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**Chukar Cherries Utilizes Regional Fruits in New Gourmet Products**

Prosser, WA – Chukar Cherries, the Pacific Northwest’s *Year ‘Round Cherry and Berry Company™*, introduces new gourmet treats per request by loyal customers. *Organic Rainier Cherries* and *Naturally Dried Strawberries* are dried fruit additions. *Semi-Sweet Chocolate Pearls™*; rich dark chocolates shaped like large pearls, is the newest confection and *Cherry Chocolate Nut Mix*; naturally dried Bing, Rainier, and Tart cherries paired with roasted almonds, pistachios and Semi-Sweet Chocolate Pearls™ is an addition to Chukar’s fruit and nut energy snacks. All are available this Fall.

Chukar’s *Organic Rainier Cherries* are a first step in offering locally grown, organic cherries to their customers. “We anticipate increased availability of local organic fruit crops in the future. Because we use regional fruits, we can produce certified organic dried cherries and berries when available from regional growers”, said Pam Montgomery, founder of Chukar Cherries.

Only local fruits are utilized in Chukar ® brand pure food specialties. To ensure high natural sugar content, tender fruits are left to hang on the tree several weeks past fresh harvest while the sugar solids build. The fresh fruit is then dehydrated in large air tunnels using a classic drying process. Packaging is the finishing touch; the Chukar bird logo illustrated by Northwest artisan Jim Hays adorns each bag. Prices range from \$9.50 for *Cherry Chocolate Nut Mix*, \$9.95 for *Dried Strawberries*, \$11.95 for *Organic Rainier Cherries* and \$14.95 for *Semi-Sweet Chocolate Pearls™*.

Chukar Cherries was founded by Pam Montgomery on her family’s cherry orchard nearly twenty years ago. Located in Washington State, Chukar Cherries produces a wide array of pure food gifts that exemplify the natural flavors of the Pacific Northwest. All products are 100% Natural and certified Kosher by KOF-K. Chukar Cherries has two retail locations in Washington; Seattle’s Pike Place Market and Retail Outlet in Prosser, Washington. Visit [www.chukar.com](http://www.chukar.com) or call 1-800-624.9544 for a free product catalog and further information.

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