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**Alta Environmental Center Wins National Ski Area Association's 2026 Golden Eagle Award For Overall Environmental Excellence**

Alta Ski Area is delighted to share the news that our Alta Environmental Center (AEC) was recently recognized with the National Ski Area Association's (NSAA) 2026 Golden Eagle Award for Overall Environmental Excellence. Congratulations, Alta Environmental Center Director Jennifer Melton and the entire Alta team on earning this prestigious honor.

Established in 1993, the NSAA Golden Eagle Awards are the highest honors bestowed on a ski area for its commitment to the environment and sustainability. These awards are intended to benefit the winter sports industry by raising overall awareness of environmental excellence standards and to recognize actions and efforts that directly address the deleterious impacts of climate change within the industry.

A legacy of conservation dictates the principles that guide the Alta Ski Area's development over nearly nine decades of operation. Reforestation and efforts to repair the degraded watershed due to intense mining extraction were key factors contributing to the creation of the ski area in 1938—in partnership with the United States Forest Service. To this day, stewardship of the natural mountain environment dictates the ski area's ethos and mission.

Alta is pleased to earn the 2026 award for Overall Environmental Excellence alongside nominees Arapahoe Basin Ski Area and Vail Resort. Jen Melton, the AEC's Director, reflects on receiving this prestigious honor: "The Golden Eagle Award reflects years of thoughtful work, collaboration and care from people throughout Alta who deeply value the mountain environment we depend on. This recognition belongs to the employees, managers and leaders who continue to prioritize stewardship in both large and small ways throughout our operations and who have helped build a culture where protecting the environment is part of who we are. It's rewarding to see that long-term commitment to stewardship is recognized at a national level."

Alta and the AEC were previously awarded the Golden Eagle Award in 2022 and 2013. In 2014, the AEC's former Director, Maura Olivos, received NSAA's Hero of Sustainability Award. The same award was bestowed upon Alta's former General Manager, Onno Wierenga, in 2017.

The AEC's work around the ski area includes three primary areas of focus:

1. Pursue sustainability within the ski area through the conservation of energy, water, land and business
2. Serve as a resource to our community to encourage sustainability initiatives through partnerships and stewardship
3. Foster environmental education and research through internal and third-party collaboration

Alta's dedication to sustainability, conservation and environmental stewardship has shaped Alta for decades. In partnership with the US Forest Service, Alta has committed to extensive revegetation projects, tree planting efforts and invasive plant species removal. These land conservation efforts have helped rehabilitate the mountain environment from the area's mining past in which many slopes were damaged, eroded and denuded of trees. The NSAA has recognized that these ongoing efforts strive to set an example and a high standard for environmental stewardship in the ski industry. The following are just some examples of the transformational initiatives implemented by the AEC over the decades:

- Planting 42,924 trees
- Planting 121,243 native plant species
- Restoring 11,240 square feet of wetlands
- Invasive weed mitigation
- 100% Renewable Energy match since 2022 with Rocky Mountain Power's Blue Sky Program
- Diverting 104 tons of food waste
- Hosting 60 stewardship and educational events in 2025, attended by 2,670 participants
- Implementing the use of 98 solar panels
- Ski pass reuse and recycling program
- Renewable diesel pilot program for the ski area's heavy machinery
- Facilitating an employee-led Green Team that guides employees across departments to create and implement sustainability and reduction projects around the ski area
- Diverse recycling program across operations and food and beverage

Alta Ski Area's mission is to provide authentic skiing experiences in a natural mountain environment. This requires year-round dedication from the AEC to care for Alta's most essential attribute—our mountain. Alta could not achieve these goals without the invaluable organizations that partner with us. We offer sincere thanks to the United States Forest Service, TreeUtah, Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, Friends of Alta, Tracy Aviary, Utah Cultural Site Stewardship, HawkWatch International, Alta Community Enrichment, SLC Public Utilities and the Town of Alta. Their efforts greatly contribute to the success of the AEC and our mission to care for the landscape we love and enjoy in the years to come.

**2025 Alta Environmental Center Sustainability Report**

Additional event information available on [alta.com/environment](https://alta.com/environment)  
[Alta Environmental Center Media Assets](#)

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Originally a silver mining town, Alta was the first ski area in Utah to install a chairlift in 1938 and served as the birthplace of the modern powder skiing technique. Alta is a skiers-only mountain with majestic scenery, diverse terrain and a legendary average snowfall of 543 inches. There is a feeling at Alta we call #AltaMagic.

Alta Ski Area—Since 1938.  
Come for the skiing. Stay for the skiing.



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