

David Ibarra

Candidate for Salt Lake City Mayor



1. Introduce yourself to our members. Describe your relationship to the Central Wasatch Mountains. What's your favorite place to visit? What are your favorite activities? What do you find compelling about the Central Wasatch Mountains?

My favorite place to visit in our Wasatch Mountains is Donut Falls, Tanner Flats, Silver Fork Lodge and the Snowbird Resort. My family and I have used these sites for over 30 years to create wonderful memories that will last a lifetime.

My favorite activities are hiking, jogging, family picnics, and skiing.

Salt Lake City is best known for our mountains. Visitors stand on our valley floor and look straight up 7000 feet to the top of the Wasatch Mountains. The site is breath taking and simply unforgettable. One can fly to SLC in the morning and be skiing in that afternoon or be in a wilderness type experience within one hour.

2. In your mind, what are the most important issues facing the Central Wasatch Mountains today?

- Protection of the region's water is SLC responsibility and is continually under pressure from development proposals and increased recreational use.
- CWC's task to protect and preserve lands, environment, recreational opportunities and economic sustainability.
- The creation of a long-term solution to the traffic congestion.
- Preservation of the quality of our wilderness experience. Unless our wilderness areas are set aside they will be lost forever. Our wilderness experience must be preserved for our children and grandchildren and all future generations to come.

3. Transportation. What are your thoughts about UDOT's plans for reducing traffic congestion in Little Cottonwood Canyon? How much do you think this plan should try to reduce congestion by increasing the number of cars that the highway and parking areas can handle versus some form of public transit that reduces reliance on cars?

I believe the UDOT plans to relieve congestion in our canyons must be centered around reducing the utilization of motor vehicles to gain access to our canyons. I do not believe expanding our canyon highways is the long-term answer. We must finish the UDOT study to determine the best solution. The solution could be a gondola cable car system, train, and/or super bus system.

We must make an objective decision and not a subjective one. The chosen solution must give visitors access to our canyons that satisfies both time and convenience needs - all while protecting our natural treasure and environment.

4. Public Lands. What are your thoughts with regard to the current Central Wasatch National Conservation and Recreation Area (CWNCRA) proposal and efforts to enact federal legislation to protect the Central Wasatch Mountains?

As mayor I would fully support and actively play my role to make the Mountain Accord agreement and goals become a reality.

5. Recreation. Are you concerned that very high recreational usage is harming the environment(s) or degrading the experience of being in the canyons? What zoning, ordinance or policy decisions would you support to maintain a balance of recreational use and habitat health and water quality in the Central Wasatch Canyons?

There must be a controlled recreation usage by limiting visitation to a manageable number. The numbers of visitors to our canyon treasures could be greatly increased once the vehicle traffic up and down the canyon is reduced.

I am committed to supporting the Mountain Accord recitals, agreements, and agreed-upon actions.

6. Water policy. Utah cities have been granted authority to protect sources of drinking water under a provision called “extraterritorial jurisdiction.” In recent years this authority has come under attack by legislators, developers, and speculators seeking to diminish Salt Lake City’s ability to protect water quality. If elected, how will you insure citizens continue to have access to high quality drinking water while balancing other uses in our watersheds?

As mayor, it will be one of my top priorities to work with and support our Director Laura Briefer, her team and our government relations team to defend our water rights in the

legislature. Our leadership will validate Salt Lake City has the best interest for all in the protection of our water quality and the watershed to insure the health and growth for SLC and SL County is protected.

7. Local Ordinance(s). What types of ordinances should be put in place (or revisited) to protect the environment, water quality, access, and integrity of the Central Wasatch Mountains?

As mayor, I will be an active partner on the CWC. Eighty percent of the Central Wasatch Mountains are public land and Salt Lake County is mostly responsible for the regulation of the private land use, I will support the County FCOZ Foothill canyons overlay zone.

8. Land Use Planning. The canyons are already very heavily used and, as you probably know, the population of the Wasatch Front is expected to double within several decades. What would you like the canyons to be like in fifty or sixty years, and what, if anything, do you think our government needs to do to make sure it will be that way?

The CWC effort will have preserved and protected our canyons, wilderness experience, environment and water shed in such a way we are the envy of the west.

Vehicle utilization will be limited to local home owners. CWC and UDOT will have chosen and developed a state-of-the-art transit system (gondola, train, or super bus system)

that gives access to our canyons built around saving time and being convenient to use enhancing our canyons experience.

9. Is there anything else people should understand about your vision, plans, ideas, or policies for the Central Wasatch Mountains?

Salt Lake City has been a leader in the preservation and protection of the Central Wasatch Mountains for over 100 years. As mayor, I will ensure Salt Lake City maintains its strong leadership role in this vital area.

Save Our Canyons is a 501c3 non-profit organization. These questionnaires are provided for the benefit of our members and the community we seek to serve. We reached out to all candidates for the particular office and have provided responses un-edited as they were received, some candidates have opted to not respond. If you have questions about the responses, we encourage you to reach out to the candidate. If you have a comment about the questionnaire or a suggestion of others elected seats we should issue to, please reach out to Save Our Canyons. 801-363-7283, info@saveourcanyons.org.