



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Outdoor Recreation Summit July 22 at Bousquet

Speakers to include Brian Arrigo, Commissioner of DCR

Pittsfield, MA – Outdoor recreation enthusiasts will have plenty to enjoy on Saturday, July 22nd during Mountain Day at Bousquet, including a chance to meet the new Commissioner of the Commonwealth's Department of Conservation and Recreation, Brian Arrigo.

Commissioner Arrigo will offer welcoming remarks to attendees at the 2nd Annual Berkshire Outdoor Recreation Summit, the conference portion of Saturday's Mountain Day event at Bousquet Mountain in Pittsfield. The conference, which runs from 1 to 3 pm, is free and open to the public. After the Commissioner's opening remarks, several organizations will share information about new outdoor recreation investments. Presenters include Berkshire Community Rowing, Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, the Hoosic River Watershed Association, Mass Audubon, the Western Mass Backcountry Alliance, and the Western Mass Climbing Coalition.

Outdoor Recreation Summit/Conference Agenda

1-3 pm; Saturday, July 22nd

(free and open to the public)

Welcome from **DCR Commissioner Brian Arrigo**

Full Circle: Getting Back to Backcountry Skiing in Western Mass. - *Western Mass Backcountry Alliance* - Through partnerships with the DCR and Catamount Trail Association, the mission of WMass Backcountry Alliance (WMBA) is to help build community support for more access to self-powered skiing in the region. Presenters will discuss their latest projects, the newest BC zone, and a little CCC ski history.

Hanging Mountain - *Western Mass Climbing Coalition* - The Western Massachusetts Climbers Coalition (WMCC) is a small nonprofit with the mission to protect access to and care for rock climbing resources in western Massachusetts. In late 2019, the WMCC purchased a 14-acre parcel located in Sandisfield, MA, called Hanging Mountain. Since then, they have built a parking lot and continue to develop trails and climbing routes, with an emphasis on the sustainability of trail work and equity in the development process.

Linear Link Trail - *Hoosic River Watershed Association* - John Case from the Hoosic River Watershed Association (HOORWA) will discuss community partnerships in the construction of the Linear Link Trail.

Outdoor Recreation Website - *Berkshire Regional Planning Commission* -BRPC, in conjunction with 1Berkshire, is developing a new outdoor recreation website for Berkshire County. When completed this winter, this new tool will provide information on over 600

recreational assets in the county and resources on clubs, guides, retailers, and an event calendar.

Come Row With Us! - *Berkshire Community Rowing* – Berkshire Community Rowing is dedicated to the promotion and advancement of recreational and competitive rowing, with a focus on education and camaraderie of the sport. They are excited to share all the programs they offer and ways that you can get into a rowing shell and enjoy the beauty of Onota Lake from a new point of view.

Increasing access to nature: A new All Persons Trail in the Berkshires– *Mass Audubon*- Mass Audubon's Action Agenda identifies increasing inclusive and equitable access to nature as a top priority. Learn about a current project at Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in Lenox which will expand the All Persons Trail to nearly a mile and include new sensory and interpretive elements.

Mountain Day Festival Schedule

3 – 10:30 pm; Saturday, July 22nd

Tickets available at www.bousquetmountain.com

The ticketed portion of Mountain Day begins at 3 pm and includes live music, a "Vendor Village" with over twenty retailers offering product demos, clubs, and non-profit organizations, as well as several scheduled activities (see below), including yoga and guided hikes.

The festival culminates in a concert by The Whiskey Treaty Roadshow. Tickets are available at www.bousquetmountain.com.

3:30-4:00 Yoga with Bousquet Sport Enjoy some relaxing 'me-time' practicing yoga under the rolling hills and blue skies. Move your body through creative yoga sequences designed by our amazing Yoga instructor, Kerry. On Mountain Day, Bousquet will offer you a breathtaking view. Partake in relaxing mat-based yoga poses while the sky begins to create all kinds of beautiful shades of vibrant colors.

3:30 – 4:30 Hike with M-Power Adventures Take an hour-long mindful nature appreciation hike led by Holly to a nearby wooded area. Experience a sense of wonder and connect entirely to the environment. Enjoy fun, interactive blending with nature games. Appropriate for all ages.

4:15 – 4:45 Hike with Bousquet Sport Join Avi for a beautiful leisurely trek up Bousquet Mountain. View the unforgettable landscape and experience the enduring gifts that the Berkshires have to offer.

4:45-5:30 -Ridge Running - A Short History of Recreation in the Taconic and Berkshires The walk and talk will focus on the development of hiking/ski trails and outdoor tourism in the region. Bob Rando, from Pittsfield State Forest, and Mike Whalen, from Mount Greylock State Reservation will share stories and personal recollections spanning more than 50 years. Best for ages 8 and older. Suitable for anyone able to walk up to 1.0 mile on easy-moderate terrain.

5:00 – 5:30 Yoga with Bousquet Sport Enjoy some relaxing 'me-time' practicing yoga under the rolling hills and blue skies. Move your body through creative yoga sequences designed by our amazing Yoga instructor, Kerry. On Mountain Day, Bousquet will offer you a breathtaking view. Partake in relaxing mat-based yoga poses while the sky begins to create all kinds of beautiful shades of vibrant colors.

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About Mountain Day

Mountain Day at Bousquet celebrates outdoor recreation and music in the Berkshires. The festival began in 2022 as a result of the 2020 Berkshire County Outdoor Recreation Plan as a way to better connect outdoor recreation stakeholders and help share news of outdoor recreation investments and opportunities. Collaborating partners for Mountain Day include Mill Town Foundation, Bousquet Mountain, and Berkshire Regional Planning Commission. More information is available at <https://bousquetc mountain.com/event/mountain-day-with-the-whiskey-treaty-roadshow/>.

About BRPC

Berkshire Regional Planning Commission is the regional planning agency for Berkshire County, Massachusetts. BRPC assists the thirty-two Berkshire cities and towns in a diverse set of topics, including community and economic development, community planning, data and information services, emergency preparedness planning, environmental and energy planning, regional services, public health, and transportation planning.

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