



BIG CREEK LODGE NEWSLETTER

December 2025



Greetings Big Creekers,

Here it is almost halfway to next season at the lodge and I'm just getting around to writing the newsletter for the end of 2025 season. My apologies!

We were a little over-optimistic back in March regarding consequences from the forest fire. There was more damage to the water and hydroelectric systems than expected, but with dedicated work (primarily by Vic and Niel) we were able to open on time while continuing to cope with melted risers, leaking water lines and fouled penstock screens.

We also went into last May with some anxiety that the previous fall's forest fire would keep people away, but thankfully you are all more dedicated and stronger than that! Business was great all summer and we enjoyed a successful season.



Not a direct impact on daily operations but still a significant loss was the total burning of the old log duplex where the employees lived. We were able to find lodging for last year's crew at the old Gillihan Lodge a mile down the road and Ed Pitts' guest cabin, also in Edwardsburg. Their generosity was a real lifesaver.

Reconstruction of living quarters for future crews was significantly delayed by the typically complex government permitting requirements. As of this month though, we finally have a permit to build and will hopefully start as soon as the road opens in late June.

I am extremely happy to announce that Sally will be back next year to guide the lodge through another season of luxury living and fine food. She is currently interviewing applicants for the remaining employee positions. If you, or someone you know, are interested, contact her at Managers@bigcreeklodgeidaho.com

We will be reopening May 22 next spring. Our Wilderness Within Reach program will expand from the Flying B to a three day event for wounded veterans at Big Creek in August and we will also host the Whitetail group from McCall again.

I am already planning for next summer and we all look forward to seeing you in Idaho's backcountry at Big Creek Lodge. As always, remember, the IAF is a 501(C)3 corporation and is dependent on the income from our Idaho license plate program, the lodge's small profit (sometimes), and your donations. Please consider adding us to your financial plan, if possible.

We're looking forward to seeing many of you again next summer.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim", with a large, stylized initial "J" that loops around the first part of the name.

Jim Davies, President