

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

REMOTE SITES REQUIRE CAREFUL COORDINATION & RIGHT EQUIPMENT

When working on isolated project sites lacking basic infrastructure, it is critical that crews have the experience and right technologies to drill safely and achieve project objectives.

LOCATION: Wasatch Peaks, Utah

TECHNOLOGY: Sonic, Auger, Coring, Mud Rotary

SERVICE: Drilling

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Although Colorado has traditionally been the ski capital of the United States, Utah's majestic mountains are giving it a run for its money. That's why developers acquired several thousand acres of land half an hour north of Salt Lake City—they determined it would be the perfect site for a new private ski resort. Called Wasatch Peaks Ranch, the plans include up to 750 residences, commercial space, and 3,000 acres of skiable terrain.

Wasatch Peaks brought Cascade in to support their geotechnical studies of the terrain, but the project was challenging from the very beginning. As a completely undeveloped site in the mountains, access was difficult due to the initial lack of roads and bridges, dense vegetation, and steep sloping drill sites that were better suited for skiing than drilling. The weather was another obstacle, as crews faced summer rains, thick dust, deep snow, and spring mud.

RESULTS

Cascade crews worked closely with the engineering consultant and other on-site crews to ensure that despite challenges, all work was done safely. Before and during road construction, the team identified dirt tracks, hiking paths and game trails that could provide easier access to drill locations. Cascade utilized a variety of track-mounted rigs and multiple drill technologies to provide soil and rock samples and install piezometers and inclinometers. When the weather threatened the safety of on-site personnel, Cascade crews coordinated with the team about current conditions and shut down work when it was determined to be unsafe.

Cascade crews have completed hundreds of borings and over 20,000 feet of drilling in the last 2.5 years. The construction of Wasatch Peaks Ranch is still underway, and Cascade continues to work with the team on this project going forward.



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