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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 21, 2013

**JUNEAU COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SUCCESSFUL IN COMMUNITY
CHALLENGE GRANT FOR JUNEAU NORDIC SKI CLUB**

The Juneau Community Foundation and the Juneau Nordic Ski Club announced today that they have surpassed their fundraising target of \$16,000 for the purchase of new cross country ski trail grooming equipment. A wide variety of local donors contributed to the fundraising drive and raised an additional \$1,700 to cover the shipping and set-up costs of the equipment.

The new Skidoo Skandic snow machine has arrived in Juneau and has already been used on the Mendenhall Campground and Mendenhall Lake trails by volunteer operators from the Nordic Ski Club, according to the club's president Bart Watson. Additional track grooming equipment is en route from the manufacturer.

"We are very grateful to our local Community Foundation for their guidance and support in this fundraiser, since this is a new kind of effort for us," stated Watson. "In recent years, we have relied on volunteer memberships from the skiing public to fund our operations. Many thanks to the many generous skiers who stepped up to help us buy this sorely needed new equipment."

The Community Foundation recently established a fund and contributed \$2,500 in support of the JNSC's efforts to raise \$16,000 to purchase the new equipment. The Community Foundation funds, combined with \$5,500 from the Nordic Ski Club presented the community with an \$8,000 challenge match, according to Amy Skilbred, the foundation's Executive Director. Foundation challenge grants are aimed at stimulating numerous smaller donations from interested members of the public.

In addition to donations from individuals, local businesses helped to meet the fundraising challenge with generous contributions. Rebecca Brooks, Client Associate at the Jurasz Scudder Lingle Group (JSL) of Merrill Lynch, explained their group's decision to make a donation to close the fundraising gap. "JSL finds the outdoor opportunities in this community a tremendous asset that enriches all of our lives. We frequent the campground and the lake to ski, and without the dedication of the ski club and its volunteers, the groomed trails enjoyed by countless skiers simply wouldn't be there. It's exciting to help the club grow their fleet to open more trails in Juneau."

The club maintains groomed cross country ski trails at the Mendenhall Campground, the Mendenhall Lake and other locations in the Juneau area throughout the winter when snow conditions permit. All labor for the grooming is donated to the club by a team of dedicated volunteers. Funds for the oil, gas and maintenance of the equipment come from the annual

membership of hundreds of Nordic skiers and other supporters. More information can be found at their website: jnski.org.

The Juneau Community Foundation is a local charitable organization established to make it easy for Juneau residents to donate to charitable causes they feel strongly about, such as local recreation programs, schools, scholarships, social services, arts and humanities, or other nonprofit agencies or projects, for more information visit juneaucf.org or call Amy Skilbred at 907-523-5450.



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The Juneau Nordic Ski Club's new grooming snow machine heads for the ski trails on January 17.