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TO Board of County Commissioners  
CC: Airport Manager

FROM Gary Buck, Siskiyou Smokejumper Museum Project  
541 592-2055 joe buck@frontiernet.net

RE Permission to continue work on smokejumper base buildings

Dear Commissioners;

We would like to continue restoration and preservation work on buildings at the historic Siskiyou Smokejumper Base and are submitting this request to the Josephine County Commissioners to ask for authorization. The National Smokejumper Association has expressed a great deal of interest in the project and has already set up a tentative project week June 14-18, 2010 pending approval from you.



This next project cycle would include installing a new roof on the parachute loft and preservation work on the administration building. If we have a large number of volunteers, we would also like to paint the exterior of the storage building and the small historic well house behind the administration building.

The administration office will be the most challenging project since the windows on the south side of the building need to be partially or completely rebuilt. We may have assistance from the Southern Oregon Guild to do this reconstruction.

We would also like to return the administration building to its original appearance when it was built in 1936. This would involve removing the two sliding windows on the northwest corner of the building and installing multiple pane windows as shown in the historic photo to the right.



The administration building may also need a new roof and if we can get authorization from you to also do this work we could spend this winter seeking funding to purchase materials and volunteers to do the work.

Chuck Sheley of the National Smokejumper Association (NSA) has 25 people already signed up for next year, and this does not include the people who were here working on the parachute loft during the June 2009 work week. All of the volunteers who worked on the 2009 project have indicated they want to return next year.



Tom Hunnicutt, a retired roofer, came to the base last week and took measurements of the loft roof for an estimate of how much materials we will need. He has equipment and will supervise the volunteers doing the roofing project. The estimates he makes from this visit will provide the information we need to apply for grant funding.

Publicity to solicit funds and volunteer help will continue this fall. Chuck Sheley is going to include a flyer about the loft project in their next mail distribution, which goes out to 3,400 members. There will also be an article in both the Smokejumper Magazine and Smokejumper Trails Magazine.

Your authorization for the 2010 project week will allow us to move forward with submitting our grant applications, soliciting matching funds, and building volunteer resources.

We appreciate the opportunity to work with you on preserving this historic base. The ultimate objective of the Siskiyou Smokejumper Museum Project is to lease the administration building and restaurant to develop a museum and visitor contact point that can retain visitor spending in Josephine County.

Sincerely

Gary Buck