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[Partial Listing]

November 2008

Dear Friends:

As the first snowflakes begin to fly in Alta we would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy and safe holiday season. We hope you will continue to visit Alta and share your passions, care, and memories of this unique playground. Friends of Alta (FOA) has put its best foot forward to ensure that the memories you created are available to be rediscovered by present and future friends. In this newsletter you will find our yearly financial report, program updates, news about the local Wasatch Mountains, and Salt Lake City's and Alta's critical watershed.

Cordially,
Mimi Levitt and Jen Clancy

Friends of Alta continues its efforts to acquire and protect undeveloped lands in Albion Basin for watershed protection, open space values, and wildlife habitat. We seek to find willing sellers and offer them fair market prices for undeveloped land. FOA has placed conservation easements on all land acquired. We continue to support the idea of allowing existing property owners to retain title to their land while allowing a conservation easement to be placed by FOA. Our Executive Director Jen Clancy runs the Conservation Easement Management program and makes yearly inspections to assure the conservation values of the properties are preserved. We will continue our partnership with the Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities, the watershed managers of Little Cottonwood Canyon in the management of these protected lands.

Watershed Symposium

On August 20, 2008 over 100 people joined us in Albion Basin at Alf's Restaurant for Friends of Alta's first symposium on water. It was a ground breaking event that brought together key elected officials, with key appointed public officials, environmental non-profit groups, academics and business users of water, to discuss how the pressing problem of water availability can and should be addressed. Notable speakers included: Governor Jon Huntsman, Attorney General Mark Shurtleff, Salt Lake County Mayor Peter Corroon, Town of Alta Mayor Tom Pollard and former Alta Mayor Bill Levitt. A morning panel discussion led by Dennis Strong, Director of Water Quality for the Department of Natural Resources focused on water conservation. The afternoon panel discussion on watershed management was led by Jeff Niermeyer, Director of Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities. For more information or speaker transcripts from the symposium please visit friendsofalta.org/educate/symposium.

Save the Date Third Annual Alta Gala Celebrating Alta's Arts, Environment & History

March 21, 2009 / La Caille Restaurant

This year the Alta Gala salutes Alta Ski Area's 70th anniversary!

friendsofalta.org/support/altagala2009

Equally supporting Friends of Alta, Alta Community Enrichment and the Alta Historical Society

Friends of Alta
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www.friendsofalta.org
Jennifer Clancy,
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

As this report will testify, this past year was highlighted by an extraordinary amount of FOA activity and programs, all dedicated to preserving the natural beauty of our canyon while helping to contribute to sustainable initiatives which will benefit us all. The following statement of financial condition will testify that we were active on many fronts. The Board of Directors approved each of these initiatives, knowing that their cost would incur a deficit in our operating budget. We know that this is a pattern of activity which we cannot afford to sustain.

Therefore, in the coming year the Board is going to focus its energies on expanding our donor base and encouraging more people who love Alta and Little Cottonwood Canyon to contribute to FOA. We cannot sustain this increased level of activity without increased support. We hope that each of you agrees with our commitment to Alta and will join us to this end both with a charitable gift and with help in attracting new supporters to our conservation and preservation cause.

We hope that this report confirms for you the validity of our mission.

Sincerely,
Tim Hogen
Vice President, NYC



Financial Condition - Fiscal Year 2007 - 2008

Revenue

Contributions	\$106,140.00
Alta Gala	\$6,416.28
Fundraising Programs*	\$12,873.93
Income from Investments	\$37,533.40
Total Revenue	\$162,963.61

Expenses

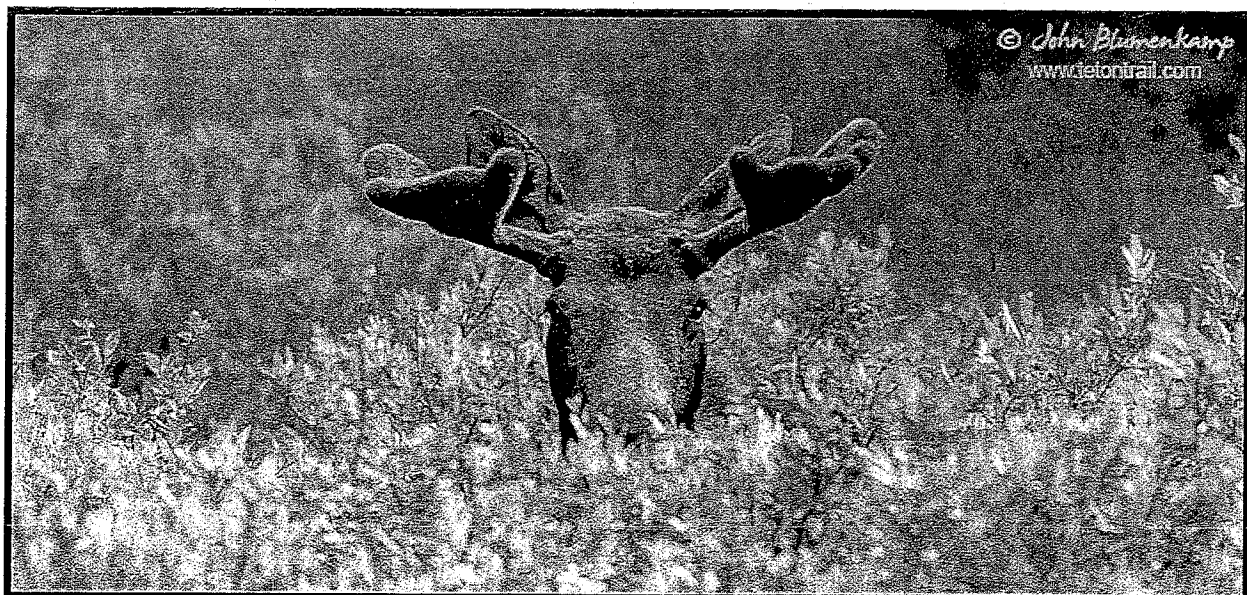
	% Operating Budget	\$FY 2007 - 2008
Conservation Easement Management	12.4%	\$27,150.00
Community and Government Relations	12.0%	\$26,288.54
Environmental Studies	8.8%	\$19,277.00
Town of Alta & Community Grants	35.8%	\$78,676.35
Administrative Operations	31.0%	\$68,164.33
Total Expenses		\$219,556.22

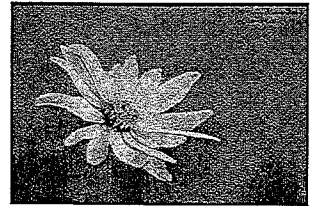
Land Acquisitions** \$42,500.00

This report accounts for Friends of Alta's fiscal year commencing on July 1, 2007 and ending on June 30, 2008

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

**Land acquisitions are funded from Friends of Alta's Conservation Fund.





Albion Basin Transportation Feasibility Study

The US Forest Service has received a grant from Alternative Transportation in the Parks and Public Lands Program under the U.S. Department of Transportation for an Albion Basin Transportation Feasibility Study. The study focuses on summer seasonal use due to traffic congestion and aims to develop a range of transportation alternatives for Albion Basin that include: a study of the existing road and trail systems, potential transit modes, visitor survey, economic analysis, and baseline environmental condition survey. The study will also evaluate the effectiveness and desirability of the voluntary "test" shuttles operated for 3 seasons by the Town of Alta along the Albion Basin Road. Data and alternatives will be used to relate the road and trail system to resource protection while maintaining a positive visitor experience. One way that Friends of Alta is contributing to this study is by submission of data from the Phased Hydrogeologic Investigations study that has been conducted with the University of Wisconsin – Parkside. FOA's study will provide baseline data to the alternative transportation feasibility study along with offering the flexibility of integrating additional parameters if needed. There will be opportunities for public involvement and comment once the study begins next summer, 2009.

Proposed Patsey Marley Hill Subdivision

A 10 lot subdivision application was submitted for an area along the seasonal Albion Basin Road to the Town of Alta Planning Commission in March 2008 by the Estate of JoAnne (Jody) L. Shrontz. As Alta's land use authority, the planning commission has been reviewing the application and will be making a recommendation to the Alta Town Council as to whether they should approve or deny the application based upon its compliance with all Town of Alta ordinance requirements. FOA is hoping for a constructive resolution of this difficult, precedent setting application.

Wilderness Proposal

Save Our Canyons in partnership with Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities has developed a proposal for wilderness additions to the Central Wasatch Mountains. The current proposal recommends extending wilderness protection to five new areas (28,118 acres) including White Pine, Bear Trap, Days Fork, Alexander Basin & Mount Aire that will add to the existing 37,000 acres of designated Wilderness lands in the Central Wasatch. At this time key stakeholders including local ski areas, Wasatch Powderbird Guides, businesses, Salt Lake County and the Town of Alta are working together to find equal ground and agreement upon a proposal that can be taken to Congress. Wilderness designation is the highest level of protection that can be given to federally owned lands and as the population grows in the Salt Lake Valley so does the opportunity for unintended consequence. We must work together now for this added protection to our open space, wildlife habitat, and watershed resources before development pressures make this protection impossible.

Avalanche Control Measures

Due to possible artillery restrictions by the United States Army, alternative avalanche control methods are being considered for the land that lines the north side of Highway 210 traveling through the town of Alta. Alta is unique in the fact that overhead fire is allowed to pass over buildings to control avalanche hazards. The methods used are in part due to the high number of avalanche paths and the proximity of buildings and roads to avalanche areas. In 2006 the Little Cottonwood Canyon SR-210 Transportation Study was commissioned by Alta, Snowbird, the Town of Alta, Utah Transportation Authority, and Utah Department of Transportation. The study mainly focused on the high avalanche hazard rating for Little Cottonwood Road, and solutions to reduce the avalanche hazard, including transportation alternatives and engineering controls. The study included the costs and feasibility of implementing various solutions. One alternative that is on the backcountry skier's radar is the possibility of a lift up Flagstaff Mountain to allow for avalanche control work. Other alternatives in the 2006 study are being considered, including replacing the currently used recoilless rifle with a howitzer. Alta's geography provides for world class winter recreation, provided the necessary public safety measures are implemented. Daily efforts and careful planning by Alta and Snowbird's snow safety departments, UDOT, US Forest Service, and the Town of Alta allow us continued and safe use of these wonderful areas.

Summer 2008

This summer Friends of Alta doubled its efforts to reduce invasive weed species and help maintain the hiking and biking trail system in Alta. Focusing on disturbed areas around Alta's summer booth volunteers removed over 25 trash bags packed with invasive weeds. Volunteers also transported and installed 10 erosion control devices on the Devil's Castle loop in Albion Basin. FOA is graciously able to offer this volunteer program through partnerships with the following organizations: Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, REI, Town of Alta, US Forest Service, Alta Ski Lifts, and Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities.

Friends of Alta continued our support of Alta's Summer Booth Program with a grant in 2008. This program reached out to thousand of people over the course of the summer with information about trails, safe recreational practices, watershed regulations, and protecting and preserving Alta's natural environment. Even with the late opening (July 18th) of the seasonal Albion Basin road, 26,494 people visited Albion Basin during summer booth hours (8am - 5pm). Visitors traveling in their own cars totaled 13,408 while 13,086 visitors used the free shuttle offered by the Town of Alta. The Town of Alta is assisting the US Forest Service in the Albion Basin Transportation Feasibility Study (previous page) to look for transportation alternatives in this sensitive area.

Friends of Alta also continued gathering data for the Phased Hydrogeologic and Eco-Geographical Investigations of the Albion Basin. FOA partners with the

How can I support Friends of Alta?

1) Ride Alta Shuttle and 2% of your fare will be donated to Friends of Alta.

www.altashuttle.com

2) Mention the FOA Real Estate Advantage Program to broker Jim Williams and he will donate \$1,000 to FOA upon completion of your property transaction.

University of Wisconsin-Parkside and Associate Professor of Geosciences, John Skalbeck on this project. To date, the project has several components including: water level monitoring, measuring field parameters for water quality, and water sampling for lab analyses of inorganic constituents.

In closing by Patrick A Shea: 2008 certainly has been, as is said in the Chinese curse ("May you live in curious times) a curious year. The election is over with the hope that "yes, we can", but the reality of an economic crisis not matched since the Great Depression. It is a time that we need to speak of "we", not "us" and "them". We hope with your continued support and encouragement Friends of Alta will continue our friendship with you, and through you, meet new friends and supporters. This expansion of support is more critical now, than ever before. We have much to be thankful for and we wish you, your family and friends a calm Thanksgiving.

Thank you for protecting Alta's wildlife habitat, open spaces and healthy water supply. Special places, like Albion Basin are becoming more and more important every day.

