

Nominated by:

Jennifer Coutts

Tommi Tyndall Nomination

Bogus Basin

Bogus Basin, Idaho got its name during the Gold Rush, when swindlers were making fake gold. Alf Engen, the father of the American powder technique, selected the site for the ski area at Bogus Basin in 1939. The resort opened to the public in December of 1942 with a 500 foot rope tow, and the first chairlift was installed in 1961.

Located just 16 miles from Boise, **Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area** has been the Treasure Valley's year-around destination for mountain recreation, education, and community. Bogus Basin is a not-for-profit resort, with a mission to make the outdoors accessible today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

We do not often associate the word "nonprofit" with skiing and ski resorts, due to the high costs of development and operations. Many ski areas are a part of a conglomerate of ski resorts. However, there are some ski areas throughout North America, that are making it work as a nonprofit ski area, and Bogus Basin is one of them. While always a nonprofit, Bogus Basin was given 501(c)(3) status in 2005, which made it not only a nonprofit but also a charitable organization, so visitors can make a tax-deductible donation. The Bogus Basin Recreation Association operates the ski area.

Under the leadership of Brad Wilson, the current General Manager, the mountain has had substantial improvements in recent years, such as increased terrain and new high speed quad lifts. Snowmaking operations guarantee a November opening every year. This system covers over half of the total runs on the mountain, and are also illuminated for night skiing. It is the largest non-profit recreation area in the U.S., and Southern Idaho's largest mountain of skiable terrain at 2,600 acres, with 1,800 feet of vertical, 10 lifts (including 4 high-speed quads), and 90 runs.

The summer operations include a mountain coaster, tubing hill, aerial adventure park, mountain biking, music festivals, yoga on the mountain and many youth inspired programs. Season pass ticket holders increased from 15,000 in 2015 to over 40,000 in 2022. This year alone, Bogus Basin will exceed over 500,000 skier visits and over 100,000 visitors for the summer operations.

Bogus Basin has been a strong supporter of the Bogus Basin Ski Club and other local clubs, the Intermountain Ski Council and the Far West Ski Association. The resort was a Silver Sponsor of the Far West Ski Association's 85th Annual Convention in 2017 and hosted the Fountain Party prior to the Silent Auction at the Boise Centre. Many attendees had never been to Boise before, and thoroughly enjoyed the many outdoor activities offered, and welcoming spirit of the area. As a result, we will be returning to Boise in June for the 90th Annual FWSA Convention, with Bogus Basin providing support for this Convention, as well.

Bogus Basin Mountain Recreation Area is a model for other resorts as a nonprofit. The resort has steadily developed to enhance the customer experience, and remains dedicated to providing quality service, outdoor recreation, and programs to enhance the local community. For these reasons, **Bogus Basin** is highly deserving as a recipient of the **Tommi Tyndall Award**, presented to a ski area that has made a distinguished contribution to skiing.

