

MOUNTAIN LAKE LIVING



Where families go to come together

SMP
DEVELOPMENT

BOOTS THAT FIT LIKE A GLOVE



Keeping fit is a sure way to enjoy skiing to the fullest. The same goes for your boots. Making sure your boots fit right and feel right is vital to skiing with less effort, more skill and optimum comfort, whether you're blasting through backcountry powder or gliding through manicured glades.

"Our overall goal is to ensure your boots fully support how you ski, your skill level and what makes skiing fun and rewarding for you," says Zach Vollmer, owner of the Alpine Shops at Schweitzer and Sandpoint. "Well fitting boots will enable you to ski better, longer and more comfortably with less effort."

His personalized fitting process begins with an analysis of your foot. This includes measuring the width, length and volume of your foot. Your shoe size means little here.

The next step is critical: shell selection involving your foot size, width and the necessary flexibility that mirrors your skiing style, such as super aggressive or gentle cruising. They pair your foot shape and volume with appropriate low, medium or high-volume shells.

In the customization stage, the boot fitters will make any shell and liner modifications as well as select a recommended footbed—all to further improve the fit. You can also add boot heaters and heated socks to enhance your experience.

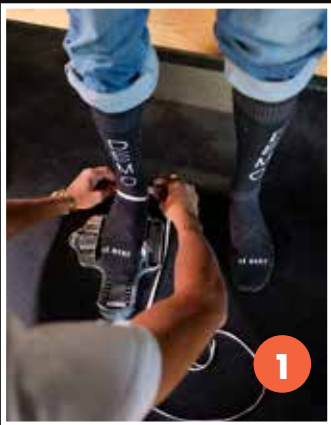
The final phase is all about you—your opinion of how the boot feels and how well it strikes a balance between comfort and performance.

"Putting your feet first will pay off big time, every time you slap on the boards," says Zach.

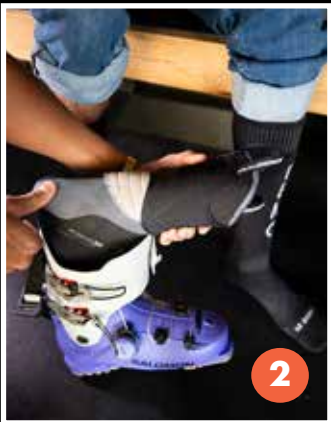
About The Boot

The Salomon Shift Alpha BOA® 130 is a hybrid freeride boot with alpine capabilities. Built to master any uphill or downhill situation, this light boot offers a 55-degree range of motion. Its ExoBelt™ and BOA® fit system plus GripWalk soles provide exceptional foothold, stability and precision fit. Whether you're freeriding the backcountry or powder hounding the bowls, this is a great boot to maximize control and responsiveness.

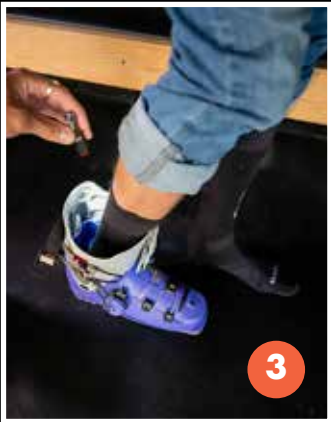
To get a leg up on everything skiing or boarding, visit alpineshopsandpoint.com



Measuring width, length and volume of your foot.



Selecting the boot shell.



Customization of shell, liner, footbed and addition of optional heaters.



Final comfort test and adjustments.

WINGING YOUR WAY TO SANDPOINT

Spokane International Airport is your gateway to coveted destinations in the Pacific Northwest such as Schweitzer. The airport—Washington State's second-largest—facilitates more than 120 daily flights by seven major airlines: Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Allegiant Air, Delta Air Lines, Southwest Airlines, Sun Country and United Airlines. With nonstop flights to more than 20 destinations throughout the U.S., from Seattle and Portland to San Francisco, Los Angeles, Orange County, Dallas, Denver, Chicago and more... it's remarkably easy to reach an unspoiled, uncrowded, outdoor-adventure mecca like Sandpoint.

The airport recently completed the first phase of a comprehensive Terminal Renovation and Expansion effort. In addition to new gates and new ticket counters, travelers can enjoy several new passenger-focused amenities—from regionally sourced finishes that help create a unique sense of space and sense of place, to thoughtful technology designed to enhance the guest experience, from curbside to airside.



If you fly on private planes, it's good to know that Sandpoint Airport is an easy access point to and from Schweitzer. The airport, with an elevation of only 2,131 feet, boasts a lighted runway of 5,501 feet by 75 feet, ample space to handle aircraft as large as the G5. Its full-service FBO, Granite Aviation, provides everything required to make your private air travel a breeze.





SCHWEITZER'S PAW PATROL

Meet Annie, Abbey, Murphy, and Maisie. These canny canines, along with their ski patrol handlers Leigh Bercaw, Steve Parsons, Galen May and Jeff Thompson, are vital members of the Schweitzer Avalanche Dog Rescue Team.

The dogs start their training at eight weeks old, and train year-round. It usually takes two or more full years of training for a dog to become certified to work at downhill runs at Schweitzer, and four to five years to work backcountry ski areas requiring uphill climbing.

Going far beyond the usual obedience training, these pups learn to ride ski lifts, toboggans and snowmobiles, and to be carried by handlers while skiing.

All of the dogs are female Labrador retrievers, regarded by many handlers as the best breed for the job due to their friendly personalities, collaborative working style, and high level of inbred instinctual skills for fetching and retrieving.

"These dogs are born to do this," says program director Leigh Bercaw. "They are happiest when they are doing this training, as they love the 'game' of finding and fetching hidden objects."

Since most people love dogs, the avalanche dogs are also enlisted to gather and maintain attention in ski safety talks. They help people—especially kids—stay engaged and remember crucial information.

The program was started by Jeff Thompson in 2017. It receives support from the non-profit organization Friends of Schweitzer Ski Patrol, which helps pay for the dogs' expenses, training costs and vet care. Dr. Tim's pet food company is a valued sponsor.

Interested in supporting these sensational dogs? Visit the Ski Patrol's dispatch center at the Sky House or see them on Instagram: @schweitzer.avydogs.



FROM THE TOP

News and views from Schweitzer President and COO Tom Chasse

Backcountry Now Front & Center

It always gives me pleasure to announce new amenities that improve our guests' experiences. Heading this winter's news is the launch of Schweitzer Backcountry Adventures. This exciting amenity opens 4,350 acres of open fields, steep glades and unfettered terrain to powder hounds and nature lovers alike with guided snowcat skiing and snowmobile tours.

Unlike any other resort's snowcat skiing services, there's no driving to distant locations. Here you just ride up the Great Escape chairlift and your snowcat will be waiting



Tom Chasse, President, COO

to show you the best runs only a couple of dozen skiers and riders have access to each day. Offering hands-on instruction, our snowcats enable blue square and low black skill sets as well as experts to enjoy a spectacular skiing and riding experience. We can also make stops at Sky House or even arrange catered meals.



Our guided snowmobile tours let you power your way through some of the most scenic and awe-inspiring natural beauty North Idaho has to offer. You don't have to be an experienced snowmobile driver to join in on all the fun. The groomed trails are 23 feet wide, and you'll have an expert guiding you through a wealth of newfound wonders.

Sky House Snowcat Dining You can make the end of your day a high point by savoring a multi-course dinner paired with wine or signature cocktails at Sky House. These very special dinners include a scenic chairlift ride to our panoramic view restaurant and then, after enjoying a robust meal, a starlit snowcat ride down. As you might guess, reservations will be limited.

For those new to Schweitzer, we will be offering guided ski & ride tours that will make it easy to find the best runs for you and your family. Our rental shop will now be stocking Gore-Tex shell and pants plus an expanded selection of performance skis.

So welcome to the winter season. To get more information on these new amenities as well as all of Schweitzer, please visit schweitzer.com.



Making Dreams Come True

*What is your vision of a dream home in the mountains?
Is your home your castle, your slopeside vacation retreat or perhaps an active retirement haven? How do you make your vision a reality? It all starts with the practiced imagination and the practical acumen of a professional architect. Here, a thumbnail look into four Sandpoint area architectural firms and how they approach bringing your visions of a home to life.*

UPTIC STUDIOS *Spokane*

“Our mission is to bring the client’s vision to life,” says Matthew Collins, Principal Architect at Uptic Studios. “Our design proc[us] guides our clients through design, meeting their requirements -- we elevate our design to enhance lifestyles, express individuality, and respond to the uniqueness of each site.”

Uptic Studios’ expertise spans multiple home styles, but many clients are drawn to their skill in designing “mountain modern” homes. They excel at transforming steep, challenging sites into unique design features that embrace the landscape.

With 15 years of experience, their 25-person team offers residential and commercial architectural, interior design, and procurement services. Uptic Studios specializes in balancing breathtaking views with privacy, sustainability, and energy efficiency.

“Choosing materials and methods that are durable and feasible ensures our mountain homes are not only stunning but also practical, sustainable, and harmonious within their environment,” says Julie Collins Principal Interior Designer.

www.upticstudios.com

BODEN ARCHITECTURE *Sandpoint*

“Our desire is to create architecture and interior design that enhances the lives of our clients in a special way,” says Boden Architecture studio lead Scott Wohlschlager. “We don’t enter the design process with any preconceived notions as to what the outcome must look like. Usually, it’s the convergence of the clients’ goals and the homesite’s features such as views, daylight, size and topography that unveils the design solution.”

In their 40 years of experience, the Boden group has learned to ask their clients a lot of questions so they get to know them well. Are we framing views? From what spaces and why? Do they need morning quiet reading areas or evening gathering spaces? Do they ski home for lunch? To them it’s like sculpture: as they find these answers, they chip away at the marble to reveal the final solutions that are right for each client. For example, they regard views as a compositions. The foreground, middle ground and background all play important roles.

“We’ve had lots of unique requests as well,” says Tim Boden. “They keep our jobs lively and all of us having a great time!”

www.bodenarchitecture.com

3 MOUNTAIN LAKE LIVING 2024



EH DESIGN *Coeur d’Alene*

“We do all styles of architecture,” says EH Design founder Eric Hedlund. “Just this year we have had the luxury to design a Timberframe, Conventional Log, Modern, Mountain Modern, French Country and even a true Craftsman homes.” “Many of our clients are creating vacation or seasonal homes, so we really discuss how the home is going to be used—both inside and outside. Since we do both architecture and interior design, the kitchens become a big part of our work,” Eric explains.

In designing homes for more than 30 years, EH Design regards every property as one-of-a-kind. They reject the idea of trying to place “previous” plans on a new client’s homesite. They insist that their designs are unique to each property therefore we tailor each property to the site and client. .

By getting very personal with clients, Eric learns exactly how they use their homes. He understands some clients prefer to have expansive views, while others prefer filtered views. Capturing warmth from the sun is also an essential design element especially in the North Idaho climate.. “We really listen to our clients and take the time to embrace their vision,” says Eric.

www.eh-design.net

STUDIO ASCENT *Spokane*

“Everyone lives and prioritizes differently, which is why our home design process doubles as an exploration of the client’s lifestyle,” says Studio Ascent’s founder Brennen Chasse. “We do not have a stylized approach to architecture, but rather think of it as a reflection of the client and the site.”

Studio Ascent loves a good challenge. Requests for hidden rooms, libraries, and even movie theaters have been easily accommodated. Recently, they have been receiving more “asks” for wellness spaces, saunas, cold plunges, as well as meditation rooms. “After a long day skiing, these can be the perfect features to welcome you home,” says Brennen.

While every site has its issues, they can provide possibilities for innovative design solutions. Take snow for instance. Planning where to store it, shed it or how to ski-in, ski-out over it plays a huge part in designing a mountain home.

LEED certified, they also look to reflect the clients’ needs, wants and wishes, but at the same time, protect the environments that they occupy.

www.studioascent.design

SMPdevelopment.com



“Immerse yourself in the sensory essence of
pureness and romance with nature.”

Set on one of Schweitzer’s highest and most pristine ridgetops is our vision of a place
where eagles soar and outdoor lovers thrive.

Here towering tamarack, subalpine fir, lodgepole and ponderosa pine tell tall tales and mark their journey with rings of time. There are tufts of western hemlock and white pine as well as a smattering of venerable relics, some exceeding 150 years in age. Vintage trails lead through an underlying medley of huckleberry and bear grass blooming in dappled sunlight. Random monuments of chiseled rock add strength and character.

Poking through are views of the Selkirk and Cabinet Mountains, the expanse of Lake Pend Oreille, the valley’s mosaic, plus the ski slopes and woodlands of Schweitzer.

Currently in the early planning stages, this magical land will be home to a limited number of mountain loving families that both relish and respect this inspired possibility to integrate their lives with the

Ridge’s abundance of natural gifts.

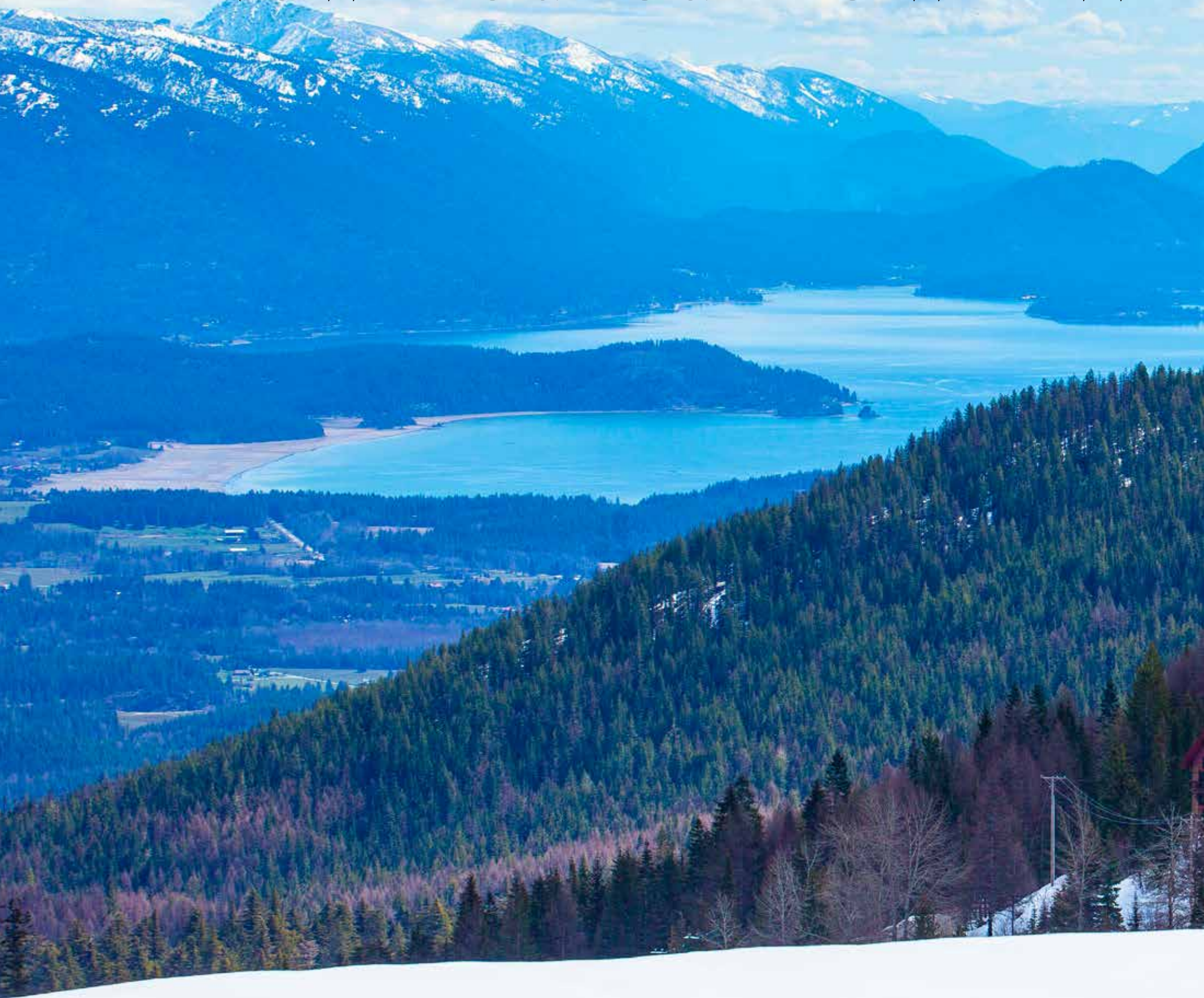
Conceptually, our vision is for residents to enjoy ski-in/ski-out lift access, a robust hiking and biking trail system that links to Schweitzer’s exceptional network, plus indoor and outdoor gathering places and spaces. Walking and biking will be encouraged. Green-belts and abundant open space will be essential. Sites for a broad range of homes will be carefully and conscientiously considered with meticulous attention to insightful stewardship of this precious woodland.

This is a glorious story of magical enchantment soon to be told.

Please contact John Calhoun for current information: 435-640-7757 or jcalhoun@smpdevelopment.com



Now You Can Own What



Crystal View home designed by Uptic Studio



After three years of conscientious planning and preparation, an exceptionally rare, virtually unprecedented opportunity is finally here.

Assuming the highest slopeside setting in the Schweitzer community, the dramatic Crystal View neighborhood is poised to become the consummate measure of mountain living.

As the ultimate scene for your personal mountain retreat, Crystal View's treasures include direct access to some of the best skiing, biking and mountain recreation in the Pacific Northwest. Its bounty of

CRYSTAL

DISCLAIMER: Schweitzer resort amenities are open to the public and are not included in homesite purchase. All rendering images, illustrations, features, and information presented in this publication are for informational purposes only and do not constitute an offer of real estate. The features of any homesite configuration or specific condominium unit. Everything presented is subject to change or elimination without notice. The description of the property and the project is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer to buy real estate. Obtain the property report required by federal law and read it before signing anything. No Federal Agency has judged the merits or value, if any, of this property.

What Few Will Ever Have.



visual delights embrace magnificent panoramas of Lake Pend Oreille, ski trails, forested mountains and the valley below.

This intimate, ski-in/ski-out enclave is within walking, biking and skiing distance of Schweitzer Village's lively amenities and activities. Restaurants, lounges, entertainment, daycare, guest services/concierge as well as the new Cambium spa are easily yours to enjoy.

These coveted homesites are situated in both forested and open mountainside locations and range in size from .265 to .556 acres. You can arrange for a personal tour or you may visit on your own. All homesites are clearly marked. On skis? Take Gypsy to Lower Gypsy Trails.

Reward yourself with something incomparable.

Don't miss this rare opportunity. Please contact your Realtor or John Calhoun at 435-640-7757 or jcalhoun@smpdevelopment.com.

L VIEW

conceptual and used for illustrative purposes only. They do not accurately represent or information only, and is not intended to be an offer to sell nor a solicitation of



“Finally, we both
can have careers
and a home
we love.”

—Isobel McIntosh & Andru Prado

One year ago, Schralpenhaus became home for Schweitzer front desk agent Isobel, her partner, lift maintenance technician Andru, daughter Isabella and family dog Milo. They were one of the first families to move into Schweitzer Mountain Properties’ newly constructed employee housing community, which has provided 84 affordable 1-2- and 3-bedroom apartment homes for Schweitzer personnel and others.

Over the past year, they have enjoyed becoming part of a warm and welcoming community of families, friends and co-workers. “We like living around other people who work at Schweitzer,” says Isobel. “There’s a high comfort level.”

Now that the community courtyard is complete, that neighborhood feeling has grown even stronger. Residents gather in the gated common space surrounded by lush landscaping, enjoying outdoor activities without concerns about cars and traffic. Bella can safely ride her bike on the pathway that circles around the courtyard.

They’ve also taken advantage of conveniences like the dog washing and bike repair stations stocked with tools. “Dru is a big mountain biker, and now Milo’s younger brother Buddy has joined us—so these are great perks!” Isobel says.

Whether relaxing out on Adirondack chairs, swinging in giant hammocks, or using the BBQ set-up for a cookout, the families who live here can easily find community and forge connections. This winter, they’ll be making good use of the courtyard firepit for cozy gatherings.

As for the apartment itself, Isobel especially loves the kitchen. “It’s really spacious,” she says. “It’s great because I love to cook homemade meals for my family. Now I’m learning to bake!”

The family also loves their personal locked storage room located next to their front door. It’s large enough to house their bikes, snowboarding gear, winter car tires, and Dru’s tools. What’s more, Schralpenhaus’s Ponderay location is near shopping, restaurants, grocery stores, and public transportation.

Isobel and Dru are happy to have found a stable, affordable home to create a safe, healthy living environment for Bella. More than that, “it lets us further our careers at Schweitzer,” Dru says. “We can both do what we love to do.”



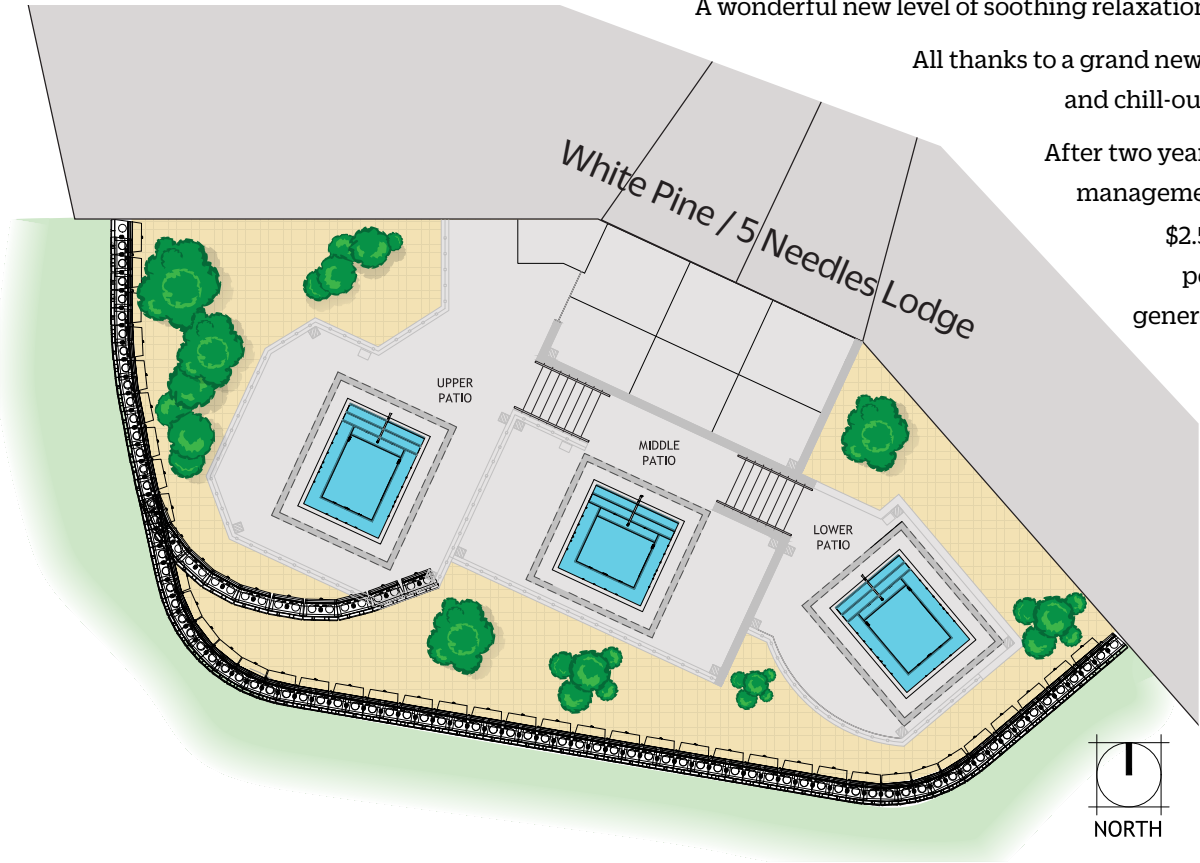
All Decked Out For Winter

A wonderful new level of soothing relaxation is coming to Schweitzer Village’s White Pine/5 Needles Lodge.

All thanks to a grand new spa deck, the lodge’s owners and guests can unwind, luxuriate and chill-out in unprecedented comfort before and after hitting the slopes.

After two years of thoughtful planning and development by the lodge’s HOA management, Board members, owners and professional advisors, the new \$2.5 million spa deck will completely replace and expand this very popular amenity. Containing three custom made spa pools and a generous lounge deck, this new facility is the result of a collaborative effort between the HOA, and its homeowners plus design/build contractor Lydig Construction and architectural firm Bernardo Willis.

“In addition to the lodge’s private owners club, this all-season amenity will not only offer a terrific spa pool experience, but will be a favorite gathering place for owners as well as vacation rental guests”, says HOA managing agent Tom Curtiss.



Boatload of Fun



Outdoor adventure is a very local family affair for Captain Eric “EJ” Jensen, owner of Lake Pend Oreille Cruises and its 43-foot, classically styled, 1960s former ferryboat, The Shawnodese.

“I’ve skied at Schweitzer since the early ‘90s,” EJ says. “We spent weekends and holidays there at my parents’ ski-house.” After many summers as a charter boat captain in Sitka, Alaska, EJ was ready to come home to Sandpoint. It was then that his father-in-law, Ron Nova, a previous mountain manager at Schweitzer and a captain for Lake Pend Oreille Cruises, told him that the Shawnodese was available.

Now he captains the Shawnodese, which offers guided excursions and private cruises around this enormous sea-sized lake. Clawed out by Ice Age glaciers, Lake Pend Oreille is Idaho’s largest lake at 43 miles long with 111 miles of shoreline. It’s also the fifth deepest lake in America at 1,158 feet.

The Shawnodese features a fully enclosed lower deck, an open upper deck and a good-sized wheelhouse. All aspects of the boat, from the diesel engine to the safety features to the mahogany interior, have been upgraded. It now cruises at around six knots and is perfect for families, comfortably hosting guests of all ages.

E.J.’s wife, Courtney, works behind the scenes and has been known to help out on board as well. And Linda Mitchell, who co-founded the business with her husband in 1995, is still a member of the crew, sharing her deep knowledge of the lake on guided cruises.

There are a variety of cruises to suit different interests...starting with the popular Clark Fork Delta Cruise, which is your best opportunity to view the area’s abundant wildlife. The Island and Eagle Watching Tour, a crew favorite, takes you around the four Islands of Hope to see a bald eagle sanctuary. The Lake History Cruise is especially great for families. Cruise a 10-mile loop near the shoreline while you learn about the amazing geology and history of Lake Pend Oreille. Kids can even be “Captain of the Day” and take a turn at the wheel! Private charter cruises are also readily available: for up to 36 guests. They’ve had business meetings, family dinners, and even weddings on the water. “Charters can be adjusted to accommodate personal preferences or spots they want to see” says Captain EJ. “Some of the most memorable private charters have been night cruises. Watching the full moon rise over the lake can be really magic.”

For more information or to book a cruise, call 208-255-5253 or email info@LakePendOreilleCruises.com.



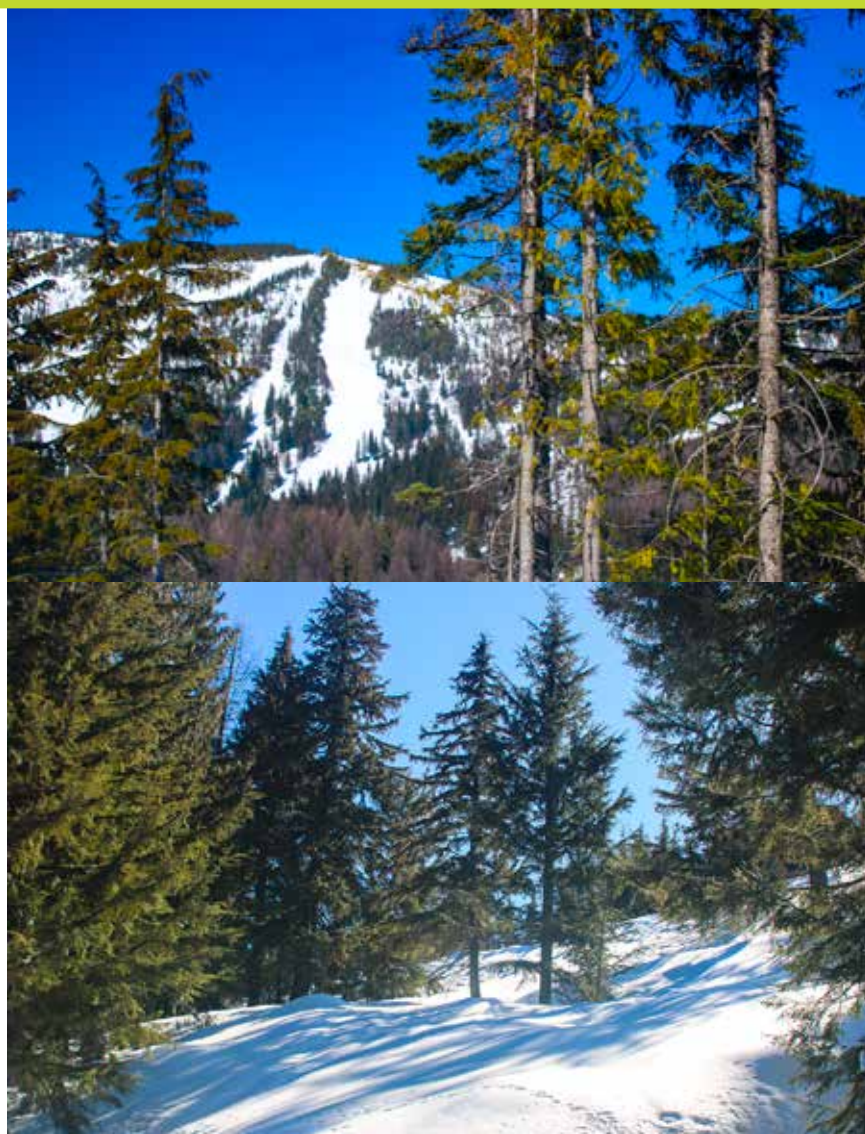
Sites For Big Ideas

Looking for a mountain-side homesite with enough room to let you think big? Welcome to the new reconfigured Snowplow—coming soon. Hidden away in this forested neighborhood are just three planned, new and exceptional homesites.

These homesites are expansive enough to let your imagination run wild in creating your custom vacation, seasonal or permanent home. Two of the planned homesites are approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre. The third homesite is planned to be nearly 2 extra-spacious acres.

Just think what you can do with such ample space and versatility in designing a homestead that will easily accommodate your family and visiting friends and business associates, as well as all their winter and summer recreational toys.

8 MOUNTAIN LAKE LIVING 2024



Located in a natural woodland on Snowplow Road, these new homesites are close to Schweitzer Village, while easily connecting you to Sidewinder, Corkscrew and Sparky biking and hiking trails. Some homesites have views of Schweitzer’s ski runs and the surrounding dramatic mountains.

To schedule a personal tour and get more detailed information about these prime sites, contact John Calhoun at jcalhoun@smpdevelopment.com or 435-640-7757.



SMPdevelopment.com

Purrfect pet people



One of the most comprehensive and advanced animal care organizations in the country may be right here in Ponderay. The Better Together Animal Alliance offers an extraordinary range of services to support local cats and dogs—and the people who love them.

The organization's goal is to facilitate and foster connections between people and animals. This includes everything from sheltering lost pets to providing free and low-cost pet health care such as neutering and vaccinations to temporarily boarding animals when their owners are experiencing hardships.

Each year, the BTAA's Pet Food Bank hands out more than five tons of free food. At its state-of-the-art Animal Care Facility, dogs and cats awaiting adoption are cared for by a devoted cadre of 118 active volunteers, and veterinary staff. Over 8,000 animals are served annually.

The BTAA's "Home to Home" adoption on-line platform matches pets with new permanent or temporary homes, and helps smooth the transition, avoiding the stress of a stay at an animal shelter.

Their "Senior-to-Senior" adoption program pairs pets age seven and up with those over age 65, enhancing the lives of senior people and animals alike. The adoption fee is waived. And for cat lovers, the unique "Book Buddy" program allows children opportunities to practice their reading skills by reading to cats in the care center, benefiting both kitties and kiddies.

You can support the BTAA by donating or by visiting their Thrift Store (50% of their funds come from Thrift Store proceeds), located next door to the Animal Care Facility.

For more information about the BTAA's services or to learn how you can help, visit BetterTogetherAnimalAlliance.org.

Yummy Mountain Meals.



Picture a cozy fireplace, comfy seating, and a warm, inviting, family-friendly vibe that's perfect for lunch, dinner or après-ski noshing. Open winters in Schweitzer Village, Chimney Rock Grill features a mix of contemporary American fare and winter comfort food with Asian and South American influences. You'll find a tasty selection including pan-seared steelhead, roasted butternut & kale salad, chili-crisp ahi poke, and birria "cigars"—plus a lively full bar.

"We have something for everyone," says Eddie Sneva, Chimney Rock's head chef and general manager. "We emphasize great value with reasonable prices and quick service."

Sneva spent 20 years in restaurants before coming to Schweitzer. Now, along with managing Chimney Rock, he owns The Float House, a seasonal summer restaurant on Lake Pend Oreille. This enables him to employ a year-round staff that moves between the two restaurants, creating a sense of continuity and harmony as well as expertly crafted meals.

**Salomon Sigma
Helmet**

SIGMA™ photo-magnetic lens adjusts brightness to conditions, switches out easily and fits perfectly over optical glasses. Advanced impact protection technologies deliver the best available defense from vertical and oblique shocks. 100% merino liner gives you instant comfort and fit, while Fidlock® buckle features secure single-handed fastening.



Oakley Line Miner L Unique design fits goggles closer to your face for incredible downward and side-to-side periphery. Optimized for a wide variety of faces. All-day comfort of triple-layer face foam, and it is compatible with most prescription eyewear.

You can see & Be seen clearly NOW



**Pit
Viper Proform
Gold**

Perfect Peripherals give you maximum field of vision. Super-fast magnetic lens interchange system plus anti-fog lens coating and 360-degree frame venting. Seamlessly fits any helmet.



Oakley Flight Deck M

Inspired by fighter pilots' helmet visors, it maximizes your field of view. New mid-size fit offers complete lens sealing thanks to Ridglock lens-changing technology.

However you view them, snow goggles can be an invaluable asset. Wear them to conquer slopeside challenges or to express your unique slopeside style.

Goggles can accomplish a snow-load of tasks, whether they are the boldest and hippest or simple and practical. Finding the right marriage of functionality, comfort and fashion can seem a bit daunting when you're faced with the abundance of choices.

"If skiers and boarders were all the same, we'd only have to carry one or two styles," says Alpine Shops owner Zach Vollmer. "For most people, how the goggles look is as important as how well they help them ski. With so many high performance and high style brands available, we're able to provide just what they are looking for."

Here are a few things Zach recommends evaluating when selecting snow goggles.

Lenses: You'll find more than 20 different colors—suitable for all light conditions. And to coordinate with your outfits. Quick-change magnetic lenses make switching easy. Photochromatic lenses change themselves when the light changes. Polarized and mirrored lenses reduce glare. Spherical and 4D models give you the biggest field of view.

Frame and fit: Let's face it. Faces come in a variety of shapes and sizes. Thankfully, so do goggles. Make sure your goggles fit you and your helmet without gaps. They should cover the width of your face.

Venting and Padding: Check out how advanced the venting features are for fog-free enjoyment. Also carefully consider the comfort and quality of the padding.

We hope this clears everything up for you.



**Smith
4-D
Mag**

Their widest field of vision and sharpest optics introducing skiers to a bigger, brighter and sharper world. Magnetic lens changing and fog-free venting systems plus 100% UVA/UVB protection.



Smith Squad Mag

Their widest field of vision and sharpest optics introducing skiers to a bigger, brighter and sharper world. Magnetic lens changing and fog-free venting systems plus 100% UVA/UVB protection.

PIZZAS WITH PIZZAZ

After a day on the mountain, one of the most popular ways to recharge your body’s batteries is to do a deep dive into your favorite pizza. Thanks to a new wave of culinary inventiveness, you can now savor an imaginative assortment of what are called Specialty Pizzas right here in Sandpoint.



SECOND AVENUE PIZZA

This is the place where specialty pizzas are taken to heart—big time. “We’re here to feed people,” touts co-owner Spencer Smith. **“You can satisfy 4 adults with just a medium pizza. If you’re really, really hungry, our 16” large pizza can weigh up to 7 pounds. It’s a veritable bumper crop of goodies.”** Owners Carolyn Gleason and Spencer have been dishing it out for more than 35 years.

The humongous 7-pounder Spencer is referring to is called the Juke Box Special, named after the vintage juke box on site. Besides this meaty monster, other



handcrafted varieties include the meatless Schweitzer Ski Flake with feta and Asiago cheese and the Mexican with bean sauce, salsa and Pepperoncini peppers. Meat and vegetarian calzones, salads and sandwiches are on the menu as well.

Their sauces and dough are all handmade. They offer gluten-free crusts and can also make celiac pizzas. If beer is your go-to sidekick with pizza, they have microbrews for \$5 a pint.

So, what’s the big deal? **“Copious amounts of food at a great price,”** adds Spencer. **“We’re an ideal spot for large groups such as birthday parties, sports teams, and ski racers. Nobody goes away hungry.”**

Visit: secondavenuepizza.com



BABS’ PIZZERIA

“Grab a slice of New York right here in Sandpoint,” says owner Babette “Babs” Tietjen. That’s because her self-proclaimed “mom and pop shop” only makes handmade, hand-tossed New York style thin crust pizza.

Since starting her pizzeria in 2007 with her mom and dad, she’s been using recipes handed down from generations dating back to Italy. By adding a flair for inspiration, she brings 10 varieties of specialty pies to the table. A favorite is the Balsamic Bomb featuring a ricotta-based white sauce, garlic olive oil, Parmesan, spinach, olives, breakfast bacon, artichoke hearts and tomatoes. After baking it’s drizzled with a balsamic reduction.

Vegetarians will like her many specialties that are made with combinations of fresh mushrooms, roasted garlic, basil, sundried tomatoes, artichoke hearts and crumbled feta. Babs’ mom also makes an Italian meatball sub from her great-grandmother’s recipe.

“Our restaurant is run by three generations of women who have a love of cooking. In that sense, everything we do is like an extension of our kitchens at home.”

Visit: babspizzeria.com



THE FORGE ARTISAN PIZZA

The Forge takes the concept of specialty pizza to an extraordinary new level. Heavily ensconced in Italian tradition, everything is made fresh, in-house, from scratch every day. Consider this: The flour for their naturally leavened sourdough crusts and bread comes from Rome. The olive oil, salt and olives come from Sicily. The tomatoes are from Mt. Vesuvius. Truffle oil, 10-year aged balsamic vinegar, chili peppers and even the genuine Acunto wood-fired oven are all from Italy. Only grown around Coeur d’Alene are their golden oyster and lions mane mushrooms.

In addition to their Neapolitan pizzas, there’s something totally new to Sandpoint—cheese-crusts Detroit style pizzas. **“These light and airy treats are not deep-dish pizzas, but they are deeply delicious,”** says owner Mike Johnson. **“On the other hand, our homemade meatball sandwiches contain nearly a pound of meat.”**

It’s no surprise that their wine and beer list is brimming with European and local varieties. Pre-mixed cocktails are also available.

“Don’t forget to order a side of our own honey-fermented chilis,” suggests Mike. **“It’ll add an exotic touch to anything you’re having.”**

Visit: forgeartisanpizza.com

POWDER HOUND PIZZA

Powder Hound began in 2010 at Schweitzer’s ski and mountain resort. **“As a young ski bum, I saw the opportunity to ski all day, and make pizzas at night. What more would a 20 year old want?”** says founder, Ben Higgs.

Since those early days, Powder Hound has grown from a quick place to wolf down a slice and a beer to a high quality, top-notch pizza restaurant that creates a distinctive variety of specialty pizzas in two locations—Schweitzer and Sandpoint.

The menu features creative combinations to satisfy

everyone’s cravings. One popular item is the Husky Hawaiian with smoked gouda, fire braised chicken and pork, bacon, yellow onion and the quirky combo of jalapeno and pineapple. If you never heard of mustard on a pizza, you’ll want to try the Cuban Pork pie. The Sandpoint location takes the creativity to another level with introducing an original every week, so repeat fans always have something new and novel to try. German sausage and sauerkraut? Or maybe memorable medleys that utilize options such as beer braised onions, Thai peanut sauce and pepperoncini?

“We love being a fun place for families and friends to gather,” says Ben’s wife, Jeannie. Visit: powderhoundpizza.com

