

# TRAIL BREAK

your report for silent snowsports

Volume 2005, Fall Issue



## New Report Shows Disparity between Motorized and Non-Motorized Opportunities



According to Forest Service surveys, cross-country skiers and snowshoers make up 56 percent of the participants using groomed winter trails on National Forest lands across the Western Snow Belt, yet only a paltry eight percent of those trails are set aside for non-motorized

use. That's just one of the findings documented in a new study commissioned by Winter Wildlands Alliance.

Similarly, snowmobiles have access to more than 70 percent of total forest acreage even though they make up significantly less than half the winter users. Even more disconcerting is the fact that some two-thirds of the forest acreage designated as non-motorized is remote wilderness that is mostly inaccessible to skiers and snowshoers.

"We've got our work cut out for us," says WWA Executive Director Mark Menlove in talking about the study results. "The report verifies that we have a long way to go before we achieve equitable access and opportunity for quiet winter recreation, but it also gives us a powerful tool in working with Forest Service officials."

The report, which will be published in December, breaks down and compares winter user numbers with miles of trails and total acreage open and closed to motorized use for each state and forest within the 11 Western Snow Belt states. It documents similar disparity in almost every forest unit in every state.

The final report will be available to all WWA grassroots groups and individual members.

## Winter Wildlands Alliance Presents *Sanctified*, an Environmentally Focused Backcountry Ski Film



Winter Wildlands Alliance will host a screening of *Sanctified*, a new environmental ski film from KGB Productions, at the Flicks Theatre in Boise, Idaho on Tuesday, December 13. The event will include information and displays from human-powered recreation advocacy and environmental groups as well as a raffle drawing.

*Sanctified* addresses major issues that impact the backcountry experience including non-motorized and motorized conflict, ski area expansion and development, global warming, and backcountry access. With thoughtful interviews, commentary and beautiful backcountry skiing footage, the film aims to inspire viewers to contemplate these important issues and to take action.

WWA thanks the following sponsors for their support of this event: **Idaho Mountain Touring, REI, Greenwood's Ski Haus, Boise Weekly, Idaho River Sports, Backcountry.com, Jughandle Backcountry Hut,** and the **Boise Co-Op**. To view trailers of the film or to see the tour schedule of *Sanctified*, visit [www.kgb-productions.com](http://www.kgb-productions.com).

## Yellowstone Still a Hot Topic

Winter use in Yellowstone National Park is, yet again, a hot topic in the news.

First, there's the decision by the U.S. Department of Interior to spend \$3 million and two more years studying the snowmobile issue for a fourth time despite the fact that all three previous studies have clearly demonstrated that even limited snowmobile use threatens the park's wildlife, air quality, and visitor experience.

Next, there's the decision by U.S. District Judge Clarence Brimmer to reject a call by the state of Wyoming and the Wyoming Lodging and Restaurant Association to loosen the current cap on the number of snowmobiles allowed in the park on a daily basis and to eliminate guide requirements.

And finally, there was the leaked Interior Department "management policy document" under which the current administration would have opened the floodgates for snowmobile and off-road vehicle use throughout the National Park system. Fortunately, cooler heads are prevailing on that front.

What the news stories won't tell you is that visitors are driving a change that politics seems unable to deliver. In the past two winters, 60 percent fewer visitors have chosen to ride snowmobiles and 42 percent more have opted to access or tour the park by snowcoach.

As environmentally friendly access replaces snowmobiling, benefits are exactly what the National Park Service and the Environmental Protection Agency predicted: a veil of exhaust has begun to lift from our oldest national park. In places where it has hardly been possible to escape snowmobile commotion since the early 1980s, peace and quiet are making a comeback.

The Park Service is responding to this visitor-led recovery by setting more ski tracks within the park. Local businesses, particularly snowcoach operators, are responding too by installing ski racks and catering more to skiers and snowshoers. As skiers, we can all help in Yellowstone's recovery by visiting the park and patronizing those businesses that are leading the way toward a healthier, quieter, and more enjoyable winter experience.

### *Help Yellowstone's Recovery by Visiting This Winter!*

Use your feet (with skis or snowshoes attached, of course) and dollars to vote for continued restoration of our first national park! For a list of Yellowstone snowcoach operators, check out [www.nps.gov/yell/planvisit/services/wintbusn.htm#Snowcoach](http://www.nps.gov/yell/planvisit/services/wintbusn.htm#Snowcoach).

## WWA Launches Backcountry Partner Program with Wanderlust Tours!



Winter Wildlands Alliance has just launched a new partnership program for backcountry-oriented retail stores, guide services, outfitters, and other small businesses that support, and want their customers to know they support Winter Wildlands Alliance's mission of promoting and preserving winter wildlands and a quality human-powered snowsports experience on public lands.

WWA is delighted to announce that the first business to sign up for our Backcountry Partners program was **Wanderlust Tours** based in Bend, Oregon. Wanderlust Tours is a sustainable tour company that highlights the natural and cultural history of beautiful Central Oregon. They offer a variety of snow-bound tours in the Deschutes National Forest, including half-day interpretive snowshoe tours, monthly moonlight snowshoe

tours featuring a bonfire in the snow with hot drinks, and a one-night wilderness snow camping trip where participants learn about winter survival and winter ecology. Wanderlust Tours also offers many other types of recreation trips during the spring, summer and fall such as caving, canoeing, hiking and volcano tours. Their commitment to low-impact recreation and to educating people about the natural environment makes them the perfect inaugural WWA Backcountry Partner!

In addition, WWA welcomes **Sawtooth Mountain Guides** in Stanley, Idaho, **The Elephant's Perch** in Sun Valley, Idaho, and **White Pine Touring** in Park City, Utah, as Backcountry Partners. Welcome aboard!

## SnowSchool Continues to Grow

WWA's network of SnowSchool sites across the country continues to grow and strengthen. The newest SnowSchool site, the Beaver Brook Association, is located in Hollis, New Hampshire. Thanks to this new partnership with Winter Wildlands Alliance, Beaver Brook will be purchasing a fleet of Atlas snowshoes and will be able to provide an on-snow winter ecology field trip program for local schools.

Winter Wildlands Alliance is also teaming up with the RiverStone Community School in Boise, Idaho, to run a pilot SnowSchool program at Bogus Basin Resort that will take the 4th- and 5th-grade science classes out for winter field trips.

To find SnowSchool locations and learn about their programs, visit [www.snowschoool.org](http://www.snowschoool.org).

## Grassroots Spotlights

### Mammoth Nordic

Mammoth Nordic promotes the enhancement of non-motorized winter recreation for our community. We see the availability of safe, clean, healthy recreation opportunities, both winter and summer, as integral to the quality of life for those of us fortunate to call this place home. Last winter, Mammoth Nordic worked closely with the Inyo National Forest to revitalize a portion of an existing trail network for Nordic use. From modest gains such as this we hope great things will grow, and look forward to creating additional kilometers of Nordic trails in and around our community this season. Our ambition is to compel our local government to recognize the value of creating such an amenity and partner with our organization along with the Inyo National Forest to master plan a Municipal Nordic Trail System that serves our locals and visitors alike. For more information, please visit [www.mammothnordic.com](http://www.mammothnordic.com) or contact Brian Knox at [brian@mammothnordic.com](mailto:brian@mammothnordic.com).

### Nordic United

Nordic United and Utah State University Campus Recreation present the first annual Ullr Chase 40K cross-country ski race Saturday, March 4, 2006 in beautiful Logan Canyon, Utah. The race is open to all. For registration information please visit [www.usu.edu/camprec](http://www.usu.edu/camprec) or call 435.797.PLAY (7529).

### Wasatch-Cache Update

On July 22, 2005, the Forest Supervisor for the Wasatch-Cache National Forest announced a decision to reduce the winter motorized closure set forth in the 2003 Forest Plan Record of Decision (ROD) from 9,000 to 4,200 acres, a reduction of over 55%! This includes splitting the area into two "islands" and adding "snow roads" for motorized access. Nordic United, with the support of Winter Wildlands Alliance, is seeking an immediate injunction of any implementation of the amendment and a reversal of the decision to alter the ROD with respect to winter motorized closures.

### Montanans for Quiet Recreation

At 3.3 million acres, the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest (BH-DL NF) is the largest and most diverse in Montana and is also heavily motorized. The BH-DL NF has been working on a Revised Forest Plan and the comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Study recently closed. Montanans for Quiet Recreation devoted hundreds of hours to insuring the Forest Service included areas for quiet winter recreation on every land management unit. Through agency meetings, community relationship building, coordinated letter writing efforts, and by mapping forest trails, the group was instrumental in the development of Alternative 5, the Preferred Alternative.

### California-Nevada Snowlands Network

Snowlands Network represents the millions of people who enjoy the Sierra Nevada and the northern mountain ranges in California and Nevada.

#### Recent successes include:

*Dodge Ridge.* Protected established Nordic ski trails by appealing a proposed ski area expansion on the Stanislaus National Forest.

*Hope Valley, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.* Created, through a collaborative process, an "Equal Opportunity Winter Recreation Plan" for the greater Hope Valley area. Snowlands further contributed to the planning process by bringing community members together to request the Forest Service hire a facilitator for the new plan.

#### Current challenges include:

*Protecting Lake Tahoe.* Snowlands is a member of the Pathway 2007 Forum, a group working to help define the next 20 years of management for the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Snowlands is collaborating with key snowmobile organizations and public agencies to gain permanent non-motorized designations for quiet recreation and ensure access to recreation corridors. On Tahoe Meadows, Snowlands is pressing for enforcement of existing laws that ban motorized trespass into wilderness and other designated non-motorized areas. Additionally, Snowlands, in partnership with WWA, appealed a Forest Service plan to open 7,000 acres of the Proposed Hoover Wilderness Addition to snowmobiles.

## JOIN WINTER WILDLANDS ALLIANCE TODAY

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL

Sign me up to receive the WWA Action Alert, informing me of urgent issues affecting my winter solitude.  
(Email address required)

Enclosed are my membership dues of:

\$35    \$50    \$100    \$250    \$500   Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_    Check enclosed, or charge my Visa/MC:

NUMBER

EXP DATE

Please send this form and payment to Winter Wildlands Alliance, 910 Main Street Suite #235, Boise ID 83702.  
To learn more or join online, visit [www.winterwildlands.org](http://www.winterwildlands.org) or call 208-336-4203.



## Letter from the President



There are five inches of new snow on the ground as I write from our home north of Ketchum, Idaho, bringing thoughts of snow-covered slopes and creek-side winter trails. New snow and new Winter Wildlands accomplishments bring great anticipation and satisfaction as Winter Wildlands enters its fifth year. We started with just three state Nordic and backcountry ski groups, and Winter Wildlands

Alliance now has 20 active grassroots groups and is the recognized national voice for our quiet winter sports.

Winter Wildlands Alliance has come of age as a lean and effective organization with a solid funding base and a robust work plan led by an outstanding three person staff: Mark Menlove, Executive Director; Sally Ferguson, Grassroots Programs Director; and newly added staff-member Charlie Woodruff, Outreach and Development Coordinator.

I'm happy to report that we are stronger—both organizationally and financially—than we have ever been and are poised to take on an even greater role in the campaign to protect our winter wildlands and the rights of all Americans to enjoy these lands for the solitude, quiet, and wholesome recreation they provide. We continue to strengthen and expand our grassroots network, this year adding new groups in Alaska, California, Idaho and Washington. Through our new Backcountry Partners program we're developing a network of committed, educated and informed small business owners to speak on behalf of non-motorized

use and to bring balance to economic discussions regarding recreational use of public lands. With the Interior Department's decision to conduct a fourth—and we believe unnecessary—study of snowmobiles in Yellowstone National Park, WWA, along with our coalition partners, has marshaled overwhelming public comment in support of protecting the Park's winter grandeur and precious resources by phasing out snowmobiles.

Though I'll remain active on the Board, at the end of this calendar year, I step down as WWA Board President and will pass the mantle onto the able shoulders of incoming President Jill Smith. My five years as WWA President have been both rewarding and energizing. I'm proud of what we've accomplished and eager to carry our mission to even greater heights.

I sincerely thank each of you for your partnership and support. On behalf of the entire Board of Directors of Winter Wildlands Alliance, I wish you a happy holiday season and a winter filled with peace, quiet, and miles of pristine snow.

Keep the Wild in Winter!

Sarah Michael  
President, WWA

## FY05 Accomplishments and Highlights

Winter Wildlands made important gains during FY05 (July 1, 2004–June 30, 2005) in our efforts to promote and protect winter wildlands and a quality human-powered snowsports experience on public lands.

### National Policy

Winter Wildlands is the national voice for human-powered snowsports.

- Continued as the recreation voice advocating for the removal of snowmobiles from Yellowstone National Park. Served as an important stakeholder voice in the Park Service's pre-scoping evaluation regarding the winter use Environmental Impact Statement and, with our coalition partners, mobilized overwhelming public comment in favor of phasing out snowmobile use in the park.
- Worked with national and regional Forest Service managers to implement the WWA/US Forest Service Memorandum of Understanding. As an extension of the MOU, WWA and our Forest Service partners are developing a Best Practices document to bring consistency to travel management and winter recreation planning among different forests and regions.
- Continued to press Forest Service managers at the highest level to address the issue of snowmobile conflicts and abuse on public lands.
- Took the lead role in creating a viable financial and organizational foundation for the Outdoor Alliance, a coalition of human-powered recreation groups including Winter Wildlands Alliance, Access Fund, American Canoe Association, American Hiking Society, American Whitewater and International Mountain Bicycling Association. This alliance will provide a full-time voice in Washington, DC to speak out for the rights of quiet recreationists.

### Grassroots Groups

Winter Wildlands continued to expand and strengthen our network of committed and educated grassroots activist groups. These groups are the lifeblood of our efforts at the local, state and regional levels.

- Hosted the second Grassroots Advocacy Conference for leaders of grassroots ski/snowshoe organizations and national land managers to convene, network, and educate on current law, land management policy, federal policy issues, models of successful collaborations, lobbying, and more. The conference took place October 15-17, 2004, and was attended by 45 participants from 12 states.
- Added four new grassroots groups to the WWA roster, bringing our total to 20 groups in 11 states, covering 15 national forests.
- In Utah, maintained pressure on Wasatch-Cache National Forest Service managers to reverse a flawed decision that set aside just 4,200 acres out of 550,000 for non-motorized winter recreation. Providing on-going policy and legal counsel.
- Submitted comments for the record advocating for quality non-motorized winter recreation opportunities as part of Forest Service planning processes in Idaho, Montana, California and Colorado.



- In Idaho, secured a commitment from the Department of Parks and Recreation for a 2006 statewide winter recreation survey.
- In Idaho, developed a statewide map of non-motorized winter recreation areas at greatest risk of being lost to motorized encroachment.
- In California, on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, WWA partnered with Snowlands Network to appeal the Forest Service decision to open 7,000 acres to snowmobiles in the proposed West Hoover Wilderness.
- Initiated a new Backcountry Partners program to enlist quiet recreation oriented small businesses to work in tandem with grassroots activists. These new partners will speak from a non-motorized business platform and will bring balance to economic discussions regarding quality recreational use of public lands.

### Research and Publications

Winter Wildlands conducted studies and prepared reports aimed at protecting winter wildlands and human-powered snowsports access and opportunity.

- Submitted dozens of Freedom of Information Act requests to Western national forest units and synthesized the information into a soon-to-be-published report documenting the gross disparity between motorized and non-motorized access and opportunity on national forest winter trails and acreage.
- Launched an exciting new web site with more comprehensive resource information and tools for grassroots activists and individual members.
- Continued to update the important legal analysis, *Advocating for Human Powered Winter Recreation on National Forest Lands: Legal Framework and Strategy* as new Forest Service rules and regulations were handed down.

### Education

Through media campaigns, action alerts, newsletters and school programs, WWA educates the public about issues affecting wildlands preservation and quality human-powered recreation on public lands.

- Instilled a message of responsible stewardship, snow ecology and winter fun in nearly 30,000 grade school students at 30 sites in 14 states and provinces across the U.S. and Canada through WWA's SnowSchool program.

## Audited Financial Statements

Following are the audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2005, as presented by Harris & Co, P.A., Certified Public Accountants. If you would like a full copy of the statements or the tax form 990, please email [info@winterwildlands.org](mailto:info@winterwildlands.org) or call 208.336.4203.

### Statement of Financial Position

#### ASSETS

##### Current Assets

Cash & cash equivalents	\$81,561
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>81,561</b>

<b>Fixed Assets</b> (equipment, less depreciation)	12,444
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<b>Deposits</b>	<u>660</u>
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<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u><u>\$94,665</u></u></b>
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#### LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

##### Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$4,335
Accrued and withheld payroll costs	<u>300</u>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>4,635</b>

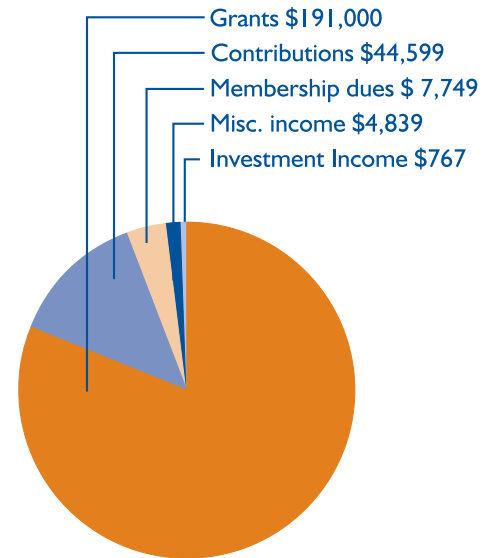
##### Net Assets

Unrestricted	85,030
Temporarily restricted	<u>5,000</u>

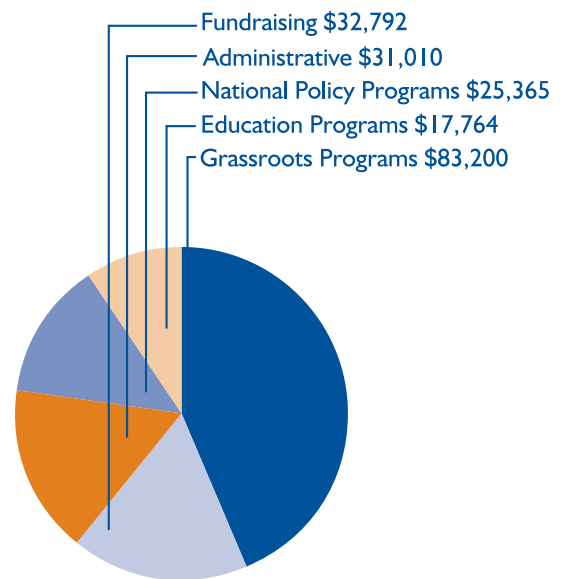
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b><u><u>90,030</u></u></b>
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<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b><u><u>\$94,665</u></u></b>
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### Revenue and Expenses



TOTAL REVENUE \$248,954



TOTAL EXPENSES \$190,131

## Thank you!

WWA thanks all of its board members, volunteers, and supporters for their commitment and dedication to its work preserving the human-powered backcountry experience. Without their support, none of our Fiscal Year 2005 accomplishments would have been possible. Special thanks go to the significant contributors who make so many of our successes possible:

### Foundations

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Anderson-Rogers Foundation  
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Walt and A.K. Minnick  
Nordic and Backcountry Skiers Alliance of Idaho  
James Pearre  
Alex and Marilyn Ridland  
Lee Rimel  
Brian Ross  
Bill and Michele Tregoning  
Jim Watson  
James Werntz

### Corporations



## Board of Directors

The Winter Wildlands Alliance Board of Directors met three times during the fiscal year: October 15, 2004, Boise, ID; January 28, 2005, Salt Lake City, UT; and April 29, 2005, Boise, ID. At fiscal year end, the Board included 12 members (the WWA bylaws allow 5-18 members). They are:

### Sarah Michael, President

Founder and past President of the Nordic and Backcountry Skiers Alliance of Idaho and County Commission Chair in Blaine County, Idaho.

### Jill Smith, Vice President

Attorney in Seattle with a focus in the areas of Native American, environmental, and employment law, and publisher of Public Lands Law News.

### Bill Tregoning, Treasurer

Accountant with thirty years of professional experience in the ski industry, including 18 as the President and General Manager of Greenwood's Ski Haus in Boise, ID.

### David Gottschall, Secretary

Investment analyst at Allstate Investments, LLC in Chicago.

### Cathy Baer

Special Projects Coordinator for the Blaine County (ID) Recreation District and an expert in wildlife interpretation.

### Kristen Brengel

Legislative liaison for The Wilderness Society, based in Washington, D.C.

### Gail S. Ferrell

Founder of the Nevada Coalition for Safe and Appropriate Winter Sports (CSAWS).

### Reid Haughey

President of The Wilderness Land Trust in Aspen, Colorado.

### David Jenkins

Virginia-based consultant for environmental nonprofit organizations, and previous Director of Conservation and Public Policy at American Canoe Association.

### Alex Kosseff

Partner in Adventure Safety International and author of the AMC Guide to Outdoor Leadership.

### Marcus Libkind

Founding member and President of Snowlands Network (CA) and author of multiple books on ski touring.

### Jim Werntz

Director of Idaho's Operations Office for the Environmental Protection Agency.



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## About WWA

Winter Wildlands Alliance is a national nonprofit organization promoting and preserving winter wildlands and a quality human-powered snowsports experience on public lands.

### Staff

Mark Menlove, Executive Director  
Sally Ferguson, Grassroots Program Director  
Charlie Woodruff, Outreach and Development Coordinator

### Board of Directors

Sarah Michael, President  
Jill Smith, Vice President  
Bill Tregoning, Treasurer  
David Gottschall, Secretary  
Cathy Baer  
Kristen Brengel  
Gail S. Ferrell  
Reid Haughey  
Alex Kosseff  
Marcus Libkind  
Jim Wertz



## Grassroots Members

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### Snowlands Network

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Friends of Alpine/Nordic Winter Sports  
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McCall  
jimmca@ctcweb.net  
www.frontiernet.net/~lorder/FANWS/

Idaho Falls Ski Club  
Idaho Falls  
lundberg@srv.net  
www.ifsclub.org

Idaho Skiers and Snowshoers Coalition  
Statewide  
sferguson@winterwildlands.org  
www.skiidaho.org

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bobjonas@sunvalley.net

Southeast Idaho Recreation Alliance  
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www.sira4wildlands.org

Teton Valley Trails & Pathways  
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www.tvtap.org

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www.trailpatrol.org

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