



Newsletter

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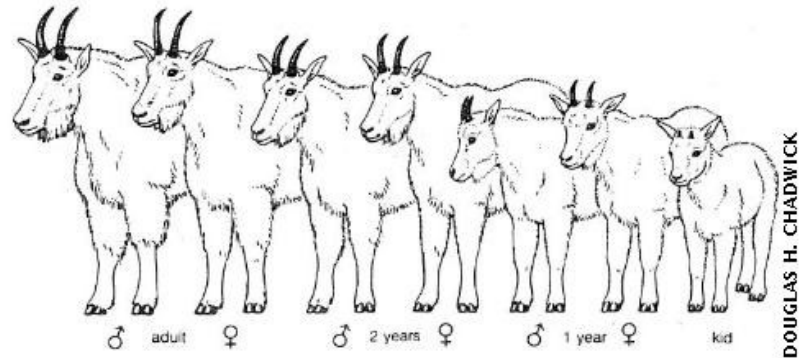


Mountain Goats in Little Cottonwood Canyon - By Liz Rocco



Mountain goats are majestic! These hooved creatures are straight from a fairy tale. Their coats are snowy white, both sexes are horned, and they live in rugged high-alpine terrain year-round. They love exposed precipitous terrain for protection, ease of finding their food source and as birthing and nursery areas. Mountain goats are the largest mammals that can be found in high-altitude habitats. They are herbivores and spend most of their time grazing. Typically living between 12 and 15 years in the wild, nannies give birth to usually a single offspring after a 6 month gestation period. Kids can weigh a little over 7 lbs. at birth and can be running and climbing within hours.

The mountain goat, *Oreamnos americanus*, is endemic to North America, but historically non-native to Utah. The Utah Division on Wildlife Resources (DWR) introduced the mountain goat to several ranges across the state in 1967 to diversify wildlife and potentially replace the loss of bighorn sheep due to pioneer settlement. As of 2013, there was an estimated 2,000 mountain goats in Utah, and in that same year 20 specimens were introduced to the La Sal Mountain Range in southern Utah. At one point there were an estimated 200 mountain goats in the Lone Peak. Other Utah areas to look for mountain goats include the high Uintas, Mt. Olympus, Twin Peaks, the Tushars, and Mt. Timpanagos. *Continued on next page....*



We Have Trees to Plant! #Alta @TreeUtah #AltaEnvironmentalCenter #1300trees #DouglasFir



On Saturday, **September 3rd** Alta Ski Area's Environmental Center and partner TreeUtah are **planting 1,300 native Douglas fir trees** with the help of 100 volunteers. These 2-year-old seedlings were grown from seed picked in Alta by ski area employees in 2013. A feat in that Alta can literally count all the Douglas firs currently in the ski area, which are up to 700 years old. This year these little dougies are sponsored by Young Auto Group.

Every year employees monitor native trees and their available cone crop. Once the difficult task of collecting the cones is completed, they are laid to dry for weeks. When the seed is ready, Alta employees will complete the tedious task of separating the seeds from the cones. If the crop is plentiful, they may retrieve up to thousands of seeds. The seed is then sent to a nursery to grow for two years and finally return home to Alta as seedlings to be planted by employees, TreeUtah and tree enthusiasts with the hope the trees will live hundreds of years.

Rugged and rewarding, this will be a fun day to enjoy and give back to Little Cottonwood Canyon protected watershed and National Forest. The event is from **8am to 1pm** and includes a light breakfast sponsored by Young Auto Group and a Collins lift ride to where volunteers will divide and conquer tree planting throughout the ski area. An extra treat after planting, Albion Grill will be offering a special 40% lunch discount to all volunteers.

Registration is required with TreeUtah (treeutah.org) and you must be a minimum of 14 years old. Call 801.364-2122 or email volunteer@treeutah.org for more information. A special thanks to this year's assisting partners from [Cottonwood Canyons Foundation](#), [Friends of Alta](#) and [Young Auto Group](#)!



"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed."

Mahatma Gandhi

Mountain Goats Continued....

In June of 2016, the Salt Lake Tribune published an article stating, "On Lone Peak, where the translocation experiment began, goat numbers have plummeted. In 2004, 165 goats inhabited this unit, but only 27 were estimated in the 2014 survey, according to DWR's annual big game reports. On Box Elder Peak, goat numbers dropped from 50 to 34 and on Mount Timpanogos they dropped from 109 to 76." The Utah DWR is proposing to obtain the proper permits to use helicopters in wilderness areas to research the causes of the decline in mountain goat populations.

Often in the winter, mountain goats can be spotted near the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon. The park and ride at the mouth of the canyon is a convenient place to view these beautiful and mysterious animals, a spotting tube helps single out the animals on the rocky hillside. Mountain goats in Little Cottonwood have been known to migrate to higher reaches of the canyon in the summer months. These creatures are monumental and a real thrill to see, so keep your eyes peeled while driving up Little Cottonwood Canyon and also when you're out hiking in the high alpine zones of the mountains throughout Utah!

The map shows the current native range and introduced range of the Mountain Goat. Map courtesy of the U of Wisconsin.



August - September Sustainability Events

If these highlighted sustainability events catch your eye, check out our full sustainability calendar at alta.com/alta-environmental-center/resources#sustainability-events.

- **Aug 20 - Alta Kids Day:** Discover the magic of Alta with family walks, birding, interactive watershed model, story time, crafts, and more! Info: cottonwoodcanyons.org/event/alta-kids-day
- **Aug 24 - Zoo Brew:** See the Zoo in a way that's hard to imagine- with no strollers! Roam with drink in hand at this new after-hours event: hoglezoo.org
- **Aug 25 - Alta Invasive Weed Pull:** Join Alta partners for their monthly Thursday evening weed pull. More info and registration: volunteer@cottonwoodcanyons.org
- **Aug 27 - Breakfast with the Birds:** Bring the entire flock for a fun filled morning with breakfast and bird show performances. More info: tracyaviary.org
- **Sept 3 - Alta Ski Area TreeUtah Planting:** This year volunteers will be planting 1,300 Douglas fir trees grown from hand-picked Alta seed! More info: treeutah.org
- **Sept 7 - Wild Wednesdays:** Every Wednesday the Ogden Nature Center puts on a different and interesting afternoon program for kids and adults alike. Check it out: OgdenNatureCenter.org
- **Sept 14 - 1 Million Cups:** Join fellow entrepreneurs for a cup of coffee and a chat about up and coming non profit organizations. Check it out: greetowncollective.com
- **Sept 15 - Weed Pull and Alta Social:** Cap off the summer season with a final weed pull and Alta Social event afterwards. More info and registration: volunteer@cottonwoodcanyons.org or altaarts.org/events

