The past two months have been a truly incredible experience. Growing up in southern California, my family was using almost every opportunity to get out into the great outdoors. Whether it was quick weekend trips to Big Bear Mountain, kayaking in Newport harbor, or backpacking trips to Yosemite I developed a passion and appreciation for my surrounding environment. Naturally, it didn’t take long at all after arriving in Alta for me to develop the same type of passion and appreciation. Alta is an incredible place that has to be experienced, words simply don’t do it enough justice.

 I have been extremely fortunate to have been to be the Bill Levitt Fellow this past summer. In my time here with Friends of Alta, I’ve been able to learn, see, and do plenty. I have gained invaluable experience in interacting with the public in educating and encouraging them to take ownership of this great place. I’ve been able to learn and familiarize myself with native plant and wildflower species on vegetation surveys, as well as being able to learn non-native plants as well for invasive weed pulls. I especially enjoyed getting to know the wildlife that calls Alta home, including birds and seeing a moose for the first time.

 More importantly, during my time here I have also had the privilege of meeting and working with people who are hugely passionate about the preservation and conservation of Alta. Similarly, in my short time with Friends of Alta I have had experiences that will undoubtedly serve to benefit me in the future. Being able to work with and learn from Jen Clancy as well as being able to meet the board members of Friends of Alta has been an invaluable experience. Working and interacting with these passionate individuals has only served to strengthen and reaffirm my own personal beliefs and attitudes regarding the environment as well as inspiring me with new ideas.

 As the culmination of the time I have spent in Alta this summer, I have stronger sense of self and the ways in which I want to pursue a career in environmental law and policy. Similarly, as I head back to California to finish my degree in environmental management and protection with a concentration in environmental policy at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, I’ll be bringing back plenty of memories from the best summer of my life, experiences, and ideas that will serve me well not only in the upcoming school year, but far beyond that as well.