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The AEC has a New Summer Intern – By Tyler Rowe



Tyler Rowe has been selected by the Alta Environmental Center to further his career goals and fulfill his Bachelors of Science degree in Recreation Resource Management within the Forestry Department from the University of Montana by completing a 10-week internship. Some of his past recreational resource experience included six summer seasons as a fishing and whitewater raft guide in Glacier National Park, Montana and one winter as a lifter for Alta Ski Area. This season Tyler is taking a different approach toward making a difference by helping restore our nation's lands through restoration

stewardship projects. Tyler's goal while interning at Alta Environmental Center is to promote constructive recreation through reducing the impairment of Alta's pristine environment. Throughout Tyler's stay at Alta, he will be working with various community members, volunteers, and environmental organizations. In doing so, Tyler will help direct stewards with activities that include: re-vegetation in high-use areas, trail maintenance, noxious weed control and trash clean up. Tyler will also work on site specific restoration projects throughout the duration of his internship, primarily on previously disturbed areas in Alta Ski Area. Projects include native plant installation, site and forest analysis, native plant and seed salvage, noxious plant control, transplanting native plant species, and data collection. Within the internship, Tyler will be enhancing his knowledge and professionalism as a resource steward, advance his career goals, while receiving firsthand experience within the resource management field.

Bark Beetles in the Wasatch – By Jonathan Morgan

Two types of insects are threatening some of the oldest trees in and around Alta; the spruce beetle, which searches out the regal Engelmann Spruce, and the mountain pine beetle, which cripple our hardy Limber Pine. For many years these native insects have worked on a smaller scale improving the well being of a forest by killing off older, weaker trees, keeping the woodland diverse and healthy. Today's infestation is different with more beetles are attacking more trees. Here at Alta we seem to be at the edge of the more extensive beetle attacks. We are trying to limit this damage by identifying and disposing of infested trees as well as using preventative measures to protect others.



The Mountain Pine Beetle. Photo Source: Forest Service (www.fs.fed.us/rmrs/images/bark-beetle/bark-beetle.jpg)

Between the months of July and August as the days warm and the snow melts, these native beetles are on the hunt to find trees which they can dig beneath the bark and lay their eggs. As the adult beetle reproduces and passes away, these young eggs grow into larvae and continue to use the tree's shelter for as many as two years. When summer arrives and these beetles have reached maturity, they fly into the outside world and find another spruce or pine and continue the damaging reproduction cycle. A host tree cannot survive the intrusion of the bark beetle. Beneath the bark lies the vital phloem tissue, a tree's circulatory system. A bark beetle infects and destroys phloem, cutting off the flow of nutrients and causing a tree to die in less than a month after infestation, but trees may appear green and healthy up to a year after attack.

(Article continued on next page)

Bark Beetles in the Wasatch continued



Bark Beetle Pitch Out – Notice the color and sawdust

Photo Source: Forest Service

(www.fortheforest.org/images/uploads/PitchTubeBM_webOpt0578.jpg)

Prevention of the spread of bark beetle involves both stopping the spread of infestation as well as preventing trees from becoming infested. Identifying trees that are harboring beetles is an important step in slowing the spread in our area. Look for any change in a tree's appearance. Discolored needles, as well as bore holes in the bark are both signs of an infestation. The pitch that oozes out of 1/8" holes onto the bark can be spotted easily. This expulsion of resin is an effort by the tree to push out the tunneling beetles. Fine saw dust on the bark or at the base of the tree is another indicator of beetle activity. If an infected tree is found and the beetles have yet to mature and fly, the course of action is to fall the tree and remove and burn the bark and any other parts of the tree that contain larvae or beetles.

Methods also exist to fend off beetle attacks to both the Pine and Spruce. The insect repellent Carbaryl can be sprayed on selected

trees by a licensed pesticide applicator. The care of the limber pine involves applying the organic compound called Verbenone to the trunk of the tree. Beetles communicate through releasing chemicals called pheromones. When a beetle finds a good tree to lay their eggs in, it releases a pheromone that either lets others know that, yes, this tree is good, or no, this tree already has too many beetles. Verbenone is a pheromone that is used to trick beetles into thinking a tree has already been infested and they should move on to another.



June - July Sustainability Events

Here are some fun, educational sustainability and stewardship events for adults and the whole family. To view all events available [visit our website!](#)

- **Friday, June 22nd:** Sunshine Breakfast Benefit - Ogden Nature Center. 7:30 - 8:30 am. More info at www.ogdennaturecenter.org
- **Saturday, June 23rd:** EPA Clean-Up, Jordan River. Day-Riverside Library. 11am - 4pm. More info at
- **Saturday, July 7th:** Alta Base Restoration. Town of Alta. 8am - 12pm. For more info: 801.466.6411 or volunteer@cottonwoodcanyons.org
- **Tuesday, July 10th:** Invasive Weed Removal. Friends of Alta. 1 - 4pm. For more info: 801.466.6411 or volunteer@cottonwoodcanyons.org
- **Saturday, July 14th:** Ogden Valley Garden Tour. Ogden Nature Center. 9am – 3pm. Cost: \$ 15 for ONC members / \$20 nonmembers. More info at www.ogdennaturecenter.org
- **Thursday, July 19th:** Invasive Weed Removal. Cottonwood Canyons Foundations. 5:30 pm. For more info: 801.466.6411 or volunteer@cottonwoodcanyons.org
- **Saturday, July 21st:** Alta Ski Area Clean Up. Alta Environmental Center. 9am - 4pm. For more info: 801.466.6411 or volunteer@cottonwoodcanyons.org



"Until man duplicates a blade of grass, nature can laugh at his so-called scientific knowledge." - Thomas Edison