



MOUNTAINOUS PLANNING DISTRICT

Planning for the central Wasatch mountains currently rests with the Salt Lake County Planning Commission and County Council. All decisions related to planning and zoning of this great place are recommended by a planning commission made up of residents from unincorporated areas of Salt Lake County, and reviewed and approved by the elected County Council.

The central Wasatch Mountains are a wonderful and important regional resource. Visitorship to the area from Parley's Canyon on the north to Little Cottonwood on the south is about 5 million a year, more than any of Utah's popular national parks! Home to several world-class ski resorts and alpine scenery, visitors include those from around the nation and even from around the world. This area is an important place for the entire state of Utah.

Planning for the future of this key area is the subject of a broad region-wide coalition of groups and individuals who have a keen interest in the future of the central Wasatch, known as Mountain Accord. As such, it is increasingly becoming viewed as a regional, and even statewide, resource.

With current efforts underway to formalize the roles of the unincorporated areas of the county and move most areas to become either incorporated cities or metro townships, with their own planning roles and functions, the area of unincorporated county to draw on for members of the Salt Lake County Planning Commission dwindles. It is also apparent that the interests concerned about the central Wasatch exist throughout the county's residents, not just those in unincorporated Salt Lake County.

To that end, HB351 was passed in this year's session of the state legislature, which allows for the creation of a mountainous planning district in Salt Lake County to address these concerns and interests. The proposed ordinance just forwarded to you is the county's effort to put this mechanism into effect.

This ordinance creates the Mountain Planning District and establishes a Mountain District Planning Commission specifically for this area, composed of 9 members to be appointed by the Salt Lake County Mayor and Council. The intention is for members to be drawn from around the county, including residents who live in cities and have an interest in the future of this key regional jewel.

The Mountain Planning Commission would have authority much as any other planning commission does, for the Mountain Planning District area.

Please review the attached ordinance and provide us your comments as soon as possible. Thanks you!