Denece loved this canyon. She worked in Alta, at the lodge and in the ski school, and Snowbird as well. She waded better than most people breathe. She would trek out on her cross-country skis and her gaiters, with Bucky Bighead, the canyon dog, behind her, tree shadows lengthening in the snow. This pine grows in Little Cottonwood Canyon for her, in the place she grew, with roots she shares. May it protect this valley, as she did.

Denece Sanford Anderson was born June 11, 1952, to Sue Sanford Earl and William Robinson Earl. She died December 1, 1993, of causes incident to multiple sclerosis.

She graduated from Provo High School and came to Little Cottonwood Canyon. It was there that she met Steve Crozier, whom she married February 1, 1985. Their daughter, Casey, predeceased her. She earned an R.N. at Weber State College of Nursing in Salt Lake, to follow her grandmother in nursing.

She began her nursing career in the mountains around Midway, Utah, but this canyon had her heart. It is impossible to mention Denece without this place - the red oak and the yellow aspen in the fall, the boom of the avalanche guns in the winter, the melting snow feeding streams in the spring, and the Indian paintbrush and blue lupine in the summer. She hiked almost every trail here. She lived, most fully and completely, outside.

This memorial is short, as her life was short. She was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis when she was 39, and lost the physical strength necessary to live outside two years later. She lived in Doxy Hatch Convalescent Home in Salt Lake for five years more. The doctor attendant to her case called it the most aggressive multiple sclerosis he had ever seen, exacerbated by her desire for children and the resulting pregnancy.

Denece’s spirit is free here, as it was in life. Her heart runs, like the sap of this pine, in Little Cottonwood Canyon, and the snow drifts across the first tracks she used to carve. She wanted more, as all people do, but she lived for this. The pine grows in her stead, as she would if she could, in the valley she loved.
From L-R: Marcus Dippo, Alta Lodge; Amy Collins, Executive Director, Tree Utah; Maura Olivos, Sustainability Coordinator, Alta Ski Area; Jen Clancy, Executive Director, Friends of Alta; Jacqueline Knutson, Volunteer. Not Shown: Chris Cawley