January 23, 2017

RE: 1/10/17 Salt Lake Ranger District Revised Supreme Lift Alignment

Dear Mr. Whittekiend and Ms. Hotze,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the Salt Lake Ranger District Revised Supreme Lift Alignment document that was emailed on January 10th, 2017. As Alta’s local land trust and a public voice dedicated to protecting the environment of Alta we are writing to address Alta Ski Area’s revised Supreme lift alignment.

We appreciate the positive response from Alta Ski Area and the USFS regarding our previous comments, and the revised alignment of the proposed Supreme lift away from the Albion fen. The revised alignment appears to move the new lift alignment mostly out of the Albion fen, however to confirm that, a wetland delineation (US Army Corps of Engineers) should be conducted; this level of detail will assure the public that appropriate adjustments have been made to minimize impacts to wetlands. The revised base terminal location appears to be in very close proximity to Little Cottonwood Creek which prompts questions about mitigation and impacts to water quality. It is unclear from the map provided and description where and how the culvert will be used.

In an effort to better understand the impacts of the project, we request the USFS and Alta Ski Area share specific site plans on this project by means of a detailed engineering map that includes the wetland delineation, the exact location of the 22 individual lift towers and their proximity to the wetland, the specific location of the culvert referenced, and the distance of the base terminal to Little Cottonwood Canyon creek. Being in the headwaters of the Little Cottonwood Canyon watershed, appropriate precautions should be taken to keep development away from waterways and offer a buffer for instream flow and potential water quality impacts. It is crucial to keep these unique wetlands protected, for the benefit of the water quality, wildlife, and future generations.

In closing, we want to acknowledge Alta Ski Area’s strong stewardship ethic and leading best practices when it comes to restoration efforts. We look forward to learning more about the specifics of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Jen Clancy
Executive Director