



PACIFIC NORTHWEST SKI AREAS ASSOCIATION (PNSAA)

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PRESS RELEASE

What's new in the mountains for 2009-2010

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Release Date: Monday, September 28, 2009

Hood River, OR – With the start of the ski season just weeks away, construction crews are completing work on base area enhancements, ski trail projects, and lift installations at Pacific Northwest ski areas. Ski area operators are finishing tactical improvements to existing ski lifts, lodges, parking facilities, and guest service programs as well. The largest of the resort improvement projects are listed below. For details on what is new at your favorite mountain, please call the PNSAA office or the mountain directly.

WASHINGTON The **49° North** crews have constructed seven alpine trails and 170 acres of gladed descents on Angel Peak – the terrain west of the resort's Chair 4. The upper half of the 5,295-foot Angel Peak will be 'hike-to' terrain this year (Chair 4 serves the lower half of the bowl). In addition, **49° North** constructed a new, North Parking Lot and expanded the lodge's sun deck. To enhance the resort's beginner experience, **Mission Ridge Ski & Board Resort** upgraded Chair 1's unload area and widened and recontoured the Easiest Way Down bypass of Chair 1's beginner slope. **Mission Ridge** also homologated Lower Chak Chak Run for FIS slalom racing (FIS racing starts next spring) and widened and recontoured the upper reaches of Skookum Run to ensure the trail meets safety and race specifications for USSA and FIS competitions. **Mt. Spokane Ski & Snowboard Park** constructed a snow tubing hill at the main lodge, and installed a snow tubing lift that will operate for day and night tubing sessions. **Mt. Spokane** enlarged and recontoured Chair 2's unloading station and replaced the operator building. Schedule wise, **Mt. Spokane** added eight nights of skiing, extended the ski day by two hours during the last two weeks in March, and added Spring Break 2010 to the **Park's** operating season. **North Cascade Heli-Skiing** entered a partnership with J.R. Helicopters (Yakima, Washington) and upgraded its heli-service with the faster, and more powerful Eurocopter AStar B3. This year, **Stevens Pass Winter Resort** will feature a fully supported, Burton Snowboards Learn to Ride (LTR) Center. The LTR Center will provide new riders with gear designed to enhance their experience and teaching methods, ensuring an enjoyable and successful first day. (Beginner LTR equipment is tailored by gender and age to maximize each rider's learning potential.) **Stevens Pass** purchased Elan/Dalbello

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equipment for new skier experiences, Rossignol equipment for high performance demos, and Rossignol equipment for the balance of the resort's rental fleet. **The Summit at Snoqualmie** constructed a new, 550-space parking lot, which will greatly increase parking capacity and guest access to Summit Central and the popular Silver Fir Express Chairlift. **Summit East** crews completed slope stabilization projects and the design and permit work for a triple chairlift (installation scheduled for next summer). **Alpental** crews replaced several lift operator buildings, renovated on-hill restrooms, and made strategic improvements to the Denny Mountain Lodge.

OREGON **Mt. Bachelor** invested \$200,000 in the popular Northwest Express Quad – replacing the lift's original circuit wiring and computer system. The upgrade is expected to improve chair spacing and significantly reduce chairlift stoppages. **Mt. Bachelor's** avalanche control operation now features a GT Falcon Avalauncher, and new weather instrumentation was installed to help monitor and evaluate weather, snow, and avalanche conditions. **Mt. Bachelor** purchased a Prinoth BR350 snow cat to enhance its grooming operation and a Kodiak Northwest snow blower to improve snow removal in parking lots and on roadways. The resort also purchased a new Nordic track setter and clean-burning, four-stroke snowmobiles. **Mt. Bachelor** will unveil sliding scale daily tickets, where the price of a daily lift ticket will depend on the day's weather and operating chairlifts. **Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort** paved the parking lot surface, improved storm water drainage, and completed watershed restoration work on the resort's Sunrise Lot. Formerly known as the Annex Lot, the retrofitted lot will improve the resort arrival experience. **Mt. Hood Meadows** recently unveiled the all-new SkiHood.com website. A critical component of the new website is 'real time' weather and lift operational information (guests are able to monitor this information with their own portable devices). The result is up-to-the-minute snow conditions and operational information for guests and staff members alike. **Mt Hood Meadows** purchased a Prinoth BR350 snow cat, and replaced its 'Sports Line' of rental skis, snowboards, and boots. The resort also enhanced its lift ticket scanning – making checking tickets in lift lines faster and more efficient – and added more Smarte lockers to the day lodges. Since **Timberline Ski Area** boasts the longest ski season in North America, and one of the finest summer ski and ride programs in the world, it makes perfect sense for the ski area to unveil the ***Timberline Complete Pass*** – unfettered lift access for skiing and riding as long as **Timberline** is open. (A fall, winter, spring, and summer worth of skiing and riding for \$999, and this new, annual lift pass product has no blackout dates.) Similar to last year, **Timberline** and **Mt. Hood Skibowl** are combining forces to offer the ***Mt. Hood Fusion Pass*** – an unlimited season pass valid at both resorts. A new winter entrance is now in place at the front doors of the historic Timberline Lodge, which will ensure winter access to lodge amenities, including Chef Leif Eric Benson's new fireside brunch offerings.

IDAHO **Lookout Pass Ski & Recreation Area** constructed an addition to the ski area's ski patrol/first aid building and a 600-square foot sun deck to complement the Summit House's food service area. **Lookout Pass** also recontoured the lower sections of Red Dog and Marmot trails and added one acre of guest parking. To facilitate Thanksgiving weekend openings, **Schweitzer Mountain Resort** finished the second phase of its snowmaking

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system with construction of a lined, water storage pond near the top of the mountain at Stiles Saddle. This pond will supply enough water to make snow on the resort's popular Midway Run – from the top of the Basin Express Quad down to the village. **Schweitzer Mountain Resort** has augmented its slope side living offerings with the introduction of a new neighborhood – *Mountainside at Schweitzer*. This new neighborhood will open in November with four, LEED-certified homes – three of which will be fractionally owned. In addition, **Schweitzer Mountain Resort** has converted 12, Selkirk Lodge Deluxe Units into Family Suites, more than doubling the sleeping capacity of each of these units. **Silver Mountain Resort** made improvements to its Mountain Haus, and constructed nine holes of golf at the Galena Ridge championship golf course. These nine holes will be playable in 2010.

ALASKA **Alyeska Resort's** trail crew gladed the North Face and constructed five new ski runs that are accessible via the new North Star Gate. Expert level tree skiing will open on the North Face as soon as snow conditions permit. **Alyeska Resort** also constructed Alaska's first, in-ground, Super Pipe near Chairlift 7's Mid-Station. The Super Pipe will be maintained with a recently acquired, 18-foot Zaugg Pipe Monster. **Alyeska** will extend night skiing operations for an additional two weeks (night skiing will be available Thursday through Sunday, December 17 through March 27), and the ski facilities will remain operational on weekends April 30 through May 31, conditions permitting. **Eaglecrest Ski Area** installed the \$1.5 million Black Bear Chairlift, which services the area's East Bowl. The ski area will complete the electrical conversion of the Ptarmigan Chairlift in time for the upcoming ski season. **Eaglecrest** also purchased a new PistenBully 400 snow cat and upgraded to the Avatar point of sale system for the ski area's ticketing, rental, and snowsport instruction functions.

For additional information on these developments, please contact the PNSAA office at (541) 386-9600.

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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, Alaska, Idaho, California, and Montana. The Association's member ski areas – most of which operate on public land – collectively host an estimated 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.