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Outdoor Equity Coalition Thanks Black Diamond Equipment for Supporting Washington State's Ambassador Program

Skagit County, WA – May 19, 2025 — The Outdoor Equity Coalition (OEC) extends its heartfelt gratitude to Black Diamond Equipment for a generous donation of approximately \$3,000 worth of new jackets to OEC Ambassadors welcoming visitors to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) lands in Skagit County.

"We are deeply grateful to Black Diamond for their generous donation of jackets to our Youth Ambassadors workforce development program in Mt. Vernon. This support ensures our young leaders stay warm while empowering the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts and community leaders. On behalf of the Outdoor Equity Coalition and the Big Tent Outdoor Recreation Coalition, I extend my sincere thanks to Black Diamond for their unwavering support of our mission to expand outdoor access and leadership opportunities for all youth."

— Reco Bembry, Outdoor Equity Coalition President

This contribution equips Ambassadors with high-quality gear as they work to protect public lands and foster inclusive outdoor experiences. These ambassadors engage park guests by

sharing Leave No Trace principles, offering essential supplies like water and sunscreen, and educating visitors about Skagit Valley's diverse ecosystems and migratory species such as the Snow Goose, Short-Eared Owl, and Salmon.

"We are very grateful for such strong support as these Ambassadors launch into their first professional outdoor job," commented Erin Browning, Lands Partnership and Project Coordinator at WDFW. "It makes it feel like there is a community of organizations that are here to cheer on the Ambassadors as they grow into their new role."

Beyond outdoor education, the Ambassador Program promotes inclusivity in outdoor recreation. Current Skagit Valley Ambassadors are students at the Triumph Teen Center who represent Washington's Latino and Latina community. Their representation in the outdoor industry as well as their inclusive, welcoming attitudes ensure that everyone—regardless of experience or background—feels welcome and safe in Washington's public lands. Ambassadors not only support guests but gain valuable professional development, mentorship, and connections in the outdoor industry.

After being made aware of a need for warmer gear during Skagit's cold spring months, Black Diamond stepped up to ensure that Ambassadors could serve comfortably and confidently.

"The gear they've provided has had a significant impact on our youth, allowing them to work their shifts with the right equipment," said Rosa Juarez Soria-Mondragon, Program Director at Triumph. "Our ambassadors wear it every day with pride, knowing it empowers them to engage in outdoor activities and personal growth. This donation fosters a sense of belonging and respect. Thank you, Black Diamond, for understanding the importance of equity and access."

Ambassadors can be found at the Skagit Headquarters Picnic area and Fir Island Farm Reserve on Saturdays from 9:00am - 1:00pm. Programming began in April and will continue through the month of August.

About Black Diamond

This donation reflects Black Diamond's broader commitment to equity in the outdoors. Since opening a location in Seattle, Black Diamond has actively worked to build community and remove barriers to outdoor sports through educational workshops and accessible gear programs.

About Outdoor Equity Coalition

The Outdoor Equity Coalition is dedicated to building a diverse, inclusive outdoor recreation community that reflects the richness of our society. Through programs like the Outdoor Equity Coalition Ambassadors, the OEC is creating pathways for all to connect with nature and thrive in outdoor spaces.