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Alta Ski Area's Annual Sustainability Report



At Alta Ski Area, we focus on implementing sustainability efforts that seek to balance the needs of the environment, our skier community and business operations.

Sustainability Report

In our 85-year history, Alta has evolved from a tiny skiing outpost to today's world-class, powder-renowned ski area. Throughout all of these changes, the **Alta Environmental Center's (AEC)** mission is to encourage sustainable practices and look after the natural environment in which we operate. As a result, most trees around Alta have been planted since the beginning of the 1930s. Since the beginning, our mission has been to conserve Alta to ensure future generations for years to come can enjoy Alta's magic.

Renewal Energy Credits

We are excited to announce that Alta Ski Area has committed to matching 100% of our annual electricity use with renewable energy for the next two years. This will bring together three years of participation in the Blue Sky program through Rocky Mountain Power. The Blue Sky program connects Alta with renewable resources now and helps build a larger

market for renewable energy in the future. Not only does it connect us with local renewable energy sources, the funds in this program also help make local, community-based renewable energy projects a reality.

Nearly 200 local renewable projects have been completed in our Rocky Mountain Power communities alone. It has helped make projects possible for organizations that do not have access to federal incentives, including homeless shelters, food banks, fire stations, community centers and schools. We are proud to be a part of this program! To learn more about renewable energy credits through Rocky Mountain Power, check out our [Carbon Footprint page](#) on Alta.com.

Conservation

Land conservation is a full-circle process at Alta Ski Area and begins by gathering seeds from plants and trees. 34 species of seed from shrubs and wildflowers were collected this past fall. Collecting and planting from the environment in which we operate promotes successful revegetation and restoration in areas of disturbance. After harvesting the seed, it is sorted, placed in individualized packages, and sent to our local grower – Dryland Horticulture. Last summer, our team planted 350 trees, collected 34 species of seed, treated 101 acres for invasive species and planted 9,000 plants.

Nina's Restoration

In the summer of 2021, Alta Ski Area re-graded the front-facing ski runs of Nina's and Schuss. The AEC went to work immediately. Erosion blankets lined with grass seed mix were placed on the face to mitigate slit deposits into waterways and slow erosion. During two employee planting days, half of the needed plants were placed in the ground to help with erosion prevention.

Summer Recreation

Albion Basin, at the end of Little Cottonwood Road, is a unique environment full of beautiful wildflowers in the summer. With summer visitation rising, Alta Ski Area has managed the summer road for its 5th season this past summer to preserve and conserve the vast beauty of the basin. An estimated 55,230 visited Albion Basin via the summer road last summer in 2022. Summer stewardship and education programs are held in conjunction with our partners. Some of these events include Alta birding hikes, HawkWatch bird shows, TreeUtah harvest and restoration, employee conservation day, Kid's Day and the infamous Wasatch Wildflower Festival—more on Summer Stewardship Programs.

Trail Work

Alta Ski Area, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Cottonwood Canyons Foundation (CCF), manages the trail system within the ski area. This past summer, the installation of new rope lines kept hikers and bikers on the designated trails. In addition to these rope lines, newly created wildflower pull-outs provided photographers designated areas to capture beautiful photos without trampling the vegetation and flowers. In addition, the homerun trail was rerouted with switchbacks and berms to prevent erosion.

Winter Education

The AEC continues its efforts during the winter months with on-mountain events. Birding on Skis, in conjunction with Tracy Aviary, provides the opportunity to observe over 100 different species of birds that call Alta home. Cottonwood Canyons Foundation volunteer naturalists guide the Snowshoe with a Naturalist tour and Ski with a Ranger tour; both tours shed light on Alta's unique ecosystem. Another winter tour is the TreeUtah Trees and Skis. This tour is offered twice a month on the first and third Thursday of each month.

Partners

A large part of the AEC's success is attributed to support from local partners. Partners are essential in helping to maintain the natural mountain environment at Alta. Partners contributing to our land conservation efforts include: Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, Friends of Alta, US Forest Service and TreeUtah.

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Since 1938, this marks Alta Ski Area's 85th winter in operation. Originally a mining town, Alta was the first ski area in Utah to install a lift. Alta is a skiers-only mountain with majestic scenery, diverse terrain and a renowned snowfall average of 538". There is a spirit to Alta we call #AltaMagic. Come for the skiing. Stay for the skiing.

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