

# Big Bend Hot Springs Project Community Newsletter

Big Bend, Madesi Territory, Shasta County, California

February 2021 Issue



## Progress and Planning at Big Bend Hot Springs Project

We have made so much huge progress in the past few years, but Shasta County Planning Commission requires that we complete everything on our ambitious Master Plan, before we are allowed to re-open for business and public use. So, we are now in the process of downsizing the Master Plan, in order to be able to open sooner, and then we plan to add back some important Master Plan components after we are open for public use. Getting Master Plan revisions approved (and making progress to complete the final large parts) are our main goals for 2021.

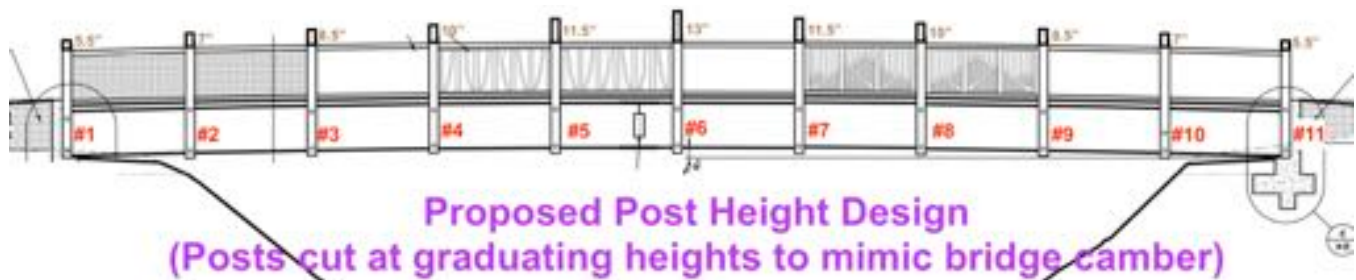
We have now completed our incredible high-capacity, high-pressure, high-volume gravity-fed fire suppression system, which took years of planning, negotiating with various fire authorities, navigating changing fire codes, engineering, fund-raising, and finally, the actual construction/installation of the huge system. We now have two fire hydrants in place at strategic locations within the Commercial-Recreational part of the property. They connect to 120,000 gallons of stored water via a 6" main water line, which is deeply buried all the way up to the 3 new bolted-steel water tanks that are filled to capacity awaiting any fire-emergency that we might need to extinguish. (see other side of this page and our website for full details and many pictures).

In addition to the tanks and the buried plumbing for the fire suppression system (including the hydrants), we also replaced the old pedestrian foot-bridge across Indian Springs Creek. The trenches & bridge also act as a utilities conduit, holding the main 6" water line and several other pipes and conduits for electrical and communications wires. The 80' bridge was another very complicated & expensive longterm project, but also crucial for the fire system and accessibility to the property on both sides of the creek.

**Thanks for your interest** in the Big Bend Hot Springs Project (BBHSP). We like to keep visitors and community members informed about our progress on working towards protecting and reopening this shared resource (closed for commercial activity by Shasta County in 2007). Learn about our efforts to protect the sacred land and water resources, as we develop a multi-use retreat center and home place for humans.

\*\*For more details, read our online updates, with plentiful information & pictures... Please see multiple website pages & posts at:

**[www.bigbendhotsprings.org](http://www.bigbendhotsprings.org)**

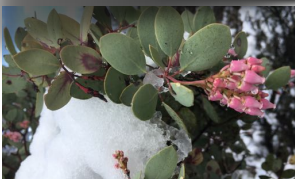


# Cob & Stone Welcome Hut at Main Entrance

After numerous planning and design changes, we have also been working on the construction of the “Welcome Hut” at the Lower Gate. It will eventually serve as an office and a landing place for visitors to BBHSP to check in and register for a campground space or an event, etc. The Welcome Hut began as a more simple structure and has evolved into a very complex collaborative work of art- roof made with locally cut/milled wood.

The building is an experiment in what is known as “Structural Cob,” and the design promises to be an important part of getting Cob accepted as a green building material in the building codes of California and the wider region. Cob is a natural and fire-proof building material composed of locally sourced clay, along with sand and straw from nearby. The idea is that the cob (along with some all-thread steel support inside) is “structural”, in that there is no wood frame- the cob bears some of the weight of the roof, instead of cob’s normal role as a space filler, installed in between wall studs (see the smooth “mud-like” walls, in picture, below). The walls will be finished with Natural Hydraulic Lime plaster.

The Welcome Hut will be completed soon, and the stem wall and post bases will be covered in locally-sourced ancient river-rock masonry by one of our resident artist builders. Robyn, Marina, Sequoia, Sy, Silver, and Kernel are just a few of the numerous community members working on completion of this unique and challenging structure, and we still have a ways to go to complete the small but incredible building. We look forward to welcoming you and countless other visitors there, with style, as the future & Big Bend Hot Springs Project continue to unfold!



**Contact Us:** You can email us at [info@bigbendhotsprings.org](mailto:info@bigbendhotsprings.org) or Call us at 530-337-6155. Our mailing address is: BBHSP - P.O. Box 153 Big Bend, CA 96011 and our website is: [www.bigbendhotsprings.org](http://www.bigbendhotsprings.org) .