***The Place***

Bonanza Flat Community Preserve is approximately 1,350 acres of undeveloped backcountry majesty nestled in the upper elevations of the Wasatch Mountains among alpine meadows and lakes. It lies beyond Deer Valley Resort, just over Guardsman Pass from Brighton Resort, and above Midway’s Wasatch State Park. Though the land was privately held, it is an area that Wasatch Front and Wasatch Back residents have enjoyed for years. This recreational paradise, known for its wildlife, scenic and ecological values, seemed destined for development until, in 2016, the possibility of purchasing the land for preservation became real.

***How the Preservation Effort Began***

On November 8, 2016, Park City residents overwhelmingly voted to tax themselves up to $25 million in hopes that Bonanza Flats could be purchased and preserved as open space. With a $38 million price tag, the future of the largest Wasatch recreational backcountry was in a precarious state and the $13 million gap between the purchase price and the bond amount was one of significance. Park City Municipal along with local recreational, environmental, and conservation non-profits, the community, and various local governmental jurisdictions came together to raise, dollar by dollar, the money to close the deal. On June 16, 2017, Park City and Utah Open Lands along with their partners, announced that the total purchase price fundraising goal was achieved.

***Bonanza Flat Saved. Now Stewardship Begins.***

Bonanza Flat is forever protected from development and it could not have been accomplished without you. Now begins the task of careful stewardship and analysis of the critical conservation values connected to the land to ensure its protection forever.

Utah Open Lands is honored to take on the role of protecting this land and our biggest task will be finding ways to ensure we all are positive stewards of the many conservation values that exist on Bonanza Flat.

Together with Park City Municipal, Utah Open Lands' stewardship team will:

1. Compile input from the stakeholder jurisdictions on conservation values.

Compile data for a Natural Resource Inventory on the property.

2. Work on a conservation analysis to accurately portray the trajectory of conservation values on the property and the current conditions which form the basis of the “Baseline Documentation,”

3. Incorporate best practices into a management plan and draft the Conservation Easement which, will serve as the perpetual agreement outlining how the land can be loved, experienced, explored and enjoyed.

We all know why we worked so hard to preserve this land and as population and recreation increases, the conservation easement, baseline documentation and comprehensive adaptive management and stewardship plan will guide and monitor the needs of the conservation values, from recreation to habitat for species of concern.

***What You Need To Know Today***

• Wildfire danger is a current concern. This means that open fires, fireworks, any flame of any kind on the property presents a unique and dangerous threat to wildlife, and safety.  Take a chapter out of Smokey the Bear's handbook "only you can prevent forest fires." With fire danger conditions on the rise, we suggest no open fires.

  • Improvements made to the road surface at Guardsman Pass, several years before the purchase of Bonanza, has led to an increase in parking in this area.  This growth has caused safety concerns associated with emergency service access. If you are accessing the property from this point, please obey all existing signage and be respectful of other users.

   • Access to the entire property will not be possible until we have finalized assessments of potential hazards and conservation values.  For the safety of yourself and the wildlife we all love please follow signage and road closures.