



PACIFIC NORTHWEST SKI AREAS ASSOCIATION (PNSAA)

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PRESS RELEASE

Denny Coughlin Honored as Forest Service Partner of the Year

Contact: Scott Kaden, PNSAA, (541) 386-9600

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Bend, OR – Last evening, the membership of the Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association (PNSAA) recognized Denny Coughlin as the Association’s Forest Service Partner of the Year. The PNSAA bestows this honor upon USDA Forest Service personnel who significantly and decisively help improve the quality of Pacific Northwest winter sports facilities. Coughlin, a special use administrator for the USDA Forest Service, oversees the Crystal Mountain special use permit area, which is situated on National Forest System land within the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

During his 30-year federal career, Coughlin has held several positions of note. After working a season at North Cascades National Park, Coughlin began his USDA Forest Service career as a member of a timber marking crew on the White River Ranger District. He quickly ascended to the position of timber sale administrator. In the late 1980s, Coughlin moved to the public services program and worked as the District’s trails and wilderness coordinator. During this time, Coughlin was instrumental in strengthening relationships with local volunteer organizations and clubs, including the Backcountry Horsemen. Under Coughlin’s leadership, the District began to capitalize on thousands of hours of work performed by volunteers. Coughlin was recognized by local chapters of organizations and awarded for his volunteer coordination efforts. In 1996, Coughlin became the District’s special use administrator, with responsibility for the Crystal Mountain special use permit, organizational camps, recreation residences, and recreation-related special events. In this capacity, Coughlin’s knowledge, skills, and counsel helped the Crystal Mountain Master Development Plan successfully navigate the federal land planning process. Presently, Coughlin is helping implement Crystal’s Master Development Plan, and recently assisted with the installation of the Mt. Rainier Gondola – a passenger conveyance that helps transform Crystal Mountain into a more versatile, year-round destination for outdoor recreation.

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“This is well deserved recognition for Denny,” noted Jim Franzel, District Ranger of the Snoqualmie Ranger District. “His permit administration has been exemplary. Denny has been a steady force in helping Crystal Mountain grow into one of the safest and enjoyable ski resorts in the Pacific Northwest,” added Franzel.

“I respect Denny’s knowledge and expertise in dealing with our permit. I can’t imagine a better working relationship with the Forest Service,” commented John Kircher, Crystal Mountain President and General Manager. “I hope Denny plans to be around for a while,” added Kircher.

For more information about Denny Coughlin’s federal land management responsibilities, contact District Ranger Jim Franzel at (425) 888-1421 or jfranzel@fs.fed.us. For additional information about the Forest Service Partner of the Year award program, contact Scott Kaden at (541) 386-9600 or skaden@gorge.net.

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The Pacific Northwest Ski Areas Association is a non-profit trade association, which represents the interests of ski and snowboard facilities located in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, California, and Alaska. The Association’s member ski areas – most of which operate on public land – collectively host 5.3 million visits annually. For additional information on Pacific Northwest skiing and snowboarding, contact the PNSAA office at (541) 386-9600, or visit www.pnsaa.org to link to the website of your favorite mountain.