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Boise Welcomes the Far West Ski Association 85th Annual Convention Community Invited to Attend

Boise, ID (May 22) - The Far West Ski Association (FWSA) invites all snowsports enthusiasts to attend its 85th Annual Convention, to be conducted at the Boise Centre, June 7-11, 2017. Activities open to the public during the event include a Fountain Party on Friday on the newly renovated Grove Plaza, Silent Auction and Trade Show, Saturday Program, and Awards Banquet.

The Far West Ski Association is a volunteer, non-profit organization representing 150 affiliated ski clubs located throughout nine regional councils in 12 western states. Delegates will convene at the Convention to discuss programs in public affairs, skier safety, ski heritage, athletic scholarships, racing, communications, travel, council development, ski industry and community outreach. The event is hosted by the Bogus Basin Ski Club and the Intermountain Ski Council.

The Fountain Party on Friday afternoon (4:00-6:30 pm) on The Grove Plaza will be a community event, and Bogus Basin will be celebrating its 75th Anniversary. The Fountain Party is being sponsored by Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area, Jackson Hole Mountain Resort and Commercial Tire. Entertainment will be provided by the Boise Rock School on stage, and wine and microbrew tasting will be available. An introduction to some of the local culture will be provided by a performance by the Oinkari Basque Dancers.

The Keynote Speaker and special guest to this year's Convention is Charlie Linville. Charlie, a Boise native, became the first military amputee to summit Mount Everest in 2016. After two failed attempts in 2014 (avalanche) and 2015 (earthquake), he conquered the summit. Charlie will be available to meet and greet, and answer questions Friday evening, June 9, at the FWSA's Silent Auction and Trade Show, immediately following the Fountain Party.

Silent Auction attendees can bid on more than \$85,000 in ski and travel packages. The event is free and open to the public. A Welcome Party will begin at 6:30 pm, sponsored by Aspen Skiing Company / Snowmass Tourism and Telluride Ski Resort, with beverages provided by Payette Brewing Company and Proletariat Wine Company. A portion of the proceeds from the Silent Auction will benefit the College of Idaho Ski Team.

On Saturday, June 10, Charlie will be presenting his Keynote Speech to the assembled delegates, industry representatives, and guests. A Day Program is available, from 8:30 am until 4:00 pm. For the special price of \$50, you can attend the Travel Expo with snowsports industry representatives, luncheon, Keynote Speaker presentation, the FWSA Snowsports Leadership Academy and Public Affairs Panel sessions.

The Snowsports Leadership Academy sessions will feature topics related to building and sustaining clubs, and ski equipment updates and maintenance. The Public Affairs Panel will consist of special celebrity guests and representatives from the U.S. Forest Service discussing current issues relating to public land development, ski history, ski safety and snowsport legislation. Special guests to date include: **Natalie Hurst** - News Anchor KBOI-TV (CBS); **Stephaney Kerley** - Boise National Forest District Ranger; **Eve Chandler** - Ski Resort Historian; **Dave Ludwig** - Founder of Hope on the Slopes; **Sandy Chio** - Executive Director, Squaw Valley Olympic Museum Foundation; **Laura Sankey** - President, Women's Ski Jumping USA; **Alan Alborn** - Women's Ski Jumping Coach; **Sara Hendrickson** - World Champion US Women's Ski Jumper; **Billy Kidd** - Olympic Slalom Silver Medalist; **Erik Fisher** - Former US Ski Team; **Holt Haga** - Former US Freestyle Team; **Bob Looper**, Idaho Ski Areas Association; and **Ron Abramovich** - Boise's "Snowman" Snow Pack Analyst.

The Saturday Evening Awards Banquet will recognize outstanding volunteers and industry representatives. Recipients of this year's Snowsports Builder Awards are **Bob Greenwood** - founder of Greenwood's Ski Haus in Boise, and **Nancy Ingalsbee** - former FWSA Director of Public Affairs. Banquet Awards tickets are available for sale.

FWSA extends its appreciation to the **Boise Convention and Visitor's Bureau** as a Gold Sponsor, **Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area** as a Silver Sponsor, and the **Idaho Ski Area Association** as a Bronze Sponsor for the Convention. Additional sponsors include: Banff-Lake Louise-Sunshine, Big Sky Resort, Big White Ski Resort, Bogus Basin Ski Club, Brian Head Resort, Copper Mountain, Dennis Dillon Auto Group, Fairmont Banff Springs; Grouse Mountain Lodge, Holiday Ski Tours, Karbon, Limelight Hotel in Ketchum, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, Mountain Lodge Telluride, Nancy Greene's Cahilty Hotel & Suites, Salt Lake Crystal Inn Hotels & Suites, Ski Dazzle, Ski.com, SkiGroup.Net, Sports America, Steamboat Ski & Resort Corporation, Sun Valley Ski Resort, Vail Resorts, and Whitefish Mountain Resort.

Additional information about all the programs to be conducted at the 85th Annual Far West Ski Association Convention and registration information is available on www.fwsa.org.