



**CENTRAL  
WASATCH  
COMMISSION**

---

**Draft Chronology of Efforts**

**To Address Alta Ski Lifts-Grizzly Gulch Land Exchange**

- 2015, 2016 – Mountain Accord and HR 5718 Agreements. Alta Ski Lifts agreed to exchange Grizzly Gulch private land for base land and water for 100 units of lodging, commercial development, snowmaking water, and transit solutions.
- Pre-06/2018 – Alta Ski Lifts decided to remove the Grizzly Gulch land exchange from consideration. Confirmed in meeting, 06/08/2018.
- 06/2018 – Central Wasatch Commission announced it wanted to pursue Congressional legislation building on HR 5718, and provided notice and held a hearing on 06/20/18. Allen Orr testified on behalf of Alta Ski Lifts and indicated a desire to work on resolving issues.
- Late 6/2018 - Chair McCandless announced that he would establish a working group to attempt to find alternative solutions to the Mountain Accord and HR 5718 Grizzly Gulch land exchange. The working group included himself, Central Wasatch Commission staff (Ralph Becker), Alta Ski Lifts (Mike Maughan, General Manager), Forest Service (Dave Whittekiend, Wasatch-Cache-Uinta Forest Supervisor), Town of Alta (Harris Sondak, Mayor), and Save Our Canyons (Carl Fisher, Executive Director).
- 06/2018 – Numerous communications leading to meeting on possible alternative Alta Ski Lifts-Grizzly Gulch resolution.
- 06/27/18 – Meeting of working group on Alta Ski Lifts-Grizzly Gulch issue. No progress on finding new approach. Chair McCandless offered to have Central Wasatch Commission develop an option for consideration. The option was subsequently developed and shared with the parties. Although initially promising, in the end Alta Ski Lifts added a series of conditions that no other parties could accept.
- 7/2/2018 - Langdon Group hired as consultants to summarize public comments on the legislation. Led to summaries of all public comments on draft legislation, responses, and reference to how comments were addressed in draft legislation. Summaries posted on Public Notice Website for transparency and public review.
- 07/03/2018 – Draft proposal for Grizzly Gulch resolution submitted to the Commission’s Executive Committee prepared by Chair McCandless and Executive Director Becker for consideration.
- 07/06/2018 – Summary of all public comments on draft legislation with responses sent to Central Wasatch Commission for consideration and posted on Public Notice Website.

Explanation narrative summarizing major issues also sent to the Commission and noticed publicly.

- 07/08/2018 – Letter from Chair McCandless to Mike Maughan outlining a response to Maughan proposal that significantly changed the option under consideration; the difficulty of trying to reach an agreement; and the dual statement from Alta Ski Lifts that ASL could accomplish what it wanted without the CWNCRA, while also presenting a position that it would hold up legislation pending its inclusion on its terms
- 7/09/2018 – Letter from Mike Maughan to Central Wasatch Commission Chair McCandless stating that Alta Ski Lifts believes that the draft legislation fails to meet Alta Ski Lifts’ needs, the ski area should be withdrawn from the CWNCRA.
- 07/09/2018 – At Central Wasatch Commission meeting, Mike Maughan asked that the CWNCRA not overlay the ski areas. He also indicated that he wanted ski area boundaries to be allowed to expand.
- 07/09/2018 –Resolution passed at Central Wasatch Commission meeting to move ahead with drafting new legislation considering public comment and addressing issues.
- 07/07/2018 – 11/19/2018 - Ongoing emails with parties on responses to possible alternatives to resolve Grizzly Gulch.
- 07/16/2018 – Central Wasatch Commission Executive Committee meeting considering legislation and taking public comment. Deferred action to full Central Wasatch Commission.
- 07/17/2018 – Draft legislation with summary of public comment, responses, and legislative changes. Tracked changes from HR 5718 draft also available. No changes addressing the Alta Ski Lifts-Grizzly Gulch negotiations; no issues had been resolved.
- 07/2018 – Per a request from Mayor Sondak, a second series of conversations and a convening was scheduled with all the Grizzly Gulch parties to determine if another option for an exchange was possible.
- 07/31/2018 – New draft legislation posted on the Central Wasatch Commission Website (dated 8/2/2018) that excludes Alta Ski Lifts land exchange from legislation.
- 08/06/2018 – Consideration of draft legislation at Central Wasatch Commission meeting. Decided to postpone action on moving legislation forward pending additional work on the draft legislation to address issues.
- 08/21/2018 – Second meeting convened by Mayor Sondak on Alta Ski Lifts-Grizzly Gulch that included Central Wasatch Commission, Town of Alta, Alta Ski Lifts, Forest Service, State of Utah Outdoor Recreation Office, Save Our Canyons, Friends of Alta, and Backcountry Skiers Alliance. Little progress was made after more than two hours of discussion.
- 8/23/2018 – meetings in D.C. w/ Chris McCandless, Mayor Peterson, Ralph Becker w/ Utah Congressional Delegation members and staff on Draft legislation, including discussion of Alta Ski Lifts-Grizzly Gulch.

- 10/03/2018 –Chair McCandless and Executive Director Becker sent a new alternative proposal to parties to Alta Ski Lifts-Grizzly Gulch discussion for review. Proposal would leave out south side of Grizzly Gulch from land exchange and remove water commitment for development in base.
- 10/08/2018 – Meeting on new alternative for Alta Ski Lifts-Grizzly Gulch land exchange proposal. Attendees included Alta Ski Lifts, Central Wasatch Commission, Forest Service, Town of Alta, Save Our Canyons, Backcountry Skiers Alliance, Friends of Alta, and Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities. Meeting ended without possible or foreseeable agreement.
- 10/11/2018 – Meetings in Washington, D.C. with Senate Congressional Committee staff to discuss status of legislation, including Alta Ski Lifts-Grizzly Gulch.
- 10/16/2018 – Communications w/ Mayor Sondak, Mike Maughan, Chris Adams (Wasatch Backcountry Alliance), and Ralph Becker re: confirmation from Mike Maughan that Alta Ski Lifts wants to include the Forest Service lands at the mouth of Grizzly Gulch in the exchange for the Alta Ski Lifts Ski Area Permit for ski resort expansion or leave Alta Ski Lifts out of the legislation.
- 10/18/2018 – Letter from Mike Maughan, Alta Ski Lifts General Manager, to Central Wasatch Commission and others that Alta Ski Lifts is supportive of having Grizzly Gulch land exchange removed from any CWNCRA legislation, and responding to numerous points made in a letter from Save Our Canyons to its members re: Alta Ski Lifts and the land exchanges.
- 10/19/2018-11/2-/2018 – Central Wasatch Commission Retreat that included two lengthy discussions about approaches to the Alta Ski Lifts-Grizzly Gulch issue and possible resolution and approaches.
- 10/26/2018 – Legislative and map drafting to implement approach from Central Wasatch Commission retreat to exempt Alta Ski Lifts completely from the draft legislation, including the designation area and all Alta Ski Lifts’ private lands.
- 10/29/2018 – Mtg w/ Mayor Sondak, Ralph Becker, Jesse Dean on finalizing 10/26/2018 Draft legislation and addressing Alta Ski Lifts and Town of Alta issues in legislation and on maps.
- 10/30/2018 – Publication of 10/26/2018 Draft legislation and maps in clean and “track changes” versions and narrative description of changes for public comment leading up to and at 11/5/2018 Central Wasatch Commission meeting. It excludes Alta Ski Lifts from land exchanges and CWNCRA designation, giving them ability to apply to Forest Service for future ski resort expansion in future in their permit areas.
- 11/1/ - 11/2/2018 – Meeting w/ Chris Robinson (Summit County Council and Central Wasatch Commission Commissioner) and Ralph Becker re: status of Alta Ski Lifts-Grizzly Gulch (and other issues). Followup meetings and communications with Alta Ski Lifts management and leadership by Chris Robinson to seek resolution of Grizzly Gulch issues. No resolution reached; position clarification from Alta Ski Lifts that if an

agreement on exchanges could not be achieved, Alta Ski Lifts wants its lands and permit areas to be excluded from the CWNCRRA.

- 11/2-11/4/2018 – Continuing interaction between Alta Ski Lifts and Central Wasatch Commission, led by Chris Robinson, to seek a solution to Alta Ski Lifts-Grizzly Gulch. No solution reached and disagreement about underlying intentions.
- 11/4-11/5/2018 – Interaction w/ Mayor Sondak (Town of Alta) on issues associated with expanding the exclusion from the CWNCRRA to the Town of Alta boundaries, and preparations to accommodate the Town of Alta. Includes statement from Mike Maughan that he would find acceptable the legislation if it excludes the entire Town from the CWNCRRA.
- 11/5/2018 – Central Wasatch Commission meeting that included discussion of 10/26/2018 Draft legislation, public comment (including from Mike Maughan), and update on status of discussion of possible resolution.
- 11/6/2018 -- A new proposal from Alta Ski Lifts for resolution of Grizzly Gulch.
- 11/6-11/9/2018 – Continuous discussions and communications with parties on possible options to resolve Alta Ski Lifts-Grizzly Gulch.
- 11/9/2018 – Meeting of parties -- Central Wasatch Commission (Chris McCandless, Chris Robinson, Ralph Becker, Jesse Dean), Mike Maughan, Carl Fisher, Laura Briefer (SLCDPU) on Grizzly Gulch solutions to discuss Alta Ski Lifts proposed option, other options, and seek resolution. Options were arrived at for further consideration. Fall-back of Hold Harmless Option was also discussed and conceptually agreed upon. Option and map developed and distributed for review.
- 11/10/2018 – Meeting by Chris Robinson and Ralph Becker w/ Save Our Canyons Board to review 11/9 options and consider other options. 11/9 option not acceptable to Save Our Canyons, two other options developed. Those options needed further review by other parties. Subsequently two Save Our Canyons options were withdrawn because of lack of consensus within the conservation community.
- 11/10/2018 – Communications among Mike Maughan, Laura Briefer, and Ralph Becker regarding snowmaking water for Alta Ski Lifts. Decided that the four ski areas and SLCDPU w/ Central Wasatch Commission would come together to address the topic together and consider a common framework for water needed for snowmaking that would be consistent for all the ski areas. (Not a legislative item, but important for future decision making and a part of CWNCRRA discussions.)
- 11/12/2018 – Mtg w/ Chris McCandless, Chris Robinson (by phone), Ralph Becker, Jesse Dean to discuss what to propose to the Central Wasatch Commission to move ahead with legislative proposal. Joined for part of meeting by Chris Adams (Backcountry Skiers Alliance) to determine their acceptance of options. Ended up with fall-back Hold Harmless proposal, but added a new option for consideration by all parties. Wrote up and distributed those options to the Alta Ski Lifts-Grizzly Gulch working group.

- 11/14/2018 – Email sent to parties that presented two options with maps, asking for prompt response. Resulted in string of 38 emails and many phone conversations among the parties. Final conclusion: fall-back Hold Harmless position and legislative approach only option that achieves consensus.
- 11/14-11/15/2018 – Additional effort by Mayor Sondak to see if there was a compromise solution acceptable to parties. Conclusion that at this time there is no solution.
- 11/16/2018 – Proposal from Save Our Canyons and Wasatch Backcountry Alliance Boards that would provide Alta Ski Lifts expansion on its private lands in Grizzly Gulch and a connection to Big Cottonwood Canyon/Honeycomb Canyon on private lands in exchange for keeping Patsy Marley Ridge Forest Service lands in public ownership and outside the Ski Area Boundary. Option would also bring Alta into the CWNCRA. Option rejected by Alta Ski Lifts.
- 11/19/2018 – Central Wasatch Commission passes resolution to pursue the creation of the CWNCRA through Congress and requests Utah Congressional delegation to introduce and seek passage. 10/26/2018 Draft version of bill adopted, including provision to exclude Alta Ski Lifts and Town of Alta from designation, explicitly allow Alta Ski Lifts to pursue administratively all expansion and other efforts administratively. Intention is to hold Alta Ski Lifts harmless. Desire expressed by Central Wasatch Commission to continue effort to find resolution to Alta Ski Lifts-Grizzly Gulch issue.