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Dear Friends of Alta,

This has been a very productive year. We have had success with acquiring several lots in the Albion Basin, have completed the first year of the geographic information system-based Albion Basin Eco-Geographical Study, and have designed our website.

Our new assistant, Laura McIndoe, has been involved in many of our activities - including assisting with the Eco-Geographical Study, brochure and website development, advocacy, and general administration. She has also acted as a liaison with the Town of Alta on projects such as Memorial Grove, Summer Booth Program, and Alta Historical Society.

ALBION BASIN

The Albion Basin has been the subject of much support from the Friends of Alta. Its importance as a watershed area, habitat area, "outdoor classroom", as well as its aesthetic beauty, is realized locally and nationally. It is also a place in which significant development pressures continue to exist.

Last year, we decided to be more aggressive in our land acquisition campaign, and hired a nationally known law firm with expertise in real estate transactions. Through their good offices, we have acquired eight additional lots in Albion Basin, bringing our total now to sixteen. Needless to say, we are very pleased by this, and will continue our efforts in this vein - as **this continues to remain our #1 commitment.**

Last summer, we approved funding for the first year of the Albion Basin Eco-Geographical Study, and the first year of the two-year project is just about completed. The results have been tremendous, as existing and new data continue to be compiled into a geographic information system. The environmental, educational, and planning benefits of this study are exciting. Land management and water resource agencies are even hoping to use our study in the future as a guide for implementing similar studies in other areas! **We will continue to fund the Albion Basin Eco-Geographical Study for its second year.**

The summer program for Albion Basin continues to be an excellent one. The Information Booth, for which there is still no charge, distributes brochures telling visitors about the area, with trail maps, hiking guides, and plenty of good information. This summer, the Friends of Alta will work closely with the Town of Alta and Salt Lake City Public Utilities to revise the summer booth brochure with up-dated watershed information. Friends of Alta plans to continue its **support for this program.**

The Town's tree planting program continues. This year, a few additional saplings were planted at Memorial Grove and at the Sunnyside parking area. The U.S. Forest Service has stated that additional trees should be planted to vary the forest age in Alta. **We will continue to support tree planting programs in Alta.**

Memorial Grove planning and implementation continues. Last summer, there were several events held there, including weddings, and memorials. **We will continue our support for the Memorial Grove.**

BACKCOUNTRY AVALANCHE FORECAST CENTER

We do feel that this is a continuing vital contribution to the people of Alta, as well as the general public, who rely on information from this organization for the safety of back country skiing. The Friends of Alta plans to **continue our support for this important organization.**

EDUCATION AND CULTURE

The Little Cottonwood Interim Elementary School continues for another year, and we will **pledge support to them again this year.**

ACE (Alta Community Enrichment) had another successful year. ACE continues to expand and benefit the community with annual events such as the Alta Film Series, Music Series, Wilderness Forums, ski swap, slide shows, and Storytelling Series. This year they received a National Endowment for the Arts grant to investigate the feasibility of expanding the aging Alta Fire Station/Post Office/Library building into a true

community center including classrooms, offices, public bathrooms, and community space. **We will continue to support ACE in its efforts..**

Alta Historical Society continues with its on-going programs of collecting and displaying items of historical importance, and through a variety of programs educates the public about Alta's history. For this coming year, Alta Historical Society is researching, among many things, the feasibility of creating a "traveling display", as well as creation of an "interpretive walking trail" through Alta, outlining features of historical significance to visitors. **We will continue to support Alta Historical Society in its efforts.**

WEBSITE

We have designed and begun building the Friends of Alta website (<http://www.friendsofalta.org>). The website will be a forum to describe the projects we are working on, present educational information such as results of the Eco-Geographical Study, provide links to other websites and organizations, and collect donations to support our ongoing work. The website be invaluable in furthering our mission to protect the watershed, preserve open space and educate the public about Alta's unique and wonderful attributes.

APPEAL

We believe we are making a strong contribution to Alta and its environment, not only for the benefit of our residents, but for all of you who visit. It is with your help that we have been able to keep Alta the gem we all cherish. Your continued support for Friends of Alta has made this possible.

The Friends of Alta has seen many successes and has accomplished a great deal this past year; however, there is still a lot to be done. So, once again we are appealing for funds so that we can continue our land acquisition, educational, and environmental programs.

We appreciate your support and contribution. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or comments.

Cordially,



Mimi Levitt
President