



# Newsletter

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Alta Environmental Center  
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## NSAA Announces 2015 Sustainable Slopes Grant Winners

- Reprinted from April 29 NSAA Press Release

The National Ski Areas Association (NSAA) at the end of April named four member ski areas as the recipients of its annual Sustainable Slopes Grant Program: Sugarbush Resort, Vt., Arapahoe Basin, Colo., Alpine Meadows Ski Resort, Calif., and Alta Ski Area, Utah. The Sustainable Slopes Grant Program seeks to fund target sustainability projects and improve snowmaking and climate adaption at U.S. Ski Areas.

Alta Ski Area received an in-kind grant for Climate Adaption consulting services. Brendle Group, a Colorado-based sustainability engineering firm, will provide the services with a value of \$5,000 to help the ski area assess and respond to potential vulnerabilities and risks due to a changing climate. "Alta was a clear winner for this year's grant based on their pioneering work as a founding member of NSAA's Climate Challenge, research expertise of their snow science department, unique position in the headwaters of Salt Lake City's water supply watershed, and willingness to lead by example in preparing the ski industry for a changing climate," said Brendle Group president, Judy Dorsey. Alta is excited and honored to be the inaugural recipient of this opportunity. It's now more than ever becoming imperative to start preparing for what the climate has in store for us in the future.

The National Ski Areas Association, located in Lakewood, Colo., is a trade association formed in 1962 for ski area owners and operators nationwide.

NATIONAL  
SKI AREAS  
ASSOCIATION



NSAA



## Weeds in Alta - Not that Bad, but Not that Great



*Noxious, non-native, pretty, invasive, prevalent*—no matter how you describe them, weeds are not good to have, especially in a protected watershed. Alta is certainly a unique place in that it has quite a bit of natural vegetation, hotels, houses, trails, a ski area and a rather destructive mining history. So it's amazing to see that the native vegetation still flourishes. However, as time prevails there are always new hurdles: disease, drought, infestations, and non-native species that are more adapted to these hurdles.

Relatively speaking, Alta has a small weed issue, but that is primarily due to the hard work by volunteers and community partners. We have kept infamous species like Cheat Grass, Spotted Knapweed, and Bull Thistle out. It doesn't mean they haven't had their roots in Alta's soil, we are just diligent in maintaining the native vegetation. However, when it comes to stewardship work, a weed pull may not sound as exciting as planting a tree, but in some ways is more important in maintaining a healthy watershed and a beautiful natural area for visitors and wildlife. So we hope and invite you to join us on any of the following Thursdays from 6-8pm. It just takes a little bit of time for great results!

- June 25th
- July 16th
- August 20th
- September 16th, 3-5pm - with a Stewardship Social Potluck 5-8pm afterwards

To register for any of our Weed Pulls please contact Cottonwood Canyons Foundation at 801.466.6411 or [volunteer@cottonwoodcanyons.org](mailto:volunteer@cottonwoodcanyons.org). If you're interested in a team or corporate stewardship outing, this is just your event, just email Friends of Alta at [info@friendsofalta.org](mailto:info@friendsofalta.org).

# 2015 Alta Summer Stewardship



**June**  
25th Weed Pull - 6pm (CCF)

**July**

7th - 11th Trail Work - 8am (CCF)  
11th Alta Ski Area Clean Up - 8am (CCF)  
14th - 18th Trail Work - 8am (CCF)  
16th Weed Pull - 6pm (CCF)  
18th Alta Restoration Day - 8am (CCF)  
25th Wildflower Festival - 8am (CCF)  
Solitude-Brighton 24th & Snowbird 26th

**August**

(TU) TreeUtah Hike - 9am 8th  
(CCF) Weed Pull - 6pm 20th  
(FOA) Tracy Aviary Bird Walk - 8:30am 23rd  
(USEE) SKE-COLOGY Workshop - 9am 29th

**September**

(TU) Alta Ski Area Tree Planting - 8am 5th  
(FOA) Friends of Alta Tree Planting - 9:30am 11th  
(FOA) Hawkwatch - 1pm 12th  
(CCF) Weed Pull - 3pm 17th  
& Stewardship Social 5pm



## Registration & Information

(USEE) Utah Society for Environmental Education  
carolyn@usee.org - 801.328.1549

(TU) TreeUtah  
volunteer@treeutah.org  
801.364.2122

(CCF) Cottonwood Canyons Foundation  
volunteer@cottonwoodcanyons.org  
801.466.6411

(FOA) Friends of Alta  
info@friendsofalta.org - 801.742.9719

