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TOUR EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION



“My underlying dream for Snowbird is the creation of a year round resort which respects and complements the beauty and inspiration of this natural setting, a place dedicated to increasing human understanding through the enhancement of body, mind and spirit.” — Dick Bass

Snowbird Timeline


1969	Ted Johnson meets Dick Bass
1971	Snowbird opens, December with 3 lifts, the Tram, the Lodge at Snowbird and the Snowbird Center
1972	The Inn at Snowbird opens
1973	The Cliff Lodge opens
1974	Iron Blossam opens
1986	Cliff Lodge completes three years of construction and renovation
1997	Gadzoom opens
1999	Mineral Basin opens
2002	Snowbird/Alta connection opens
2006	New Peruvian Chair Lift and Peruvian Tunnel open
2012	New Little Cloud chair opens
2013	New Gad 2 chair opens
2014	Cumming and Bass families establish partnership to operate Snowbird
2015/2016	Hidden Peak— The Summit Building opens 2015. The Cliff Lodge Remodel
2016	Creekside Lodge remodel and expansion; Baby Thunder ‘Tube’ opens
2018	Snowbird Center major remodel begins, bridge linking The Cliff Lodge and Snowbird Center opens
2019	SeventyOne – a new restaurant with a retro vibe opens in The Cliff Lodge

Snowbird Facts

Accessibility	Averaging more than 500 inches of annual snowfall and conveniently located just 29 miles from Salt Lake City International Airport, Snowbird is North America’s most accessible alpine resort destination.
Transportation	Getting to the Bird is easy. Several transportation companies offer non-stop shuttles from Salt Lake City International Airport to Snowbird’s front door. Once at Snowbird, the only transportation needed is a pair of skis or a snowboard – the Aerial Tram and chairs provide the rest.
Lifts	Snowbird is home to Utah’s only Aerial Tram. 11 surface lifts are also available, based on conditions. Most lifts run from 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. except Chickadee, which is open until 8:30 p.m. for night skiing on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.
Uphill capacity	17,400 skiers and snowboarders per hour.
Tram	Cost: \$3 million Design Engineer: Garventa A.G. Base Elevation: 8,100 Feet Hidden Peak Elevation: 11,000 Feet Vertical Rise: 2,900 Feet Winter Time to Peak: 6 minutes Summer Time to Peak: 9 minutes Capacity of 125
Runs	171
Acreage	2,500 acres.
Terrain	27 percent beginner, 38 percent intermediate, 35 percent advanced/expert
Snowfall	Snowbird averages approximately 500 inches of low-density, “dry” Utah powder annually. Thanks to ideal geography and a phenomenon called “Lake Effect”, Little Cottonwood Canyon powder is known worldwide.
Terrain Park	The Snowbird Terrain Park is located on the lower part of the Big Emma run. It is accessed by the Mid-Gad or Gadzoom lifts.
Location	Snowbird, Utah is in the heart of the Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Little Cottonwood Canyon, conveniently located just 6 miles up Little Cottonwood Canyon (and just 1 mile down from Alta).

Elevation	Top of resort is 11,000-foot Hidden Peak, lowest point on the mountain is bottom on Baby Thunder chairlift at 7,760 feet. The 125-person Tram covers 2,900 vertical feet in approximately six minutes.
Longest Run	Chip's Run, 2.5 miles
Longest Descent	Gad Valley, 3.5 miles.
Mountain School	Snowbird's Mountain School offers a plethora of instruction from class lessons to women's ski and snowboard camps.
Season	Snowbird has the longest season of any resort in Utah, mid-November through mid-May (conditions permitting). Snowbird has been open several times for skiing on Father's Day and even the Fourth of July!
Other activities	In addition to world-renowned skiing and snowboarding, Snowbird offers heliskiing, snowcat skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoe tours, and other winter activities.
Restaurants	15 serving everything from fine dining to burgers and beers.
Bars	Five
Lodging	Four slope side lodges – The Cliff Lodge, Lodge at Snowbird, The Inn and Iron Blossam – offer rooms by the night, week or longer as well as timeshare opportunities. Snowbird offers 882 total rooms
Spa	The luxurious Cliff Spa on the top two floors of The Cliff Lodge offers a full complement of services provided by a staff of trained massage therapists, facialists and other specialists.
Meetings	Snowbird's mountain village includes 29,000 square feet of dedicated meeting space with all contemporary A/V equipment, conference services and catering. Snowbird's meeting space expands to 50,000 square feet with an outdoor tent with a 1,000-person capacity.
Shopping	No trip is complete without souvenirs and Snowbird has plenty of choices. From that latest styles at Cliff Sports to Snowbird logo hats and T-shirts at Wings, shopping is plentiful at the Bird.
Reservations	Snowbird's Central Reservations can handle all travel needs with one call – (800) 453-3000 or (801) 937-8220. For general resort information or to book online, call (801) 933-2222.
Website	http://www.snowbird.com
Founder	Ted Johnson. Opened resort December 23, 1971.
Funder / Longtime Owner	Dick Bass.
Current Owner	Snowbird remains family owned with the Cumming family having majority ownership. The Bass family also has a partial ownership interest.

Talking Points: Short Stories & Folklore

Emma Mine	<p>Discovered in 1868 by two men named Woodman and Chisholm. They christened their location "Emma", named for a woman whom one of them had been "consorting in San Francisco – his paramour, in fact".</p> <p>In 1873 the Emma received international attention when its silver-bearing vein faulted and British investors accused mine managers of fraud. British Parliament discussed war, and President Grant's Administration scrambled to heal wounds. The Emma closed in 1918 having produced close to \$4 million in silver ore. Today the tunnel leads to the water source for the town of Alta.</p>
Mail Tunnel	To transport mail between Big Cottonwood and Little Cottonwood Canyons, a tunnel was used. A donkey was sent on his way back and forth, without a rider.
Twin Peaks stars as Mount Everest	During the IMAX filming of Everest, the crew realized they were short on film. They saved the film for the summit. To replace the needed footage of the last ascent, the ridgeline leading to the east Twin, directly south of the Tram, was used. Dressed in heavy winter gear, the team simulated the trek on a nice warm day in May.
Gad	A pointed wedge of a peculiar form, having its sides of a parabolic figure, used in the mine for wedging off  splits.
Peruvian Gulch	Peruvian Gulch takes its name from the Peruvian Lode, which was located there in June 1870 by James Wall, the original recorder of the Mountain Lakes Mining District, and his associates. His lode received much attention and immediately became a point of reference for other claims. One year later, the Peruvian Gulch name was in use. Wall worked the mine sporadically for many years, and he was still at it in 1892. However, the Peruvian was a fairly small producer. In a 1902 estimate, it was suggested that the mine had generated only \$50,000 in ore during all its years of operation. The gulch hosted many other claims, including a group of six at this upper end, under the Bullion Divide, the ridge between Mount Baldy and the American Fork Twin Peaks. They were known as Iron Blossam Numbers 1 through 6.

Stu O'Brien Memorial	Ever thought about jumping out of the Tram into the beautiful white snow below? Stu O'Brien and Rick Shannor did just that on one beautiful April day. There is a small outdoor shrine dedicated to Stu tucked in the trees in Peruvian. You can read about his five rules of skiing, including, "Go big or go home". He was the Director of Snowbird's Freestyle Team. He appeared in Warren Miller's Steep and Deep movie, where he jumped from a helicopter at Cedar Breaks, Utah.
Warren Miller and Ted Johnson	Ted Johnson had Warren Miller put together a ski film to promote the idea of creating the Snowbird ski resort.
Wilbere (Wilma)	Several runs and a lift are named Wilbere, but who was that? Ted Johnson's former wife, Wilma, cooked in the kitchen of Alta Lodge under the tutelage of a European chef who had a little trouble pronouncing her name. He called her "Wilber" and the name stuck. An E was added at the end to feminize it. When Snowbird opened, she climbed Tram Tower 4 and christened it with a bottle of champagne. A plaque on the tower commemorates the event. On Tower 3 there is a plaque dedicated to the wife of the Chief Engineer for the Tram, both from Switzerland.
Hellgate	<p>The narrow part of the canyon between Snowbird and Alta, with blue and white limestone cliffs towering above, takes its name from Fritz Rettich's early-twentieth-century Hellgate group of claims. He and his son Hugo worked the property until the latter's death.</p> <p>The tale of Brigham Young naming the cliffs the "gates of hell" and forbidding his followers to cross beyond because of the debauchery of the canyon miners living in Alta makes a good story, but no documentation of the claim can be found.</p>

Mt. Superior	Its name came from the Superior Lode, located on the east side of Superior Gulch in the early days of Little Cottonwood mining. The mine gave its name to the gulch and the mountain above. The great concave face has poured an endless succession of snow avalanches upon the road below.
Harpers Ferry	Named after a mine and tunnel in the same area.
Silver Boom to Ski Boom	<p>Long before skiers discovered the powder paradise that is Little Cottonwood Canyon, miners discovered their own treasure within the rugged confines of the glacial canyon. The history of Little Cottonwood Canyon and the town of Alta dates back to the 19th Century, when a soldier in the US Army first prospected for silver in 1869. The tiny minerals he stumbled upon quickly evolved into a massive industry attracting fortune-seekers who would otherwise never step foot in Little Cottonwood Canyon.</p> <p>What the soldier discovered will go down in history as one of the largest producers of silver ore in the Wasatch Mountains. Known as the Emma Mine and the namesake for the Big Emma run in Snowbird's Gad Valley, the soldier's find eventually produced more than \$3.8 million in silver.</p> <p>At its peak, 8,000 people lived and worked in the canyon, which boasted 2 smelters, 138 homes, hotels, boarding houses, stores and even a railroad. The entire town was later destroyed by a series of avalanches.</p> <p>By 1873, 8,000 residents lived in the mining town of Alta, boasting approximately 180 buildings, 26 of them saloons. A narrow gauged railroad was completed to Alta. The train was pulled up by mules and then coasted back down, with the brakeman trying to control the wild descent down to the base.</p> <p>In 1938, the first ski lift, Collins Lift, was constructed out of material from old aerial mining rams, as was built on land donated by Mayor Watson in the town of Alta. Today, Snowbird, with its' own Aerial Tram and 9 chairlifts, offers some of the most spectacular skiing in the world, with a typical annual snowfall of 500 inches of light, dry powder, and an eight month long ski season. Little Cottonwood Canyon, carved from alpine glacial activity 3 million years ago, is a spectacular setting for some of the premier skiing in the world.</p>
Gold Mine	During the peak of the mining fever days, a gold mine was established at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon. Gold was mysteriously produced from this mine, but never really happened.
Avalanches in the early days of Alta	Miners, in search of timber for both housing and support structures for the mines, stripped the hills of the trees which helped resist avalanches. After one avalanche, the town government decided that running the main streets north-south would be better protection against avalanches. Not surprisingly, the avalanches didn't seem to realize the change.
Chinamen's Wall	Just west of Snowbird, on the north side of the road, the rock wall shows the last remnants of the structure that was built to protect the railroad from avalanches and snowstorms.

	<p>A narrow gauge railway was built in 1916 up to Tanner's Flats. From there an aerial tram joined the rail system to Alta. By 1919 the railway extended all the way up the canyon. Production of silver ore peaked and then steadily declined by the late 1920's, to be met with the fate of the great crash on Wall Street.</p>
An Alta Dreamer	<p>While working at the Alta Lodge in 1965, Ted Johnson dreamed of a place that would become Snowbird. Having purchased the deed to the Blackjack mining claim at the base of Peruvian Gulch, Johnson hoped to build a lodging complex as an extension of the Alta community. Blackjack was situated such that skiers could not only ski Alta, but also the wide bowls and 2-mile runs of Peruvian Gulch and Gad Valley.</p> <p>Ted also had the opportunity to buy the Snowbird mining claim adjacent to Blackjack, and he realized that the canyon could handle an entirely new ski resort. Since Ted's assets were limited, he went on a search for operating capital substantial enough to support his dream. After exhausting his options in Utah, Ted decided to expand his search nationwide. He gathered some of his friends and his wife, Wilma, and they filmed their version of a ski movie (with Warren Miller's help). They would side step up the mountain and take turns skiing down. With this ski movie, he went on the road in search of financial partners.</p> <p>In October of 1969, Johnson met Richard D. Bass at a party in Vail. Bass, a Texas oilman and rancher, was a member of the Board of Directors at Vail and Aspen and knew the ski industry.</p> <p>The next week Bass came to Utah and the two hiked into Gad Valley. Bass immediately recognized the wisdom of Johnson's dream. Soon, Bass and Johnson were touring European and U.S. ski areas to get ideas of how to maximize Snowbird's potential. By April 1970, the project was underway. Dick Bass had a vision of what he hoped Snowbird would become. In his words: "My underlying dream for Snowbird is the creation of a year-round resort, which respects and complements the beauty and inspiration of this natural setting – a place dedicated to increasing human understanding through the enhancement of body, mind and spirit."</p>

Mineral Basin	<p>Appropriately named after the mineral mines found in the area. There are still wooden pipes in the area that have water flowing through them. They are visible during the summer near the path the snowmobiles take during the winter.</p> <p>As you look across the Mineral Basin from this point, you are facing southeast. You will notice old mine dumps and tailings from these mines. Alta's Sugarloaf Lift is nestled in the saddle, following the ridge to your left. Heber City is 17 miles down the Basin, at the base of the canyon. The Uinta Mountain range is the only mountain range in North America running east to west. Beyond the Uinta Mountain Ridge, to the north, is the state of Wyoming.</p>
George Tyng	<p>In 1903, another Texas land and cattle man came to the Snowbird area for mining. His name was George Tyng. One of his leases included the Miller Mine, originally developed by Jacob and William Miller in the summer of 1871. Miller Mine and Miller Hill are located at the eastern end of Mineral Basin.</p> <p>As the story goes, on what was to be the last day of the operation for the Miller Mine, George left the canyon, headed to American Fork to get the last payroll for his employees. Not long after he set out, one his mine foreman, Jack Howe, tripped on a rock in the mine tunnel, and in anger hit the rock with his pick. The scene could be out of a movie; the pick broke through the floor of the mine into a vein of sand laced with silver ore. The bonanza was on! George Tyng hustled to New York City to obtain a lease extension on the Miller Mine, keeping the news of the discovery absolutely clandestine. Tyng made a fortune, and he spent it locally, hiring men and buying local supplies in Utah Valley. As he spread his wealth around, his fame spread, too. People made the 2-day trek into the canyon just to eat under the chandeliers in the restaurant at the mining camp.</p> <p>The winter of 1905-1906 was an exceptional, deep snow year. On January 14, 1906, a report came in that "fourteen teams hauling Tyng ore were trapped high in the canyon by avalanches". Tyng's cabin was high, and among the pines, out of the way of conventional avalanche paths. But on January 19, a "deep rushing roar that could only mean one thing – an avalanche". George was killed and buried in 15 feet of snow in his cabin. His will stated that he was to be buried high on Miller Hill, where he used to enjoy looking out over his mining operation. Some have called him one of the most intriguing men of the west. Every few years, someone mends and paints the little picket fence around his gravesite.</p>

First Aerial Tram, mid 1800s	<p>The first aerial tram in Little Cottonwood Canyon was actually built in the mid 1800s. It ran from Michigan City down to Tanner's Flat. Michigan City was located in Grizzly Gulch, east and a bit north of Alta – a distance of about 4-5 miles. The tram was powered by the weight of the ore placed in the downward buckets. Tanner's Flat was a key station in the mining days. This is typically where the snow would transition between heavy and light snow, causing a variation in the means of transportation. The tram was originally built by the Continental-Alta Company, and then later rebuilt by the Michigan-Utah Company. The flat got its name from the Nathan Tanner family. There were at least 6 Tanners in the area. They posted 2 claims in the area. By early spring 1871, buildings were erected, including a telegraph office and hotel/inn for travelers. A short time later, September 1872, the inn caught fire and left the Tanner family destitute. They apparently left the area at this time, for no other records are found of them after this time.</p> <p>This aerial tram served as the source for building material for the first ski lift at Alta, the Collins Lift.</p>
Before the Forest Service	<p>In 1902, prior to and as part of a study for the formation of the Forest Service (1905), a survey was conducted of the upper Little and Big Cottonwood Canyons. The surveyors report back was "that you would be hard pressed to find a stick big enough to beat a snake". Most of the trees now come from a nursery that was established in Big Cottonwood Canyon to begin reforestation of the mountainsides.</p>
Looking West from the Tram: Oquirrh Mountains	<p>Looking due west and down the canyon across the Salt Lake Valley is the Oquirrh Mountain Range. The light-colored ridges are the Bingham Open Pit Copper Mine, more commonly known as Kennecott Copper Mine among locals. Two brothers, Sanford and Thomas Bingham, first discovered copper ore in 1848. In 1863, ore extraction began but a formal mining didn't begin until 1906. It is currently owned by Rio Tinto Group. It is one of the largest in the world and a designated National Historic Landmark. Notice the absence of trees on the east-facing slope of the Oquirrh Mountains. All the trees were killed by the early pollution of the smoke stacks from the smelting of copper in the late 1800's and early 1900's.</p> <p>In 1906, the Wasatch Nursery was established on the site of today's Spruces Campground in Big Cottonwood Canyon, a 106-acre site, dedicated to a reforestation of the canyons around Salt Lake Valley.</p> <p>Looking southwest, you will see the Twin Peaks; again, notice the uplifting and overlapping of the pre-historic rock formations. Looking straight down the canyon, you will see the dramatic U-shape, created by glacial activity. The Pfeifferhorn Peak (Little Matterhorn), in the distance, facing the southwest, is similar in shape to the Matterhorn in Switzerland; both have three distinct sloping faces, cut by three separate glaciers. It is the 5th highest peak in the Wasatch Range. Directly below, the expansive Gad Valley, with its many hiking and skiing trails, offering some of the best skiing in the world. Portions of the snowfields are usually visible year-round.</p>

Let it Be	<p>Snowbird opened in December of 1971 with 3 lifts, the Tram, the Lodge at Snowbird and the Snowbird Center. The Inn was constructed in 1972, the Cliff Lodge west wing in 1973-74, and the Iron Blossam in the fall of 1974.</p> <p>In June of 1974, after many years of dedication to the project, Johnson was ready for a well-deserved rest and wanted to spend more time with his family. He sold his interest in Snowbird to Bass.</p> <p>In 1986, after 3 years of construction and renovation, an enlarged Cliff Lodge opened its doors to the public. The Cliff is among the finest resort hotels anywhere with a world-class health spa (renovated in 2010), conference center and the world's largest privately held collection of oriental rugs. The 11-story atrium, which connects the original building with the new wing, offers a spectacular view. Snowbird includes the finest facilities the skiing world has to offer combined with an unparalleled accessibility to a major metropolitan city and international airport. Snowbird has also fostered a reputation for its environmental stewardship, for which it has been awarded numerous prestigious awards.</p>
Greatest Snow on Earth	<p>Rapid elevation change, canyons running east to west, and the West Desert, all have a tremendous effect of our weather and the moisture content of our snow. The canyon acts as a flue, directing moisture-saturated air up the canyon, where air is cooled and slowed by the steep ridges, resulting in heaving precipitation. Lake effect can add to the snow levels. A counterclockwise wind motion in the Salt Lake valley picks up water from the Great Salt Lake and the canyon flue captures portions of this weather pattern.</p> <p>The annual precipitation at the Snowbird Center is about 54 inches of water per year. An average year of snowfall is 500 inches of snow. That means Snowbird receives approximately 8 inches of dry snow for every inch of water. The average ski resort in California receives about 4 inches of snow per inch of water; we receive twice as much snow with the same amount of water. During the</p>

	<p>2010-2011 Winter Season, Snowbird continued to set new records for snowfall, 783 inches – surpassing the 688 inches record from 1983-84.</p> <p>Where does all our water go in the warmer months? Most of the water runs down the canyon and is used for drinking water along the highly populated Wasatch Front. Some of the water stays right here and is stored in underground silver mine caverns and tunnels built in the 1800's, millions of gallons! The water is then filtered at Snowbird's own water treatment plant and used at the resort. Some days, right after a storm, the water from the tap is cloudy and carbonated from the runoff and turbulence but is still safe to drink.</p>
Snowbird Geography: From Inland Sea to Majestic Beauty	<p>From 600 million to 3.5 billion years ago, the Great Basin, now called the Wasatch Front, was covered by an inland sea, Lake Bonneville. With the rising and subsiding of the sea, hundreds of feet of sediment were laid down and solidified into bedrock and rock formations.</p> <p>65 million years ago, our Wasatch Mountains were uplifted, while the Salt Lake Valley subsided. The landscapes where Snowbird and Alta are now located were twisted and warped, folded and faulted. Many gravity faults were formed, the largest being the Wasatch Fault, running north to south for hundreds of miles and is visible at the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon. The Wasatch Fault is considered one of the major faults in the U.S. Salt Lake City and the surrounding areas, which border the fault, are classified as third-class seismic zones, along with San Francisco and Los Angeles.</p> <p>18 thousand to 3 million years ago, glacial activity carved and shaped Little Cottonwood Canyon, leaving hanging valleys and lakes along the south side of the canyon. A hanging valley is a shallow valley carved by a small glacier and thus the elevation of the valley floor is "hanging" high above the elevation of the valley floor carved out by the larger glacier. Albion Basin and Cecret Lake, White Pine and White Pine Lake, and Red Pine and Red Pine Lake are among the many that were created.</p> <p>As you look west, down the canyon, you can see the U-shaped smooth granite walls resulting from glacial activity turning to a V-shape at the mouth of the canyon from stream cutting action. Hiking or driving the canyon, you will be amazed at the large smooth boulders left teetering in precarious positions by the receding glacier!</p>

The Continual Quest to Improve	<p>Known for its deep powder snow, Snowbird made a conscious effort to expand its beginner and intermediate terrain with the installation of the Baby Thunder Chairlift in 1995. Two years later, "The Bird" entered the age of high-speed chairlifts when the Gad I chairlift was improved to a high-speed quad and appropriately named Gadzoom.</p> <p>The ongoing quest to improve received a major boost in April of 1999 when a crew of 9 people composed of Garaventa/CTEC and Snowbird employees began the task of hauling the lower terminal of the high-speed Mineral Basin Express chairlift to the base of the coveted powder bowl. The parts were actually delivered to the Alta Ski Area parking lot where they were loaded onto a trailer and hauled, via snowcat, through Alta and over Sugarloaf Pass to Mineral Basin. Some of the pieces weighed as much as 16,000 pounds and took 4 snowcats to move into place.</p> <p>Since there was no crane available to unload parts, the crew played a game of industrial "Jenga", stacking cribbing under each piece and then jacking them up to be able to pull the trailer free. The process lasted until mid-May due to some of the heaviest snowfall of the winter.</p> <p>In early June the top terminal pieces were delivered to Snowbird and then positioned in a staging area outside the Tram Club. In mid-June the task of hauling parts to Hidden Peak began. Garaventa/CTEC engineers designed a special lifting frame and system to utilize the Aerial Tram as a giant moving crane. Each morning, crews loaded up to 16,000 pounds of lift parts and other construction materials under the red tramcar and slowly hauled the load to Hidden Peak. In early July, concrete was taken up the mountain by truck and lift tower installation began.</p> <p>Midway through the 1999/2000 season, skiers and snowboarders discovered what they had coveted for so long. Mineral Basin and its 500 acres of additional intermediate and advanced terrain proved to be everything Snowbird hoped. Recently, both Little Cloud and Gad II lifts have been upgraded. Newer additions include The Summit restaurant atop Hidden Peak, bridges connecting Snowbird Center to The Cliff Lodge and Peruvian base, and SeventyOne, a new restaurant in The Cliff Lodge with a retro vibe.</p>
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Elevations of Peaks around Snowbird

Peak	Elevation (Feet)	Notes
Hidden Peak	11,000	Top of the Tram
Baldy	11,068	Peak between Snowbird and Alta
Highest Chair at Alta	10,595	Point Supreme
Highest Peak in Utah	13,528	King's Peak
American Fork Twins	11,433	Left Twin
	11,483	West Twin
Pfeifferhorn	11,326	Triangular Peak (looking west from Hidden Peak)
Devil's Castle	10,920	In Alta, appears as two rabbit ears looking east from Hidden Peak
Superior	11,050	North side of the canyon, across from the top of the tram
Monte Cristo	11,132	Just west of Superior, higher than Superior
Dromedary	11,107	Peak to the west of Monte Cristo
Salt Lake Twins	11,328 & 11,330	North side of the canyon, last peaks to the west on the ridge line

Dick Bass

Often described as a renaissance man and a visionary, Snowbird founder Dick Bass was one of the ski resort industry's most dynamic and energetic personalities. In his own words, he was born with "blanket curiosity, nonstop verbosity, and hyper-enthusiasm."

Such temperament and outlook have caused him to take a very broad cut at life and have given him great interest and experience in many areas. He also has said that he picked his father very carefully but didn't go quite far enough west... to Fort Worth, Texas – home of the billionaire Bass family. He's the "Bass from Dall-as", as he liked to describe himself. And though his net worth may not stack up to that of the other Basses, he measures his wealth in adventures and in friendships.

Certainly, Snowbird was a giant leap into the unknown for a geologist and rancher who had never developed any real estate or resort projects on his own. As if Snowbird's evolution were not enough for anyone's nervous system, energy and pocketbook, starting in 1981, Dick played hooky from time to time over 4 years to climb the highest peak on each of the 7 continents.

On April 30, 1985, he finally succeeded in his 4th attempt to scale Mt. Everest and he became the first person to reach the 7 continental highs, as well as the oldest by 5 years to summit Everest at age 55. He held this distinction until 1994.

Snowbird was Dick's passion (along with his wife, Alice) and it keeps evolving each year toward his goal of creating a place for the enhancement of the "body, mind and spirit." Just gaze on the mountain from a balcony window in The Cliff Lodge and you can see how well this place mingles with nature and how Dick's dream of the ultimate ski resort is being realized.

Through his many lectures from coast to coast, Dick was a constant inspiration to others. His story is one of overcoming adversity – in business and in life. If you read his book, "Seven Summits" (co-authored with the late Frank Wells and Rick Ridgeway), you can fully appreciate his robust approach to everything he does and his triumphs of the human spirit. (The book is available throughout Snowbird and at major bookstores across the country.)

To have found Dick on the mountain, one would "just listen for a booming voice that is rich with Texas homilies and Shakespearean poetry, and you'll find the man who has taken "...the road less traveled." — Source: Snowbird.com (date 2011)

Bass & Cumming Partnership

The Bass and Cumming Families have entered into a majority owner partnership for the future operation and development of Snowbird. The partnership has provided continuing direction and funding for major capital improvement projects, including The Summit atop Hidden Peak, a Four Diamond remodel initiative for the Cliff Lodge and the renovation of the Snowbird Center.

"This partnership will enable Snowbird to achieve more rapid growth and even greater benefits for our guests in keeping with our founding perspective and philosophy of providing a year-round destination mountain resort for the enhancement of body, mind, and spirit, with our ever present emphasis on environmental protection and sensitivity," said Richard D.

Bass. In addition, Bass felt extremely fortunate to have the Cumming Family join in Snowbird's future, owing to his inability to live and work at Snowbird's altitude because of his advancing age.

"I look forward to working with the Bass Family and the team at Snowbird in providing world-class experiences on and off the mountain," said Ian M. Cumming, an original investor in the Inn at Snowbird. Cumming owns a home at Snowbird and his family has a long history of skiing at Snowbird. "We are very happy to be involved at a place that has so many fond memories for our family," said Cumming.

2018 – Saying Goodbye & Welcoming the Future

Ted Johnson passed away in January 2018 at age 91. Ted, 'Silver Fox', co-founded Snowbird in 1971 with Dick Bass and was the visionary force behind the establishment of Snowbird. More on Ted:

<https://www.sltrib.com/news/business/2018/01/30/ted-johnson-the-visionary-behind-snowbird-dies-of-his-injuries-after-a-drunk-driver-hit-him-in-a-crosswalk/>

Just a week later, Ian M. Cumming also passed away. Ian owned the majority share of Snowbird (see Cumming and Bass family partnership above). Ian's leadership provided significant Snowbird improvements including finishing The Summit. John Cumming, Ian's son, is now Chairman of Snowbird.

The Cumming family also owns POWDR which is an adventure lifestyle company based in Utah consisting of ski resorts and other complimentary adventure lifestyle offerings. Snowbird enjoys a collaborative, family relationship with POWDR that allows Snowbird to benefit from POWDR's management, capabilities, and strengths while retaining a localized Snowbird guest experience. More info available at POWDR.com

Bob Bonar, Snowbird's President and CEO retired in October 2018. Bob started at Snowbird in 1971 and has been a central force throughout Snowbird's history. He became General Manager in 1997 and was Snowbird's longest serving GM. Dave Fields has been named Snowbird's new President and General Manager.

The Luck of the Draw

By Cate Love

You could say the history of Snowbird starts and ends with a dream shared by two men" Ted Johnson, an athlete and adventurer with an idea for the future of skiing; and Dick Bass, an entrepreneur with a passion for poetry and high places. Thirty years later, this world-class, year round resort owes its birth to the vision and tenacity of these two men. But, as in the game of chess, every move is the result of all previous moves. So Snowbird is the result of a series of events' some pure luck, others pure genius.

It all started tens of millions of years ago (fairly recently in geologic terms) as the earth began shifting and heaving and raising the Wasatch Mountain Range out of a basin of volcanic ash.. Then it got colder, wetter and glaciers formed on the young mountains as the basin below filled with water. The glaciers moved, the rivers flowed, volcanic activity and faulting continued and the canyons of the Wasatch front began to take shape. "U" s for the glacier's gravitational flow, "V"s for the river's erosive carving. Little Cottonwood Canyon, yet nameless, incubated.

Fast-forward a few million years. Nomadic Native American tribes found an abundance of wildlife and water in canyons of the Wasatch. For hundreds of years they fished in Little Cottonwood Creek and hunted small and big game in the basins of the canyon.

Mormon settlers brought structure, industry and historical dates when they made their way off the range in 1847, settled into Salt Lake Valley and began exploring nearby canyons. The next year, the United States government signed the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, acquiring present day Utah, California, New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada for \$15 million and other considerations.

Little Cottonwood Canyon offered a seemingly endless wealth of timber, stone, water and wild game and it didn't take the settlers long to exploit these natural resources. The first sawmill was erected at Tanners Flat in 1851. Tannersville was the first settlement, complete with sawmill and boardinghouse. Construction of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) Temple began in 1855, using granite from a quarry near the mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon.

The quarry work supported a nearby town called Wasatch, 1.5 miles up the canyon road. The temple was completed 38 years later and the town became Wasatch Resort, an idyllic mountain getaway then. Wasatch Resort exists today as a small residential community. The church's new Conference Center, north of Temple Square, was constructed using granite from the same quarry.

In 1863, the discovery of silver ore deposits would change this corner of the Wasatch forever. One hundred years after Spanish conquistadors used Indian slave labor to extract “money rock” to decorate their castles, new settlers would create a whole new life from the shimmering treasure of the Wasatch.

Hoping to strike it rich, people flocked to Little cottonwood and by 1870, several small settlements dotted the canyon with names such as Cheatum, Hogum, Galena City, Union City, Emmaville, and Gold City. The Davenport and Flagstaff smelters were constructed at the canyon’s mouth, along with a larger settlement called Granite City. Central City was built nine miles up the canyon and was named both for its central location to the mines and its position as a center for the mining and lumber industry. Later, the entire town moved farther east and was renamed Alta City, presumably after Alta Hotel, its first establishment.

The Civil War had ended and rail stretched across the county. Many sought their fortunes in the West. Soldiers, prospectors, foreigners and fugitives poured in to the work the mines and by 1873 more than 8,000 people lived in the canyon. The Emma Mine (the namesake of Snowbirds’ Big Emma ski run) was one of the most lucrative silver mines in Little Cottonwood producing approximately \$3.8 million in precious silver.

People, many whom had little or no formal education, named mining claims and locations phonetically.

Secret Lake at Alta and Snowbird’s Iron Blossam Lodge are examples of their legacy. If their spelling was unrefined, the life was even more so. Alta was a rough boomtown. At its peak, the town was reputed to have had a killing a day. Saloons made a killing as well, with miners consuming as much as a quart of alcohol per day each. You can bet the town attracted its share of gamblers, gunslingers and ladies of ill repute.

In 1875, a narrow-gauge railroad was built from Wasatch to Alta up the north side of the canyon. Mules were used to pull the cars uphill, since the grade was too steep for state-of-the-art steam engines. Cars loaded with ore coasted back downhill, the brakeman struggling to control hazardous speeds. The foundation of a snowshed, built to protect the lines from heavy snowfall and avalanches, can still be seen in the upper canyon. It’s called the Chinese wall, names for the immigrant laborers who constructed it.

The general economic crisis at the end of the 19th Century, the exhaustion of most of the mines and the disappearance of much working capital brought the bustling town of Alta down in the 1890s. And even though another boom was on the way, it would never again reach the size it had in the previous three decades.

Alta’s second boom began in 1904 with a new rich strike. Population grew to nearly 1,000. Over the next 10 years, more new veins of ore were uncovered. The resurgence brought a Michigander named George Watson to Little Cottonwood Canyon. A colorful character and arguably Alta’s most famous inhabitant, Watson played a key role in the development of skiing here...but that was yet to occur.

New technology accompanied the new boom and in 1916, the Michigan-Utah Mining Company resurrected the old narrow-gauge to Tanner’s Flat and joined it with an aerial tram to the mine. Eventually, that ore tram was converted into Alta’s first chairlift, the second in the world (the first was in Sun Valley in 1936)

The production of silver ore peaked in 1912, and declined steadily after that. The great crash of Wall Street in 1929 finished it off.

During those years of decline, the enterprising Watson had a stroke of questionable genius, which proved lucky for the modern ski industry. As mining slowed and town’s population dwindled, he bought up all the old mining claims he could get, convinced that there would be another silver boom. By the mid-30’s, he was alone in Alta, so he voted himself mayor. He figured he’d be in a commanding position when the mining companies rolled back in.

To date, they haven’t. By 1938, heavily mortgaged and owing property taxes he couldn’t pay, Watson turned over the surface rights of his land to the U.S. Forest Service. In exchanged, the U.S. government forgave his debt and allowed him to remain in his little cabin at Alta, not far from the base of present-day Wildcat life. It was a scenario he’d discussed as early as 1933 and it suited him just fine. Watson lived on in his little cabin, entertaining skiers with wild drinks and even wilder tales until his death in 1952.

The late 1920’s and early 30’s brought ski tourism and instruction to the American public, who loved watching skiers soar like giant birds off crudely built jumps. The late 30’s brought Alta Ski Lifts. You could buy a day lift ticket for \$1.50.

Fast-forwarding through the planning, negotiating and dreaming that brought Alta to life. World War II and the 10th Mountain Division training at Alta, the pioneering of snow avalanche study, and the first three decades of skiing in America to 1964.

Ted Johnson, a California native who left Bakersfield to travel the world years before, was managing Watson’s Shelter, Alta’s mid-mountain restaurant. Ted was an adventurer who established himself as a competitive bicyclist in 1943, prior

to joining the Air Force and serving in World War II. After the war, he became an avid surfer and skier, spending his time in Hawaii and Sun Valley, Idaho. He discovered Alta in 1954, managed the Rustler Lodge and taught skiing for the legendary Alf Engen and Junior Bounous, who still teaches skiing today at Snowbird. He skied so smoothly they called him the Silver Fox, and he frequently appeared in Dick Barrymore ski films of the early 60's.

In 1964 Johnson, having often skied beyond Alta into Peruvian Gulch, began to nurture a kernel of an idea. Originally, he wanted to build a lodge to serve Alta. But, it grew into a dream of building an entire ski resort. He started buying old mining claims in the area. The first of these was Black Jack, just above today's Cliff Lodge. Eventually, he bought the Snowbird claim, upon which today's Snowbird village stands. Johnson spent years tracking down the owners and purchasing the rights to land around Snowbird. He borrowed money from anyone who would lend it.

Another Alta local introduced Johnson to ski film mogul Warren Miller. The two formed a limited partnership and produced a clip showing the potential of Snowbird. The idea was to raise funds for the new area. They raised \$40,000 and constructed models of Snowbird village. They tried for years to find an investor with the funding and the foresight to help him develop Snowbird, which he figured would cost about \$3.5 million.

Johnson had it all figured out: An aerial tramway would take skiers to the high point between Peruvian Gulch and Gad Valley.

As luck would have it, Johnson was traveling through Vail in September 1969, along about the time Vail's board of directors was dining at the Gasthof Gramshammer. Having friends on the board, he was invited to dinner and just happened to sit down across the table from an outspoken Texas businessman named Dick Bass.

When Bass sat down to dinner, he tried to engage this reclusive, unfamiliar man in conversation. He asked Johnson about himself and his life. The powder skier seemed reluctant to reveal anything and Bass took it as a sort of challenge. Eventually, charmed no doubt by the tenacity of Bass' conversational skills, Johnson began to share his dream.

The next morning, Bass watched the 13-minute film, narrated by Warren Miller. Johnson explained the advantages of the area; moderate winter temperatures, accessibility of the resort to a major international airport, the average snowfall being twice that of Vail, with more vertical and greater scale and variety of terrain. No other ski area in America had all those salient factors going for it at once. Not long after their chance meeting, Bass met Johnson in Utah to tour the area.

Johnson's enthusiasm was so infectious and his plan was so inspiring, according to Bass, "this 160 pound, large-mouthed Bass was hooked." But, being a successful businessman, Bass had to look at all the angles. In early December, the two toured a handful of ski areas in the eastern U.S. The first part of the next year, they went to Jackson Hole, Sun Valley, Mammoth and other western ski area. The next stop was Snowbird.

Dick Bass was born in 1928 in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the son of an independent oilman. In 1932 the family moved to Dallas, Texas. Highly driven, blankety curious, and somewhat hyper enthusiastic, he entered Yale University at the age of 16. His main focus of study began as humanities – literature and poetry – but "pragmatism overcame (his) idealism" and he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in geology. After serving on an aircraft carrier during the Korean War, Bass joined the family oil and gas business and ranching operations back in Texas.

A hugely energetic and well-read personality, Bass' lust for life led him to Aspen in the 50s, where he learned to ski, then to Vail, where he became an investor and regular skier. He was invested in Aspen and Vail in 1969. The last thing the 39 year old needed was to put money into another ski area (so he thought). But, as he looked across the canyon from a perch on Hellgate, Johnson's dream became a part of him, and so Dick Bass made the necessary financial commitment.

The next several months took the new partners to ski areas around the world, researching tram technology and resort layout. They overcame many obstacles in constructing the centerpiece of Snowbird: the Tram. They drafted and defended environmental impact studies, met local, state and federal regulations. They upheld their dream against public skepticism, environmental attack and governmental red tape. The cost of opening, which actually occurred in December 1971, was \$13.4 million, a bit more than Johnson had planned on in the beginning. Your lift ticket would have cost \$7.

A team of architects, landscape architects and planners developed Snowbird's master plan. Bass and Johnson wanted the resort to pay respect to the environment, fit into the natural setting and maintain an open appreciation for the surroundings: pine covered slopes, wildflower meadows, peaks of quartzite, dolomite and granite. Environmental concerns played a major role in the construction of Snowbird's buildings. Enormous snow load prompted the sturdy concrete and steel structure of all of the buildings. Abandoned silver mines on either side of Little Cottonwood Creek were incorporated into the overall resort design and became a vast underground water reservoir, providing culinary water for the resorts of the canyon to this day.

Snowbird opened with its signature Aerial Tram, a beginner rope tow, and three double chairlifts, Wilbere, Gad Valley and Upper Gad Valley chairs. Village amenities included the Lodge at Snowbird and Snowbird Center with restaurants, shops and lounges.

It cost more financially, spiritually and emotionally to build Snowbird to the standards set by Johnson and Bass than either of them originally planned. In 1974, Johnson sold his share in the resort in order to spend more time with his family. Bass carried on, incurring more and more debt in his quest to build the resort as a renaissance center for the enhancement of body, mind and spirit.

The Turrumurra Lodge was built (now the Inn at Snowbird) – along with the country's first major timeshare development, the Iron Blossam Lodge. Snowbird acquired the Cliff Lodge in the 70's and added another wing in the mid-80s, effectively doubling its size and incorporating a first-class resort spa facility.

Meanwhile, on-mountain improvements included the Peruvian, Chickadee and Little Cloud chairlifts. In the mid-90's Baby Thunder was constructed to access more beginner and intermediated terrain just west of the original ski area boundary. Then the canyon's first high-speed quad Gadzoom, was built in 1997.

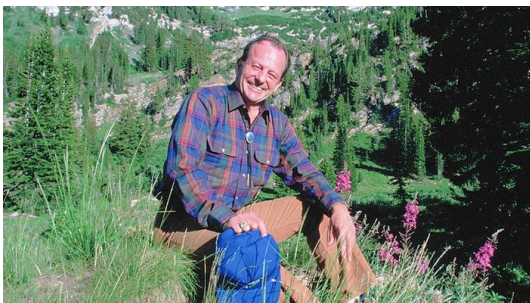
In the mid-90s, Snowbird renovated the west wing of the Cliff and created a premier vacation ownership property, the Cliff Club.

Two years ago, Snowbird's ski area boundary extended into Mineral Basin, adding 500 acres to its already impressive size and another high-speed quad, Mineral Basin Express (MBX). And this year, another dream came true with the construction of Baldy Express, a new high-speed quad from the base of MBX to the saddle between Bald and Sugarloaf peaks at Alta. With this new development, Snowbird goes back to the future so to speak. Now Snowbird's skiing public will be able to turn in the tracks of its history, without having to climb uphill as their predecessors did.

In the next few years, Snowbird expects to build a new facility on Hidden Peak, providing food service, skier services and an environmental interpretative center, plus hill maintenance and ski patrol facilities. The resort also anticipated upgrading the Little Cloud chairlift to a high-speed detachable quad and constructing a day lodge at the base of Gad Valley.

Dick Bass dies at 85; Texas oilman was first to scale 'seven summits'

By Steve Chawkins



Dick Bass in an undated photo; he was the first person to climb the highest peak on each of the seven continents. He died Sunday, July 26, 2015, at the age of 85. (Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort)

Dick Bass, a poetry-spouting Texas oilman who was the first climber to scale the highest peak on each of the seven continents and for a time was the oldest to top Mt. Everest, has died. He was 85.

Bass died Sunday, July 26, 2015, at his home in Dallas. He had pulmonary fibrosis, according to a statement from Snowbird, the Utah ski resort he started in 1971 and owned until 2014.

At various times in his career, he also was a part-owner of ski areas in Vail and Aspen. He owned ranches in Texas and coal mines in Alaska. He grew up around the oil fields of Oklahoma, where his father, Harry W. Bass, developed portable drilling rigs and became one of the largest natural-gas processors in the U.S.

"I chose my father very carefully," Bass later said. "He gave me the perfect launching pad."

Often described as a larger-than-life character, Bass blended relentless enthusiasm and profound optimism with operatic intentions and raw guts.

"He is an honest, likable man haunted by a need to keep proving himself," the Boston Globe said in 2000. "He will bring himself to tears talking about the value of integrity and the gift of life."

In an interview with The Times, David Breashears, one of the world's top climbers and the first American to ascend Everest twice, described Bass as "a poet, a visionary and a mountaineer with the heart of a lion."



An active skier and tennis player, Bass never trained for his grueling climbs. "I was befuddled by his astonishing ability to perform at high altitude," said Breashears, who accompanied Bass at Everest. "I had to tell myself I wasn't imagining it. It made no sense to me."

Bass, who said he "never planned to climb anything, except out of bed in the morning," was 51 when he started his record-setting expeditions. He was 55 when he bagged Everest on April 30, 1985, having already climbed Aconcagua, in South America; Denali, in Alaska; Elbrus, in Russia; Kilimanjaro, in Africa; Kosciuszko, in Australia; and Vinson Massif, in Antarctica.

Frank Wells, his main climbing partner, succeeded on all of the peaks but Everest. Wells, who quit his job as president of Warner Bros. Studio for the grand effort, also was a novice.

"At first glance, I just thought they were a couple of dilettantes having a midlife crisis," said Rick Ridgeway, a renowned climber who was hired by the pair to organize and guide several of the treks.

After a little time with them, Ridgeway said, he changed his mind.

"They had hardly any chance of pulling it off, but they were going to do it with verve, vigor and no looking back. They became mentors to me; their example was a guide to what passion, commitment and tenacity can get you."

On Aconcagua, Bass stumbled in a hole, painfully shredded a leg muscle, and hobbled down 10,000 feet before Argentine soldiers on maneuvers loaded him onto a mule and led him 20 miles to a road. In one of Bass' three attempts on Everest, Marty Hoey, a tough female guide who had taught Bass some hard lessons on Denali, plunged 6,000 feet to her death. Her body was never found.

"That will be with me till the day I die," said Bass, who recruited her for his climbs when she was on the ski patrol at Snowbird. "I just admired her so much. I respected her so much."

At exhausting times, Bass would lift his party's spirit by breaking into verse. On Vinson Massif in Antarctica, the temperature was at least 40 degrees below zero, water in the canteens was frozen solid, and biting on a candy bar "was like chomping down on a bar of steel," Ridgeway wrote in "Seven Summits," a 1986 book he wrote with Bass and Wells.

"We were doing a little war dance, stomping our feet and swinging our arms. Then Bass got poetic: *Talk of your cold, through the parka's fold, it stabbed like a driven nail...*

It was a line from Robert W Service's "The Cremation of Sam McGee," one of the Yukon bard's many sagas that Bass had memorized and would recite, unbidden, on the trail and in the tent.

When Bass and Ridgeway reached the top and wrapped each other in a bear-hug, Bass dipped into "Sam McGee" again: *When our eyes we'd close, then the lashes froze, 'til sometimes we couldn't see....*

Richard Bass was born in Tulsa, Okla., on Dec. 21, 1929, and wanted to be a boy's prep school teacher.

"I was going to be a Chips reincarnate," he told the publication Utah Business in 1991. "Did you ever see 'Dead Poets Society?' That was me. I was going to be that very thing."

Instead, he studied geology at Yale and did graduate work in petroleum engineering at the University of Texas. He served on a Navy aircraft carrier during the Korean War and had his first taste of climbing — though he always called himself "a high-altitude trekker" rather than a climber — at Mt. Fuji in Japan.

In 1962, Bass was among the original investors in Vail. He and his brother Harry Jr. later developed the nearby Beaver Creek resort.

Developing Snowbird, he came close to bankruptcy a number of times. After an around-the-world trip with his adult children, he realized that "I had really been hammered down — by bankers, by competitors, by environmental groups, by people with their hands in the cookie jar. Plus, I had a divorce thrown in there too."

Physical achievement — whether on mountains, or running the original marathon route laid out by the ancient courier Phidippides, or swimming the Hellespont a la Lord Byron — was an antidote.

"Nobody thwarted me as I struggled up the mountainside," he wrote. "I had definite goals and I realized a tangible sense of accomplishment."

Over the years, Bass encountered his share of critics. In his popular book "Into Thin Air," author Jon Krakauer dismissively described Bass as a wealthy Texan who was "ushered to the top of Everest."

"Previously, Everest had by and large been the province of elite mountaineers," Krakauer wrote. "Bass' ascent changed all that."

Phil Powers, a mountaineer who is chief executive of the American Alpine Club, said Bass's well-publicized pursuit of the seven summits "launched a whole new world of adventure travel and a whole new business channel for guides." He said the quest had a healthy ripple effect on people who weren't about to brave Antarctica but might be inspired to take a weekend hike.

Bass was blunter about his critics. "They resent some 55-year-old yahoo from Texas climbing these mountains they'd dreamed about. When I see guides now, they hug me because the seven summits made the mountain-guiding profession. It made them!"

Bass' first two marriages ended in divorce. He is survived by his wife, Alice, four children, and 13 grandchildren as well as five stepchildren and 11 step-grandchildren.

Bass' climbing partner Frank Wells became president of the Walt Disney Co. in 1984. He died in a helicopter crash 10 years later.

In his later years, Bass planned to return to Everest and reclaim his title as its oldest climber, which had since been surpassed. He never did, but he was active until his illness forced him into a wheelchair.

According to one widely circulated story, he was on a cross-country flight when, in his loquacious way, he deluged his seatmate for hours with details of his treks on all seven continents. As they were about to land, he realized he hadn't paused to ask his new friend anything about himself, his job, or even his name.

"That's OK," the man responded, extending his hand. "I'm Neil Armstrong."

Dick Bass Final Hour

The whole family was gathered around Dick's bed. Dick pulls out a sheet of paper and starts to read a poem to Alice. Near the end Dick nods off, as if going to sleep — but was gone. Alice had not read nor heard the poem before. It appears that Dick had written the beautiful poem very shortly before his death.

Snowbird's Environmental Commitment

From the start, plans were made to ensure than Snowbird was constructed to operate in harmony with the environment. Those plans continue today with an all-encompassing commitment to the preservation of this beautiful canyon.









Architecture	<p>Since the initial construction until present, owner Dick Bass has insisted on conservation of trees and streams and designed the resort around existing vegetation and landscape. The construction of Snowbird actually enhanced many of the canyon's environmental standards. When designing the Snowbird Center and Cliff Lodge, mine tailings, which naturally pollute streambeds and surrounding vegetation were removed, and areas that were strip mined during the early silver boom were revegetated to help beautify and stop erosion.</p> <p>Starting in 1992, natural gas replaced all wood burning fire places in all the condominiums and hotel rooms at the resort, setting an environmental standard for ski resorts.</p>
Vegetation and Preservation	<p>In addition to revegetation efforts of Snowbird during the initial construction, Snowbird continues to revegetate with strong efforts in planning to use only native plants indigenous to the area, which require less water to thrive in this mountainous environment. Roofs of the building in the Snowbird complex were sodden to preserve the view from above and to filter roof-trapped water. Many of the ski runs were designed around existing avalanche paths, which were devoid of trees, created by strip mining in the 1800's.</p>

Water Quality and Energy	<p>Little Cottonwood Canyon is a designated watershed district, providing Snowbird, Alta and the Salt Lake Valley with much of its culinary water. A sewer line was constructed, at Dick Bass's request, to preserve the quality of the water in the canyon, so as not to pollute the watershed that had previously happened with septic tanks.</p> <p>Snowbird's Wasatch Drain Tunnel, which is a storage and treatment facility for culinary water, is an existing series of mining tunnels built in the 1870-1880's, 100 miles in length, that have been cleaned of all hazardous mining materials. The storage capacity of these tunnels is 30 million gallons. The project was built to upgrade the overall water quality in Little Cottonwood Canyon. The tunnel has won numerous awards for innovative water storage, operation and maintenance, and environmental impact.</p> <p>A secondary usage for the water is to cool a power plant located in the Cliff Lodge. The power plant generates electricity to the resort, and provides heating and cooling to the Cliff Lodge, then recycles the water back into the creek.</p>
Saving Water & Reducing Plastic	<p>Our partnership with Slow the Flow educates guests and employees on water conservations. Pick up a pocket-sized, reusable Protect Our Winters (POW) water bottle or get one free using the R.I.D.E. app. You can refill it anywhere at the resort. We're reducing plastic waster wherever possible. Bye bye, straws.</p>
Snowbird's Environmental Commitment	<p>Snowbird is committed to protecting the environment and engaging participation. At Snowbird, we intend to play forever. We believe there is nothing better of the soul than to live a balanced life full of adventure, and we believe future souls should have the same opportunities we have today. To make this happen, Snowbird is committed to doing all we can to protect our environments and inspire participation in adventure.</p>
Snowbird Sustainability	<p>Some recent environmental updates at Snowbird include:</p> <p>We completed our Greenhouse Gas Inventory this past summer. Having this information allows us to know what our current emissions are, and set goals for where we want to go in the future.</p> <p>Snowbird's R.I.D.E. app has been updated and is available for both iPhones and Androids. Employees can find friends and coworkers to carpool with, schedules and sign-ups for Departmental and Canyon Transportation vans, and the UTA Ski Bus schedule - with more options offered this season than ever before. Improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion while earning rewards, such as \$10 S.T.A.R. cards, monthly prizes for top users, including \$100, nights at the Cliff Lodge, and more. Download it today, and then register as an employee at http://www.snowbird.com/employee-ride.</p> <p>Snowbird has recycled over 100,000 pounds of glass since we started the program in 2017.</p> <p>Snowbird's installed FREE Electric Vehicle Charging Stations at the Parking Structure at Entry 4, allowing you to charge your car while you charge the slopes! Snowbird also has an electric resort shuttle bus.</p> <p>Since 1993, Snowbird has planted over 10,000 trees in Little Cottonwood Canyon with TreeUtah.</p>
Water Quality & Energy	<p>Little Cottonwood Canyon is a designated and protected watershed, providing Snowbird, Alta and Salt Lake Valley with much of its culinary water. Dick Bass helped initiate and construct a sewer line that brings water from Little Cottonwood Canyon to Central Valley Water Treatment Facility, further allowing Snowbird to help protect and preserve high water quality in the canyon. Service Area 3, located across from the Cliff Lodge, is a water treatment facility that cleans drinking water from the Wasatch Drain Tunnel and distributes it throughout Snowbird and part of the Town of Alta. The storage capacity of the tunnel is 30 million gallons, and the treatment facility has won numerous awards for innovative water storage, operation and maintenance, and environmental innovation.</p> <p>Snowbird works closely with the Forest Service to perform cleaning, operation and maintenance to at the bathrooms at the White Pine Trailhead. This partnership provides further watershed protection and services to Little Cottonwood Canyon.</p> <p>The CoGeneration Plant, currently located at the Cliff Lodge, is being reconstructed, updated and improved and relocated next to the Firehouse at Entry 4. Upon completion in a few years, the new CoGeneration Plant will run on Natural Gas and produce 270% more energy and release 79% less total emissions than the current one, and moves Snowbird further away from coal dependency.</p>

Environmental Achievements	<p>Snowbird has won numerous awards for environmental achievements, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside Online "America's 10 Most Eco-Friendly Ski Resorts" (2018) • National Ski Area Association "Hero of Sustainability" winner (2019) • National Ski Area Association "Golden Eagle Award" (2007) • Environmental Protection Agency's "Environmental Achievement Award" (2007) • State of Utah's "Earth Day Award" (2007) • Partnered with National Forest Foundation to provide funds for local conversation projects. • Founding partner of the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation.
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Animals in the Snowbird Area

There are a variety of animals found on or around Hidden Peak and at the Snowbird Center. Here are descriptions of a few you might see today!

Pika		The most common on Hidden Peak, is small and about the size of a rat. They are brown, with flat ear, live mostly in rocky, alpine areas. They eat grasses, and store their food in hay piles. They are often seen just west of the Ski Patrol Shack, sunning themselves on the rocks.
Rocky Mountain Goat		Introduced into the area in 1967, they are pure white year round and live on high rocky ridges. They eat alpine grass, forbs and mountain brush. There is one living beneath Tram Tower 4, at the base of the cliffs. Ask your tram operator.
Mule Deer		The most common the big game mammals. They have large ears and a black tipped tail. In summer they are reddish and in winter, have a blue grey coat. They live in forested areas; eat shrubs, twigs, grasses and herbs. You can usually see many from the Tram, the base of the Peruvian cirque, between Tram Tower 3 & 4 and around the Snowbird Center.
Pot Gut		Actually that is a local term; the actual name is the Uinta Ground Squirrel. They are the most common of all the mammals and live at all elevations. They are small, roundish and brown, with small ears. They eat green vegetation and seeds. They beg and seem friendly, but do bite! They hate badgers (see below).
Ermine (Stoat)		A short tailed weasel. White fur in the winter.
Grey Squirrel		They are small, have a long tails. Their nests are called dreys and can be seen in trees, build from sticks and leaves wrapped with long strands of grass.
Chipmunk		Very small, grayish, live in trees and rocks, also seen west of the old patrol shack, on the rocks.
Porcupine	They are bigger than a bowling ball, tan with accents of gold or silver. Often friendly. Don't pet.	
Badger (No, not the now famous Honey Badger)		Heavy body, short legs, yellowish grey with white stripe from nose to mid back. They live in grasslands around Snowbird Center. They dig out small rodents for food and love Uinta Ground Squirrels.

Golden Eagle	They have extremely long wings in relation to their body, are dark golden in color and feed on small animals. They can be seen circling around Regulator Johnson, Mt. Baldy and the Twins looking for prey.
Red-tailed Hawk	Reddish tail and resembles an eagle in flight. They have large broad shoulders and are more compact than an eagle.
Coyote	Also known as the American jackal or the prairie wolf. Typically seen in the early morning or evening. There are 2-3 who frequent the area.
Rare but occasionally sighted:	Moose, mountain Lion (also cougar), bobcat, raccoon

Common Trees in the Snowbird Area

The higher in elevation, the fewer trees there are. A tree needs to be hardy to survive the elements at 11,000 feet. Around Hidden Peak, there are two species of trees. There are many more species around the Snowbird Center, especially on the Observation Point Trail.

Engelmann Spruce	One of the species that can survive around Hidden Peak. It grows from 9,000ft to timberline. The tree has sharp, single, square needles about 1" long that grow upward from the twig, hanging cones from the branches, and old scaly bark. The cones are less than 2 inches long. The scales are toothed, notched or pointed, and papery thin. The crown is more rounded. They can be seen west of the Ski Patrol Shack (AKA White Pine).
Subalpine Fir	This tree grows with Engelmann Spruce from 9,000 ft to timberline. The needles are 1 inch long, fir-like, single flattened needles that are flexible and blunt, have upright 2" purple cones and have a spire-like crown. They can also be seen west of the Ski Patrol Shack (AKA White Balsam).
Rocky Mountain Juniper	The leaves are overlapping, green scales about 1/16" to 1/8" long, cones resemble bluish berries, are scaly with gray bark. They are found in open stands on dry, rocky hillsides (AKA Rocky Mountain Cedar).
Lodge pole Pine	The needles are in bundles of two, approximately 2" long, the cones are symmetrical 1 1/2" long, and have prickly scales on the cones. They live between 7,000ft to 10,000ft in elevation. The crowns are small and high.
Limber Pine	The needles are in bundles of five, 1 1/2" to 3" long. The trees are straight, rigid and curved, with yellowish green cones 6" long, scales that are thick and rigid and branches green and limber. They are found at 7,000 to 10,000 feet in elevation.
Blue Spruce	This is the Utah State Tree. Each needle, which grows from the twig singly, is 1" long, square, stiff and sharp. It has 3 1/2 inch long hanging cones, old furrowed bark, bumpy twigs and is found at 7,000 to 10,000 ft elevations.

Wasatch-Cache National Forest Information

Wasatch-Cache National Forest lands are located in three major areas:

- Northern and western slopes of the Uinta Mountains
- Wasatch Front from Lone Peak north to the Idaho border including the Wasatch, Monte Cristo, and Bear River Ranges
- Stansbury Range, in the Great Basin.

The Forest boundary encompasses approximately 2 million acres. Of these, approximately 1.2 million acres are National Forest land. The remaining acres are owned by state and local governments, and private. Timber, water, forage, wildlife and recreational opportunities are all found on these mountainous lands and are managed by the Forest Service to ensure sustained ecosystem health, using the methods best suited to protect the natural beauty of the area.

The Forest name, Wasatch-Cache, pays tribute to two important groups whose survival and livelihood depended on the resources of the forests. Wasatch is a Ute Indian word meaning "low place in high mountains." Cache is a French word meaning "to hide" and is a legacy of the early fur trappers who were the first Europeans to visit the region. Cache Valley was the site where the trappers dug caves to cache their furs so they would be hidden and safe from detection until they could be traded. The Forest holds important clues to the natural history of the area. The oldest exposed rocks in Utah are in the Farmington Canyon Complex, which can be seen in outcrops near the mouth of Farmington Canyon. The Jardine Juniper tree, on the Logan Ranger District, is 1500 years old and is refuted to be the oldest living tree in the Rocky Mountains. Evidence of ancient oceans, volcanoes and glaciers can be found throughout the Forest. The shoreline of ancient Lake Bonneville can be traced in the terraces along the foothills.

Long before Europeans arrived, prehistoric Fremont, Shoshoni and Ute Indians lived in the valleys following the fish in the lakes and streams and the big game of the surrounding mountains. Early mountain men, trappers and explorers began to arrive in the 1820's. The promise of abundant wildlife lured trappers such as Jim Bridger, Kit Carson and Jedediah Smith. Peter Skene Ogden and John Weber were two explorers whose names have remained. Their explorations were critical to providing information used by the pioneer settlers who followed.

The Wasatch and Uinta Mountains provide essential and precious water supplies to the communities and farmers in Utah. Extensive watershed restoration work has been completed to assure continuous, high quality water supplies and prevent disastrous floods. Forest Service work in restoring these lands has won international acclaim.

Cattle and sheep are grazed on the Forest during the summer, but the numbers are restricted to ensure that minimal damage is done to the soil and vegetation. Forage produced on these lands provides food for both domestic and wild animals. The range provides food, water, scenery and recreation for people and homes for wildlife. It is managed to assure adequate amounts of these resources.

Wasatch-Cache National Forest Information

- *Lady in the Ore Bucket: A History of Settlement and Industry in the Tri-Canyon Area of the Wasatch Mountains*, by Charles L Keller
- *Secrets of the Greatest Snow on Earth: Weather, Climate Change, and Finding Deep Powder in Utah's Wasatch Mountains and around the World*, by Jim Steenburgh
- *Snowbird Secrets*, by Jackson Hogen, Dave Powers
- *First Tracks – A Century of Skiing in Utah*, by Alan K Engen, Gregory C Thompson, Mike Korologos, Mitt Romney, Ted Wilson
- <http://www.altahistory.org>

Ski With A Ranger

The Forest Service/Cottonwood Canyons Foundation offers a complimentary 'Ski With A Ranger' program. Tours are offered on Saturday and Sunday at departing from Mid Gad restaurant (schedule may change, check for the current days/times). These are short tours focused on themes such as history, water shed, animals, or geology. Please help promote these tours to interested guests and consider taking a tour yourself.

Host Mary Murphy shared this interesting insight about Ski with a Ranger:

"The ranger tour was fun, very short just a 1/2 hour to 45 minutes. The tour goes from mid gad restaurant to the mid gad unloading area (a little riparian area by West 2nd South). Two things the ranger volunteer said that I found super cool was that the snow cat drivers regularly have coyotes following them in the evening hours. The snow cat vibrations scare the voles, moles and mice out of their burrows and the coyotes get a free dinner. The coyotes have also learned to stay out of the way of the snow cat. They are so smart! Another thing, deer migrate out of the canyon in the winter time as the snow pack typically is too deep for them. Cougars follow the deer down. Deer legs are jointed so they have to pick up each leg and step or bound, very difficult in deep snow and lots of energy for them to do. Moose on the other hand are jointed differently, almost sounded like double jointed, which makes it easier for them to move in the snow pack. Animals typically in the canyons are moose, snowshoe hare, ermine, black bears, porcupines, and various smaller voles, moles, mice, etc. If I had time another day I would like to take another tour as another volunteer would talk of other interests."