



April 2001

Alta Utah 84092
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Dear Friends of Alta,

Friends of Alta/Alta Defense Fund has been in existence now for 20 years, and I thought a review was in order. Alta Defense Fund was born in 1981 as an informal organization dedicated to assisting the Town of Alta defend against a lawsuit brought by one of the country's largest TimeShare companies which planned to build a 400 unit time share development on Alta's western boarder. As stated in our first official letter - **"The Town of Alta is a fiscal David up against not one but an army of fiscal Goliaths"**. Having helped win this lawsuit, we knew that others would follow (a major lawsuit in 1998 went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court - the Town again prevailed). In 1982 we officially incorporated, and in 1983 we received our 501(c)(3) designation. In 1985 we changed our name to **Friends of Alta**, feeling that the new name better described our aims and accomplishments. Our prime goal became - and still is - the protection of the watershed in Albion Basin. Toward that end, we have acquired 8 lots in the Basin for preservation.

ALBION BASIN

There have been some disappointments - acquisitions in Albion Basin have been far too slow and difficult. We are still exploring some different approaches, hoping that we will be able to find some new creative ways to appeal to those landowners. **This is still our #1 commitment.**

The summer program in Albion Basin continues to thrive. There has been an addition of two toilets at the trailhead to Albion Basin. The Town and the Forest Service, along with help from Friends of Alta, developed some new interpretive trails, as well as removed and revegetated an old trail, and redirected its path along new lines. The Information Booth, for which there is no charge, has been one of the most successful efforts we have supported. Friends of Alta plans to continue its **support of this program.**

TREE PLANTING

This has been such an excellent and successful program that we plan to continue our **funding support.**

MEMORIAL GROVE

Last Fall, a small wall was built in the Memorial Grove, as well as pathways graveled. The Town of Alta is still in the planning stages of how to administer the Grove. Some ideas are: having a special plaque on the wall telling about Alta and its history, as well as the pioneers who began the ski area; planting of trees; plaques on a special wall in the Town Office Building recognizing people who skied and loved Alta.

BACKCOUNTRY AVALANCHE FORECAST CENTER

This superb program continues to save lives, and Friends of Alta plans to **continue our support**.

ENVIRONMENT AND EDUCATION


A.C.E. (Alta Community Enrichment) had another very successful year. Especially well received were the "Life and Times of Alta - Wild Old Bunch", and the "Fourth Annual Wilderness Forum". We will **renew our support**. Alta Historical Society has a web site - www.altahistory.org, and we plan to **continue our support**. The Little Cottonwood Interim Elementary School is thriving, and Friends of Alta will **continue our assistance** here was well.

An innovative idea has been submitted to Friends of Alta, and **funding has been approved** to commence a GIS (Geographic Information System) study of Albion Basin. This will provide information not only for the Town's Planning Commission, but also for others who are interested in preserving and protecting Albion Basin. This will be done in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, Salt Lake City (who owns the water), the Alta Ski Lifts, and the Town of Alta. Also, Alta's Master Plan is under revision. The Town's Planning Commission is seeking a plan which will insure that the future of Alta, both environmentally and aesthetically, would be maintained in the same spirit that now exists. Friends of Alta will be contributing our ideas.

APPEAL

Along with these ongoing programs, we are looking toward involving another group to assist us in a more aggressive campaign of acquisitions to preserve and protect this precious area. We are appealing for funds so we can continue this endeavor.

Sincerely,



Mimi Levitt
President