

PLUMAS SKI CLUB
BEGINNERS SURFACE LIFT PROJECT UPDATE



PREPARED BY
PLUMAS SKI CLUB FUNCTIONING SKI HILL COMMITTEE

February 2, 2025

The Plumas Ski Club (PSC) Beginners Surface Lift Project (Project) installation is nearing completion, with only a handful of tasks remaining. The Project Implementation Team, comprised of a small group of dedicated PSC volunteers, Tom Shores (the hired Project Manager), and Will Mayo (co-owner of Tow Pro), completed installation of the Tow Pro TP-15 Rope Tow lift on Monday, January 27th, 2025. With great excitement, we can now officially announce that for the first time in over a quarter-century, a functioning ski lift exists at the Johnsville Historic Ski Bowl!

The rope tow alignment is along the existing Rainbow Poma tow path from the existing bottom terminal to the Eureka Lake Road, covering approximately 610 feet and gaining approximately 152 feet in elevation to provide access to a significant amount of beginner and intermediate terrain. Project work has included regrading along the tow path, expanding the existing bottom terminal concrete slab, pouring a top terminal concrete slab, and installation of the bottom terminal platform, top terminal platform, new generator, new communication wire, new 6-inch diameter steel tower (tower #1), new sheeve wheels on the towers, and all TP-15 lift components from Tow Pro. The Project is being accomplished through the concerted efforts of the Project Team with contributions from numerous community members and local businesses (McGarr Excavation, Dickens Drilling, Plumas Sierra Rural Electric Cooperative, Lost Sierra Ventures) and the support of California State Parks. The Project is being paid for entirely by funds raised by PSC through the Vintage Chairlift Fundraiser and donations from the Historic Longboard Revival Race Series (see Project Summary document for additional background Project information).

As the Project Implementation Team is working toward wrapping up installation efforts, the Functioning Ski Hill Committee is now faced with the challenges of working out operating logistics from legal, financial, and practical standpoints (see Page 2). This is another heavy lift for a volunteer group, so **we are calling on any and all** passionate, enthusiastic, knowledgeable or otherwise right and honorable members of our community who would like to contribute to the resurrection of ski hill operations at our local ski bowl **to please join PSC and the Committee and begin attending the meetings and making your contributions!** To do so, follow the instructions on the “Contact Us” tab of our website (available here: <https://www.plumasskiclub.org/web/index.php/contact-us>).

As always, the Plumas Ski Club extends sincere thanks and gratitude to our dedicated

volunteers, donors, and partners for your continued contributions to the PSC mission, and to our wonderful community of fellow snow-loving enthusiasts for the ongoing support.

The upcoming tasks for the Functioning Ski Hill Committee to focus on are expected to include:

- Fine-tune rope tow installation components and prepare for final inspection
- Define short-term ongoing upkeep/maintenance/inspection needs for current periods of non-ops while lift is deployed and assign volunteers for all said needs
- Figure out allowable short-term and long-term operating plan details (per-day Special Use Permits, or other agreement format, anticipated fees to State Parks; to be determined with State Parks reps)
- Get quotes for single day rope tow ops insurance with various limits (e.g., 50 people vs. 100 people, etc.), vs. full season ops w/assumed max number of operating days (e.g., 10-15 per year)
- Develop plan for a big PR opening day/rope tow celebration preferably during 2025 winter (probably just 1 day or maybe 1 weekend w/ rope tow ops + a new plaque, acknowledging donors/supporters, etc.)
- Develop rope tow info binder with relevant information (lift specs, design info, maps, components list, list/log of maintenance items, list of trained lift personnel, list of training req's, grooming plan, lift ops pre-start procedure/checklist, lift ops shutdown procedure/checklist, lift annual inspection req's and contacts, etc.)
- Develop operating plan for single day ops including figuring out where the main operator will be stationed (life guard seat, operator hut, or elevated platform for top operator with intention to enable ops with operator at the top only + somebody available at bottom if needed, i.e., in the lodge)
- Continue conversations with PUSD, CPPRD, FRC, etc. to further develop plans/partnership agreements for education-related ops
- Reach out to nearby ski resorts for used equipment donations (rental gear, safety fencing, backup groomer, etc.)
- Develop rental program
- Develop Liability Waiver and procedures (for all Ski Bowl users, to protect PSC against liability)
- Coordinate and complete necessary improvements to the new communication wire installation
- Coordinate and complete vegetation removal and grading for the new westward cat track (summer '25)
- Coordinate and complete grading adjustments, including along the east side of the tow path from the bottom terminal to tower #2 and for the beginner get-off grading near tower #2 (summer '25)
- Coordinate plan for and complete fabrication of adjustable long-lasting top and bottom platforms to replace the current wooden prototypes when needed (summer '25 or after)

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!