

Plumas Ski Club
“From Where We Stand”
April 15, 2010

The Plumas County community has recently shown an increased interest and willingness to get involved in the project to reopen the Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl in Johnsville. The Plumas Ski Club welcomes this interest and would like to present an historical account of actions taken by the club, and our current position and plans as we move forward towards the goal of reopening the historic Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl.

Plumas Ski Club (PSC) was formed in 1950 and incorporated in 1953 as a 501(c) 3 nonprofit corporation. The Club operated the Plumas Eureka Ski Bowl (PESB) from 1955 onward with surface tows under a Special Use Permit from the US Forest Service. The lodge was constructed in 1958, and the existing Squaw poma lift, which was purchased from Squaw Valley after the 1960 Winter Olympic Games, was installed in 1963. In 1970 PESB was incorporated into the Plumas Eureka State Park through a land exchange with the USFS and PSC continued operations under a concessionaire’s agreement with the State Park. A second poma, Rainbow, was installed in 1975. With the hope that a chairlift would be installed, PSC sold PESB to the Gold Mountain Foundation in 1999 which took over operation of the ski area and operated the facility until its closure in 2002 after Gold Mountain determined they could no longer continue.

When Gold Mountain ceased operations at PESB, the PSC negotiated with the State Park to retain the concessionaire’s agreement. After assessing the hills condition, PSC decided to not reopen the hill for the following season due to the general disrepair and unreliability of the equipment and facilities. At this point the process was started to obtain community and State Parks support and the necessary funding to update the facility so that it could reopen as a viable ski area business. In 2003 a PESB Memorandum of Understanding was signed by numerous Federal, State, County and Local governmental agencies along with other private entities and individuals to develop a coordinated and community oriented winter sports management strategy that would lead to the reopening of the ski area within the regulatory framework and historical context of the area.

As a result of this group’s formation, several very important steps were undertaken. Snow Engineering (SE) Group was retained to compile and publish the PESB Feasibility Report in December 2005. Senator Dave Cox intervened on behalf of PSC which resulted in the the State Parks help compiling and approving the environmental document (CEQA) published in August 2006. With donations from Graeagle CSD, Eastern Plumas Recreation District and a local business, Plumas Corp was retained to prepare the documentation to submit for grant funding under Prop. 84, which funds improvements to State Park lands and infrastructure. These reports and documents were used by the PSC and MOU groups to establish a plan to reopen PESB and define the requirements that

would be needed to continue with the project. During the following months the PSC and MOU groups met and formulated action plans on how to move the process forward. Other initiatives were completed, including the PSC writing a new business plan, operating documents and capital improvement estimates. This documentation was compiled to meet an October, 2008 application deadline that was believed to be the time that the funding would become available.

Unfortunately, due to economic conditions and budgetary issues within the State which were not foreseen, the Prop. 84 monies were not released and no applications were accepted until March of 2010. Due to the fact that much of the plan had been predicated on receiving a major grant to fund the upgrade of the facility, no other major grant monies were readily available and no serious consideration was given to a "private funding option" at that time, the MOU group's last meeting was in November, 2008.

Since that time the PSC has continued to meet and update the documentation required for funding. Some of these activities have included meeting with the State Parks staff and compiling an ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) accessibility and feasibility report on upgrades needed at the hill to comply with State and Federal requirements, obtaining new quotes and operational specifications for the power that will be required, either generator or Plumas Sierra REC supplied, and continuing conversations with SE Group and others about the possibility of installing a used lift vs. new and the precautions and monetary expenditures that may be required to do so.

PSC and Plumas Corp worked to update, prepare and submit an application for the full project funding amount of \$2,709,000 in Prop. 84 grant monies that accepted applications for this funding in March, 2010. PSC has also obtained \$67,000 in Prop. 40 grant monies from Eastern Plumas Recreation for infrastructure improvements at the hill and is waiting for clarification from the State on how these funds must be spent. Currently PSC and Plumas Corp are working on an request for proposal to drill a well at the hill to replace the existing non-potable water supply and have also inquired about the possibility of connecting to the Johnsville Community Water System for this water source. Tentative plans have been drawn to upgrade and remodel the existing bathrooms to ADA accessibility code and a much needed remodel of the lodge as funding allows. Other grant applications have been made to Sierra Pacific Foundation for possible funding of a standby generator and electrical upgrades, and we have started the process of applying for full funding from the recently released "Nature Education Facilities Program".

All of the plans and progress to date has been predicated on receiving funding to complete the project in the approved form and in a way that will result in a fully operational ski area with a reasonable expectation that it can be run reliably and at least break even. These plans have been somewhat tempered by the reality that this may not be a "lump sum" allocation and the project may be eventually funded in several smaller increments which would also extend the timeframe towards completion. The Club's intent moving forward involves submitting applications for any grant monies, and pursuing any other funding options that may be available. How and when the project moves forward is directly correlated to the availability of this funding. To put a timeline

together for a completion date is next to impossible, but several of the infrastructure improvements including water, lodge electrical upgrade, bathroom and lodge ADA upgrades should be completed over the next several months. The bigger parts of the project: power supply, lift acquisition and installation and the maintenance facility will depend on when complete engineering approval and sufficient funding, whether from public or private sources, is acquired.

The PSC is fully committed to the ultimate goal of reopening the hill and has welcomed the recent renewed interest in moving forward with the project. PSC will help facilitate a project status meeting with the original MOU group on May 5th at the Mohawk Community Center, and welcomes any new groups or individuals (GPA and the newly created steering committee) who may want to be involved to work together to attain this goal in a timely and cooperative manner. As these groups continue to meet and ideas are transformed into actions, the Plumas Ski Club believes that it should continue as the lead organization moving forward with this project to maintain the integrity of the project and avoid confusion. During this timeframe other groups or entities may wish to consider operating the completed ski area facility, pending State Parks approval, and the club is very open to that suggestion as long as the PSC can retain the historical aspect of ski operations including holding the “Longboard Revival Series” and other race events.

For further information please refer to other documents located on our website www.plumasskiclub.org or contact any board member of the club. PSC would like to recognize and thank the community and everyone involved in this project over the years and as we continue to move forward.

Plumas Ski Club: President, Ron Logan: Vice President, Doug Hart: Treasurer, Bob Burney: Secretary, Lisa Kelly: Board Members, Chris Murray, Shannon Morrow, Mike Kelly, Don Fregulia.