

Ski Hill Progress

Certainly the biggest event affecting the proposed improvements at the Plumas Eureka ski hill has been the agreement by the state government NOT to close Plumas Eureka State Park (along with 47 other parks around the state) as part of the budget process this year. It would have been near impossible to argue for a few million in voter- approved bond funds for a new ski lift if the park itself was closed. There were more petitions and letters sent in favor of our park than any other park unit and that helped turn the tide. The Ski Hill 'Memorandum of Understanding' group (MOU) has been meeting monthly but will take a break in June and July. Graeagle CSD, Eastern Plumas Recreation District and a local business generously have provided some funds which have been used to move the ski hill upgrade along. Those funds (approximately \$16,000 total) are being used to prepare the Prop 84 grant application for the approximately \$ 2 million upgrade at the ski hill, particularly the new chair lift. It is anticipated that these funds will become available after the annual budget

Two tasks are underway. The first is to look at the cost estimates prepared a couple of years ago and see which items can be done by local volunteers and which need grant funding from the State. The second task is to develop the agreements between the 18 organizations in the MOU and the Plumas Ski Club- operator of the ski hill.

So far, funding and operations agreements (assuming a new ski lift) have been reached with Eastern Plumas and Quincy Chambers of Commerce, Feather River College and Central Plumas Recreation District (which manages the Johnsville Junior Ski Team, which again won the state junior Championships in April!).

Negotiations are underway with the School District, County Public Works, Plumas Eureka CSD and City of Portola to define their commitments. Additionally, progress is being made to develop a 'Marketing Co-op' for the ski hill, which would include the County Visitors Bureau, the Quincy and Eastern Plumas Chambers, the City, the Park and Graeagle Merchants.

These and other agreements as well as the revised cost estimates, all need to be in place before the Prop 84 application date.

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