My time as Bill Levitt Fellow has been a very valuable experience for my growth and development as an environmental changemaker. Before I began in June, my relationship with the Wasatch Mountains was one directional as a consumer of natural resources and I wanted that to change, so after applying and becoming a part of FOA I have had the opportunity to help protect the local environment and become a part of the local environmental movement. Over the course of my fellowship I had several responsibilities and assisted with many interconnected projects, principally conducting land stewardship for the FOA and the Town of Alta, researching potential alternative transportation models for Canyon Guard, namely the Via Strategies and the Zion NP shuttle system, providing information at the Albion Basin trailhead with a CCF staff member, and supporting the FOA staff at various events. The land stewardship work and the Zion NP transportation research were my personal favorites because I loved hiking around Albion Basin and observing the wildlife while I removed weeds and visited conservation easements and because it felt like I was making a difference in the fight over the gondola.

I also furthered my involvement in the local environmental movement by joining the Central Wasatch Commission’s youth council and becoming a regular volunteer for Sageland Collaborative’s. These new roles and activities have given me a new outlet to continue my local environmental advocacy beyond my fellowship, and I wouldn’t have learned about them without this opportunity. As a young person who grew up in the context of our environment and climate changing rapidly since before I was born, I want my career to consist of work and actions that push against this trend and push for effective solutions. Being granted the 2024 Bill Levitt Fellowship at Friends of Alta was an amazing foundation to lay my career ambitions on and I will always be grateful for this opportunity. I have not only been able to give back to my community through this job, but this job has given back to me. I would like to thank Kody Fox and Tara Morin for hiring and working with me, the FOA board members for welcoming me and maintaining this fellowship program, the Town of Alta staff, as well as Alta Ski Area and Cottonwood Canyons Foundation.

Thank you,

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2024 Bill Levitt Fellow