

Aug 9, 2022

Dear Mayor Wilson and members of the Salt Lake County Council,

We are writing to you to ask for your support to help complete a reroute of the Jacob's Ladder Trail, located in unincorporated Salt Lake County. To date, Salt Lake Climbers Alliance has raised over \$120,000 to complete this project but as of today, we remain \$38,000 short on the goal with the contractor (Singletrack Trails, Inc.) poised to leave the project with 4,000 ft of trail left to complete.

If funding is not able to be secured, we will tie the new alignment back into the old trail and that will be the completion. Applying for a second round of grants next year is not an option as the crew is already on site (they have to camp up there) and the location and amount left will not be enough scope to get another crew up there... ever. This last push would be just a few more weeks of work and then would be complete.

We've attached a map of the project and the black dot indicates where we have gotten to on the project. A nice overview and video of this project can be found on the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance website: <https://www.saltlakeclimbers.org/jacobs-ladder-re-route>

The trail's destination is the summit of Lone Peak (11,260 feet) and it gains 5,600 feet of elevation over six miles from the Peak View Trailhead. The worst part of this approach is this middle section, where 1.3 miles of a section known as (upper) Jacobs Ladder gains 2,200 feet, with an average grade of 32%. To improve the recreation experience of hikers and climbers and to protect the resource, we began construction on a three mile reroute in the fall of 2021 after years of planning. This new segment will switch back across the slope rather than climbing directly up it, allowing for frequent drainage opportunities and thus decreased erosion. It will average 15% and will also include closure of the eroded old trail once complete.

To date, work has been conducted primarily by a private contractor, Singletrack Trails, hired by Salt Lake Climbers Alliance, volunteers from our community, with support from Salt Lake Ranger District. See attached profit and loss statement for financial information.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Julia Geisler  
Executive Director  
Salt Lake Climbers Alliance

Carl Fisher  
Executive Director  
Save Our Canyons

