




BRIDGER SKI FOUNDATION

BOZEMAN, MONTANA

BSF



COMMUNITY NORDIC TRAILS 2022-23 REPORT

2022-23 Season Recap

Spring is here! (We knew it would come, eventually!) It's hard to believe we were skiing continuous corduroy at Sunset Hills a month ago. April 15 marked the "official" end to an incredible ski season, which began across in-town venues on November 8. **At five-plus months, it was 50-75% longer than a regular 12-14 week in-town season.**

Thank you to everyone who helped support our trails by volunteering, sponsoring, donating, and buying a pass!

If you've traveled around Montana (or other snowy states) to any of the small community-based ski organizations that pass the hat and scramble for funding to groom ski trails, you've seen the heart and soul of this sport. It's a labor of love for all involved.

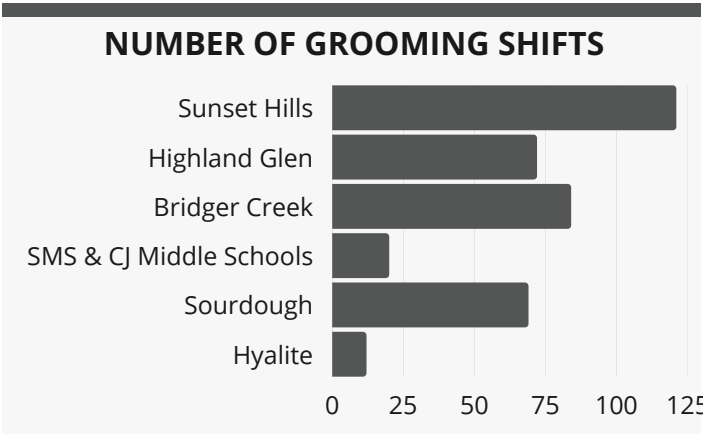
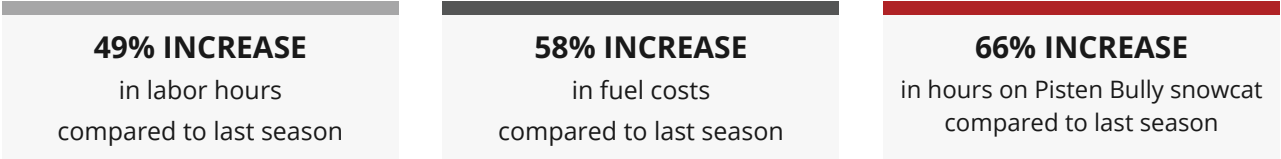
With the support of a growing ski community, our trails program will continue to get better and better, with new equipment, added trails, better summer trail maintenance, and when resources and mother nature allow, more frequent grooming and long ski seasons!

Thank you for an incredible 2022-23 season!

-The BSF Trail Crew



2022-23 SEASON
BSF COMMUNITY NORDIC TRAILS



BRIDGER SKI FOUNDATION
TRAIL GROOMING

2022-23



2022-23 TRAIL SPONSORS



George L. Ohrstrom, Jr.
FOUNDATION



TRAIL GROOMING SUMMARY

2022-23 SEASON



SOURDOUGH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 120-DAY SEASON✓ GROOMED 69 TIMES✓ GROOMED 3-4 TIMES A WEEK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 25 KM✓ MULTI-USE TRAIL✓ Costs approximately \$2,000 to do one Sourdough grooming with the Pisten Bully snowcat (8-10 hours)
SUNSET HILLS (LINDLEY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 159-DAY SEASON✓ GROOMED 121 TIMES✓ 5-6x WEEKLY AVERAGE OF GROOMING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 5 KM✓ SNOWMAKING✓ SKI TRAIL✓ FEW BLOCKS FROM MAIN ST.
HIGHLAND GLEN	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 153-DAY SEASON✓ GROOMED 72 TIMES✓ 3-4x WEEKLY AVERAGE OF GROOMING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 9 KM✓ SKI TRAIL✓ 2.7 KM UNGROOMED MULTI-USE TRAIL
BRIDGER CREEK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 153-DAY SEASON✓ GROOMED 84 TIMES✓ 3-4x WEEKLY AVERAGE OF GROOMING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 8 KM✓ SKI TRAIL
ADDITIONAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 1-KM LOOP AT SACAJAWEA MIDDLE SCHOOL. SERVES 250 KIDS. 85-DAY SEASON.✓ 1-KM LOOP AT CHIEF JOSEPH MIDDLE SCHOOL. SERVES 250 KIDS. 85-DAY SEASON	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ 35 KM IN HYALITE, GROOMED BY USFS WITH ASSISTANCE FROM BSF. GROOMED 12 TIMES.

FUNDING

Bridger Ski Foundation uses a unique funding model to groom and maintain all the Community Nordic Trails. All trails are free to the public to keep winter recreation affordable and accessible.

As a nonprofit, BSF must raise \$150,000 - \$200,00 annually to fund the Trails Program budget. With the increased length of the ski season, and a gap in funding from a past major grant source, BSF and community supporters had to double down on fundraising efforts this year to meet the additional costs (think 50-75% more fuel, labor, portable toilet rentals, wear-and-tear on equipment). We were able to take advantage of this incredible winter, providing the same or better quality grooming and consistency, across all venues (including some additional work this season in Hyalite).

This year, we also asked the community for support to help purchase two new grooming snowmobiles, replacing part of an aging fleet. The new 24-in. wide-track sleds were invaluable. Our ability to maintain trails, especially later in the season, would have been nearly impossible without them. Thank you to all who recognized the importance of this and pitched in to help!

FUNDING SOURCES

- Voluntary trail passes
- Grants
- Individual donations
- Sponsorships

1085
TRAIL PASSES SOLD
in 2022-23

Trail pass sales increased this year, in large part due to our snowy winter. However, BSF will need to make significant investments in new grooming equipment in the next several years, and that will require more consistent support from the community, even in the not-so-snowy winters.

THINK OF YOUR TRAIL
CONTRIBUTION OR PASS AS A
LONG-TERM INVESTMENT
IN WINTER TRAILS.



SUPPORT OPPORTUNITY: Make a donation of \$2,500 or more and get a plaque on the donor wall of the pump house. Or sponsor a section of trail and get a trail sign. Contact Laura Huggins at laura.huggins@bridgerskifoundation.org or (801) 726-4517.

SURVEY SAYS ...

HIGHLAND GLEN RANKS HIGH

We're happy to report that Highland Glen is leading this year's survey as the top-rated "very important" Community Nordic Trails venue. This is great feedback, as the land and surrounding open space is currently under review for potential future development. BSF is actively engaged in this process to advocate for preservation of the trails and open space. While the terrain in Highland Glen requires more snow than other venues for higher-quality grooming, we're continuing to invest in these trails, expand the network, and work with our partners to help establish a master trails and park plan. We saw many positive comments on the late-season addition of over 1KM of new trail and challenging hills in the southern end of the glen, and we're thrilled to have been able to make these happen this season.



New trail additions at Highland Glen this year.

GROOMING FREQUENCY

Sourdough and Bridger Creek skiers weighed-in, with a few commenters wishing for more consistent grooming. In past years BSF has groomed these venues 2-3 days per week. Last year we stepped this up to 3-4 days. This season, we were also able to maintain 3-4 days per week at these venues. And while we love all of the Community Nordic Trails venues equally, our goal is to provide the most skiing to the most people. In a low-snow year across in-town venues, you'll likely see increased grooming in Sourdough. This year, Bridger Creek, which is typically the lowest-snow venue, experienced one of the best seasons ever. November looked like January. But, as one person pointed out, there was possibly too much snow all at once at season's end. And, since we don't have the ability to run the Pisten Bully at Bridger Creek (this is to protect the golf greens), it can be a battle to bring things back to perfect compaction. Then, once it's firmed-up, it can be a battle to set new tracks and get things soft again... such is the way of nature and snowmobile grooming!



October 24: Rolled all the main Sunset Hills trails for a "bonus" of 1.5 days of skiing.

HYALITE

Hyalite skiers were stoked to see some additional grooming this season. Big thanks to the USFS for staying on it as much as possible, and we loved assisting when we could!



SNOWMAKING

A few survey respondents wondered if snowmaking at Sunset Hills was worth the cost and energy expenditure this year. Great question!

It's important to note that 85% of snowmaking efforts this season took place before mid-December. The remaining shifts went into building the terrain park and augmenting stadium and hill features for the Junior National Qualifier in mid-February (those costs were offset by the trail fees racers paid for the event).

After three seasons of operation, we now approach snowmaking as a fixed-cost, with the annual goal of providing at least a 1.5-km, 6-meter wide loop with 12-in. base depth to withstand periods of warming. The system is designed to optimally produce this loop. Costs are well understood and offset by different funding sources. It's also much more efficient for us to make snow when it's 0-10 degrees Fahrenheit, on a frozen snow base than it would be to try and claw-our-way-back from bare ground after a January thaw. With this season in the rear-view, we can of course look back and agree that we likely didn't need all that extra snow, but our outlook going forward will likely remain the same. Without a crystal ball, we'll plan to make snow, unless we're positive that we won't need to.



ski
kind.

As a member of the Outside Kind Alliance, Bridger Ski Foundation is working to share best practices, principles and tips for enjoying the outdoors in our community. In the second year of Ski Kind, we noted improved trail etiquette all over town. Survey respondents noticed, too. Thank you for spreading kindness. It's contagious.



KEEP THE PEOPLE SKIING



WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR TRAILS

- Volunteer
- Purchase a voluntary trail pass
- Make a donation
- Become a sponsor (great for businesses)
- Encourage others to support the BSF trails program

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

\$1,000

Sponsor one community Nordic FUNSKI series race

\$2,000

Support snowmaking efforts by purchasing a plaque on the Pump House at Sunset Hills

\$2,500

Get your business logo or foundation name on every trail pass sold

\$2,500

Run a month-long banner ad across BSF's popular Grooming Report webpage

\$5,000

Sponsor a community Nordic trail system such as Bridger Creek Golf Course (includes sign)

Contact Laura Huggins
laura.huggins@bridgerskifoundation.org
(801) 726-4517

