



Big Cottonwood Canyon

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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Jeff Bossard
Don Despain
Doug Fry

Brighton Ski Resort

Randy Doyle

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Laurel Pines
Bart Reuling

Evergreen

Lady of the Lake
Kirk Nichols

Forest Glen

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Mt. Haven

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Mule Hollow

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Pine Tree/Bear Trap

Karin Peterson

Silver Fork

Scotty John
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LaNette Phillips
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Solitude Ski Resort

Kim Mayhew

Solitude Village

Bryan Luftglass
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At Large

Cyle Buxton
Carolyn Keigley

Dear Natural Resources Committee,

August 15, 2018

Big Cottonwood is a community of 260 residents, plus about 950 secondary residents. Since 2016, we have voted against the federal designation. Our concern is infrastructure, or as we have been saying, the 3 T's: Transportation, Trails, and Toilets.

Transportation. Currently we are overwhelmed with 1.7 million annual visitors in Big Cottonwood. We have limited parking, so parked cars stream up the highway, making it dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists. We need transportation solutions which were promised via Mountain Accord. But almost \$10M later, we still have no tangible transportation solution.

Trails. Trails are eroding due to the huge visitor numbers. This is bad for the watershed

Toilets. And the sanitation has become critical. Although the canyons experience high use all year, public restrooms are open only 4 months each year, June through September, missing the spring hiking and fall leaf peeping seasons. There are only 6 public restroom sites in the entire canyon, and no public potable water all along the 17 mile canyon corridor. Some claim there are more toilets in the canyons, yet don't mention that they are in campsites that require an entry fee.

According to the Mt Accord website, the Central Wasatch generates \$1 billion in visitor dollars each year. Investing in visitor amenities, sanitation, and public safety is vital. This summer Salt Lake County invested \$300,000 in restrooms at Silver Lake; Salt Lake City invested in 2 new vault toilets. We're grateful to them. Yet, Salt Lake City and the Forest Service have said they intend to take some toilets off the sewer and replace them with vault toilets, because the USFS doesn't have the water or money to maintain flush toilets or provide potable water in the canyons.

Audit of the Central Wasatch. For years we have been asking for an account of the revenue and expenditures generated by these canyons. Could the Natural Resources Committee please initiate such an audit? It would be an important and helpful planning tool for the State of Utah.

Infrastructure Before Designation. The Forest Service has stressed that these federal designations always bring substantial increases in visitation, yet they are revenue neutral. We must have the infrastructure (3T's) before we have the designation.

Thank you for your consideration,

Barbara Cameron

President, Big Cottonwood Community Council