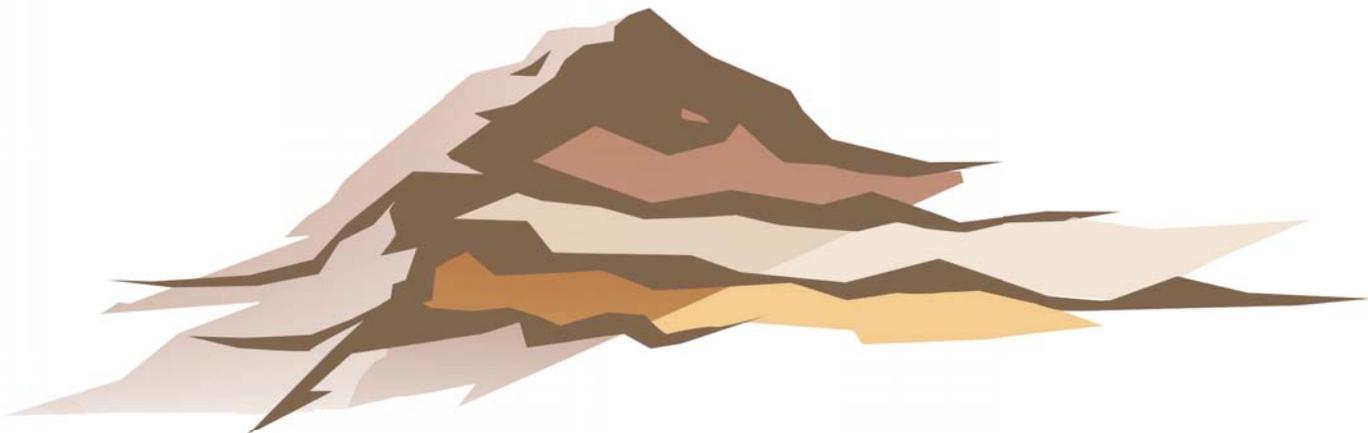


AMERICAN FORK CANYON VISION



WHAT IS THE VISION?

The American Fork Canyon Vision (Vision) will holistically evaluate and address issues and goals centered on three topic areas: 1. the natural environment, 2. the social environment, and 3. the built environment. Currently, no comprehensive vision has been developed for American Fork Canyon. This process will bring together all interested Canyon stakeholders and interests to form one single, cohesive Vision.

The Vision is your aspiration for the future of American Fork Canyon. The Vision process will focus on developing consensus about what the ideal future conditions for the canyon are; this includes how things should look, feel, and function. The Vision will capture what canyon users value most about the canyon and what you imagine it becoming.

The Vision is a collaboration between public and private interests, including state and local governments, federal agencies, business, and grass-roots organizations. Public involvement is an important component of this effort, and input received from the public will be used to guide the process.

Few places in the world have a natural asset as valuable as the Wasatch Mountains are to the communities surrounding them. The mountains provide us with water, easy access to superb recreational opportunities, landscape-scale habitat protection, and they serve as the place-maker for our region. However, these mountains face challenges from increasing population, increased use, development pressure, traffic congestion, air quality concerns, and changing climatic conditions. Unless steps are taken now to balance competing demands, these challenges may threaten recreation opportunities, environment, and quality of life for more than a million residents of and visitors to the region. These are among the issues to be considered in the Vision's planning process.



Partners:



HOW DO I MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

GET INVOLVED!

Input from residents is critical to developing a Vision that reflects community goals for the future. Take a moment to think about the issues and opportunities that face American Fork Canyon now and in the future. What is your vision?

TODAY

1. Sign In
2. Review open house displays
3. Participate!

AFTER TODAY

Your participation in this process is important. In addition to open houses, workshops and events, there are also opportunities to review information online and provide comments directly to the project team.

Stay up-to-date with the latest information on meetings, online activities and events by visiting the Vision website at www.AFCVision.com.

NEXT STEPS

Your input from this event and other activities will help us develop an overarching Vision that reflects the values and priorities of our community. This input will form the basis of the policies and action items in the final Vision document.

VISION PROCESS

The process is organized into four stages (shown below) and will take approximately one year to complete. There will be public events, online activities, and other opportunities to participate at all stages.



NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

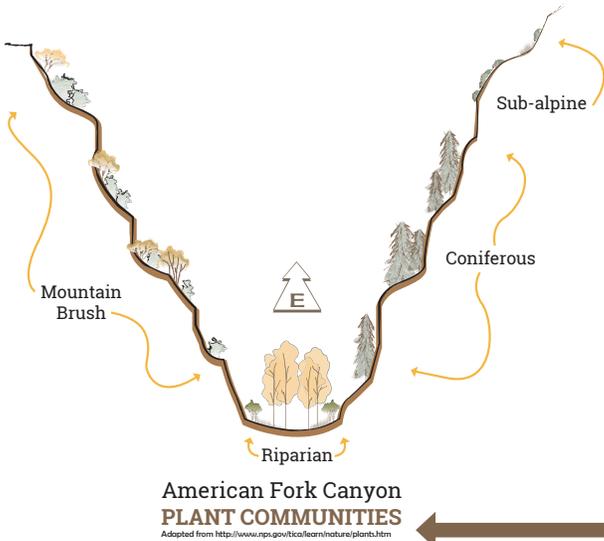
INTERESTING HIGHLIGHTS

→ AFC is one of the most geologically diverse canyons in Utah

→ AFC has two congressionally designated Wilderness Areas with a total of 25,240 acres. This is the largest single land use in the Canyon.

→ Historic records show rare wolverines have been found in the unique, rugged, alpine landscape of the Canyon.

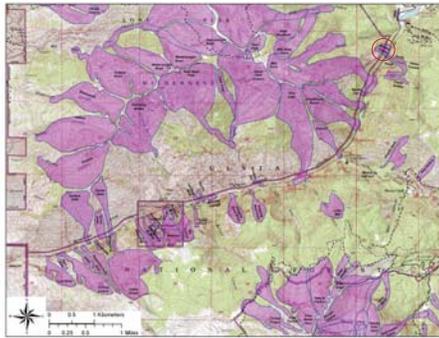
→ 6% of the Canyon is "bare rock", and 94% of the Canyon is covered in vegetation.



Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive Species



Avalanche Paths

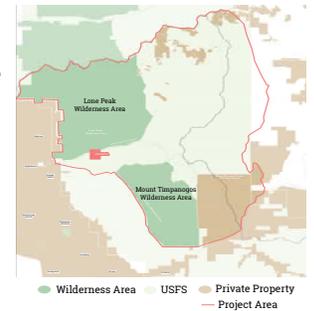


In this map the shaded areas represent avalanche zones with **maximum** estimated run-out distance of the avalanche debris. The red circle is Newton Chutes. The Newton Chutes Area is the location where avalanches **most frequently reach** the road in American Fork Canyon.

58,080 acres of project area are managed by USFS. Of that,

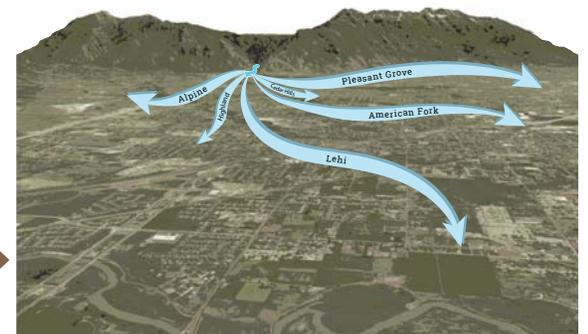
45%

is congressionally designated **WILDERNESS**.



American Fork Watershed

provides municipal water to **NEARBY COMMUNITIES** and the **BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**



Fun fact: Some **genetically pure** populations of Bonneville Cutthroat trout reside in **isolated** reaches of the Canyon.

SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

INTERESTING HIGHLIGHTS

- Since settlement, American Fork Canyon's main use has transitioned from resource extraction to recreation.
- Utah County's population is expected to double in the next 25 years. This increased population will put additional pressure on the Canyon's resources and amenities.
- There are over 40 known uses in the Canyon. These include anything from hiking, to scenic driving, to OHV use.
- More than 120,000 people visit Timpanogos Cave NM each year.
- AFC relies on the efforts of volunteers-- in fact, in 2014, the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache received the Chief's Award for the largest volunteer program in the National Forest System.

WHO ARE THE VISITORS?



Most users of American Fork Canyon are coming from Utah County.



As Utah County's population is expected to nearly double by 2040, users of the Canyon are expected to increase proportionally.

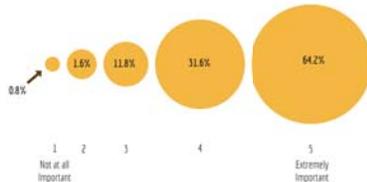


Nearby communities have a desire to become a strong **GATEWAY COMMUNITY** to American Fork Canyon. Views of the canyon are highly prized.



80% of visitors travel less than 50 miles to access recreational activities*
*These results represent 535 visitors to the Canyon

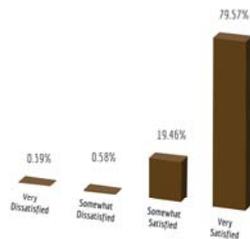
When asked: "How important is outdoor recreation to you and your family?"



more than half of survey respondents* replied

"EXTREMELY IMPORTANT"

*Survey results included participants from Utah, Wasatch and Summit counties



80% of visitors were VERY SATISFIED with their visit

#1
 In 2014, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache received the Chief's Award for the **LARGEST VOLUNTEER PROGRAM** in the National Forest System.

4,751 volunteers

21,085 hours donated

- VOLUNTEER PROJECTS INCLUDE:**
- trail maintenance and reconstruction
 - heritage resource protection
 - backcountry trail patrols
 - visitor service contacts
 - wilderness monitoring
 - fire prevention activities
 - wildlife habitat restoration.
 - watershed restoration through the Dedicated Hunter program

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

INTERESTING HIGHLIGHTS

→ Project area lands are primarily managed publicly, but contain over 11,000 acres of private land.

→ AFC accommodates about 300% more auto traffic than Zion Canyon traffic.

→ The Canyon's parking and roadway facilities are now beyond capacity during open season.

→ AFC can presently be accessed only by car or bike.

→ Visitors report very high satisfaction with Canyon facility conditions, with only 1% reporting dissatisfaction.

 **9** Picnic and day use areas

 **25** Trailheads

 **14** Campgrounds

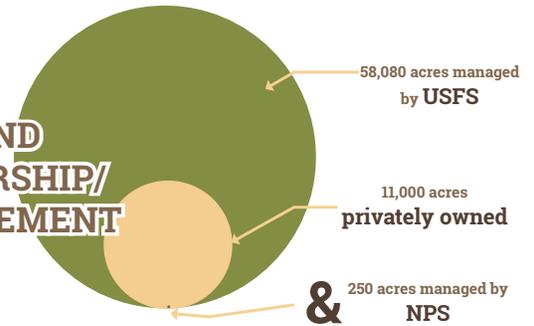
150 Miles of Trails including accessible interpretive trails and single track trails for hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, and motorcycle use.

Reservoirs 4
Tibble Fork Reservoir, Pittsburg Lake, Silver Lake, and Silver Lake Reservoir

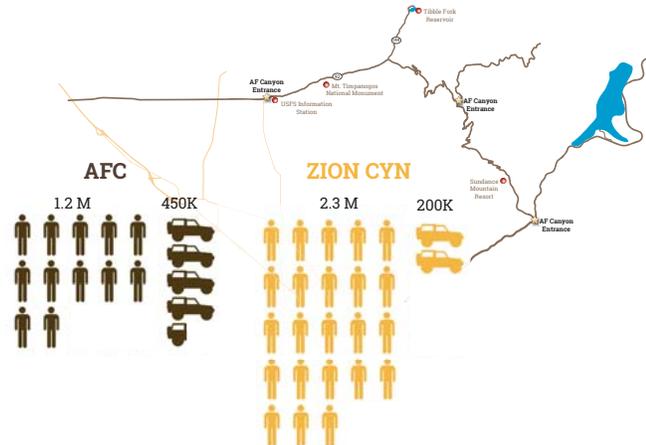
...IN THE AMERICAN FORK CANYON AREA

Fun fact: most of the facilities in the canyon are **historic**; many were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) or for **mining** purposes.

LAND OWNERSHIP/ MANAGEMENT



95% of fees are reinvested back into American Fork Canyon



REPORTED SATISFACTION AT DEVELOPED USE SITES

Signage Adequacy	Rec. Info. Availability	Parking Availability	Restroom Cleanliness	Developed Facility Conditions	Condition of Natural Environment	Road Condition	Trail Condition	Feeling of Safety	Employee Helpfulness	Interpretive Displays	Parking Lot Conditions	Scenery	Value Paid for Fee
4.33	4.33	4.24	3.86	4.62	4.80	4.70	4.59	4.72	4.76	4.07	4.65	4.96	4.57

Scale is: Very Dissatisfied = 1, Dissatisfied = 2, Neither = 3, Satisfied = 4, Very Satisfied = 5

When asked how their visit was, **80% reported "very satisfied,"** 19% reported "somewhat satisfied," and 1% reported "somewhat dissatisfied".

PLANNING DIRECTION

USFS Management Prescriptions:

■ **Wilderness** - Lone Peak and Mt. Timpanogos Wilderness Areas are managed to protect naturally functioning ecological processes. This management prescription also enhances opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The only development allowed within the Wilderness areas is the construction of primitive recreation trails and signs. Non-recreation development is limited to valid existing rights. Pit toilets may be constructed in order to accommodate high volumes of use.

■ **Scenic Byways** - Scenic byways are designated to protect outstanding recreational, educational, and scenic qualities. Development for recreation or interpretive purposes may be allowed if compatible with the scenic setting.

■ **Aquatic, Terrestrial, Hydrological Resources** - Emphasizes the protection, restoration, and maintenance of quality habitat and watershed conditions. Development is determined with watershed and habitat objectives in mind. Construction of motorized trails is determined based on the prescription emphasis and desired Recreation Opportunity Spectrum class; existing motorized recreation is constrained to designated routes and snowplay areas. Dispersed recreational facilities may be developed to focus use and reduce resource impacts to biophysical resources. Other development may be considered.

■ **Developed Recreation** - These areas include developed facilities such as campgrounds, boat docks, resorts, and water systems. Because of the large capital investment in these areas, site protection will be paramount. Wildland fire use is not allowed. Intensive vegetation management may be required to maintain desired conditions. Additional motorized trails may be constructed.

■ **Dispersed Recreation Areas** - Access within these areas is primarily through the use of non-motorized trails. Sights and sounds are minimal. Visitors will largely be managed off-site, with signs and regulations posted at area boundaries. The need for visitor self-reliance is high. Management visibility is low with backcountry ranger patrols

focusing on monitoring and maintaining natural conditions and processes.

■ **Forested Ecosystems** - Vegetation in forested areas is managed to enhance qualities of various resources, including wildlife habitat, watershed stability, vegetative diversity, and, in some circumstances, assisting with timber resource goals. Development is more constrained in the "Limited Development" management emphasis. Motorized trails may be constructed but focus is on maintaining and restoring vegetation. The "Vegetation Management" emphasis allows for more development, including motorized trails; recreational and other developments may be considered if requiring construction.

■ **Non-Forested Ecosystems** - Ecosystem health is emphasized as vegetation is maintained or restored. Motorized trails may be constructed.

■ **Wildland Urban Interface** Reduction of fire risk is emphasized. This is an overlaying prescription; if two prescriptions conflict, the most restrictive prescription prevails. Motorized recreation is allowed on designated roads and motorized trails.

■ **Long-term Use or Occupancy**- includes four emphases: Mineral Development, Utility Corridor/Communication Sites, Administrative Sites, and Recreational Residences. For most of these emphases, development is allowed for the specific use (for the corridor, production site, etc.). Recreational use is typically limited or controlled.

■ **Undeveloped** - The primary emphasis is preservation of the qualities associated with undeveloped areas. Prescribed fire and wildland fire use may be employed where necessary to maintain or enhance the biophysical environment. Noxious weed treatments are allowed. No other vegetation management activities are allowed. No new recreation developments are allowed. Some motorized use and equipment may be allowed on existing trails. Additional facilities for motorized recreation would are not constructed.

National Park Service:

■ In its most recent General Management Plan (1993), The Monument is divided into four management zones, as follows:

Natural Zone – managed to conserve natural resources and processes while accommodating uses that do not adversely affect such values. 95% of the Monument is in the zone.

Historic Zone – managed to protect, preserve, and interpret significant cultural resources. Less than 1% of Monument is zoned historic.

Development Zone – provides necessary space for visitor and management facilities, including picnic areas, restrooms, buildings, parking areas, roadways, primary trails, and internal utilities such as the park water system. This zone occupies about 3% of the Monument.

Special Use Zone – lands within the Monument dedicated to utility corridors, including linear right-of-ways for CenturyLink telecommunications and Rocky Mountain Power electric transmission lines serving customers further up canyon. This zone is less than 1% of the Monument.

Other:

■ Highland and Alpine City general plans both mention the need to protect views of American Fork Canyon and serve as an effective gateway community to the recreation area.

■ Utah County zoning in AFC allows for construction of single family homes, 1 unit per 50 acres. It also allows construction and development activities in support of agricultural livestock, water development, and other similar things.

