

## Responsibility Code # 2

### PEOPLE AHEAD OF YOU HAVE RIGHT OF WAY

It is every skier and rider's individual responsibility to know that the right-of-way on the slopes belongs to the rider ahead of them. When approaching others, it is the uphill rider's duty to avoid those ahead of them at all times.

Mt Hood Meadows has many designated, groomed trails while the rest of our 2000 acres exist as natural, unmaintained "off-piste" terrain. When traveling on groomed trails, the 'corduroy' of the grooming can be easily followed; trail direction with fresh groom is obvious. Those ahead of us on such trails are easily identified because of our shared direction of travel.

In off-piste terrain direction of travel is much more varied. Mt Hood is a dormant volcano with terrain consisting of moraines and canyons. Slopes change pitch and aspect as they wander over these ridges, gullies and around trees, rocks, creeks and cliffs. Off-piste riders should have an acute awareness of their surroundings and anticipate others coming from different directions. Regardless of one's direction of travel through off-piste terrain, be aware and always yield to those ahead of you.

So what exactly does "yield" mean?

To "yield" may require stopping and waiting for others or it may require altering our intended direction. It involves a decision based on awareness and an action requiring skills. Once we know who we should avoid we need to be in control in order to physically avoid them. Responsibility Code # 1 asks us to have the capability to avoid collisions as Code # 2 teaches us we should do.

Traditionally riders have called out verbal warnings to persons they are actively passing. These calls are often appreciated. However, please do not assume such calls of "on your left!" or "on your right!" are heard and understood. Giving such warnings does not relieve the overtaking person's responsibility for avoiding collisions.

Oregon Law explicitly states that "skiers shall not overtake any other skier except in such a manner as to avoid contact." Hood River County Ordinance states that "all skiers have a duty to ... refrain from acting in a manner which may cause or contribute to the injury of others."

Be prepared to be engaged by Mountain Safety Hosts, Patrollers and other on-mountain staff if they witness collisions or near collisions. We want to document all collisions. Another goal of the interaction is to raise awareness of who has the right of way on the slopes. Those guests that are resistant to this on-snow safety education or who demonstrate a history of not yielding right of way may be removed from the slopes for the safety of others.

Please be aware of your surroundings and always yield right-of-way to those ahead of you.

You are responsible.