

## PLUMAS SKI CLUB



### **BEGINNERS SURFACE LIFT PROJECT SUMMARY PREPARED BY PLUMAS SKI CLUB FUNCTIONING SKI HILL COMMITTEE**

NOVEMBER 12, 2024

The Plumas Ski Club (PSC) Beginners Surface Lift Project (Project) proposes installation of a surface lift at the Johnsville Historic Ski Bowl for use in beginner skiing/snowboarding instruction and beginner/ intermediate level skiing and snowboarding activities, with target installation by Thanksgiving of 2024. Given the difficulties in raising sufficient funds for the Project due to the high-cost nature of ski lifts, the PSC Functioning Ski Hill Committee (Committee) prioritized identifying a lift product and alignment which maximizes “bang for the buck” within the current available budget, or in other words, maximizes ski area access and lift capacity while minimizing the cost (capital cost and operation and maintenance cost), and which optimizes ease of installation, operation, and maintenance, mobility/future adaptability (ability to move lift if/when existing lifts are restored/replaced per the Ski Bowl Master Plan), and service/parts availability.

Following consultation with industry professionals and extensive research of used and new lift options during 2023-2024, the Committee concluded that the Tow Pro portable rope tow is the best and most suitable available lift option for the Project and that the most ideal lift alignment for the Project is along the existing Rainbow Poma tow path from the existing bottom terminal to Johnsville Eureka Lake Road.

The Committee hired a Project Manager in Spring 2024, and the Project was underway! The Project has continued on schedule and on budget thanks to the dedication of the volunteer Committee, the Project Manager, support from Tow Pro, and support from many local businesses who have contributed to the Project in various ways. Following Project completion, PSC intends to partner with the Plumas Unified School District, Feather River College, and/or other entities to provide low-cost skiing and snowboarding instruction opportunities to Plumas County residents and visitors using the rope tow lift. PSC is dedicated to facilitating the use of the lift to the maximum extent that funding, volunteership, and snow conditions allow, but expects operations to be relatively limited during the 2024-2025 winter as the lift is fine-tuned and partnerships are established. In the following years, expansion of rope tow operations is expected including regular scheduled operations days open to the public, use of the lift by local ski and snowboard teams, and more.

The completion of the Beginners Ski Lift Project will mark a major milestone for the Plumas Ski Club, who has dedicated countless volunteer hours to the dream of restoring lift-powered skiing and snowboarding activities at the Johnsville Historic Ski Bowl since it was officially closed a quarter-century ago. PSC anticipates that this exciting accomplishment will generate a continued increase in PSC participation and local energy and excitement for further restoration of Ski Bowl functions, which is expected to initially include addition of a second rope tow to access more of the Ski Bowl through local funding and ultimately replacement of the existing platter-style surface lifts through grant and large donor funding to fully restore Ski Bowl lift function and area access for the enjoyment of all!