

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Secured for White Sulphur Springs Ranch

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Grant Secured for White Sulphur Springs Ranch Hydrologic and Spring Protection Plan The Mohawk Valley Stewardship Council (MVSC) has scored another coup, by securing \$75,000 in grant funding through the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Proposition 84 Grant for their White Sulphur Springs Ranch (WSSR) "Hydrologic and Spring Protection Plan." As grant funds become ever more competitive, the fact that Alice Berg (MVSC President) has written successful grants for the WSSR project is astounding.

Mohawk Valley Stewardship Council, the non-profit group founded just over 2 years ago in an attempt to save one of the oldest historic properties in Eastern Plumas County. With a generous donation from the previous owner, Mr. Stephen Luczo, the MVSC has managed to purchase the property and it's 40 acres. The MVSC has immediate plans to restore the warm springs pool and will also restore White Sulphur Springs Ranch for a community event center, recreation use and environmental/historical education.

In this round of funding, the MVSC's grant was the only Plumas County project that was successfully funded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy. Berg, a veteran grant writer and native of Mohawk Valley, holds a Master's Degree in Natural Resource Management and is passionate about saving White Sulphur Springs Ranch for future generations. Berg stated that "the fact that this project is moving forward in this challenging economy can only be attributed to the dedication, clear vision and careful execution by the MVSC board along with our talented community volunteers who are working so hard on this project."

The grant's purpose, with the impending restoration of the White Sulphur Springs Ranch, is to identify all springs and other water sources on the property and develop a plan for their protection and restoration, "while allowing and managing for their responsible use for the public benefit."

Berg explains that "this plan will minimize recreation impacts through appropriate site design, sensitive landscaping, management strategies and effective erosion and sediment controls." Minimizing effects on the environment, and especially the essential water resources, will be central to the operation of biking and hiking trails as well as how the amphitheater and other community venues on the property are designed and developed. It will also inform parking design and the use and maintenance of the spring-fed community swimming pool.

The combination of restoration, education, and environmental protection that is central to the work of MVSC at White Sulphur Springs should serve as an example to other projects where the community is working to save a piece of its history in a manner that respects both the past and the future.

For more information, to volunteer or to donate to the White Sulphur Springs project, please email contact@mohawkvalley.us or call Sally Tantau at 836-2334 or Alice Berg at 836-1201. Please call for tickets to attend the MVSC's annual fundraising event to be held at WSSR on Sunday June 26, 2011, from 3:30-7:00 p.m.