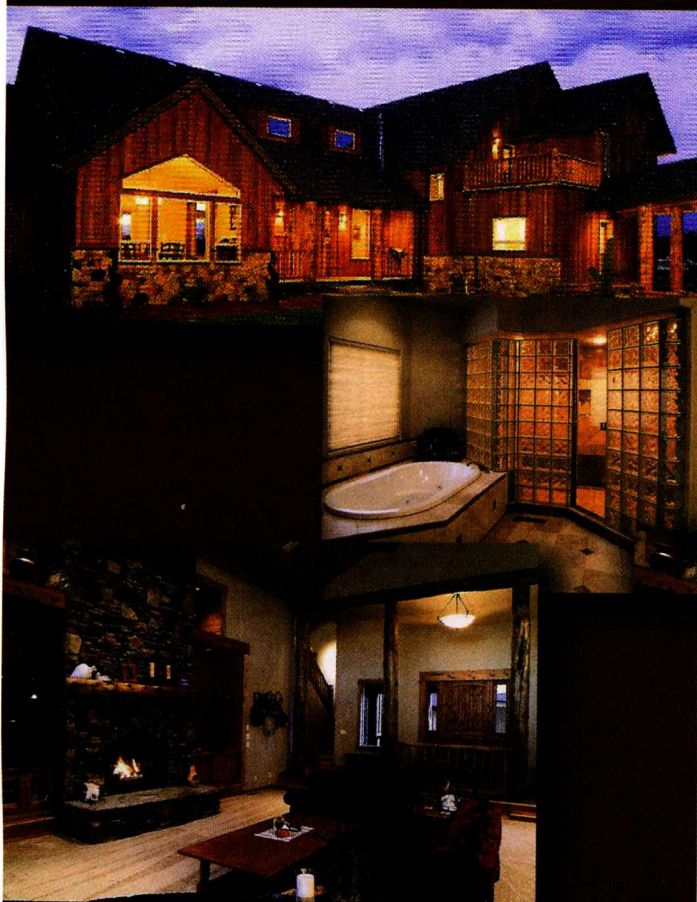


There's a Difference  
Between Living...  
and Living Well



## We Don't Just Build a Home — We Design A Lifestyle

- Specializing in spacious, country-style homes for acreages and horse properties.
- Committed to client collaboration and an honest exchange of ideas.
- Crafting family homes with patience, skill and a personal touch.



Sun Mountain Homes  
Sisters, OR  
(541) 549-6150 or SunMountainHomes@aol.com

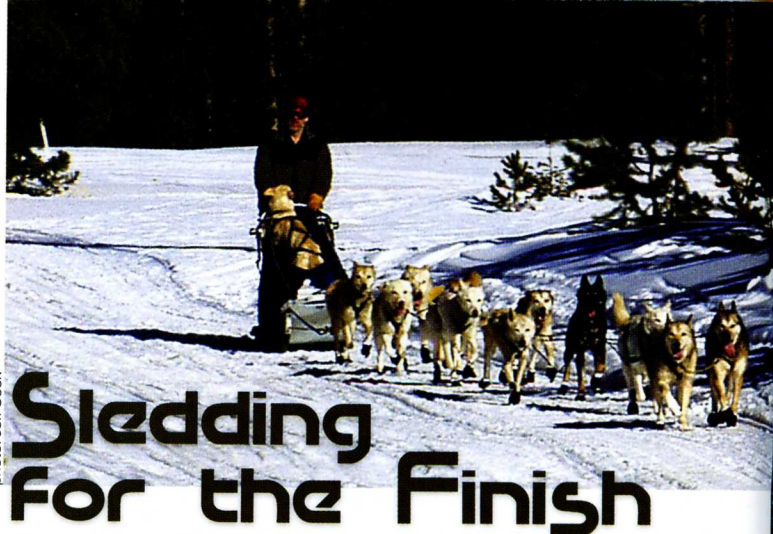


photo: Jeff Cook

## Sledding For the Finish

Mushers Prepare for the Iditarod  
at the Eagle Cap Sled Dog Race

by Jennifer Willis

When it comes to snow sports, you don't often think of the ones you can enjoy as a spectator. But this month, you can get a taste of the Iditarod right here in Oregon. Just head to the town of Joseph for the third running of the Eagle Cap Sled Dog Race, January 17–20. Called “the toughest race in the Northwest,” Eagle Cap features an eight-dog, 100-mile race, and a 12-dog, 200-mile race, and is a qualifier for the two biggest sled dog races in North America: the Iditarod and Yukon Quest.

“I have a very big passion for Wallowa County and Joseph,” says Eagle Cap founder and director, Ray Potter, who started the race three years ago with his wife, Gail, and their son, Buck. “I saw that something needed to be done in the winter to raise the economy,” he continues. “It struck me: Why couldn't we do a sled dog race?”

The first year, 2005, about 45 people showed up to watch five sled dog teams. Last year, the field expanded to 21 teams, with more than 400 spectators. This year, organizers expect 30 mushers from across the U.S. and close to 1,000 spectators, bringing much needed winter activity and revenue to Joseph's population of 1,045.

The fun begins Wednesday night, when the mushers gather to draw their bib numbers and then attend a dinner at the Joseph Community Center. The race starts the next day at 4pm from Wallowa Lake—or from Main Street in downtown Joseph, if there's enough snow. And all the fun is free and open to the public.

Every two minutes, teams launch onto the course through Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. Mushers in the 100-mile race expect to finish in the late morning on Friday. Two hundred-mile racers will start returning in the wee hours Saturday morning. After the race is over, everyone heads to Cloverleaf Hall in nearby Enterprise for the awards banquet and dance Saturday night. Tickets are \$15–\$20 per person and are available from Eagle Cap organizers, at the **Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce** (800-585-4121, [wallowacountychamber.com](http://wallowacountychamber.com)) and the Sports Corral in Joseph.

Eagle Cap is one of only two Iditarod-qualifiers in the Northwest; the other, Cascade Quest, is run in Plain, Washington. “Eagle Cap was particularly great,” says Liz Parrish, a musher from Klamath Falls, Oregon. “It was completely a wilderness race. Once I left the starting line, I didn't see my handlers again until the end. You ran the whole race out of drop bags [provisions], just like the Iditarod.” Parrish placed fourth in the 2006 Eagle Cap and is returning to Joseph in 2007 in a qualifying bid for the 2008 Iditarod. ▶

### 2007 Eagle Cap Sled Dog Race

January 17–20 Joseph, Oregon

For more information:

541-432-3125, [eaglecapsleddograce.net](http://eaglecapsleddograce.net)