



## SOLITUDE, COMMITTED TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

*The fragile alpine environment upon which Solitude resides remains healthy and beautiful.*

**Solitude, UT (October 2006)** - At an elevation of 8,000 ft., among the towering peaks of Utah's Wasatch Mountains, Solitude Mountain Resort continues to ensure Big Cottonwood Canyon will remain a beautiful place where future generations can enjoy their own solitude.

Solitude has always been ahead of the curve when it comes to protecting the environment, whether in the village or on the mountain. "Solitude implemented a Forest Management Plan years before required by the Forest Service", says Mike Goar, General Manager of Solitude. "Also, what you see realized here in the village today is a fine example of our intentions. The European style pedestrian village we envisioned and built doesn't compete with the natural beauty of the canyon; even though the master plan originally allowed for a much larger village that would have taken away from the scenery". Goar went on to mention that the resort has also taken steps to ensure the mountain remains a place of quiet, beauty and solitude, "In 2002 we installed our Honeycomb Return lift in an inconspicuous location out of the view and earshot of skiers in Honeycomb Canyon and people driving the canyon". Original approved planning allowed for a lift directly up the center of the canyon.

**Queen Bess Glading Project.** This summer Solitude began the first year of a 5-year glading project, reaffirming the resorts dedication to the ecosystem. Solitude is glading an area of forest previously ear-marked by its forest management plan as an "overly dense forest in bad health". By thinning out the forest over a longer period of time, the resort is allowing the forest to heal in between glading sessions. This ensures a solid root system for many years to come, and a healthier forest altogether. To minimize impact and waste Solitude is utilizing lumber from the glading project for parking barricades, mountain sign posts and other projects.

**Noxious and Non-Native Weed Abatement Program.** An ongoing program to stymie the spread of weeds has been underway since the spring of 2005. Weeds can be introduced as easily as one seed from a bike tire being transferred from another environment. Requiring little water to grow and spread, weeds can overtake the native flora in a short amount of time. Solitude uses both mechanical, as well as environmentally sound chemical means to destroy and prevent the spread of weeds harming the native vegetation and soil.

Big Cottonwood Canyon's soil supports several hundred species of wildflowers, plus other native plants that wildlife depends on for food and shelter. Solitude's first priority is to identify, document and map problem areas, and then begins the abatement process. "It is impossible to eradicate every weed, but this aggressive program aims to eliminate the majority, plus takes further steps to thwart a recurrence", says Megan Dever, the project manager. Working with the Forest Service, and organizations such as the Cottonwood Canyons Foundation, additional goals are to reinstate native flora in reclaimed areas to prevent weeds from re-invading.

Solitude Mountain Resort, a year-round, family-friendly destination, receives more than 500 inches of the Greatest Snow on Earth™ every year and is located just 40 minutes from the Salt Lake City International Airport.

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