

# WHITE GRIZZLY ADVENTURES,

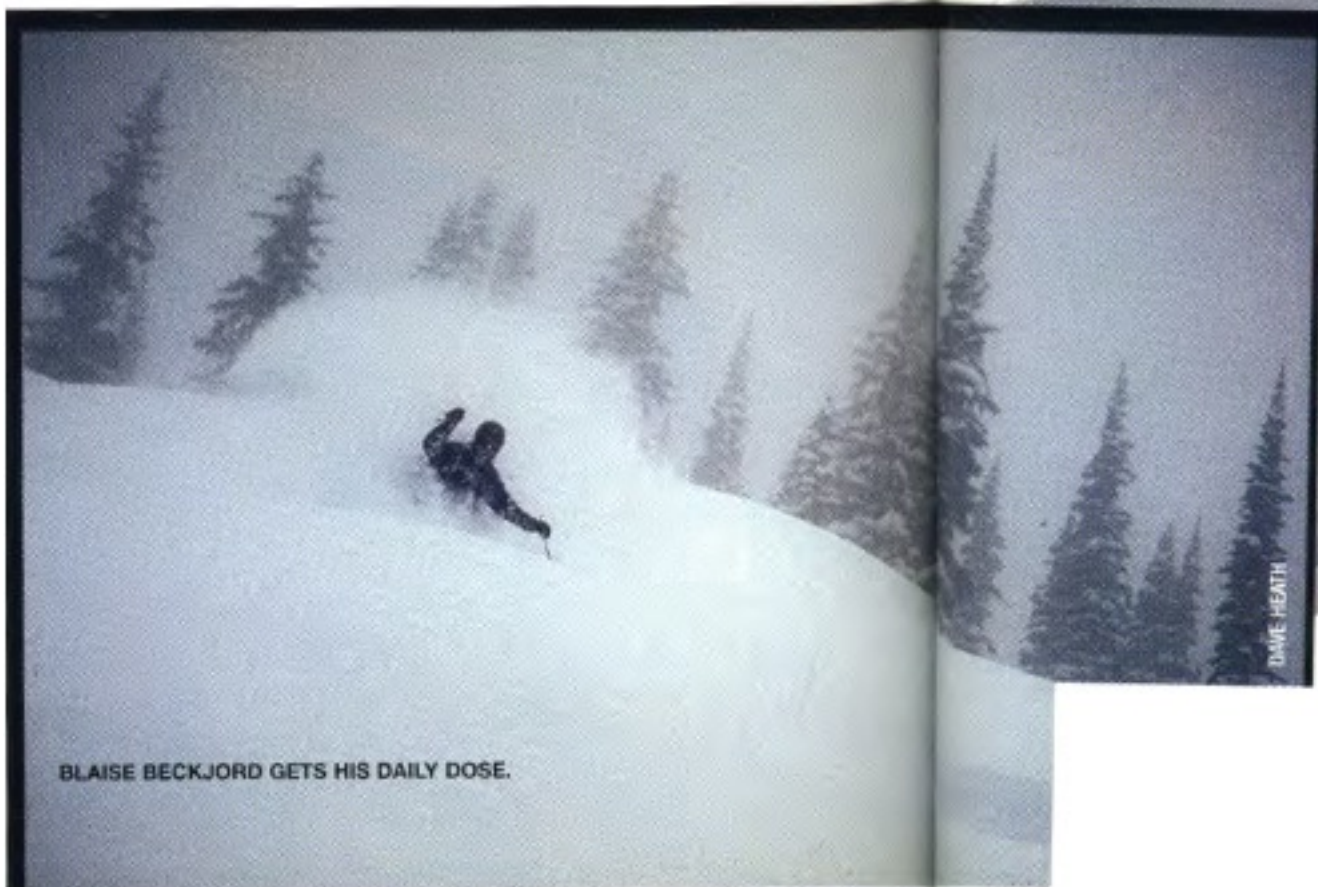
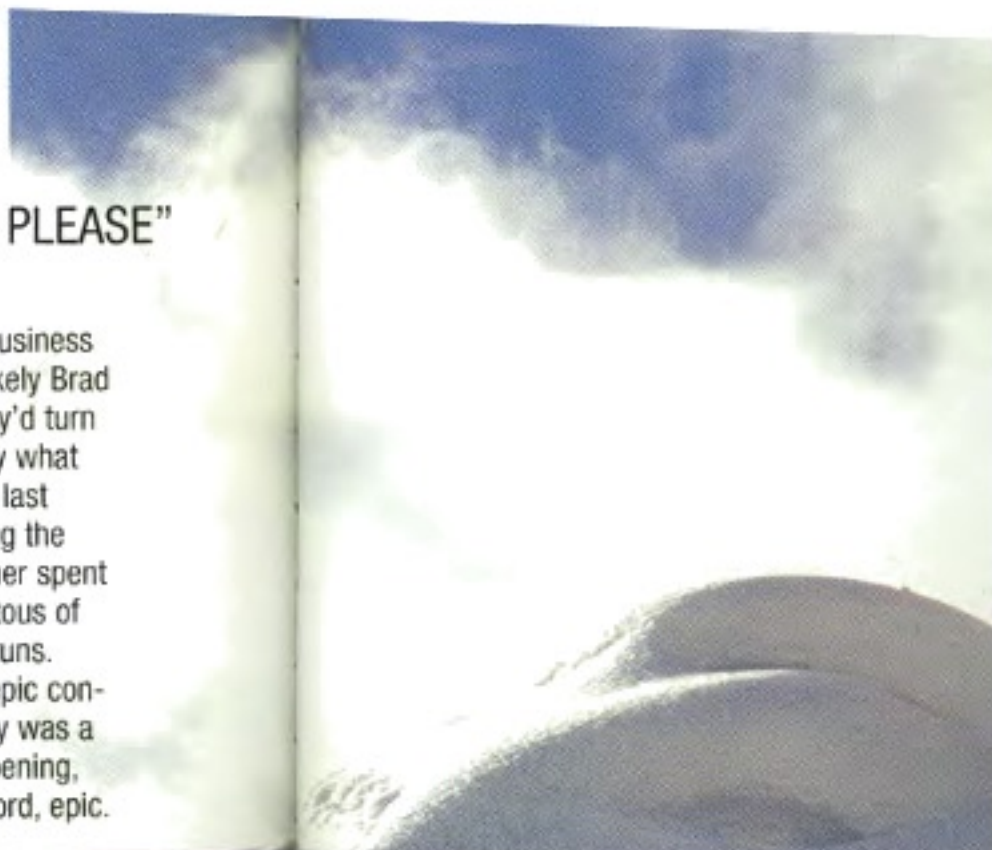
Meadow Creek, B.C.

WHEN IT'S ALL ABOUT "TREES, PLEASE"

BY LESLIE ANTHONY

When they incorporated their nascent cat-ski business in Meadow Creek, B.C., five years ago, it's unlikely Brad and Carole Karafil could have foreseen that they'd turn into off-season lumberjacks, but that's basically what happened. And on a sunny, late-December day last winter, our 12-person group was surely enjoying the largesse of their Husqvarna savvy, and a summer spent pruning and thinning some of the more precipitous of White Grizzly Adventures' surfeit of steep tree runs.

If you're into trees, this place humming in epic conditions is hard to beat, and though White Grizzly was a week away from its typical post-New Year's opening, conditions last December were, in a modest word, epic.



BLAISE BECKJORD GETS HIS DAILY DOSE.



GETTING TIGHT.  
SKIER: MIKE LAIDMAN.



DAVE HEATH

BLAISE BECKJORD GETS HIS DAILY DOSE.



There's nothing like furrowing through two metres of prime Selkirk powder on an expansive mountainside, plumbing untracked through shots, slots and open glades on the upper mountain, then busting out onto aproned slopes that roll into sick pillow drops through rockfalls and cliff bands.

In such conditions—which here, where orographic precipitation seems to roll in off Kootenay Lake when little is happening elsewhere, are most of the time—even the cut-blocks quilted by various logging roads girding the lower part of the tenure offer silk-smooth riding. And with off-season glading in full swing, it doesn't get any better for dyed-in-the-wool bark-eaters and aficionados of classic Interior shralping. Not that such slick offerings and challenging terrain weren't hard won.



After purchasing the formerly funkified operation known as Duncan Lake Cat-skiing, the Karafils invested heavily in infrastructure and customer service, acquiring new and more reliable cats, building a gorgeous, cozy log lodge, and pumping up a menu of gourmet fare that elicits daily kudos at breakfast, dinner and during the sumptuous lunches wolfed down in the cat. These are especially appreciated by calorie-craving riders unused to the workout regimen of gravity-resistance and full-attention engendered by White Grizzly's tumbling pitches and Grade-A glades.

Not only had we enjoyed the friendly, homey atmosphere and four-star fare during our stay, but the skiing—which, happily to our punter-gating sensibilities, is strictly upper-intermediate to expert—had proven the best of our many visits. Like any good product, White Grizzly typically leaves customers ecstatic, with a hankering for more and a desire to rebook the following winter. In our case, when the fore-shortened days of December at this latitude finally made it time to call it quits for the day, we'd racked up a good 5,000 metres worth of powerful reasons to do the same.

*DNA: White Grizzly Adventures, Meadow Creek, B.C., 1-800-843-5557, [whitegrizzly.com](http://whitegrizzly.com)*

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THE GRIZZLY DEN.

HENRY GEORGE

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