Neighbors,

As you know, we have lived at Sundance since 1979. We have grown to love and respect it. The Native Americans believe Mount Timpanogos is a sacred mountain, and we agree. Joni and I feel nurtured when we are at Sundance. Its beauty and inspiration continue to inspire us. However, we have watched the canyon change over time as more and more people have built homes in the Sundance area. We have felt the need to become better stewards and protect nature as much as possible.

In 1969, Robert Redford purchased the land and envisioned the careful growth of a community committed to balancing art, nature, and community. He imagined Sundance as a place for people who appreciate the beauty of nature and feel a responsibility to preserve it. Redford has played a crucial role in protecting the area from rapid development, aiming to keep it as pristine and wild as possible.

The Redford family has set aside 900 acres for the Redford Family Nature and Wildlife Preserve and an additional 316 acres for the Redford Family Elk Meadows Preserve. These undisturbed alpine meadows are home to aspen trees, streams, and wetlands, which provide critical habitats for native plant species. They are also essential for wildlife and serve as a vital watershed area. Now, they are protected indefinitely under a permanent conservation easement, ensuring they can never be developed. This guarantees that future generations will have a place to experience nature.

The new owners of Sundance are also taking significant steps to protect our beautiful and nurturing canyon. An additional 1,547 acres have been incorporated into the Sundance Mountain Resort Preserve with restricted covenants. This land offers crucial wildlife habitat for various species, including Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, Shiras moose, elk, mule deer, a wide array of songbirds, and several raptors.

We can explore these protected lands. There are hiking trails such as the Pahneekahvets Trail, a Ute name meaning “Look at That!” appropriately named because this trail offers views stretching from Mt. Timpanogos Cirques to Utah’s Uinta Mountain Range.

 As we have seen in California, wildfires can quickly cause destruction. Drought, diminishing snowpacks, and warmer winters pose existential challenges globally, and declining biodiversity is an increasing threat.

An agreement with Sundance Nature Alliance and Sundance Mountain Resort oversees the preserves in our neighborhood. Sundance Nature Alliance is an organization founded by Robert Redford. Under the direction of Julie Mack, its mission is to protect the land and watershed by sparking curiosity, nurturing creativity, and inspiring action in our great outdoors. They aim to build deep connections between people and nature and cultivate a community that is artfully inspired to safeguard our natural world. It is a highly capable organization dedicated to conserving the natural environment of Sundance and promoting essential conservation efforts.

Members of the alliance receive information about activities and programs at Sundance. We have participated in many events, including films that highlight the significance of beavers, the Sequoia Forest, and land enrichment. They organize hikes led by experts in birds and vegetation. We have personally spoken with the film directors and authors. These experiences have been incredibly rewarding.

Sundance is not only a great place to enjoy nature and skiing, it brings tourists and money to our valley.  It is a significant economic draw, according to the Provo Travel Board.  It raises the value of homes in the valley.

The Sundance Nature Alliance needs members, participants, and donors. The value of Sundance to all of us is immeasurable. We can act now for tomorrow. We can act locally on global issues. You can become a member by donating <https://www.sundancenaturealliance.org/donate>  A membership at any level would be extremely helpful.

We strongly encourage you to join and support the Sundance Nature Alliance.

Thank you for considering this!

 Joni and Stephen Minton