



**For immediate release
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DCR'S BLUE HILL SKI AREA PLANS "SNOWBOARD JAM" THIS WEEKEND

Also, skiers and boarders invited to shadow an instructor and apply to teach sports next year

The Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Blue Hills Ski Area is hosting a two-day Snowboard Jam this weekend, February 21 and 22, with prizes for best costume, best trick, worst trick, and best team effort in tandem snowboarding.

On Saturday, February 21, the ski area also invites good skiers and boarders to shadow an instructor for the day and, if interested, apply to be a ski or snowboard instructor next year.

"DCR appreciates and applauds the efforts of Ski Blue Hills Management to improve the facilities at the Blue Hills Ski Area and keep these winter sports affordable," said DCR Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr. "The activities this weekend are yet another example of the new management's effort to reach out to everyone looking to enjoy themselves on the slopes."

In 2007, DCR awarded a five-year permit to Ski Blue Hills Management LLC to operate and manage the Blue Hills Ski Area in DCR's Blue Hills Reservation in Canton, just a few miles south of Boston. The Blue Hills Ski Area lies on the western face of Great Blue Hill and features a 400-foot vertical drop. The facility provides eight trails, ranging from beginner to expert, as well as a beginners' slope.

"We're very excited about these two events," said Corie Stone, general manager of the ski area. "The Snowboard Jam promises to be an excellent spectator sport as well as great fun for those participating, and we're looking forward to getting some great new instructors for next year."

Since taking over management of the ski area, Ski Blue Hills has made a number of improvements, including upgrading the ski lifts, improving snowmaking, expanding the sports school, and starting a shuttle to and from the parking lot.

The Snowboard Jam will be held Sunday, February 22, noon-5 p.m. Participation is \$15. Live music and DJ's will be playing all day, and a number of vendors will have display booths.

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The free Snow Sports Instructor program will be Saturday and Sunday, February 21 and February 22, from 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. each day. Participants may ski or ride all day for \$20, and will be invited to attend a clinic led by a certified instructor. Sign up by noon Friday, February 20, by calling 781-828-5070.

The Blue Hills Ski Area is at 4001 Washington St. (Route 138), Canton, just over the Milton line. For more information on the ski area and the programs this weekend, and to get directions, call 781-828-5070 or visit www.ski-bluehills.com.

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The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, and dams, in addition to 278 bridges and miles of roadways. Led by Commissioner Richard K. Sullivan Jr., the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit www.mass.gov/dcr. Contact us at mass.parks@state.ma.us