

Preserving the Nature of Alta

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PO Box 8126
Alta, UT 84092
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Executive Director
friendsofalta.org

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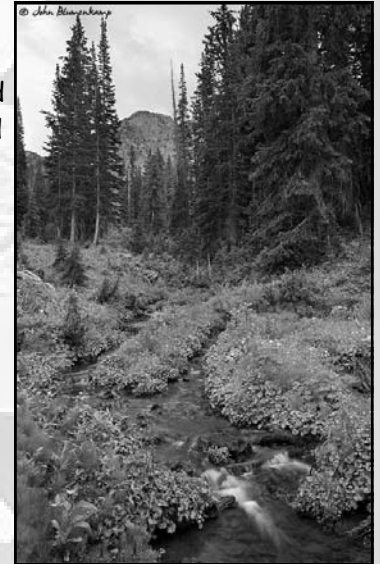
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Dear Friends:

Another brief, yet beautiful autumn has led Alta into the beginning of its winter season. The arrival of winter snow brings not only a recharge of excitement among seasoned and new faces here in Alta, but also a recharge of Alta's famous snowpack. We hope, as you visit Alta this winter, and in the future, you too will be refreshed and rewarded with a sense of pride in your support of Alta's environment and community.

For nearly three decades Friends of Alta (FOA) has sought to protect wildlife habitat, open spaces and the headwaters of Little Cottonwood Canyon (LCC) watershed here in Alta. We have worked diligently with private land owners, the Town of Alta, Salt Lake City and US Forest Service to protect this vital culinary water source. The LCC watershed supplies the Salt Lake City service area (including: SLC, Unincorporated SL County and various cities) with 12-14% of their culinary water, Sandy City with 33% of their culinary water, and Alta and Snowbird with 100% of their culinary water. In support of our efforts, research shows that forests and natural lands are critical to the quantity and quality of our water supply. Additionally, from an economic perspective data shows the more forest cover there is in a watershed the lower the treatment costs will be for suppliers drawing from these surface water sources¹. FOA has shown its commitment to watershed protection, wildlife habitat preservation and open space values by acquiring undeveloped lots at fair market value in Albion Basin and placing conservation easements on these lands. FOA also supports the Town of Alta when protective zoning regulations are challenged.



FOA Board of Directors member Ted Wilson has recently joined Utah Governor Gary Herbert's staff as a senior advisor on environmental matters. Ted will be heading the newly created Governor's Balanced Resource Council which will prioritize and recommend action on a number of issues including public lands policy, water and air quality issues, and other areas impacting Utah's natural resources. Volunteer council members include: State Representative Mike Noel, San Juan County Commissioner Lynn Stevens, and Pat Shea and Kathleen Clarke, former directors of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.

All across America our open spaces are disappearing. According to the Land Trust Alliance an astounding 5,000 acres of land across the United States is lost to development and poorly planned growth each day. Alta is not unique in experiencing these same pressures. Please help stop Alta from becoming one more of these sad statistics. For all who have already contributed in 2009, we thank you so much. The Alta legacy can't be found anywhere else; let us make sure we protect Alta's tranquility and beauty so we can pass it on to future generations. We thank you for your support to protect one small part of one small canyon.

Cordially,
Mimi Levitt and Jen Clancy



Bill, Daisy & Mimi Levitt

Alta is a State of Mind



Dear Friends:

In this newsletter we present our financial report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2009. During this year of uncertainty, the board closely monitored expenses to keep them within our expectations for contributions and other revenues. At the same time, we emphasized spending on programs intended to accomplish our mission in the areas of environmental studies and education, conservation and in the support of the Town of Alta and our community. We are pleased that the year ended with a slight surplus to add to our Conservation Fund

Building the Conservation Fund is a key objective of Friends of Alta. This fund is our resource for purchasing undeveloped land in the Albion Basin and Alta. It also provides an important income source to fund programs, and stands ready to defend against threats to the ecosystems, watershed and natural beauty of the Alta area.

We call upon you, our friends and supporters, to be as generous as you can with your contributions to Friends of Alta and your commitment to support our efforts to preserve this wonderful place we all love: Alta.

Sincerely,
Mim Allison
Treasurer

Financial Condition - Fiscal Year 2008 - 2009

Revenue

Contributions	\$102,565.00
Alta Gala	\$9,473.30
Fundraising Programs*	\$11,839.65
Income from Investments	<u>\$14,415.63</u>
Total Revenue	\$138,293.58

Expenses

Administration and Overhead	\$33,995.43
Alta Community and Government Relations	\$20,467.92
Alta Conservation Easement Management	\$16,576.07
Alta Environmental Studies & Environmental Education	\$30,638.82
Fundraising	\$20,859.00
Town of Alta & Alta Community Grants	<u>\$6,617.11</u>
	\$129,154.35

Contribution to our Conservation Fund = \$9,139.23

This report accounts for Friends of Alta's fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2008 and ending on June 30, 2009

*Programs include: Alta Shuttle Donations, FOA Real Estate Advantage Program (William's Realty), Watershed Symposium & merchandise sales



Blue Grouse



Community Emissions Reduction Campaign

Friends of Alta has partnered with the Town of Alta, Alta Environmental Center, and Alta Community Enrichment to reduce the amount of emissions in the air by joining up with Salt Lake City's Idle Free campaign. Show your commitment to reduce greenhouse gases by picking up a free sticker at the Alta Ski Area's main office, the post office, or the Alta Town office.



A place of inspiration, relaxation and enjoyment for generations to come.

Looking back at the summer of 2009

This summer Friends of Alta carried on its mission of encouraging stewardship and sustainability of Alta's environment by continuing its volunteer Trail Maintenance and Invasive Weed Removal Programs. Trail work volunteers aided in the maintenance of the Catherine's Pass Access Trail from campground campsite # 16 while invasive weed pulling volunteers focused on areas lining highway 210 in Alta. It was noted that fewer invasive plants were present in this area likely due to past efforts. These two programs are made possible through a valuable partnership with the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation. Other partnerships contributing to these programs include: Town of Alta, Alta Environmental Center, Salt Lake City and the US Forest Service.

Friends of Alta continues to partner with the University of Wisconsin-Parkside and Associate Professor of Geosciences, John Skalbeck, on the Phased Hydrogeology Study of Albion Basin. With data sites at three locations in Albion Basin, the project continues to monitor water levels, measure field parameters for water quality and gather water samples in order to conduct lab analyses of inorganic constituents.

Alta Ski Area hired its first Sustainability Coordinator, Maura Olivos to help carry out the Alta Environmental Center's mission while Onno Wieringa serves as Director. FOA has already teamed up with the Alta Environmental Center on a couple projects. Our first project was putting together a guide to planting native species in Alta for distribution to Alta residence and lodges. We also joined efforts in developing the "Research and Environmental Education Database Project," a long time goal of FOA. The purpose of this project is to: collect basic information on environmental education and research performed in Alta or Little Cottonwood Canyon, offer our support for those interested, have a centralized location to store all information, and in time share past studies within the database via the internet.

As a land trust, Friends of Alta implements a Conservation Easement Monitoring Program to ensure compliance with the terms of each conservation easement. The monitoring program consists of two annual site visits to each property, assessment of whether the property is in compliance with the easement, photograph documentation and a yearly report. The use of conservation easements in Albion Basin has been an effective tool for continuing the preservation of wildlife habitat, air and water quality, and open space in Albion Basin.

Patsey Marley Hill Subdivision

About this time last fall Friends of Alta told you about a 10 lot subdivision application that had been submitted for the Patsey Marley hillside (along the seasonal Albion Basin Road) by the Estate of JoAnne L Shrontz. On July 21, 2009 the Alta Planning Commission recommended that the Alta Town Council deny approval of the Patsey Marley Subdivision application based on the lack of compliance with some of the ordinance requirements including: culinary and fire-fighting water to and through the site, utility easements, emergency medical access, parking, and net developable acreage related to natural waterway setbacks. On November 12, 2009 the Alta Town Council decided to uphold the recommendation of the Alta Planning Commission and unanimously denied the subdivision application.

Albion Basin Transportation Feasibility Study

The US Forest Service received a grant from the Alternative Transportation in the Parks and Public Lands program to develop a range of transportation alternatives due to traffic congestion along the seasonal Albion Basin Road. This summer Friends of Alta, the Town of Alta and Alta Environmental Center added supplemental data to the study through a visitor survey in Albion Basin. Currently, transportation alternative scenarios are being developed and shared with the public through open houses.

Wasatch Canyons Tomorrow: Updating the 1989 Wasatch Canyons Master Plan www.wasatchcanyons.slco.org

This November, Envision Utah facilitated the second series of public open houses focusing on transportation scenarios for all of the eastern canyons in unincorporated Salt Lake County. The Wasatch Canyons Master Plan guides land use policy, decisions, and ordinances for these canyons. These seven canyons currently supply Salt Lake County with 50-60% of their culinary water supply; population growth projections make protection of this water supply and the surrounding ecosystems increasingly important to future generations.

Wilderness Proposal: Additional information at saveourcanyons.org

Back in 1999, Save Our Canyons in partnership with Salt Lake City developed a proposal for wilderness additions to the central Wasatch Mountains. In 2008, Salt Lake County began heading up a series of meetings to negotiate common ground among the areas key stakeholders on this subject. At this time stakeholders have submitted their opinions to Utah Congressman Jim Matheson. As he works toward introduction of this legislation, letters of support can be emailed at matheson.house.gov/contact.shtml.



Pika

Pika are cousin to rabbits and live in rocky mountain areas and boulder-covered hillsides, usually at elevations of between 8,000-13,000 feet. This one was seen foraging in Albion Basin.



Complements of Richard Grossen



The Mission of Friends of Alta is to protect the environment of Alta, including watershed and wildlife habitat areas; to preserve Alta's unique character and heritage; and to encourage stewardship and sustainability of Alta's environment and community.

Thank you Boston Dinner Committee, sponsors and attendees!

Friends of Alta would like to acknowledge and thank the Boston Dinner Committee for their hard work and dedication to host the first remote fundraiser for FOA in Boston MA. On November 4th, 45 likeminded Alta enthusiasts, including FOA's Executive Director Jen Clancy joined together in celebration of FOA and to initiate the 2009/2010 ski season. Keynote speaker Tony Chamberlain of the Boston Globe reflected on the Alta experience and what drives our passion for Alta.



Jack Swenson, Jane Goedecke, Ed Bursk, Jack Hoag, Jen Clancy

Boston Dinner Committee

- Jack Hoag (Chair)
- Jeff Brown
- Ed Bursk
- Bob Dillon
- Jane Goedecke
- Jack Swenson

High Rustler Sponsor

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Looking for Holiday Gift Ideas?



visit

www.friendsofalta.org/support/merchandise

We have t shirts, socks and stickers
Proceeds support FOA's mission

Friends of Alta Land and Water Symposium

Friends of Alta hosted its second symposium at Alf's Restaurant in Al-bion Basin in August. This year we collaborated with Salt Lake County and hosted our symposium as the kick-off event to their two day Countywide Watershed Symposium. FOA's symposium was successful in uniting elected officials, academics, environmental advocates, water quality professionals, landowners and the general public to discuss issues surrounding federally managed lands in Utah and management of protected watersheds within and around Salt Lake Valley. FOA would like to thank all the presenters, volunteers and generous sponsors: Energy Solutions, Rio Tinto, Salt Lake County, Alta Environmental Center, Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District, Clyde Snow Attorneys at Law for making the 2009 Land and Water Symposium a great success. We are pleased to be able to announce that this year's symposium was not only self sustaining, but contributed financially to fulfilling FOA's greater mission.



Courtesy Governor Herbert's Office

Friends of Alta Real Estate Advantage Program

WILLIAMS REALTY
801.244.6444 800.584.7705
www.williamsrealtyutah.com

Mention this program to broker Jim Williams and he will donate \$1,000 to Friends of Alta from his commission with the successful closure of any real estate transaction in Utah or Idaho. This program will not affect the closing price of the buyer or seller. Please help spread the word about this unique program and its benefits to FOA. A special thank you to everyone who has supported FOA through this program over the last couple of years.

ALTA SHUTTLE
For All Your Transportation Needs
1-866-274-0225
www.altashuttle.com

Alta Shuttle will be donating 2% of all shuttle services to and from the town of Alta to FOA during the 2009/2010 ski season. This is the third ski season in a row that Alta Shuttle has continued this program as a way to contribute to Alta's community.

Thanks again to Alta Shuttle, Tom, the customers, and all the shuttle drivers who support the mission of Friends of Alta.

Save the Date
Alta Gala 2010
Celebrating Alta's Arts, Environment & History
April 3, 2010
La Caille
www.altagala.org

