



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Colorado Mountain Club and Backcountry Snowsports Alliance Join Forces

June 1, 2009 - GOLDEN, COLO. – Colorado’s premiere mountain conservation, education, and recreation organization—the Colorado Mountain Club (CMC)—has united with the Backcountry Snowsports Alliance (BSA), the principal advocate for human-powered winter recreation in Colorado.

The result will be a more robust Colorado Mountain Club, giving a stronger voice to the issues BSA has worked on for 18 years and enhancing advocacy for quiet, human-powered backcountry recreation during all of Colorado’s seasons. The creation of the Backcountry Snowsports Initiative, a new focus within CMC’s Conservation Department, will help resolve winter conflict issues throughout the state by utilizing the resources and volunteers of BSA to address local issues, as well as proactively advocate for non-motorized winter users in Forest Service Travel Management Plans while engaging the support of all CMC members.

While the CMC has been seeking to expand its already strong advocacy efforts to include protecting Colorado’s non-motorized winter experience, the BSA has been looking at ways to more effectively fulfill its mission. Uniting the CMC and BSA comes at a fortuitous time for both organizations. The 280 BSA members officially become CMC members on June 1, 2009, further strengthening the club’s core of active, devoted backcountry recreationists. Former BSA board members Heath Mackay and Ryan Miller will also join the CMC Board of Directors and participate in the newly created Conservation Advisory Committee

From its beginnings in 1912, the CMC has been an advocate for the protection of access to and the preservation of Colorado’s mountain landscapes. In 1915, it played an instrumental role in the creation of Rocky Mountain National Park. During its lifetime, the BSA worked tirelessly to ensure that Colorado has had quiet areas in which to enjoy the winter landscape.

For more information, visit www.cmc.org/bsi.

About the Colorado Mountain Club (www.cmc.org)

The Colorado Mountain Club (CMC) is the oldest outdoor education, recreation, and conservation organization in Colorado. Founded in 1912, CMC reaches an annual constituency of over 40,000 citizens, including 5,600 youth, providing a comprehensive and diverse range of programs and activities. Programs revolve around education, conservation, science, history, policy, recreation, arts and culture. CMC offers a wide range of opportunities for the public to explore, observe, and learn about the Southern Rockies, while simultaneously leading efforts to protect the species, habitats, and wildness of our public lands. CMC publishes a quarterly magazine, the *Trail & Timberline* and operates a book press with more than 20 current titles. No other organization in the Intermountain West has such a strong or broad-based approach connecting people and our Colorado landscape.

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