

PARK CITY UTAH

# THE CANYONS

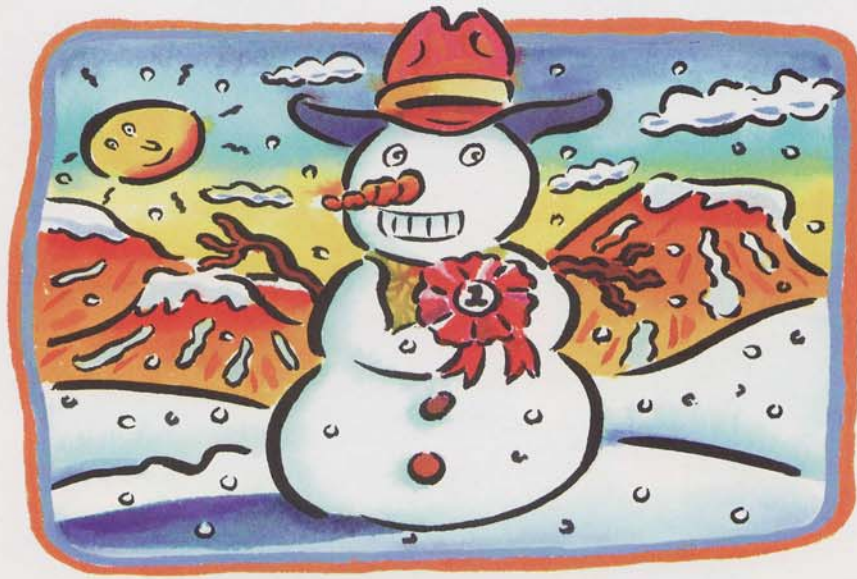
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ART BY DON WELER





**N**o one argues that Utah powder is the world's best snow ... Why?

Well, let's start with the fluffy stuff. It is a scientifically proven fact that Utah does indeed have the Greatest Snow on Earth<sup>®</sup>, as far as skiing and riding are concerned.

Let's first look at the unique quality of Utah's snow. We can thank our desert climate and the Sierra and Cascade mountain ranges. In the winter, trade winds push moisture-laden clouds in from the Pacific Ocean. As these clouds hit the western coast, the Sierras and Cascades steal a good part of the moisture. As the clouds continue their trek westward, the heat from deserts in Nevada and Utah bake out even more of the water. When these clouds finally make it to Utah, the remaining moisture is lifted and rapidly cooled, condensing into snow that has little time to develop into larger flakes. This results in the precipitation that Utah is famous for: deep, powdery snow that's light and dry.

The second element of our quality snow is its sheer abundance. The Canyons on average receives more than 355 inches of snow per year. Not bad for a high-desert climate. For this part of the snow-quality equation, we

## Making the "GREATEST SNOW ON EARTH" Even Better

can thank the Great Salt Lake. The Great Salt Lake is unique in that no other body of water in the world resides above 4,000 feet. Team that up with the fact that since the lake has no outlet, it has a higher salt content than the ocean (about eight times as much). Because of its salinity, the Great Salt Lake never completely freezes, allowing it to pump moisture into the air all winter. Following a bitter cold front, water from the lake evaporates into the air, then rises into clouds, and produces "lake effect" snow. These clouds can produce storms for several days as they continue to draw moisture from the lake, leaving behind several feet of the powder winter sports enthusiasts lust for.

Team this phenomenal snow with some of the best slope maintenance in

the West, and you have an unbeatable combination.

The Canyons Director of Slope Maintenance, Matt Reeder, and his team work hard each day to ensure that this precious white commodity is groomed extensively. Every afternoon, Matt, along with members of ski patrol, ski school, lift operations, snowmaking, grooming, special events and management, meet to lay out that evening's "snow plan." Input from these departments is used to determine where and how much grooming needs to be done.

When the groomers hit the slopes at night, they are traveling on very familiar territory. Most of Matt's groomers started out as snowmakers, giving them a better understanding of the nuances of snow, and ensuring good communication between the snowmakers and groomers. To top it off, 85 percent of the slope maintenance staff returns each year, resulting in a crew that not only knows the mountain inside and out, but its snow and how to handle it.

Thanks to geographic fortune and a mountain staffed with the best in the industry, The Canyons has indeed taken Utah's "Greatest Snow on Earth<sup>®</sup>" and made it even better.

By Katie Mullaly Art by Miles Parnell