

Residents assist future planning for crowd control in Canyons

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SALT LAKE CITY - Envision Utah has held several open houses over the past year gathering input from residents to plan for crowd control in the Canyons before it is too late. Those who use the Canyons are helping define what the mountain canyons should be like in 20 years and which strategies will best help. "A lot of the recommendations are actually from the public, they are the things people said they wanted to see," said Envision Utah Planning Director Gabe Epperson.

The last two public meetings were held earlier this week to give the public a chance to voice their opinions about crowd control in the Wasatch Canyons which include City Creek, Red Butte, Emigration, Parleys, Millcreek and Big and Little Cottonwood Canyon. "This is our backyard, this is where we go play in the winter and people want to take care of it and make sure we don't ruin it," Epperson said.

Millions of people hike, climb, bike and ski in the Wasatch-Cache National Forest each year. It's the third most heavily visited National Forest in America, but with the popularity comes problems with traffic, parking, over use of trails and recreation conflicts between bikes, hikers and dog walkers, according to Epperson. "Most of the proposals are going to take years of environmental impact statements to get going so it's good to start now before it becomes a crisis," said Duane Poslusny.

FOX 13's Brett Benson reports.