

Nominee: Jan Metzmaker

Award: Tourism Ambassador

Statement of Nomination:

Jan has been an integral part of the Whitefish and Glacier National Park communities since the 1970s. What started out as a summer job working at Lake McDonald Lodge, she became part of GNP's first all-women's trail crew. She and her husband were part owners of Glacier Guides and she spent many summers working as a hiking guide in Glacier National Park. As a member of Whitefish City Council, Jan was part of implementing the successful Resort Tax, dark skies ordinance, and other zoning ordinances that has kept the lively and "local" feel of Central Avenue.

In 2000, Jan became the first executive director of the Glacier Fund, (through that, it is her fault that Montana has so many fundraising license plates to choose from, as the GNP fundraising plate was the very first one!!). In 2007, Jan became the executive director of the newly formed Whitefish Convention & Visitors Bureau and served in that capacity marketing Whitefish to non-resident visitors until January 1, 2014 when she "retired." In those seven years, through membership and funding through increased bed tax and our TPA, the WCVB saw a increase of budget from \$49k to over \$450k

In addition Jan is a volunteer extraordinaire, and was an integral part in the 2010 Glacier National Park Centennial Celebration and received the coveted national Volunteer of the Year award from the National Park Service for that event as well as Tourism Partnership of the Year Award in 2011 for the Centennial Committee.

Website or relevant link: <http://flatheadbeacon.com/2008/05/07/putting-whitefish-on-the-map/>

Website or relevant link: <http://www.nps.gov/glac/learn/news/news10-35.htm>

