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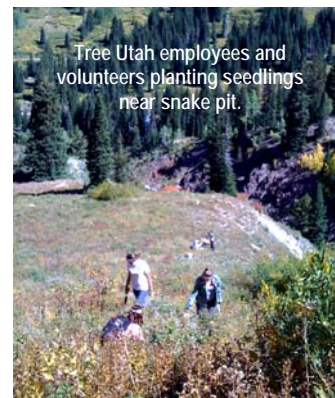
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## Sustainable Update – Restoration in Alta



CCF volunteers and employees at a restoration site by the Catherine's Trail Parking Lot.

The Alta Environmental Center welcomed many volunteers along with the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, Friends of Alta and Tree Utah this summer on a number of revegetation projects in Alta. Together ecological restoration efforts were made to plant or transplant over 1,100 trees, 50 shrubs and 7,000 native forbs (flowering plants) throughout Alta Ski Area and the community of Alta.



Tree Utah employees and volunteers planting seedlings near snake pit.

In addition to the outside help, Alta Ski Area implemented its own new Disturbance Protocol that includes several different techniques for revegetation efforts for post-ground-breaking projects. This summer included the salvaging, watering and eventual transplanting of several native trees and thousands of plants where natural ground was disturbed (see picture to right). Though Alta Ski Area has an advanced revegetation program within the ski industry, including weed pull and native recovery monitoring programs, it looks to continually progress its program by improving current methodology, researching and implementing new practices, and increasing high altitude ecological awareness. With a little innovation and dirty hard work, this summer's crew now waits patiently to observe the impacts of their efforts for further evaluation of the program. Until then, Alta thanks all its non-profit partners, volunteers and employees for a job well done this summer.



### Tip of the Month—Winter Prep

Cold facts about fireplaces. When you light a blazing fire on a cold winter day it looks and feels wonderful, but it can be an expensive and inefficient endeavor. A fireplace sends most of the heat in your



house straight up the chimney emitting as much as 24,000 cubic feet of air per hour to the outside! But, there are ways you can limit the loss of heat when enjoying a quiet evening by the fire.

- **Reduce heat loss** by opening dampers in the bottom of the firebox (if provided) or open the nearest window slightly – only about an inch – and close doors leading into the room.
- **Install tempered glass doors** and a heat-air exchange system that blows warmed air back into the room.
- **Check the seal** on the flue damper and make it as snug as possible.
- **Use grates** made of C-shaped metal tubes to draw cool room air into the fireplace and circulate warm air back into the room.
- **Keep your fireplace's damper closed** when you aren't using it.
- **Consider a gas fireplace** if you are planning to install a new one. These provide the enjoyment of looking at flames but can be 70% more efficient than regular fireplaces.

Read other green tips weatherizing your house and keeping the cold air out this winter by visiting [www.earthshare.org](http://www.earthshare.org).

Article By: [Earthshare](http://Earthshare), 2010.

### Nature Nugget—The Douglas Fir

The Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) is one of the great dominant trees of the west. Ranging from British Columbia to the Pacific Coast Range all the way over to the Rockies (including Alta), it can flourish from sea level to 9,500 feet in elevation. Its common names reveres a Scottish botanist named David Douglas and its species name is after its discoverer, Archibald Menzies, a Scottish physician and naturalist. The greatest deception of this tree is that it is not a true fir; hence its genus name includes "pseudo", meaning false, and "stuga" meaning hemlock. Hemlocks and Douglas Firs are very similar to true firs in that their leaves are flat and round tipped (friendly). However, their cones and other characteristics keep them in a genus all of their own.



The most distinguishing feature of the Douglas Fir is its cones. Under each paper-like scale there's a three-pronged bract poking out, resembling little mice feet and tails dashing into the cones for safety. The bark is reddish-brown when mature and grows in vertical furrows that become deeper as the tree ages. This tree will grow up to or over 250 feet in height, depending on precipitation and climate, and can live to be over 500 year old, if allowed. The tallest tree on record for this species was 330 feet and the oldest tree on record was over 1,400 years old, before it was cut. Both records occurred near within the Pacific Coastal range, rivaling the infamous Coastal Redwood.

The Douglas Fir is also a lucrative source for timber revenue for a few western states. Though widely associated with wetter climates, due to its rapid growth abilities and climate versatility, this tree is the species of choice for replanting post timber cuts and reestablishing needed forest for wildlife and erosion control. (Photo By: CazImages)