

March 23, 2006

West Yellowstone Smokejumper Nonprofit

Thanks to all of you for the support and vision in this concept! We all recognize the amazing potential of this effort. With the great talent we have assembled, there is no limit for this concept. We are moving to a phase that will require faith, hard work and patience. In the near future, this group will determine who we are, what we do and our vision for the future. The strong foundation we build will allow us to do things the Smokejumper Community could never consider before. We are at the right place, right time and have the right jumpers and support job!

When considering Yellowstone and 2.8 to 3.2 visitors annually, similar and established nonprofits operate at 1.2 to 1.5 million; it's not farfetched to consider this the "Motherload". The potential to meet or exceed existing nonprofit models is realistic. I feel we can't fail as we've have funding sources to use until we become established and profitable. Compensation has been arranged for folks addressed below and the specifics are being worked out.

Success this season is important to move towards the higher goals we want to achieve in the future. This is a brief summary of activities towards this concept. The following individuals are involved and their roles are noted. A meeting or call will be coordinated asap, so we can start to assign a program of work and identify opportunities for the upcoming season.

Core Group with compensation commitments:

Barry Hicks	Concept Leader
Steve Nemore	Smj Operations
Randy Leypolt	Aircraft & Pilot Ops
Doug Houston	NSA Operations
Mary Wilson	Admin Lead
Lyndsey Lalicker	Youth Programs

Other folks consulted at this point:

WYS Base Overhead	Overall Concept Development
Lisa Stoeffler	Gallatin Ecosystem Staff
John Freemuth	Graduate Professor, political consultant
George Weldon	R-1 Deputy Fire Director
Ed Ward	Missoula Base Manger
Wayne Williams	MSO Smj & Visitor Center
Mitch Decoteau	Drop Zone consultant
Kyle Dornberger	RDD Smj –Architecture Student
Cole Parker	West Smj, Local Business Owner

In conclusion, a lot is happening. Expect a call to establish your availability for a meeting in the next few weeks. I look forward to working with you all in the near future and through the summer!

Thanks,
Jim Kitchen
West Yellowstone Bas Manager