



City of Ketchum

News Release  
July 31, 2015

**Bob Rosso Named Wagon Days Grand Marshal**  
*Among Founders of Blaine County Recreation District*

KETCHUM, Idaho – The City of Ketchum and Wagon Days are honored to announce the 2016 Wagon Days Grand Marshal Bob Rosso. Rosso is the founder of local organizations ranging from the Blaine County Recreation District to the Adams Gulch Fun Run & Walk.

"Bob Rosso is someone who gives back to his community," Mayor Nina Jonas said in making the announcement. "He has been a dedicated and tireless volunteer for the many causes he champions. I am pleased that we can honor him in this way.

"It is especially fitting that the Elephant's Perch sports store, which Bob and his wife own, is located in the former home of Horace Lewis, whose historic ore wagons are always the finale to the Big Hitch Parade," she added.

In addition to helping found the Blaine County Recreation District, Rosso served more than 20 years on its board of directors. He also was a founder of the Boulder Mountain Tour, the cross-country ski race that attracts entrants from around the world to its 32-kilometer course and will celebrate its 41st anniversary next winter.

He helped the late Rob Kiesel, former head coach of the U.S. Nordic Ski Team, found the Sun Valley Ski Education Foundation cross-country team. In addition, Rosso has been a founder, volunteer or board member for the Galena Advisory Committee for the historic cross-country ski lodge north of town, the Wood River Community YMCA, Sun Valley Junior Hockey, The Community School and Sun Valley Mountain Guides.

Rosso came here from California to work for a winter in 1972. He stayed on and founded the Elephant's Perch in 1976, best-known as "the year there was no snow."

He and his wife, Kate, have been married since 1977 and have worked together both at their store and in countless community events.

Wagon Days is a weekend of activities celebrating Ketchum's history. The Big Hitch Parade on Saturday is one of the largest non-motorized parades in the Pacific Northwest and features museum-quality wagons, buggies and stagecoaches, as well as Basque dancers and bands.

The grand finale is Ketchum's own Big Hitch, the Lewis Ore Wagons that were used in the 1880s to haul ore from backcountry galena mines to the former Philadelphia Smelter on Warm Springs Road. The three-ton wagons are the best-preserved wagons of their kind in existence. A team of 20 mules is hitched to a "jerk line," which takes its name because they are controlled by a series of jerks on the line, and pulls the wagons through town.

Additional information is available at [www.wagondays.org](http://www.wagondays.org).

###

### **About the City of Ketchum**

The city of Ketchum is located in the Wood River Valley in south central Idaho. Founded in 1880 during the mining boom, Ketchum is now regarded as one of the most popular destinations for winter and summer visitors due to its world-class skiing, mountain biking, fishing, hiking, restaurants, art galleries and shopping. The city of Ketchum hosts the famous annual Wagon Days Parade, held on Labor Day weekend, and numerous other year-round attractions. Ketchum is home to more than 10,000 full- and part-time residents. For more information about the city of Ketchum, visit [www.ketchumidaho.org](http://www.ketchumidaho.org).

Contact:

Lisa Enourato  
(208) 720-9766, [lenourato@ketchumidaho.org](mailto:lenourato@ketchumidaho.org)

Jo Murray  
(208) 726-5869, [jo@jomurray.com](mailto:jo@jomurray.com)