

May2013AD

IFMGA symposium

There are a few items of interest in the advocacy world this month. After the IFMGA Meeting in Whistler, guide trainers from 12 countries will travel to Alaska to participate in the 2013 IFMGA Denali Symposium. The purpose of the symposium is to further develop the IFMGA's High Altitude and Expedition Guiding Manual. Once published, this will be an extensive resource for the IFMGA countries. The symposium will begin with a round table discussion with the Denali concessionaires and the National Park Service. The aim is to begin a collaborative dialogue with the businesses that specialize in this type of guiding, using Denali as the example, but with an eye towards the greater international context. Following the discussion, the participants will embark on a West Buttress trip, both for group learning as well as to interact with other teams on the mountain. It will be exciting to see how the manual develops – I can see this being an excellent resource in the future. Last, but not least, many thanks to Matt Farmer for doing the majority of the legwork and logistics to make this happen.

House Subcommittee Hearing

The House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee held a Subcommittee for Public Lands and Environmental Regulation oversight hearing this past Tuesday on outfitter guide issues. The hearing examined a range of issues relating to permitting and management of guides on National Park Service, US Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management lands. For specific information, or to watch the archived hearing, click [here](#). While the AMGA did not serve as a witness in the hearing, we are working with our partners in Washington to submit testimony for our legislators' consideration. The Committee has taken an active interest in outfitter guide issues, and is seeking 21st century solutions to the challenges presented in the management of guiding on our public lands. We look forward to serving as a resource and partner on the national level to support the mountain guiding profession.

Snow-cat Ski Guiding Opportunities

I can't speak for the terrain, since I pulled this from the Mountain West News, but new permit opportunities are worth mentioning.

BURLEY, ID • The Sawtooth National Forest's Minidoka Ranger District and the Idaho Outfitters and Guides Licensing Board are extending the period that interested parties can submit an application for an outfitter permit or license within the Minidoka district for guided snow-cat skiing. The new cutoff date is July 12.

Submit applications to: Minidoka Ranger District, Attn: Roger Anderson, 2306 Hiland Ave, Burley, ID 83318. For technical questions: Anderson at 208-677-8303.

