



environmental center

# newsletter

[Visit our Website for Sustainability Events!](#)



Join us on Facebook!

January  
2013  
Issue 38

Printed on  
100% recycled  
paper

## The Future of Sustainability – Is 2013 the Year to Go Green?



**From your Editor, Maura Olivos** - The answer is maybe 2003 or earlier was the year to start, but better late than never. Once a company, business, organization or household does realize this effort is no longer just a trend (like acid-washed jeans), the next question is where does one start? We know we can all do our part with the more tangible efforts in waste management and have long memorized the Three “R”s – reduce, reuse, recycle. This is a good start and though this effort is never to be diminished, sustainability is more than recycling – it’s everything.

Sustainability is taking responsibility over one’s environmental impact, social involvement and economic viability – it’s balancing all three of these tiers equally at work and home for the present and future. For many this is daunting, but we cannot be deterred by the inevitability of sustainability primarily due to our capability.

Everyday we have “greener” options at our doorstep disguised as energy efficient appliances, ecofriendly products, local suppliers, consultants, recycling bins, and community challenges. There is no shortage of opportunities in economic savings, energy efficiencies or environmental improvements. Additionally, it’s not a huge step or rather change. Many of us remember our first job, cell phone, gray hair, getting married, driver’s license or other instance because it meant more responsibility and keeping up with the world, but ultimately it was change and somehow we have survived. The difference between some of those unwanted changes and sustainability is that sustainability should always be for the equal improvement of life and the earth.

As Alta Ski Area enters its 75th year we want to remind you of our commitment to reducing our carbon footprint. This means economic savings with new lighting, carbon sequestration with tree planting and native restoration, water conservation with waterless urinals, local non-profit support with stewardship events, and overall appreciation of our community with holiday parties and summer lunches. These efforts have been both trying and easy, but to reach Alta’s goals, all departments, employees, skiers and community members must do more. It is yours and our responsibility to pursue our mission through our goals. Why? We do this for the future of skiing – that’s our sustainability - our everything. So, give it try – it won’t bite, but mostly we all need you to.

## Wax Perfluorocarbon Free – It’s The Way To Ski– By Ford Heberd

With cold temperatures and aggressive snow it is important to wax your skis to avoid that dreaded base burn, but not all waxes are the same, or the same for the environment. Traditional waxes contain varying concentrations of perfluorocarbons (PFC’s), when these PFC’s are released either through the initial waxing process or as a residue from your skis to the snow they can have unintended health risks for humans and other animals that we share our mountain environment with. PFC’s are what is known as a bioaccumulate, or a chemical that builds up in the bodies of animals, plants or water sources long after the initial exposure and accumulate at a greater rate than the chemical is lost.

This means that even the relatively small amount of PFC’s introduced through ski wax can have long lasting effects on our health and environment years after exposure. Fortunately, there is an alternative that will keep your skis sliding while also taking into consideration the health of the environment and the people who wax your skis. PFC free ski waxes are made by a number of different wax companies and are sold and used by the [Alta Ski Shop](#). Many of these PFC free waxes are also petroleum free and 100% biodegradable. Leave your friends in the dust while leaving a cleaner mountain in your wake in Alta!



Photo: Copyright © Alta Ski Lifts 2013



## Nature Nugget: The Mountain Lion - By Amanda Wiebush



[www.wildernessutah.com/learn/mountainlions.html](http://www.wildernessutah.com/learn/mountainlions.html)

North America's largest cat, the mountain lion (*Puma concolor*), is also known as cougar, puma or panther, depending on what part of the country you're from. Cougars can weigh 100-160 pounds and reach lengths of 7-9 feet. Their territory can range up to 200 square miles and they prey mainly upon deer. Cougars also eat elk, bobcats, coyotes, and even porcupines and typically bury their kill.

Mountain lions historically range from South America to Canada. In North America their population was reduced drastically, until only 12 individuals remained in the early 1900s due to excessive predator control measures. Mountain lions have been protected in Utah since 1967 and now the only place mountain lions cannot be found in Utah is in the salt flats west of the Great Salt Lake. In the winter, cougars often follow their prey to lower elevation – potentially making it more likely to see a mountain lion, but not in Alta.

Mountain lion sightings remain rare because of their shy and solitary nature, so human-cougar conflicts are unusual. Still, use common sense and treat mountain lions with the same respect as other wildlife. Here are some tips:

- Mountain lions are most active at dawn or dusk.
- Do not feed deer or other mountain lion prey.
- Keep your pets on a leash, hike with other people, and make noise.
- Keep a clean camp; bear hangs for your food work for mountain lions too.

**If you encounter a mountain lion:** Stay calm and do not run. Do not turn your back. Make yourself intimidating by raising your arms. Speak loudly and firmly.

Article Reference: "When in doubt, preserve." –Senator John Dunlap (D-CA), conservationist and author of California's mountain lion protection bill in 1971.

## January – February Sustainability Events

If you're looking for something fun to do with the family, friends or a date, [visit our website](#) for local sustainability activities.

- **Thu, Jan 17** — [Confronting the Challenge of Environmental Change on the Colorado Plateau](#), Quinney College of Law. FREE. 12:15 – 1:15pm.
- **Fri, Jan 18** — [Thrift Store Dance More Party](#) - ACE. Our Lady of the Snows. \$5. 8:30 pm – midnight.
- **Sat, Jan 19** — [Snowshoe Winter Ecology](#) – Stokes Nature Center, Logan. USFS District Office Parking Lot, 1500 E, Hwy 89. \$5 Donation. Register at 435.755.3239.
- **Sun, Jan 20** — [National Penguin Awareness Day](#) – The Living Planet Aquarium, Sandy. All Day events.
- **Wed, Jan 23** — [Book & Bird Day](#) – Tracy Aviary. SLC. Free with Admission \$1. 11 am – Noon.
- **Fri, Jan 25** — [Forests of the World Workshop for Resource Managers](#) – [USEE](#) & [Tree Utah](#). Register with [charice@usee.org](mailto:charice@usee.org). Art Space Commons, 824 S 400 W, St.B113, SLC. 9am – 12pm.
- **Sat, Jan 26** — [Celebrate Arbor Day Workshop](#) – [USEE](#). Red Butte Gardens, SLC. Register with [charice@usee.org](mailto:charice@usee.org).
- **Wed, Jan 30** — [Mike Libeck Presentation](#), [ACE](#). Our Lady of the Snows. FREE. 7-9pm.
- **Sat, Feb 2** — [Alta Snowshoe Naturalist Tour](#) – CCF. Alta Ski Area. Registers with [info@cottonwoodcanyons.org](mailto:info@cottonwoodcanyons.org). FREE. 10am – 12pm.
- **Thu, Feb 7** — [Because It's There: The Alpine Route to Environmentalism](#). Quinney College of Law. FREE. 12:15 – 1:15pm.
- **Sat, Feb 15** — [Sweetheart Snowshoe: Adults Only](#) – Stokes Nature Center, Logan. Meet at USFS District Office, 1500 E Hwy 89, Logan. Registration with 435.755.3239. \$5 Donation. 1 – 4pm.



When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.

John Muir