

# Stan Penfold

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?

I am a two-term City Councilman for the Avenues, Capitol Hill, Marmalade, and Guadalupe neighborhoods. I am running to be your neighborhood mayor. Through my experience in leadership on the City Council, two decades of managing a non-profit, and a foundation in neighborhood activism, I have nurtured the relationships necessary to bring people of diverse backgrounds together to achieve common goals.

Upon moving to Salt Lake City in the 1980's, I fell in love with the Central Wasatch. It's fair to say I probably would have left had it not been for these mountains. I find peace of mind by hiking in the Wasatch, especially up Millcreek Canyon. I appreciate the ability to take my dog, Ollie, with me. My favorite place to visit is Albion Basin in late July when the wild flowers are in peak bloom (the horticulture nerd in me loves it). The most compelling thing to me



about the Central Wasatch is that we have the unique ability to be in a diverse urban setting one moment, and within a 20-30 minutes, find myself alone in the alpine. It's one of my favorite aspects of living in Salt Lake City.

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

As Utah and the Salt Lake Valley grow in population, there is increasing pressure to develop land in the canyons. This leads to other issues, most important being impacts to our water shed and water quality. Transportation issues are already a major headache, and only getting worse. We are also loving our natural spaces to death. Overuse of trails is equating to issues with erosion, increased garbage and waste, and a loss of sense of solitude - one of the main reasons we enjoy spending time in nature.

## 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?

The answer to combating congestion is not by expanding roadways or increasing parking, but by reducing reliance on cars. I support creating a toll booth at the mouths of our canyons (like we see in Millcreek Canyon) for all car traffic. The funds generated from the toll could help pay for a robust shuttle system to transport skiers, hikers, and others to enjoy our natural spaces.

## 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?

I support the CWNCRA 100%. It was a well-earned compromise from all major players. In my role as Mayor, I would work with our federal delegation to implement long-term protections for the Central Wasatch.

## 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?**

High recreational use is a major concern in the Wasatch. It's far more difficult and expensive to restore natural areas than it is to protect them in the first place. Watershed protections should be the first consideration and priority when looking at how we manage this increased demand on our trails. Moving forward, we need to work with public lands administrators, environmental non-profits, and local residents to develop plans that find balance between protection and recreation.

**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?**

Watershed protection is the most important consideration for me. When I was on the City Council, I initiated an increase in funding for Salt Lake City Public Utilities to acquire and protect critical watershed property. It is the role of the Mayor to effectively express why it is paramount for the City to maintain its extraterritorial jurisdiction to protect our water

resources. Without clean water, we have no future.

**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?**

I believe there should be a significant increase in funding for the City to acquire land. We need to explore conservation easements on our watershed lands as a way to protect them from state overreach and development.

**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?**

Again, watershed protection is the number one priority when we look at population growth in the Valley and across the state. It's our responsibility to protect these vital areas through joint management and acquisition. There are plenty of opportunities for partnerships, like we saw in the acquisition of Bonanza Flats. I advocated for Salt Lake City to give over \$1 million and was prepared to find an additional \$1 million to save Bonanza Flats from development.

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

The Wasatch Mountains are the most critical asset to residents of the Salt Lake Valley. Protection of this truly unique asset is on all of us, and as Mayor, I will use my position to be their biggest champion. The Wasatch mountains are what provide life in the Valley - be it clean drinking water, our economy, and our quality of life.

*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](mailto:info@saveourcanyons.org).*