

The Formative History of Winter Recreation Partnerships and Our Present Partners Today



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Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AN OVERVIEW OF WINTER RECREATION AND USFS HISTORY

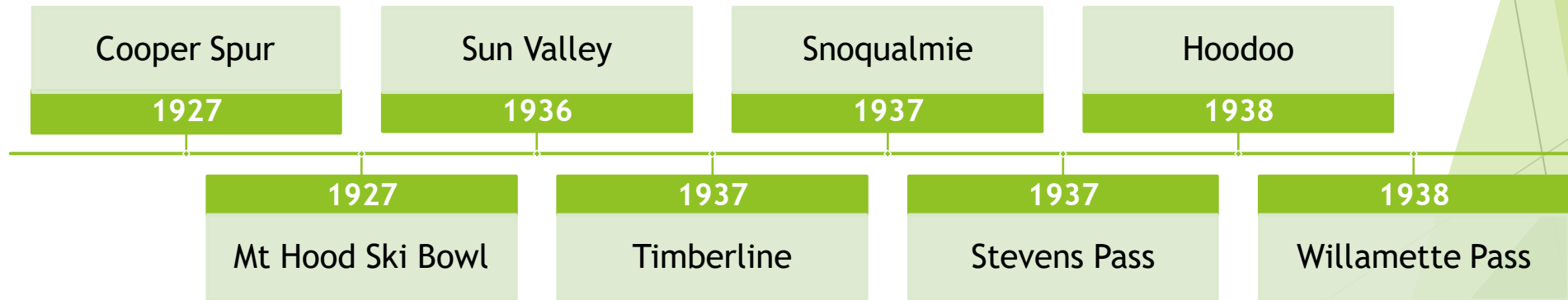


- ▶ 1915 - Howelsen Hill in Steamboat Springs Colorado started up
- ▶ 1936 - Averell Harriman decided to build Sun Valley Resort in Idaho. Chair lifts on Dollar and Proctor Mountain were the first in the US.
- ▶ 1936-1937 - Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) with help from Works Progress Administration (WPA) built Timberline Lodge in Oregon.



An Overview of Winter Recreation and USFS History

In the 1920's and 1930's 60 ski areas were developed, with half of those being on National Forest Land. This time period gave birth to the following resorts in the Pacific Northwest:





An Overview of Winter Recreation and USFS History

During WWII, 10th Mountain Division at Camp Hale in Colorado learned to ski.

Wilfred "Slim" Davis, 10th Mountain Division member, began working for the Forest Service. He started a comprehensive survey of potential new ski areas in the West.

1945

1942

1948

After the war, income levels increased, and the economy began to stabilize. Many were looking for new ways to recreate.

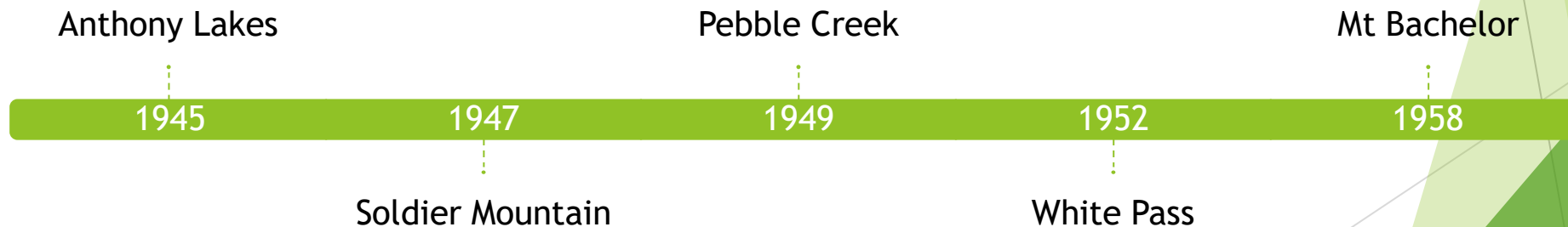


The 10th Mountain Division



An Overview of Winter Recreation and USFS History

From 1945 to 1959 another 100 ski areas were opened across the country, 30 of those were on National Forests, including these Pacific Northwest Ski Areas:





An Overview of Winter Recreation and USFS History

The Forest Service began their “recreation site inventory” including for potential ski development sites.

Paul Hauk known as the “skiing Forest Ranger” inventoried over 50 potential ski areas in the West

1958

1960's

Olympics further popularized winter sports in America, leading to full throttle development.

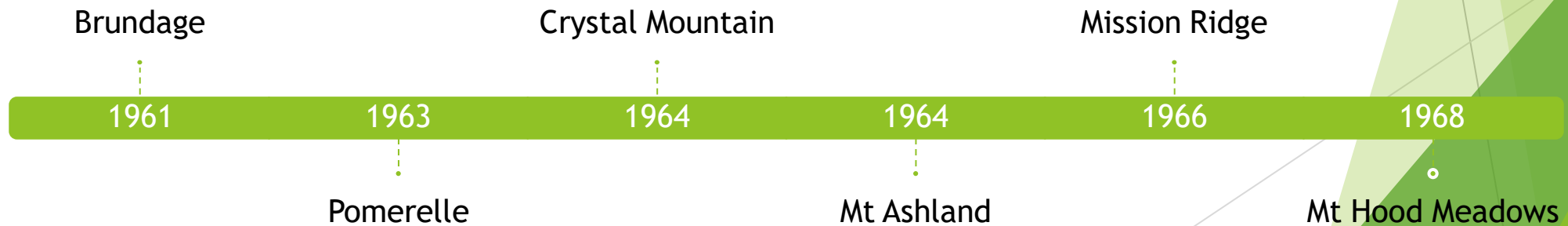


Paul Hauk, “Skiing Forest Ranger” Colorado Ski Hall of Fame photo



An Overview of Winter Recreation and USFS History

In the 1960's and 1970's another 100 plus ski areas opened in the U.S. (a substantial number of these were from the "recreation site inventory"). The following Pacific Northwest Ski Areas on USFS land were born:





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AN OVERVIEW OF WINTER RECREATION AND USFS HISTORY

- ▶ There are over 120 ski areas on National Forest System lands across the United States, which accounts for 60 percent of the capacity of downhill skiing.
- ▶ Skiing has contributed to economies across the country, creating 64,000 jobs that contribute over \$3 billion to gross domestic product.



THE BIRTH OF SNOW SCIENCE AND AVALANCHE SAFETY



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AN OVERVIEW OF WINTER RECREATION AND USFS HISTORY - *THE BIRTH OF SNOW SCIENCE AND AVALANCHE SAFETY*

- **1936** - Felix C. Koziol (“Kozy”) becomes a Forest Service Winter Sports Specialist in Utah evaluating potential ski areas.
- **1938/1939** - With help from Kozy, Alta Ski Area opens on an abandoned mining claim.

There were environmental impacts from previous mining and timber harvesting on the new Alta Ski Area land. Alta Ski Area and the US Forest Service worked together to remedy these impacts.

These early efforts evolved into what we know today as the Forest Service’s environmental evaluations and analysis to identify Best Management Practices.



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AN OVERVIEW OF WINTER RECREATION AND USFS HISTORY - *THE BIRTH OF SNOW SCIENCE AND AVALANCHE SAFETY*

When Alta and other Ski Areas started, The Forest Service took principal responsibility of operations, including public safety.

- **1939** - Forest Service hires the first “Snow Rangers” to manage and understand avalanche hazards.
- **1943** - “Kozy” becomes Forest Supervisor.
- **1945** - “Kozy” hires 10th Mountain Division veteran, Monty Atwater as Alta Snow Ranger.

These two became a force in establishing what would become the foundation of avalanche research, management and training for years to come.



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"AND A NEW SPIRIT HAS COME TO
PREVAIL ON THE INTERMOUNTAIN
COUNTRY WHEN
DAYS BECOME SHORT, AND THE SUN IS LOW
ON THE SOUTHERN HORIZON. FOR AS
NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER
ARRIVE, **WITH THEM COMES A NEW**
WEALTH TO THE LAND, A RICHNESS OF SNOW...
COLD DRY POWDER SNOW,
COVERING DEEPLY A THOUSAND HILLS AND
THEREIN THE NATIONAL FORESTS PLAY A NEW PART"

Felix Koziol,
1941

