



'Tis the Season for Givin' and Diggin'



Pond construction update from December 19, 2023.

Little Coyote Pond/West Fork Gallatin River Restoration Project Update: You may have noticed that the West Fork River near Little Coyote Pond looks a bit like a giant mud pit. This is good news, and means that we're right on track! Thank you to everyone who came out in October to help us harvest willows to be planted along the pond bank.

Construction for the project is well underway and in its last stages prior to beginning work on the amenities. *Pond & Stream Consulting Inc.* began dredging and hauling material in November, and is now restoring the West Fork River channel, improving fish passage and spawning, and dredging Little Coyote Pond by the end of January.

We are on track to complete this project, but we need your help!

The next phase of the project is to construct and obtain the recreational amenities of the project, which include a rock terrace, perimeter trails, benches, picnic tables, landscaping, fishing docks, and beaches. However, additional funds are needed from the community for this community-based project. Benefit Big Sky is raising funds in order for this to happen. **If you want to help reach our fundraising goal, check out the QR code listed below, or visit the Benefit Big Sky website at benefitbigsky.org to donate.** You can also contact BSOA's new Communications, Outreach and Development Manager, Katie Darrow, at katie@bigskyoa.org.

Follow the project's progress on the *BSOA website*.



Help the BSOA reach our goal of just under \$800,000 to complete this environmentally friendly restoration project that will provide the community and visitors an additional recreational facility.

Visit the Benefit Big Sky donation page or scan the QR code below to support this project through a tax-deductible donation today.

benefitbigsky.org

Contact Katie Darrow to make a pledge or donate by check.



Projected Timeline:

- Dec-Jan: Completion of West Fork restoration and dredging of Little Coyote Pond.
- Spring/Summer 2024: Construct rock terrace, perimeter trail, ADA ramp, beach, trail, parking lot, fishing dock, and other fun amenities!



Restoring the stream channel

A huge thank you to our partners, donors, contributors, and volunteers for the support and of this project thus far!

Have questions about the project? Reach out to Katie at katie@bigskyoa.org

What Exactly is Benefit Big Sky?

Benefit Big Sky (BBS) is a nonprofit organization that was established as a subsidiary of BSOA in the spring of 2022. **Our mission is to support initiatives that benefit recreation, education, arts, environment, safety, public works, and infrastructure within a reasonable cost.** Our goal is to work together with the Big Sky community to maintain and enhance the quality of life in the Big Sky area-- including BSOA members, long-term residents, seasonal workers and residents, tourists, and commuters.

You can donate to one of three main initiatives (West Fork and Little Coyote Restoration Project, Sustainability of Big Sky, or Traffic Calming Efforts on Big Sky roads) as well as our general BBS fund by visiting our *donation page*. We also accept checks and pledges if you want to get involved but don't want to donate online! Don't forget that your donations are all tax deductible, so pre-New Year is the best time to think about supporting local organizations that speak to you.

Follow BBS on Instagram and Facebook by clicking the icons below!



Little Coyote Traffic Calming - "Where are our Speed Tables?"

BSOA Board and Staff have been working on the implementation of traffic calming measures on Little Coyote Road. Stahly Engineering was hired to complete the design of three speed tables, which have been approved by Gallatin County. This project is shovel-ready and went out to bid last spring. One quote was received from Missoula that included mobilization costs, which was nearly half of the total bid. To explore alternative options, the project will once again go out to bid this winter. BSOA is aware of the urgency of this issue, and is working within the parameters that exist, contractor availability, and the inflationary cost of construction.

This project is not currently funded. The BSOA plans to apply for funding from other sources once we have a more realistic, definite cost estimation. **If you would like to donate to the project, please visit**

our ***Benefit Big Sky website***, click "donate" and select the "Traffic Calming Efforts on Big Sky Roads" option under the choice of projects.

We recognize that other residential roads such as Beehive Basin Road and Autumn Trail/Andesite Road are experiencing higher traffic volumes and excessive speeding due to unprecedented growth in Big Sky. We plan to address this issue by similar methods as Little Coyote Road. The purchase of an additional mobile driver feedback sign was recently approved by the BSOA Board and has been ordered. The traffic calming device is similar to the one previously purchased for Little Coyote and will collect traffic data and assist enforcement of the designated speed limit.

For questions, reach out to us at bsoa@bigskyoa.org or (406) 995-4166.

Property Use Restrictions - Signs

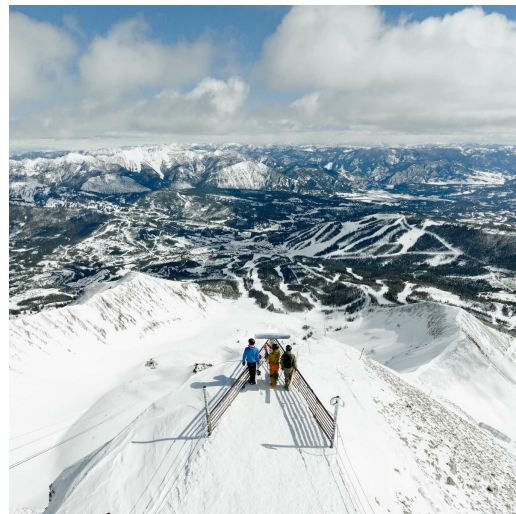
We are approaching a national election year in 2024! As a reminder, all signs, real estate signs, billboards, posters, displays, advertisements or any structures relating thereto are prohibited unless they have received the written approval of the BSAC prior to installation or use, or they are a permitted sign under the Design Regulations. This restriction shall also include signs for identification of streets, residences, places of business and directional or location. Thank you for your attention to these restrictions and keeping our community streets uncluttered.



Big Sky Resort Community Toolkit

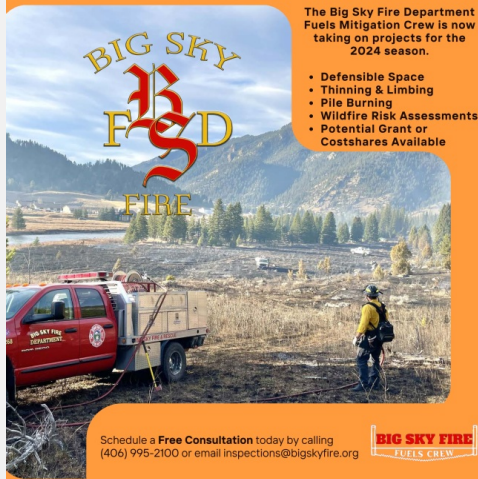
As many of you have probably heard, Big Sky Resort opened its new Lone Peak Tram on December 19th in celebration of the 50th Anniversary Season. The tram follows a different route to the top, and will ultimately allow for both winter sport and scenic access.

To read more about the tram, 50th year celebrations, and the 2023-2024 ski season at Big Sky, take a look at their ***Community Toolkit***.



<https://bigskyresort.com/lone-peak-tram>

**PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM
WILDFIRES WITH THE BIG SKY FIRE
DEPARTMENT WILDFIRE
MITIGATION CREW**



**Fuels Mitigation Crew is
Taking on Projects for
the 2024 Season.**

Big Sky is a high-risk area for wildfires. Be proactive by contacting the Fire Department for:

- Defensible Space
- Thinning & Limbing
- Pile Burning
- Wildfire Risk Assessment
- Potential Grant or Cost Shares

Check out this *flyer* for more information.

Assist Sam Picking up Your Trash!

As winter has been unseasonably warm this year, bears are taking longer to enter into hibernation/torpor. BSOA and Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks responded to a couple of late-season trash-can-ravages as late in the season as the first week of December. When the bears dig into your trash cans, it not only puts bears in danger by habituating them-- it also leads to Sam Luedtke, our caring compliance employee, to spend his mornings picking up trash from the streets of Big Sky.

Please keep our streets clean, our bears safe, and follow the *BSOA Trash Compliance Resolution* by taking care of your trash, so Sam doesn't have to. The short version is: wait to put your trash out until the morning of pick-up, take your trash in that same day, and please get bear-safe containers!



Example of a bear digging through a trash can



"I would rather be on the river than pick up this trash."

-Sam Luedtke, BSOA Compliance Manager

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