

Willow Heights, Big Cottonwood Canyon



Description: The Willow Heights/Big Cottonwood Canyon property serves as a critical ground water recharge area for the Salt Lake Valley. It comprises of steep, forested slopes and wet alpine meadows. It is vegetated with sub-alpine/montane plant communities and faces primarily southwest. It is located at an elevation of approximately 8,400 feet.

Location: The property is located in Salt Lake County near Brighton ski area in Big Cottonwood Canyon. Willow Creek runs through the property.

Acreage: 155.41 acres

Grant funding: \$700,000

Total Project Cost: \$1,490,500

Grant Awarded: June 2001

Partners: Utah Open Lands

Local Support: Sen. Carlene Walker, Rep. Karen Morgan

Conservation Easement Held by: Salt Lake City



Public Benefits

Water Quality: This project preserves 155.4 acres of prime watershed that is a part of the Big Cottonwood drainage. Salt Lake City annually collects approximately 24,000 acre feet of water from the Big Cottonwood drainage to deliver clean water to over 400,000 residents in the Salt Lake Valley.

Recreation: This site is used extensively for recreational purposes including wildlife observation, hiking, snow shoeing and backcountry ski access to Upper Willow Heights. There are several trails traversing the property. These recreational uses will continue on the property.

Wildlife Habitat: The Willow Heights/Big Cottonwood Canyon site is prime sub-alpine/montane habitat that supports numerous animal species including moose, deer and beaver. The property is located adjacent to US Forest Service land and therefore helps form a contiguous mass of undeveloped land critical for wildlife.