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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*Bozeman, Montana, January 1, 2019—*Cross country skiing in Montana just got a whole lot easier thanks to a new mobile app, *Cross Country Ski Montana*, today released by Bozeman-based MountainWorks Software.

The goal of *Cross Country Ski Montana* is simple: to serve as a one-stop location for great information about Montana's outstanding XC ski trails and areas (for both classic and skate skiing), Nordic ski clubs, and ski shops!

The app, which requires no cellular connection, gives XC skiers the answers to critical questions like: Is skiing free or is there a fee? Is the area groomed and if so, for classic, skate, or both? How do I get latest grooming report? How do I connect with the local ski club? Are there any ski shops nearby? How many kilometers (miles) of trail exist? How do I get there? Are dogs allowed?
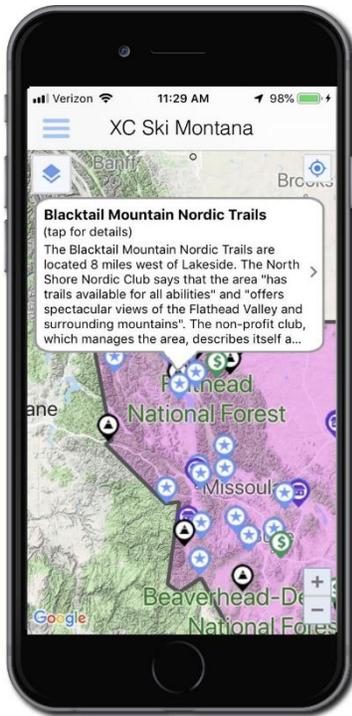
It's all there, and more, in *Cross Country Ski Montana*! Just download the app and go skiing. MountainWorks Software has taken care of the rest! The app is available on Google Play (Android) and the Apple App Store (iOS).

Cross Country Ski Montana seeks to describe every groomed XC ski area in Montana, plus a large number of the state's most popular ungroomed trailheads. The app also highlights Montana's many local ski clubs, good folks who volunteer to maintain, care for, and groom many of the state's treasured XC ski locations. In addition, *Cross Country Ski Montana* highlights local ski shops, places where skiers can rent or buy gear, have repairs done, or learn the latest conditions.

The app is designed to work offline because XC skiing in Montana often means heading into wild country, to places with no cellular service, much less WiFi. So almost every aspect of *Cross Country Ski Montana* works regardless if the nearest cell tower is three counties away (only real-time grooming reports require connectivity).

Cross Country Ski Montana works with the smart phone's GPS and Google Maps to guide XC skiers to their desired ski area or trailhead. If a skier's chosen destination is a groomed area with local maps, those maps are supplied within the app (again, no connection needed).

Many Montanans are well aware of the team that makes up MountainWorks Software, Katie Gibson and Scott Bischke. The couple created two mapps being used by Montana outdoor sports enthusiasts: 1) *Montana Hunting Access*, which each year helps hunters know where they can legally hunt, plus features boundaries and regulations for all 800+ Fish, Wildlife, & Parks (FWP) Block Management

Areas; and 2) *Montana Fishing*, which helps fisherwomen and men find locations to access the water, info on FWP's high mountain lake stocking efforts, USGS river-gauging data, shuttle services, and fishing shops.

"As with hunting and fishing," Bischke says, "Kate and I love to cross country ski. But over the years we, like everyone, have struggled to find cross country skiing information for new places in Montana we're not familiar with. So we decided to do something about it—*Cross Country Ski Montana* is the result."

Katie Gibson, the software developer who also has developed a dozen wildflower identification apps, says, "*Cross Country Ski Montana* speaks to our love of all aspects of cross country skiing—the wild country it takes us into, the good health it imparts, and the wonderful cross country skiing community."

"That community," Bischke adds, "includes not just the skiers, but also ski clubs and ski shop-owners across the state, and also in a couple cases snowmobile clubs that groom ski trails. They've all been universally positive about the app, and of great help as we've compiled volumes of data."

"Also of great importance," Gibson says, "is that we designed *Cross Country Ski Montana* to be easy to use. We want cross country skiers to spend their time skiing, not learning how to use our app. Likewise, we don't ask folks to buy separate maps after they've bought our app, or remember to download something from the web before they head off to ski. That's too complicated. Instead, the app is complete, making it easier for us all to get out and go skiing!"

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To learn more about MountainWorks Software and its products, visit www.emountainworks.com.

A range of screen shots for *Cross Country Ski Montana* and other images are available from MountainWorks upon request. A link to this release can be found at:
http://www.emountainworks.com/docs/190101_XCSkiMontana_pressRelease.pdf

Cross Country Ski Montana is available on both Android and iOS for $4.99.
* Google Play (Android)—
   https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.emountainworks.android.crosscountryskimontana
* Apple App Store (iOS)—
   https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/cross-country-ski-montana/id1445600802?ls=1&mt=8

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