Media Information

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4th Annual Global Fat Bike Summit and Festival Takes Place Jan. 23 - 25 at Snow King Resort, Jackson, WY

QBP, along with Fitzgerald's Bicycles, Hoback Sports, Wyoming Pathways, and Mountain Bike the Tetons/IMBA, are excited to announce the 4th annual Global Fat Bike Summit and Festival will be at the Snow King Resort in Jackson Hole, Wyoming January 23-25, 2015.

This unique event combines a fat bike summit training conference for land managers and advocates, along with a fun fat bike festival over the weekend that features fat bike demos, clinics, latest product displays, and fat bike races.

The Friday summit will focus on training sessions and panel discussions featuring the latest in the evolving world of best management practices for fat bike use on public lands. Management practices will be discussed with a focus on winter use since the majority of access issues fall in the winter months. This interactive training day will include land managers from the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, and state and local governments, along with bike advocates and industry representatives.

The festival portion of the event begins Friday night with a fat bike night ride and evening banquet, and continues through Saturday and Sunday with a variety of demo rides, product clinics, and riding events that include an optional guided fat bike tour of Grand Teton National Park.

"Our goal with the Summit/Festival is twofold," said QBP's Advocacy Director Gary Sjoquist. "First, we seek to spread best practices in terms of where fat bikes are ridden, how technology continues to shape fat bikes, the latest snow grooming techniques for fat bike singletrack, and just plain have fun with these big tire bikes. Second, we continue to seek winter access for fat bikes to national parks where they are largely prohibited, and to help all land managers with the latest tools that will help them offer more fat bike access to the public."

While QBP's brands Salsa, Surly, Whiskey Parts, and 45Nrth will be title sponsors, the event will seek additional brand sponsors to allow attendees to try different products and talk with product reps. Trek will have fat bikes on hand, and Specialized, 907, Borealis and other manufacturers are being solicited to attend. Parts and apparel companies are invited to attend and display product as well.

"For the 4th year in a row, The Fat Bike Summit will bring together bicycle industry experts, key land managers and advocates to talk about the importance of fat bikes to local communities and public lands," said Scott Fitzgerald, owner of Fitzgerald's Bicycles. "Now that fat bikes have grown from what many people thought was a fad to a significant summer and winter user group,

it is more important than ever to communicate current land management best practices as they relate to fat bike use."

"Our approach here is a 'big tent' for all," said Sjoquist. "Fat bikes are not a fad - nearly every manufacturer at the recent Interbike trade show featured fat bikes. Growth will continue and access issues will develop, particularly in the Nordic and snow machine trail networks, so we want to address this head-on and help land managers proactively adapt to this new use. We'd like to offer the opportunity for all manufacturers to participate in our Summit and Festival," he said.

The Fat Bike Summit and Festival registration will also include discounted lodging options at Snow King Resort in Jackson and special skiing discounts at Jackson Hole Mountain Resort.

"This is an exceptional venue for land managers to gather the latest information on Fat Bikes and to meet with advocates and fat bike users," said Tim Young, Executive Director of Wyoming Pathways.

Updates regarding the 4th Annual Global Fat Bike Summit and Festival agenda and riding events will be found at www.fatbikesummit.com. Manufacturers or companies wishing for more information about the Summit and Festival should contact Gary Sjoquist (gsjoquis@qbp.com).

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About QBP

Quality Bicycle Products is an international wholesale distributor of bicycles, components, and outdoor gear. With distribution centers in Minnesota, Utah, and Pennsylvania, QBP serves a network of more than 5,000 independent retailers. QBP owns and manages a diverse collection of innovative bicycle brands including Surly, Salsa, All-City, 45North, Foundry, Cogburn Outdoors, Civia Cycles, and more. We strive to be an extraordinary business to partner with and to work for, and we have made good on that goal for more than 30 years. From our extensive advocacy efforts to our energy efficient facilities everything we do is aimed at making the world a better place and getting more butts on bikes. For more information about QBP, visit our website or contact Director of Marketing Ryan Johnson at 952-941-9391, ext. 1236 or rjohnson@qbp.com.

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