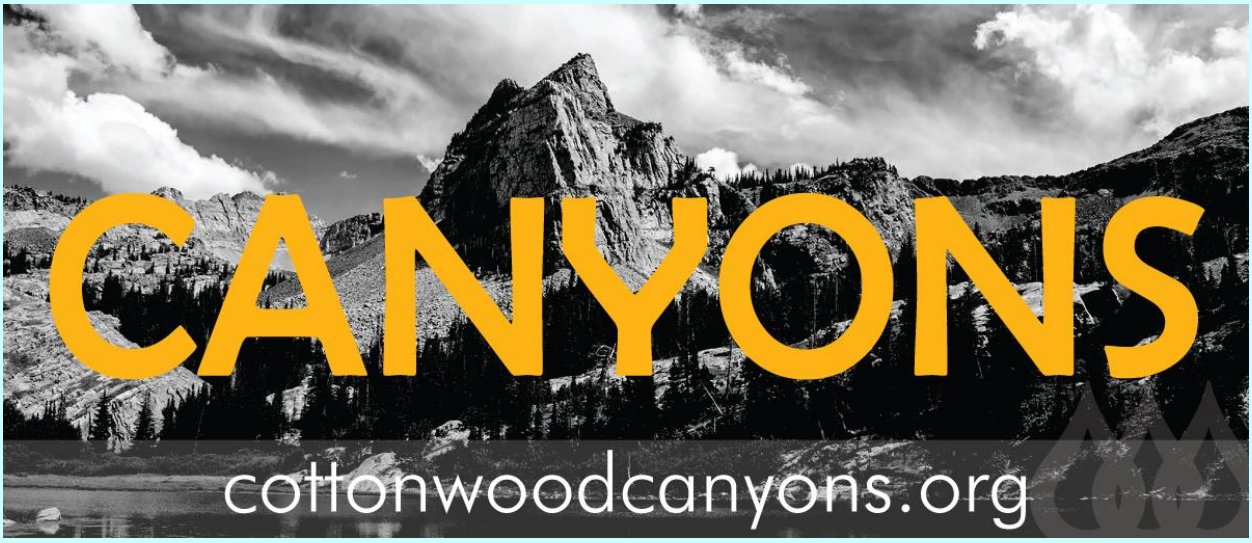
2025
SEASON REPORT
CCF PLANT STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM



COTTONWOOD CANYONS FOUNDATION

CONTENTS

SEASON SUMMARY

Season Totals:

- Total Miles of Trail Surveyed: 277 miles
- Weed-impacted area surveyed and mapped: 515 acres
- Weedy area managed with mechanical treatment: 121 acres
- Replanting/restoration: 1,200 seedlings planted
- Volunteer days: 38 events

Invasive Species Surveyed and/or Treated during 2025 Season

- Dalmatian Toadflax, *Linaria dalmatica*
- Garlic Mustard, *Alliaria petiolata*
- Yellow Toadflax, *Linaria vulgaris*
- Oxeye Daisy, *Leucanthemum vulgare*
- Common Mullein, *Verbascum thapsus*
- Wand Mullein, *Verbascum virgatum*
- Burdock, *Arctium minus*
- Myrtle Spurge, *Euphorbia myrsinites*
- Leafy Spurge, *Euphoribia esula*
- Yellow Sweet Clover, *Melilotus officinalis*
- Canada Thistle, *Cirsium arvense*
- Musk Thistle, *Carduus nutans*
- Bull Thistle, *Cirsium vulgare*
- Scotch Thistle, *Onopordum acanthium*
- Houndstongue, *Cynoglossum officinale*
- Spotted Knapweed, *Centaurea stoebe*
- Field Bindweed, *Convovulus arvensis*
- Phragmites, *Phragmites australis*
- Medusahead, *Taeniatherum caput-medusae*
- Perennial Pepperweed, *Lepidium latifolium*
- Sow Thistle, *Sonchus oleraceus*
- Money Plant, *Lunaria annua*
- Dyers Woad, *Isatis tinctoria*
- Russian Olive, *Elaeagnus angustifolia*
- Bittersweet, *Solanum dulcamara*
- Cat mint, *Nepeta cataria*
- Oriental clematis, *Clematis orientalis*

Community Volunteers focused on Plant Stewardship

- 38 total volunteer events
- 503 plant volunteer days
- 2,554 plant volunteer hours
- $87,985 volunteer hour value (based on an average rate of $34.44/hour)

Season summary

This has been a historic season for CCF, with new challenges and many successes. Challenges came from 1) uncertainty as to whether some traditional/historic CCF funding sources would be continued; and 2) layoffs and furloughs for partner organizations (e.g. U.S. Forest Service). Successes came from the community pulling together to volunteer and support our efforts, new opportunities for projects, and CCF's demonstrated ability to adapt to the changing conditions and continue to step up and do the conservation and resource management activities that needed to be done in the Canyons.

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON OVERVIEW

Invasive plant populations in Big Cottonwood Canyon were heavily concentrated around areas of human disturbance (campgrounds, ski areas, and roadsides); Spruces, Redman, and Jordan Pines Campgrounds; Cardiff Fork, Solitude, Brighton; and within the first half mile of high-use trails. The most prevalent invasive weeds *treated* in BCC during the 2025 season were thistle species (primarily Canada, bull thistle, and musk thistle), oxeye daisy, spotted knapweed, houndstongue, dalmatian toadflax, common mullein, phragmites, oriental clematis, and field bindweed.

Trails Scouted

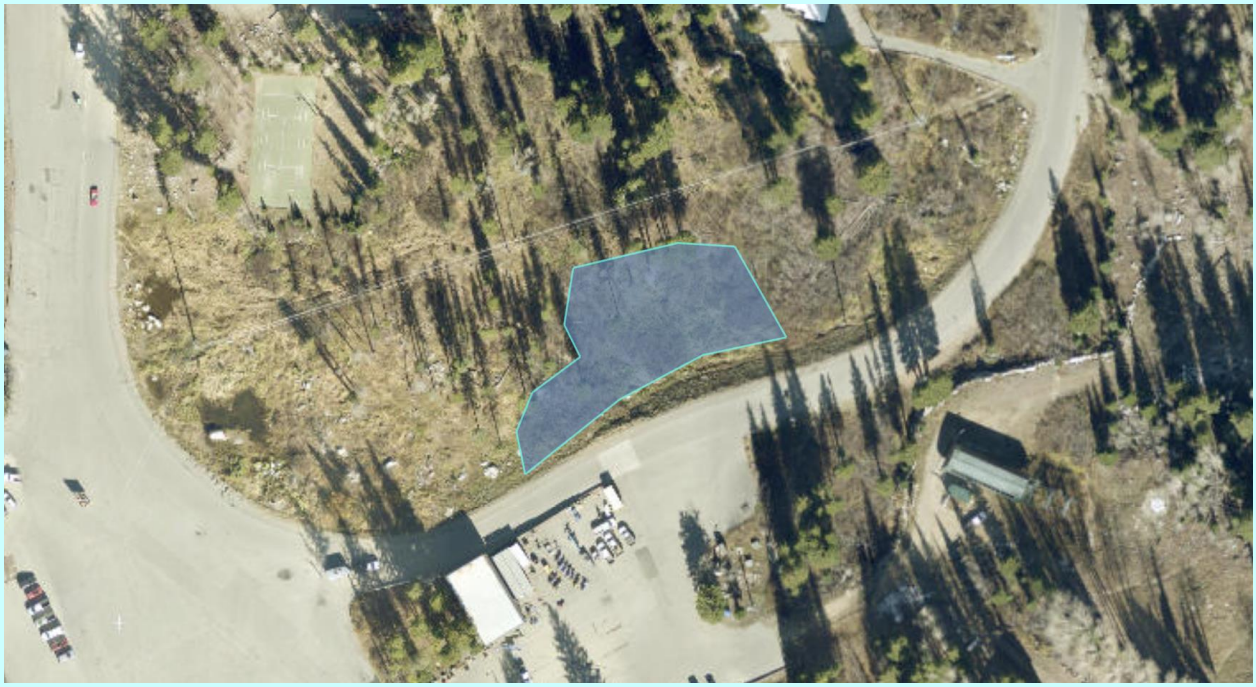
Ferguson, Broads Fork, Mill D North, Lake Blanche, Donut Falls, Butler Fork, Wasatch Crest, Willow Lake, Days Fork, Lake Solitude, Brighton Lakes, Honeycomb Cliffs, Challenge Buttress, Mill B to Mt. Raymond, Cardiff, Reservoir Ridge, Mill B North, Mineral Fork, Mill A Gulch, Beartrap, Mule Hollow Mine Trail, Stairs Gulch, and Desolation Lake.

BCC Restoration

CCF focused significant restoration efforts at Silver Lake and Cardiff boardwalk. At Silver Lake, the crew planted willow cuttings, stinging nettle, and smallwing sedge around the boardwalk and pearly everlasting, white sagebrush, and yarrow on steep cutbacks of the natural surfaces trail. Cardiff boardwalk restoration continued from last season by planting more seedlings. CCF also continued to provide aftercare for a restoration site about a mile up the Day's fork trail in a dense patch of Canada thistle. The plants planted last year were thriving, and additional thistle was cleared. CCF also continued planting efforts in the Brighton loop road.

Silver Lake restoration sites. 1.6 acres.

Cardiff Boardwalk Restoration Site. 1.5 acres.



Brighton loop road: 0.8 acres

Areas of Concern

Solitude: The Moonbeam parking lot has the highest concentration of invasive weeds in the tri-canyons, in both density and number of species. Species removed were common mullein, musk thistle, bull thistle, Canada thistle, yellow sweet clover, spotted knapweed and phragmites. Solitude has also been adding more mountain bike trails which has created a disturbance which will require invasive species mitigation in the years to come. The village also has a high density of invasives including a population of oxeye daisy which was planted for wedding photo backgrounds. This population has been treated through a combination of spraying and hand pulling for years and will need continued management.

Spruces, Jordan Pines Campground, and Cardiff Boardwalk: These sites are highly trafficked, frequent locations of construction or machinery operation (which result in new ground disturbance), and have a seed bank of invasive species in on-site soils. This means they will need to be monitored and treated each year. They are also excellent sites for volunteer events with bathrooms, parking, and accessible work areas.

Ferguson-Bonnaville Shoreline Trail: CCF Trail Crew in partnership with the Forest Service completed a new section of trail connecting BCC Dogwood to Ferguson Canyon. This area was a hotspot for invasive plants pre-construction and even though CCF has done consistent mitigation during trail building, the invasive seed bank is there and will respond to this disturbance. CCF hosted multiple volunteer events on

this section of trail this season, effectively responding to the invasives that grew after the trail building disturbance.

Granite flume trail:

CCF had previously mapped and done some treatment utilizing CCF Plants Crew only at the granite flume trail, but this year stepped up efforts by adding volunteer events at this location. A group of CWC volunteers came out to pull myrtle spurge. This population is so large that it will need to be treated with herbicide next year to be effectively managed.

Lower BCC Creek Clematis:

Although oriental clematis is not listed as an invasive species in the state of Utah, CCF and partners are concerned about the spread of this plant in lower BCC. Because this is a woody vine, the best treatment would be cutting the base and treating with a stump killer. Unfortunately, this plant prefers growing near the creek in the riparian zone where the use herbicide is not permitted because of the potential for water quality impacts to the creek. CCF started testing methods for mechanically controlling this plant this season and found that it was possible to cut the vines back at the base and pull the vines down from the trees.

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON OVERVIEW

Invasive populations in Little Cottonwood Canyon ("LCC") were heavily concentrated around areas of high human use and disturbance including Grit Mill and Little Cottonwood Canyon Trail; Snowbird, Alta, roadsides; and within the first half mile of high-use trails. The most prevalent invasive weeds observed in LCC during the 2024 season were yellow sweet clover, common mullein, dyer's woad, Canada thistle, bull thistle, scotch thistle, Houndstongue, phragmites, and field bindweed. The CCF Plants Crew surveyed and mitigated 14 weed zones (totaling 25.5 acres) at Alta in partnership with the Alta Environmental Center and added new weed zones at Snowbird.

Trails Scouted

The following trails were scouted in LCC: Alpenbock Loop, Little Cottonwood Creek Trail, Temple Quarry, Red Pine, White Pine, Maybird Gulch, Cardiff from Alta, Gloria Falls, Lisa Falls, Catherine's Pass to Sunset, Albion Meadows, Grizzly Gulch, and Tanner Gulch.

Restoration Sites

Restoration at Snowbird: 1.3 acres

Areas of Concern

Snowbird: Snowbird has a high density of invasives which were treated through hand-pulling at volunteer events this season. Due to construction around the ski resort base, weed infestations are expected to grow and careful/consistent mitigation is essential.

CCF would like to implement a Weed Zone program at Snowbird modeled after the Alta Weed Zone system.

Wasatch Resort Road/ LCC Trail: Garlic mustard was of high concern in LCC as a dense population has established on the residential property of **4971 Wasatch Resort Road.** The homeowner is aware that garlic mustard has become a ground cover species on the property, and they approved of all mitigation efforts thus far. The population was treated through hand pulling on 5/31/23, 6/13/23, and 7/21/23 and no individuals were allowed to flower or go to seed. A small population exists across the gravel road along the creek, which was also hand-pulled. This spread should be carefully monitored.

Dyers woad at the base of LCC: CCF has been working to contain the population at the base of LCC, only using manual control. Chemical control may be necessary if these populations cannot be contained manually.

Bells canyon trailhead: A large population of garlic mustard was found at bells in 2024. This year, CCF led three volunteer events focusing exclusively on garlic mustard. With the help of volunteers, CCF was able to control all the second year plants before they went to seed, and also removed approximately 60% of the seedlings.

MILLCREEK CANYON OVERVIEW

CCF's management of Millcreek Canyon looked a little different this year due to the FLAP project. CCF had access to trailheads above the winter gate, but only until the Alexander basin trailhead. Invasive populations were heavily concentrated at and below Elbow Fork, lower Pipeline, Rattlesnake Gulch, Terraces picnic area, roadsides, and parking areas. The invasive weed species scouted and mapped in Millcreek during the 2025 season were garlic mustard, myrtle spurge, leafy spurge, Dalmatian toadflax, common mullein, houndstongue, and burdock. CCF completed extensive mapping of myrtle spurge in lower MCC, establishing an upper boundary line for the population at Church Fork. This polygon data was shared with the DNR, who will target those areas next season. CCF will treat any populations above the boundary line, effectively halting the up canyon spread. Houndstongue is especially prevalent in Millcreek due to dogs spreading the bur-like seeds on their fur.

Trails Scouted

The following trails were scouted in Mill Creek Canyon: Alexander Basin, Porter Fork, Pipeline Trail, Bowman Fork, Dog Lake, Desolation Trail, Upper Bigwater, Lower Bigwater, Old Red Pine Road, Birch Hollow, and Grandeur Peak, Rattlesnake Gulch, Thaynes Canyon Trail, Burch Hollow Trail, Mt Aire, and Lambs Canyon.

Areas of concern

Lower MCC Myrtle Spurge: Myrtle Spurge is a class IV (prohibited) invasive and is most prevalent in Mill Creek Canyon. It is widespread across the rocky, exposed, lower areas of the canyon and specifically along the steep cliff sides and gullies under the Pipeline Trail. Myrtle spurge spreads by seeds being flung 10-15 ft and contains a milky sap which is toxic to humans – making this species incredibly difficult to mitigate safely and effectively. In 2022, Myrtle spurge was found as high in elevation as Upper Box Elder Picnic Area; this population was treated with herbicide. Treating all the populations in MCC is not feasible for CCF given our current resources, but we plan to establish an upper boundary line and treat any populations above the line with a combination of hand pulling and spraying. Exactly where this line will be established depends on surveys next season to locate the leading edge of spread.

Rattlesnake Gulch: A very significant re-route was added recently as a more moderate grade hiking and biking option to the old Rattlesnake Gulch trail. This huge trail project created disturbance that invasive weeds have taken advantage of. We hosted a very successful volunteer day at this site but did not have the time or human power to get everything this season. This area becomes dangerously hot to work in during peak summer months but will be a priority for next season.

WASATCH FRONT OVERVIEW

The CCF Plant Stewardship Crew spent less time in the Front overall this season, instead prioritizing the canyons. The Front is characterized by different microclimate, elevation, and threats than the canyons, creating a hotspot for weeds. There are several species that are already established in the foothills: especially myrtle spurge and dalmatian toadflax. Mitigation of these species in the foothills is beyond the scope of CCF's field crew and also outside of our mission of stewardship of the canyons. CCF will continue to map invasive species in the Wasatch Front in the hopes of catching new invasive populations early before they can spread into the canyons.

Trails Scouted on Wasatch Front

The following trails were scouted along the Wasatch Front: Mount Olympus, Ferguson/BST, BST from Thousand Oaks to Neffs, Heughs Canyon, and Neffs Canyon.

Areas of Concern

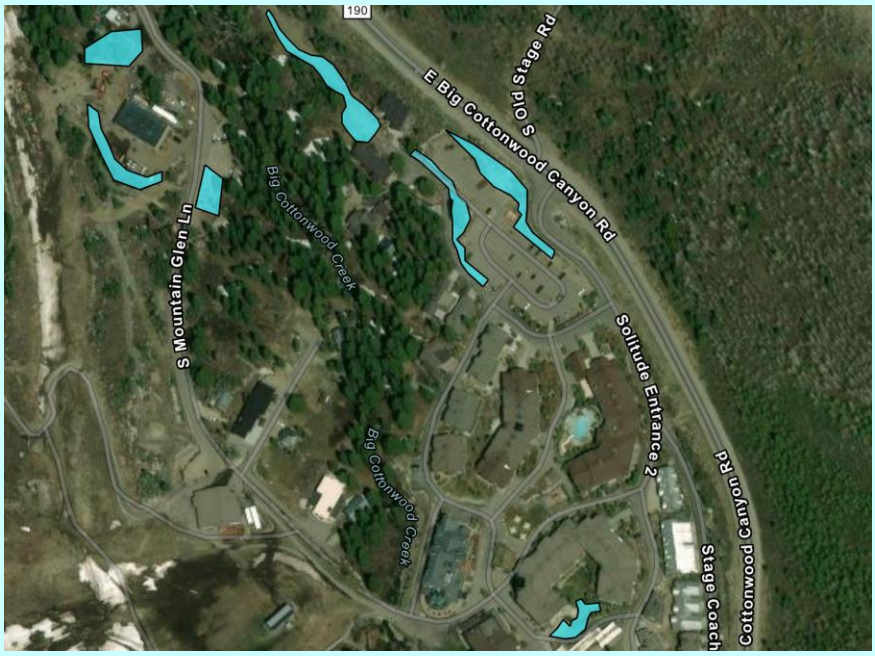
Mt. Olympus: There is a population of leafy spurge on the face of Mt. Olympus. The population was hand pulled in 2023 and 2024, and chemically treated in 2025. Leafy spurge is extremely hard to eradicate.

Neffs: There is an extensive network of social trails in Neffs canyon and heavy recreational use by people with dogs which has led to widespread populations of houndstongue and burdock.

Heughs: There is a large population of money plant *(Lunaria annua*) that CCF is monitoring closely and managing with hand pulling.

HERBICIDE APPLICATION

CCF's Plant Stewardship Director and Crew Leads were certified with pesticide applicator licenses. The SLC Public Utility generously allowed CCF to operate our herbicide treatment out of their spray barn as well as provided expertise on which chemicals are effective for each target species. In several instances, the target species population was close to or within 100 feet of surface water. CCF chose to take a conservative stance on spraying herbicide near surface water, opting for other treatment measures whenever possible. Two populations of garlic mustard that were originally planned for herbicide treatment were not sprayed because they were ~100 feet from a stream.



CCF treated oxeye daisy and spotted knapweed at Solitude Mountain Resort (entry 2). The herbicide 2,4-d and MSM60 (a pre-emergent) were used for a spot treatment applied with a backpack sprayer.

The polygon on the left is spotted knapweed and on the right is myrtle spurge. Both were treated chemically this season.

Leafy spurge chemical treatment using LI700 and glyphosate.

SPECIES OF HIGHEST PRIORITY

The state of Utah has a categorization system for invasive weed species based on preventative or management measures. The Utah State University Noxious Weed Guide describes Class 1A (Early Detection Rapid Response, plants not known to occur in Utah, but present in neighboring states. If found, high priority to eradicate.), Class 1B (Early Detection, plants that occur in Utah at low levels, eradicate known populations and prevent new populations), Class 2 (Control, these species have reasonable distribution in Utah, but not everywhere), Class 3 (Contain, plants widely distributed in Utah, try to reduce spread), and Class 4 (Prohibited, present in Utah, illegal to sell or buy as ornamentals) species. Taking these classifications, input from partners, and

CCF's mapping data into consideration, the potential for invasiveness and impact to local ecosystems is considered to create this priority list.

Garlic Mustard, *Alliaria petiolata* (Level 1B)

Garlic mustard is a highly invasive plant that is extremely difficult to eradicate completely, even with a combination of chemical and mechanical control. A new population was discovered at bells canyon last season, which could easily be spread further up into LCC. CCF partnered with Salt Lake County, Sandy City, and SLCPU to host three volunteer events, treating 0.7 acres. This population should be chemically treated next spring either by CCF or Sandy City. The population at the residential property on Wasatch Resort Rd was treated manually multiple times throughout the season, and after close measurement was determined to be too close to water to spray with herbicide. The population at the intersection of Rattlesnake Gulch and Pipeline was mechanically treated multiple times this season. The population at the Broads fork trailhead was also mechanically treated multiple times this season. A new population of garlic mustard was found on the Mount Air trail in MCC, miles away from any other population. It is growing in and around the burn scar of a cut-pile-burn treatment, and was most likely brought in on shoes or equipment.

Oxeye Daisy, *Leucanthemum vulgare,* (Level 1B)

Oxeye daisy is a creeping, rhizomatous perennial that prefers poor soils and is drought tolerant. It is often found in meadows, roadsides, waste areas, etc. Planted as an ornamental at Solitude many years ago, oxeye daisy has become widespread across the resort, particularly in Entry 2 (the Village). There is also a population on Porter Fork Road in Millcreek Canyon where oxeye daisy was planted on private property and has since spread along the roadside and to other properties. Permission to treat these polygons was acquired from the Forest Service and they were hand pulled and bagged this season.

Dyer's Woad, *Isatis tinctoria* (Level 2)

Dyers Woad (*Isatis tinctoria*) is a lower elevation invasive species that thrives in dry, rocky soil. Due to its habitat preferences, this species is a major priority for containment before it spreads to other foothill areas. Compared with last season, many of the populations were smaller and seem to be well controlled. Mechanical treatment was done before seeds could be released within as many populations as possible. After more data is collected on the effectiveness of manual control, chemical control should also be considered.

The mouth of Little Cottonwood Canyon has the largest populations in terms of acres, but is on average 1-5% cover. Some of these polygons are steep and above the road, making navigating them dangerous. The CCF Plant Crew spent many days in the early season treating the lower canyon area for dyer's woad.

Leafy Spurge, *Euphorbia esula*, (Level 2)

Leafy Spurge is an herbaceous perennial plant with only a couple small populations in the Tri-canyons so far. Due to its limited spread in the canyons so far, this plant is a high priority for chemical treatment. We tried using the same herbicide mix that has been effective on myrtle spurge (glyphosate and LI700) but we did not see much die off. We will try a new mix next season.

Spotted Knapweed, *Centaurea stoebe,* (Level 2)

Spotted Knapweed is a biennial to short-lived perennial which usually gets established in disturbed areas but can spread into native plant communities and outcompete natives. One plant is capable of producing and spreading 40,000 seeds. This plant is concentrated around Solitude Mountain Resort and at an early enough stage of infestation that eradication is possible through hand pulling and chemical treatment. At one population of knapweed, CCF set up a side-by-side comparison of hand pulling and chemical treatment, to see which is more effective.

Phragmites, *Phragmites australis,* (Level 3)

Phragmites is the only level 3 species included in this section due to the fact that it is relatively uncommon in the Tri-canyons at this time and extremely invasive and difficult to remove once established in other areas. Unfortunately, phragmites has spread significantly in the last year, with too many new small patches to go through each one. None of the populations are treatable with herbicide, so CCF began whacking them back with a trimmer and hedge shears. The hope is that the plants are weakened eventually and not allowed to spread or go to seed. This will be an ongoing effort.

Myrtle Spurge- *Euphorbia myrsinites* (Level 4)

Myrtle spurge is a serious threat to the health of our ecosystems. If left unchecked, this plant is an aggressive invader that can thrive in xeric, rocky habitats. Myrtle spurge can fling its seeds 15 feet through the air AND reproduce asexually via broken off stems or roots. CCF does not have the capacity to treat all the myrtle spurge in the Wasatch Front and lower canyons, but luckily the Utah Department of Natural Resources has the funding to take this on. CCF will provide mapping and analysis of treatment effectiveness, as well as treat any populations above the ‘fire line’. This line has been determined in each canyon based on where the most dense part of the population starts to dwindle. CCF will treat everything above the line, and the DNR will treat everything below.

This map shows a natural break in the myrtle spurge population at the base of BCC, where CCF will move the ‘fire line’ to next season.

This map shows Church Fork, where CCF has found that the most dense part of the myrtle spurge population ends in MCC. This is where the CCF myrtle spurge fire line will be- anything above the line will be treated by CCF.

NEW SPECIES OF CONCERN

Common St. Johnswort (*Hypericum perforatum*) Class 1B:

Common St. Johnswort was found at Solitude this summer. This invasive plant is originally native to Europe, poisonous to most livestock and potentially wildlife, and was

cultivated for medicinal purposes- antibiotic and antidepressant. Mechanical control is likely not effective- can resprout from root fragments. We will use 2,4-D next year.

SEED COLLECTION

In partnership with Dryland Horticulture, the CCF weeds crew was trained on the procedures of native plant seed collection. These seeds will germinate and overwinter with Dryland Horticulture, to then be planted as seedlings in the spring and summer of 2026. Dryland Horticulture will also grow seedlings for wetland restoration around Cardiff Boardwalk and Silver Lake Boardwalk.

SEEDLING SURVIVAL STUDY

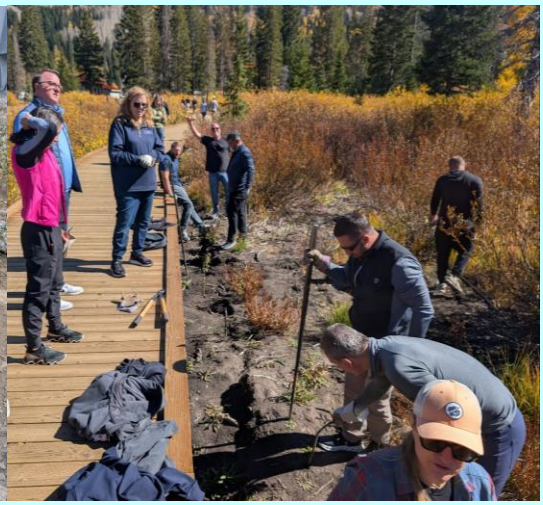
Optimizing seedling survival is crucial for effective rehabilitation efforts. While there is general knowledge about seedlings' preferred habitat, best planting practices may be highly variable based on specific, and often changing, conditions. Environmental differences (such as water table depth, precipitation, heat, shade, disturbance, slope aspect, and planting practices) all influence seedling survival. Interaction between these variables is highly specific to micro-climates and often makes application of findings from related studies difficult. For example, nutrient availability and disturbance type influence seedling emergence and vigor in alpine ecosystems, but the strength of those factors are dependent on species. Additionally, a 3-year-long study by the University of New Mexico found that climate was insignificant to tree seedling survival in post-wildfire landscapes, and topographical features were a greater predictor of survival. However, the same study found that effects differed greatly by species (Marsh et al., 2022). Another study found water table depth to be an important factor in establishment of wetland species in degraded ski areas sites (Cooper et al., 2017). In a review of alpine shrub establishment, Paschke et al. (2003) found planting practices and establishment success to vary based on ecotypes of each shrub species but encountered browsing and herbaceous competition to be the limiting factor.

With so many competing factors influencing seedling survival, our aim in this study is to observe two distinct factors - time of year planted and watering- that are under our control for practical application in the Central Wasatch. Early season water in May and June may be more conducive to some seedling establishment in the Rocky Mountain area (Tai et al., 2017), although standard practice for some tree species is to plant in late summer or fall due to the North American monsoon and winter dormancy patterns (March et al., 2022). Currently, many rehabilitation efforts plant throughout the summer, which may be due to time constraints and the limited planting season in alpine environments. Little, if any, research has been done on the long term survival of perennial shrubs and flowers based on time of year planted.

In this study, we will test if time of year planted and watering frequency affect seedling establishment in high elevation, disturbed areas in the Central Wasatch. At Alta, seedlings were planted in June, July, August, September and October of 2024 (all plantings occurred on approximately the 20th day of each month) to study time of year planted. At Snowbird and Solitude, seedlings were planted in August and September respectively to study watering

frequency. For both studies, seedlings were planted in clusters of 10 that were randomly placed within each site. Each seedling was marked with a metal staple. Seedlings were planted using a rock bar, a metal pole with a tapered tip that is pounded into ground to make a cylindrical hole where the seedling is planted.

This summer, data was collected from all three planting sites; Snowbird, Alta, and Solitude. Overall survival rates were 88% at Solitude, 67% at Alta, and less than 10% at Snowbird. The low rates of survival at Snowbird are likely due to high foot traffic, high invasive species cover in the planting area, and possible salt exposure from a nearby walkway. The differences in survival rates between sites shows how much local factors play a role in restoration success. It does not appear that water or time of year planted impacted survival, but species was an important factor. White sagebrush and pearly everlasting were the most vigorous and had the best survival.



RARE PLANT SURVEYS

CCF partnered with Mindy Wheeler and her rare plants team from Utah State University to monitor and map the following Rare Plants Survey Species:

Scientific name	Common name	State Rank	UT Status	USFS Status	Threats
Aster kingii var kingii	King's Aster	S3	None	N/A	Invasive Plant Species – Non-native
Corydalis caseana ssp. brachycarpa	Wasatch Fitweed/ Sierra Fumewort	S2	SGCN	Sensitive	Channelization / Bank Alteration (direct, intentional), impacts from ski areas, climate change, Soil Erosion / Loss

Lepidium montanum var alpinum	Alpine peppergrass	S1	SGCN	Sensitive	Hiking / Foot Travel, climbers, ski industry development
Lesquerella (Physaria) garrettii	Garrett twinpod	S2	None	Sensitive	Rock climbers, Hiking / Foot Travel, non-native mountain goat grazing, changes in snowpack
Jamesia americana var. macrocalyx	Cliff Jamesia	S3	SGCN	Sensitive	Hiking / Foot Travel, rock climbers, ski resorts, changes in snowpack, non-native mountain goats
Erigeron garrettii	Garrett's Daisy	S2	SGCN	Sensitive	Rock climbing, Hiking / Foot Travel
Penstemon platyphyllus	Broadleaf beardtongue	S3	None	N/A	Invasive Plant Species – Non-native
Ivesia utahensis	Utah Mousetail	S2	SGCN	Sensitive	HikersHiking / Foot Travel, mountain goats, climate change
Dodecatheon dentatum var utahense	Utah Shooting-star	S1	SGCN	Sensitive	Hiking / Foot Travel
Draba globosa	Rockcress draba	S2	SGCN	Sensitive	Hiking / Foot Travel
Draba brachystylis	Short-style draba	S1	None	Sensitive	Development, Hiking / Foot Travel, user-created trails
Lloydia serotina var. serotina	Common alpine lily	None	None	N/A	Invasive Plant Species – Non-native
Erigeron ursinus var. meyerae	Bear river fleabane	None	None	N/A	Invasive Plant Species – Non-native

Ericameria obovata	Rydberg's Goldenbush	None	None	N/A	Invasive Plant Species – Non-native
Cypripedium fasciculatum	Clustered Lady's-slipper	S2	SGCN	Sensitive	Channelization / Bank Alteration (direct, intentional), timber industry, road construction, development, fire suppression, collecting, Hiking / Foot Travel.
Erigeron arenarioides	Wasatch Daisy	S3	None	Recommended sensitive	Invasive Plant Species – Non-native, Hiking / Foot Travel

FOREST SERVICE NEPA SURVEYS

The CCF Plants Crew was contracted by the Forest Service to complete 14 NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) botany section surveys this season. These surveys ranged from new mountain biking trails in Bountiful to connector trails in the Tri-canyons Trail Plan. These surveys allowed the crew to learn more about Forest Service processes, and helped move projects forward. CCF welcomed the opportunity to collaborate with the Forest Service to complete these surveys and hopes to continue this type of work in the future.

VOLUNTEERING, COMMUNITY OUTREACH, AND EDUCATION

The CCF Plant Stewardship Crew hosted 503 volunteers over 38 days for a total of 2554 hours (valued at $87,985).

Six of those events were hosted in Town of Brighton neighborhoods with local residents. These events were such a huge success that CCF plans to expand this program for next season. The neighborhood residents were very engaged, and once they knew the invasive plants to look out for, willing to manage them on their own property. This type of collaboration across land ownership types will be key to the successful control of invasive species in the Canyons.

The crew also attended the Wildflower Festival to share their plant knowledge with the public. Over the course of the season, the team worked together to photograph every species of plant we saw for the new edition of the Central Wasatch Wildflower Guide. The Crew also had the opportunity to contribute to the Wildflower Guide by working on

a new section- the dichotomous key. This will be another way that new botanists can figure out which plant they are looking at, and a learning tool for getting more comfortable with botanical tools in the field.

FUNDERS AND PARTNERS

Thank you for your incredible support for Cottonwood Canyons Foundation this year. The summer of 2025 was a historic and unique year. Our work would not be possible without:

Salt Lake City Public Utilities Watershed Division

US Forest Service

Town of Brighton

National Forest Foundation

Central Wasatch Commission

REI Co-Op

Salt Lake County

Alta Ski Area

Brighton Resort

Snowbird Resort

Solitude Mountain Resort

Remkes Environmental

Dryland Horticulture

Wasatch Mountain Club

Snowbird Play Forever

Alta Environmental Center

Friends of Alta

LOOKING AHEAD: PLANS FOR 2026

The CCF Plants Stewardship Crew is so proud to be participating in the impactful work happening in the Central Wasatch mountains. Looking ahead, CCF wants to make sure that we are utilizing our resources in the most efficient and effective ways possible. CCF is thrilled about the growth and impact of the weeds program this season and is looking forward to continuing to protect the watershed of the Tri-Canyons through education and stewardship.