

relief program in Canada and was denied. Hoodoo managed to scrape by, but she said its closest competitor in Penticton, B.C. went bankrupt after that season.

Outdoor recreation professionals hope for change at an individual level as well, observing a need for a cultural shift toward camping and campfires. Ward, whose company is based in a community affected by seasonal wildfires, feels stressed when he sees any campfires in the area, even when there isn't an explicit fire ban. Human ignitions are the primary cause of wildfires, with 84 percent of fires in Washington caused by people during the 2018 season.

Wildfire isn't the only thing making the summer season more challenging for guides. Guides mentioned other climate-change related disruptions from recent years, like having lakeside camping permits canceled due to low lake levels and glacier conditions becoming hazardous early in the season on popular volcano routes.

"Our whole industry is surviving on the climate functioning; we need the wintertime

to snow, we need the summertime to not be totally on fire burning down," Smith says.

Outdoor recreation is a huge industry in Washington state and around the country; it pays the bills for many and provides joy, exercise and leisure opportunities for many more. Guides and industry leaders often have the most intimate knowledge of changing conditions because they deal with them every day. How can they be part of the solution? What responsibility do individual recreationists have to protect the places where they love to play? It's up to everyone to play their part if we want to keep climbing, skiing, hiking, fishing, and boating in the Pacific Northwest for decades to come. *x*



Mountain Madness guide Amber Smith on a smoky peak in the North Cascades. Photo courtesy Amber Smith.

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