



## BIG CREEK LODGE NEWSLETTER



March 2025

Greetings Big Creekers,

There was a near disastrous end to last year's season, but we are gearing up for a fresh start in 2025. Opening Day will be May 23, 2025.

Spring is coming quickly, and I can see the snow at the lodge rapidly melting away. It seems like only two weeks ago it was four feet deep and today it is under two.

We have been busy recruiting help for next season and I am happy to report that Sally will be back again this year and will be assisted by her son Josia and Shepp Ranch vet Linnea Sublet. Mark will also be back as a volunteer and musician. Sue and Dave will return in August and September and will be augmented by volunteers Bill and Elaine Boggess in July.

We expect there to be a lot of work to recover from last fall's fires but the lodge building itself was undamaged. A question remaining is what will be needed to resurrect the water diversion for the hydro power plant. The initial evaluation is that it will not be too bad. The big loss, of course, was the old duplex where employees lived. Work to replace it began by filing an insurance claim but with today's prices, it remains to be seen how well we will be covered. We plan to build 2 smaller units instead of a duplex cabin, but we will not be able to get workers or materials into the site until the road opens in late June or early July. We do not expect the new cabins to be ready this year so some employees will be housed locally. That housing is an expense we have never had before



Our final act last year was to drive our vintage and well used pickup to the valley for what we used to call IRAN (inspect and repair as necessary) It has not been serviced in 8 or 9 years. The estimate for that work, as expected, is spendy but necessary.

John Davis has made a very generous donation of his company's services toward the maintenance. Another option would be to replace it. A newer 4wd pickup donation would be greatly appreciated.

Additionally, in cooperation with IAA, RAF, Idaho Division of Aeronautics, and the USFS, we are hoping the upgrades to the airplane tie-down area and runway irrigation system will get underway this summer. Planning for these projects has been a multi-year process. Be sure to check NOTAMS if you are flying in.

On the "glass half full" side of our situation, materials to replace the corral fencing in front of the lodge are pre-positioned so that project will get underway as soon as the ground is clear. The few minor repairs to the roof of the old store were accomplished before we left for the winter, and we are hopeful that the grass around the lodge will grow back.



The domestic water system that flows down the mountain behind the lodge was still operating after the fire passed over it and none of our vehicles were damaged either. We are looking forward to a good summer. After all, there is little danger of a forest fire coming near the lodge any time soon.

There will be a few changes this year that hopefully will not negatively affect your love of Big Creek Lodge. The rate for rooms will now be \$245 and breakfast will be \$30. A more significant one is that we will be closed on Wednesdays, giving the staff a break they have not had before. This means we cannot accept room reservations for Tuesday or Wednesday nights. Donations can be made through

the website [Big Creek Lodge](#) or by mailing checks to Box 2016, Eagle, Idaho 83616. Many of you have already stepped up and we are most grateful!

We are going into the 2025 season with mixed feelings after last year's wildfire disaster but we are confident Big Creek Lodge will fully recover. Judging by the reservations that are already being made, we know you are too.

The Board of Directors of the Idaho Aviation Foundation extend a sincere "Thank You" for your continued support.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jim". The letter "J" is large and loops around, with "im" written in a cursive style to its right.

Jim Davies, President