONFLICT:

STRATEGY	RATIONALE	CURRENT EXAMPLES	FUTURE ACTIONS
<p>In limited areas, require hikers to stay on Forest Service trails</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ In sensitive locations require hikers to stay on trails to reduce detrimental impacts to natural resources (trampling plants, entering water, etc.). Exceptions may be necessary (e.g. fishing access) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Albion Meadows ▶ Silver Lake Boardwalk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Monitor detrimental impacts at Cardiff Meadows (boardwalk area) for possible requirements for visitors to stay on trails.
<p>Require mountain bikers to stay on designated trails</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Reduce detrimental impacts to watershed, vegetation, and wildlife. ▶ Eliminate illegal mountain bike trail construction. Follow Wasatch-Cache National Forest Plan standards for mechanized access only on designated trails. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest ▶ National Parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Educate, monitor, and enforce throughout the Salt Lake Ranger District (includes the Tri-Canyons).
<p>In limited areas, separate hikers and bikers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Conflict between hikers and bikers is expected on popular multiple-use trails, and is an acceptable trade-off for access and flexibility. ▶ Prioritize education and trail design to separate hikers and bikers. ▶ Recognize historic use patterns and user expectations when implementing regulations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Silver Lake Boardwalk (hike only) ▶ Jacobs Ladder (downhill bike only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Designate the following trails as hiker only: Lake Mary, Twin Lakes, Catherine Pass, Willow Lake Loop, Albion Meadows, Secret Lake, Gloria Falls, Cardiff Boardwalk ▶ Designate the following trails as biker only: New Willow Heights, Ski Resort Trails at Solitude & Brighton (multiple and growing)
<p>Expand even/odd day mountain bike use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Consistently apply the odd/even day mountain bike rule throughout all of Millcreek Canyon (upper and lower Millcreek). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Upper Millcreek Canyons Trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Monitor conflicts and detrimental resource impacts for the need for an all canyon odd/even mountain bike rule in Millcreek Canyon (upper & lower canyon).

4 - RECREATION STRATEGIES

E-BIKES

The Forest Service classifies e-bikes as a motorized use in its Motorized Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM), which identifies where any class of e-bike (1-3) is allowed.³⁶ Currently, the SLRD MVUM shows that e-bikes are allowed only on motorized trails and roads, ruling out all trails in the Tri-Canyons (except Mineral Fork in Big Cottonwood Canyon). To legally allow e-bikes on additional trails, the Forest is required to go through an environmental assessment to review how this change would impact trails. Agency, stakeholder, and public engagement revealed e-bike use needs to be evaluated in a separate process, as it is beyond the scope of this plan.



RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES FOR E-BIKES

- ▶ **Stay current on relevant e-bike research**
 - E-bikes have similar impacts and downhill speeds as mountain bikes
 - Visitor numbers may increase as more people begin to use e-bikes
 - E-bikes enable different visitors to enjoy trails
 - More visitors may go further on trails
- ▶ **Remain engaged with land managers on e-bike management actions**
 - Local land managers: Draper, Park City, Salt Lake City, Salt Lake County
 - Federal land managers: Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service
- ▶ **Continue to coordinate with agencies on e-bike management plan**
 - Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest (and Districts)
 - National Forest Service Recreation Leadership

4 - RECREATION STRATEGIES

CLIMBING ACCESS TRAILS

World-class climbing routes in the Cottonwood Canyons draw climbers from across the region. Increasing visitation throughout the Wasatch, is also evident on trails accessing rock climbing and bouldering routes.

Climbing access trails are primarily used by climbers to reach the base of a climbing route from a parking area, travel between routes, or to descend from the top of a climb. These trails are often not intentionally or sustainably designed; instead, they tend to follow the path of least resistance—avoiding obstacles and minimizing the effort required to reach a climb³⁷. As a result, climbing access trails are frequently informal and poorly defined, traversing steep slopes on loose dirt or scree, creating a web of user-created trails. The Salt Lake Ranger District and the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance, the local climbing organization, will continue collaborating to identify and improve climbing access trails.



RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES FOR CLIMBING ACCESS TRAILS

- ▶ **Identify climbing access trails to improve**
 - Identify high-use climbing areas to intentionally design or reroute sustainable climbing access trails.
 - Close and restore user-created trails.
- ▶ **Harden staging and belaying areas**
 - Install erosion-control features at popular belay zones, especially on steep slopes, to reduce resource impacts and increase safety.
- ▶ **Install directional signage**
 - Place signs at key junctions and access points to guide climbers to popular routes using sustainable trails, reducing off-trail travel and minimizing the creation of new user-created trails.
- ▶ **Monitor and adapt**
 - Continue to monitor climbing use and impacts to identify emerging problem areas and prioritize trail improvements or closures using adaptive management.

Successful examples: Alpenbock (Little Cottonwood Canyon), Storm Mountain (Big Cottonwood Canyon), where sustainable trails were constructed, user-created trails were closed and restored, and signage was installed.

4 - RECREATION STRATEGIES

SKI RESORT SUMMER RECREATION

The U.S. Forest Service will continue to coordinate with ski resorts on their year-round planning and development within their ski areas. The *Tri-Canyon Trails Plan* focuses on how ski resorts and the SLRD collaborate on summer recreation opportunities. The recreational opportunities in **Table 28** apply to all four ski resorts in the Tri-Canyons (Alta, Brighton, Snowbird, Solitude).



RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES FOR SKI RESORT SUMMER RECREATION

- ▶ **Concentrate high levels of visitation at major trailheads (hubs) to reduce proliferation of detrimental impacts**
 - Parking lots, bathrooms, signage, work roads
- ▶ **Ski areas provide unique summer recreation opportunities**
 - Lift serve options (bikers, hikers)
 - Directional travel routes (uphill and downhill routes for mountain bikes)
 - Possible e-bike use
 - Single-use trail network (access may differ during and after operating hours)
 - Hotels, restaurants, special events
- ▶ **Provide easy to moderate hiking trail options to alpine lakes and meadows**
- ▶ **As visitors discover the unique summer recreation opportunities at ski resorts, monitor for impacts, especially in alpine and riparian environments**
 - Address user-created trails (often rogue mountain bike trails)
 - Require hikers to stay on trails (currently a regulation on Alta's Albion Meadows Trail, Silver Lake Boardwalk)
 - Maintain viewshed integrity (minimize winter recreation impacts on summer scenery)
 - Screen, manage, and track special events.

4 - RECREATION STRATEGIES

TABLE 28 – SKI RESORT SUMMER RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES	SKI RESORTS			
	ALTA	BRIGHTON	SNOWBIRD	SOLITUDE
Trailheads	Ski resort trailheads provide large hardened areas to concentrate high levels of visitation, infrastructure, and diverse recreation opportunities (all 4 resorts)			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Major Trailhead Hub at Albion Basin (year-round) ▶ Collaboration for new trailhead (bathroom, signage) north of Alta Ski Resort on Highway 210 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Major Trailhead Hub: Brighton Ski Resort (year-round) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Major Trailhead Hub: Snowbird Center (year-round) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Major Trailhead Hub: Solitude Moonbeam (year-round)
Trail Network	Continue collaborating with the Forest Service on routine trail maintenance, sustainable reroutes, and future connections (all 4 resorts)			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Upcoming trail projects (Phase 1): Cecret Lake Loop, Mandelbrot, Albion Meadows to Cecret Lake Trail (for more information see page 35) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Upcoming trail projects (Phase 1): Lake Mary, Twin Lakes, Ski Lift Connections to Brighton Lakes & Alpine Trails, Future Connections to Wasatch Crest Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Future trail projects (Phase 2): Snowbird - White Pine Connections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Future trail projects (Phase 2): Solitude Lake Loop, (Phase 3): BCC Trails
Mountain Bike Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Prioritize human powered recreation, no lift-serve options for hikers or bikers ▶ Continue to allow multiple use on some trails (Mandelbrot, Homerun, Snake Pit, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Develop downhill mountain bike trail network utilizing ski-lifts (Majestic, Crest), allow or build uphill trails to access mountain biking trails ▶ Separate hikers and bikers on certain trails (Lake Mary, Silver Lake Boardwalk) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Prioritize human powered recreation, lift serve options exist for hikers, but not for bikers ▶ Continue to allow multiple use on some trails (Big Mountain Trail, Peruvian Gulch Road.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Develop downhill mountain bike trail network utilizing ski-lifts (Moonbeam Express, Sunrise, Link), allow or build uphill trails to access mountain biking trails ▶ Continue to allow multiple use on some trails (Easy Out, Raptor Road, Summit.)
Ski Lifts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Ski lifts do not operate outside of winter recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Continue to utilize ski lifts to move hikers and bikers up and down the resort (Majestic, Crest) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Continue to utilize ski lifts to move hikers up and down the resort (Tram) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Continue to utilize ski lifts to move hikers and bikers up and down the resort (Moonbeam Express, Sunrise, Link)
E-bikes	E-bike use may be allowed in the future. Continue to collaborate with the Forest Service on future opportunities and recreation needs (all 4 resorts)			
Disc Golf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Design disc golf course with future trails to reduce user conflict. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ N/A 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Design disc golf course with future trails to reduce user conflict
Events	Continue to host events (all 4 resorts)			

4 - RECREATION STRATEGIES

WINTER RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Winter recreation is increasing in popularity throughout the Tri-Canyons. More visitors are exploring opportunities to backcountry ski, Nordic ski, snowshoe, hike, and snowplay every year. Thus, increasing the need for more trailheads to be open in the winter to provide parking, signage, and bathrooms. Throughout the Tri-Canyon Trails planning process a desired interest was expressed for future glading prospects and uphill skier opportunities at ski resorts. Future SLRD planning processes will consider winter recreation and the input gathered during this planning process.



RECOMMENDED STRATEGIES FOR WINTER RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

- ▶ **Consider winter recreation opportunities in concurrent planning projects, which includes, but is not limited to:**
 - Great American Outdoor Act funding to redesign bathrooms in Big Cottonwood Canyon
 - Most water systems in Big Cottonwood Canyon are shut down in the winter, resulting in several trailheads with closed bathrooms (November – May)
 - Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) Recreation Fee Sites
 - Investigate future opportunities for funds, FS programs, or partners to help support plowing winter parking lots (Mill B, Grit Mill, Quarry)
 - Big Cottonwood Fuels Mitigation Environmental Assessment
 - Review proposed focus areas
 - Assess how fire mitigation in Millcreek and Lambs Canyons impacted ski opportunities



This page intentionally left blank

CONCLUSION

The *Tri-Canyon Trails Plan* aims to direct the Salt Lake Ranger District and partner energies towards projects that sustain diverse recreation in a healthy watershed. It's built on a solid foundation: Literature review and recreation planning research; Data collection on trail conditions and visitor use patterns; Interviews and feedback collected about community values and recreation concerns. It addresses increasing visitation through improvements to trailhead infrastructure, enhancements to a sustainable trail network, and implementation of recreation strategies. It is a dynamic plan that provides a list of trail projects but also a framework through which to navigate the new challenges and opportunities ahead.

Trailhead infrastructure is designed to support visitation levels while protecting natural resources. The trail network offers diverse recreation opportunities from popular family-friendly trails with intentionally designed trails leading to engineered destinations, to discrete trails offering solitude and exploration. Recreation strategies manage shifting recreation trends and visitation numbers to provide a desired recreation experience while protecting natural resources.

As visitation to the Tri-Canyons evolves so will the *Tri-Canyons Trails Plan* to help ensure our backyard National Forest is enjoyed and protected for future generations.

The Tri Canyons Trails Planning team is grateful for the time and energy invested by everyone who participated in this planning process. We appreciate this opportunity to learn more about our shared values and concerns for resource protection and recreation opportunities in the Tri-Canyons. We enjoy collaborating with everyone to bring conceptual trail ideas to implementable trail projects with the shared goal of creating a sustainable trail network. We look forward to continuing this coordination and partnering with you!

The Salt Lake Ranger District is especially grateful to planning partners who tirelessly provided incredible support and capacity to bring this plan over the finish line. Thank you Salt Lake County, Town of Brighton, and Landmark Design.

WORKS CITED

1. [Central Wasatch Commission Visitor-Use Study](#)
2. [United States Census Bureau](#)
3. [Early History of the Uinta National Forest](#)
4. [Friends of the Salt Lake Ranger District](#)
5. [Brief History of the Combined Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest](#)
6. [Salt Lake City Watershed Management Programs: 1847-1997](#)
7. [Central Wasatch Commission Watershed History](#)
8. [Salt Lake County Regional Trails Master Planning](#)
9. [Salt Lake City Public Utilities Watershed Management Plan](#)
10. [Mountain Accord Final Report](#)
11. [Central Wasatch Commission Projects](#)
12. [Revised Forest Plan Wasatch-Cache National Forest](#)
13. [The Wilderness Act](#)
14. [Forest Service Standard Trail Plans and Specifications](#)
15. [Forest Service Trail Fundamentals and Trail Management Objectives](#)
16. [Forest Service Trail Accessibility Guidelines](#)
17. [Salt Lake Ranger District Trail Counter Program](#)
18. [Inter-agency Visitor Use Management](#)
19. [Tri-Canyon Trails Plan Listening Report](#)
20. [Tri-Canyon Trails Plan Listening Report Appendix](#)
21. [Proposed Changes to Recreation Fees on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest](#)
22. [Upper Mill Creek Canyon Road Improvements Project](#)
23. [Little Cottonwood Canyon Environmental Impact Statement](#)
24. [Draper Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan](#)
25. [Sandy Parks and Recreation Trails Master Plan](#)
26. [Cottonwood Heights Parks, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan](#)
27. [Salt Lake City Foothills Trails System](#)
28. [Outdoor Recreation and Ecological Disturbance](#)
29. [Forest Service Policy on Electronic Bicycle Use](#)
30. [The Future of E-bikes on Public Lands Research Study](#)
31. [Central Wasatch Commission Big Cottonwood Canyon Mobility Action Plan](#)
32. [Wasatch Backcountry Alliance Trail Counting Program](#)
33. [Forest Service Accessibility Resources](#)
34. [Big Cottonwood Canyon Mobility Plan - SR-190 Ft. Union Blvd. to Brighton](#)
35. [Neffs Canyon Emergency Facilities Improvement](#)
36. [Motorized Vehicle Use Maps \(MVUM\)](#)
37. Debenedettl, Steve 1990 "The Rock Climbing Management Program - A Case Study from Pinnacles National Monument." Paper Given at George Wright Society Conference. El Paso, Texas. November 15, 1990.



**SUSTAINING DIVERSE RECREATION
IN A HEALTHY WATERSHED**

Learn more at: tricyontrails.org

JAN 2026