

AGENDA
ALTA TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017
3:30 PM
ALTA COMMUNITY CENTER
ALTA, UTAH

1. Call the meeting to order
2. Mayor's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Departmental Reports
5. Town Council Minutes – September 14, 2017
6. Date and time of the 2017 Municipal Election Canvass
7. Presentation: Alta Invasive Weeds Plan
8. New Business
9. Citizen Input
10. Motion to adjourn

Notice Provisions:

- Motions relating to any of the foregoing including final action may be taken at the meeting.
- Reasonable accommodations (including auxiliary communicative aids and services) for individuals with disabilities may be provided upon receipt of a request with three (3) working days' notice. For assistance please call the Alta Town Office at 801-363-5105
- By motion of the Alta Town Council, pursuant to Title 52, Chapter 4 of the Utah Code, the Town Council may vote to hold a closed meeting for any of the purposes identified in that Chapter.

Town of Alta

2017 Weed Action Plan

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this action plan is to provide the Town of Alta's (TOA) residents and businesses information and guidelines to prevent the occurrence, spread and natural resource degradation from noxious and invasive plant species (aka weeds). This plan is intended to address the current problem and be adaptive to address future changes.

NEED:

The TOA's current ordinances do provide some guidance regarding noxious and invasive plant species, and the town is governed by Salt Lake County and Utah State regulations. However, Alta is a unique case with issues that vary from state and county concerns and direction. Given Alta's mix of private and public lands and high visitation from outside of Alta, the TOA needs refined guidelines and updated ordinances, specific to Alta, in order to protect the natural resources within the town for human health, economic viability and environmental responsibility.

BACKGROUND:

To address the issues of weeds and to comprehend the outline and direction of this plan, it is vital to understand the definition and nature of noxious and invasive weeds, as well as their threat and impact to Alta. Noxious and invasive plants are defined as:

Noxious weeds are "legally, any plant designated by a Federal, State or county government as injurious to public health, agriculture, recreation, wildlife or property. A noxious weed is also commonly defined as a plant that grows out of place and is 'competitive, persistent, and pernicious'."ⁱ

Invasive weeds "include not only noxious weeds, but also other plants that are not native to this country or to the area where they are growing. The Bureau of Land Management considers plants invasive if they have been introduced into an environment where they did not evolve. As a result, they usually have no natural enemies to limit their reproduction and spread. Some invasive plants can produce significant changes to vegetation, composition, structure, or ecosystem function."ⁱ

Noxious and invasive weeds destroy native plant and animal habitat, damage recreational opportunities, reduce land values, create erosion problems and fire hazards, and poison humans and livestock. According to the Oregon Invasive Species Council, next to habitat loss to

land development and transformation, noxious and invasive plants pose the greatest threat to the survival of native biota in the United States and many other areas of the world. Weeds spreading from adjacent lands can impact lands that don't currently have noxious and invasive weeds on their property. Seeds are one of the most common ways that noxious weeds are spread. They can be carried by wind, water, cars, people, and animals. Their invasive nature means that no land is immune to their spread.

Noxious and invasive weeds are everyone's concern and community involvement can reduce the impacts noxious weeds have on future generations. The TOA is a small community that has great opportunity and potential to address the weeds issue and mitigate impact in a timely manner. Currently, a number of community entities are working to address the noxious and invasive weeds issue in Alta (Alta Environment Center, Friends of Alta, Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, Salt Lake County, Bonneville Cooperative Weed Management, Salt Lake City and the Forest Service). Efforts have the potential to be more successful with additional coordination and collective direction. The spread of problematic species could intensify as human visitation to Alta increases and as additional development occurs, which elevates the need for responsible entities and the public at large to collaborate on monitoring and mitigating the problem.

The most economical means of weed management is prevention and early detection. This is done by developing educational strategies, such as: helping citizens or visitors identify noxious weeds, showing community members how to educate others, and notifying the appropriate authorities of noxious weed sightings. Secondly, the TOA can guide new development and management of weeds in developed areas.

This action plan seeks to outline a series of supportive programs and guidelines to first inform and educate the community, then prevent and mitigate impact, as well as respond and direct action.

GOALS:

- 1) To build awareness of the impact of weed species and share responsibility and ownership at a community level.
- 2) Effectively detect and respond to weed occurrences at Alta.
- 3) Collaboratively prevent and mitigate the additional spread of noxious, invasive and non-native plant species.

ACTIONS:

As a foundation to the "action" element of this plan, it takes a town composed of varying entities to collaboratively coordinate and implement all the options and programs of the *Weed*

Action Plan. This section will outline the commitment, roles and parties from government, private and non-profit organizations. The partners referred in the actions are abbreviated as follows:

- Town of Alta (TOA) – Kate Black and Chris Cawley
- Cottonwood Canyons Foundation (CCF) – Serena Anderson and Tim Remkes
- Alta Environmental Center (AEC) – Maura Olivos
- Friends of Alta (FOA) – Jen Clancy
- Alta Community Enrichment (ACE) – Sara Gibbs

I. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

A. Stewardship:

1. Town of Alta Annual Trash Pick-Up

Leads: TOA, CCF, and Snowbird

Action: Broadened to include weeds (e.g. Yellow Sweet Clover).

Status: 5/2017 – the inclusion of a weed pull with the clean up this year was discussed and due to some additional federal requirement, it will not be included for 2017. Greater planning will be needed sooner to include it 2018 and potential additional cooperation with Snowbird and CCF.

2. Monthly Weed Pulls

Leads: AEC, FOA, and CCF

Action: Summer 2017 will include a greater strategic plan to advertise the events to increase participation. Additionally the time of day the weed pulls occur may be adjusted.

3. Citizen Science Weed Monitoring

Leads: AEC and FOA

Action: 2017 Include and advertise component in monthly weed pulls.

B. Educational/Informational Materials

1. Native Planting Pamphlet

Leads: FOA and AEC

Action: 2017 update brochure, print and upload on websites for easy and free access to information.

2. Alta's Most Wanted Ads

Leads: CCF and TOA

Action: Include an "Alta's Most Wanted" invasive in the newsletter that is the subject of the pick-up/pull.

C. Outreach

1. Town of Alta Website

Leads: TOA

Action: 2017 continue community weed-pull but combine with citizen science. Add “weed” section to town website – ACE and CCF to help advertise.

2. Alta Ski Area Website

Leads: AEC

Action: 2017 add conservation efforts and weed program to AEC “efforts”

3. General: Flyers, social media, newsletters, etc.

Lead: FOA

Action: At end of season evaluate more successful outreach approach.

II. REGULATION

A. Town of Alta Weed Ordinance

Lead: TOA - John Guldner

Action: Update Ordinance¹

- a. Town develops its own list of noxious and invasive weeds in Alta
 - i. Species present in Alta and listed by the State: Spotted Knapweed, Yellow Toadflax, Dalmatian Toadflax, Canada Thistle, Musk Thistle, Field Bindweed
 - ii. Species that have been spotted in Alta, not listed by the State: Oxeye Daisy, Common St. Johnswort, Houndstongue
 - iii. Species documented and treated but not on the State list: Yellow Sweet Clover, Burdock, Cheat grass/downy brome, Pennycress, Curly Dock, Bull Thistle
- b. The Town researches best practices of other communities and develops a draft ordinance that covers:
 - i. Prohibition of commercial and residential private land owners from planting any species on the Town’s list.
 - ii. A requirement that commercial and residential private land owners remove any species on the Town’s list within a specified time after notice by the Town.

¹ Current TOA Ordinances:

- a. Title 4 Health and Sanitation, Chapter 1 Nuisances and Weed Control:
http://www.sterlingcodifiers.com/codebook/index.php?book_id=867&chapter_id=65291
- b. Title 10 Land Use Regulations

iii. A requirement that commercial and residential construction follow BMPs that assure weeds are not introduced or spread.

III. COORDINATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

A. Partners, Lead Contact and Roles

1. Town of Alta, Chris Cawley – Assistant Town Administrator
2. Salt Lake City – Public Utilities, Patrick Nelson – Watershed Supervisor
3. Salt Lake County – Weed Control Program, Sage Fitch – Noxious Weed Specialist
4. Forest Service - UWCNF, Jana Leinback – Weeds Program Director
5. Bonneville Cooperative Weed Management, Sage Fitch – Chair
6. Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, Tim Remkes – Plant & Weed Coordinator
7. Friends of Alta, Jen Clancy – Executive Director
8. Alta Environment Center – Alta Ski Area, Maura Olivos – Sustainability Coordinator & Ecologist

B. Implementation

1. Action: The partners will meet annually to review implementation and develop annual action items.

¹ Bureau of Land Management - https://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/prog/more/weeds/weed_definition.html