

2016 February 16

Dear Supporters of Ocate Cliffs,

Planning for the building season in 2016 is under way! Would you like to come help build? Do you know someone who would? I'm including a list of the building steps at the end of this for those interested in the details. Besides help with construction of the staff house, I hope to get some smaller projects done this year - more trail markings, more level tent pads, a permanent outdoor shower, and a shed made of on-site wood.

Coming here can be an awesome experience because it is so beautiful, and you will be with other autistic people! Contact me directly if you are interested in coming. It can be for a few days or as long as you want. We're going to base the retreat dates on the availability of volunteers, and try to get small groups coming at the same time.

Here's a picture of some of our neighbors up on the mountain - because, who doesn't like wolf puppies?

Other things to consider doing:

1. Get one of the free Ocate Cliffs T shirt or shopping bags. Check out the home page at www.ocatecliffs.org and watch the "2 friends" video for information. That helps us reach more people, and if you get someone else (your parents maybe?) to get one, that helps us reach even more people. (This ordering system wasn't working for a while in the fall and was fixed, so please try it again if it didn't work for you before.)

2. Help us find a caretaker who can stay over the winter. The person needs to be able to drive and manage in isolation on their own. There is no rent to pay, so it could be ideal for someone who needs a new living situation and likes a lot of alone time.

3. Read the Divergent Labs annual report:

<http://stuff.divergentlabs.org/transparency/2015/2015annualreport.pdf>



Here are the building steps we are hoping to accomplish this year:

- improve access road
- slab pour
- inspection for pour
- build rastra wall to 10"
- inspection for wall pour
- plumbing for water supply
- plaster and waterproof exterior foundation to slab level
- backfill (creating an earth berm)
- construction fence
- frame second floor and stairs
- finish wall to top
- inspection for pour
- roof
- plumbing rough ins
- exterior doors and windows
- wood stove
- framing inspection

If we get through all that, we might have time for solar electric, ventilation, and septic, but I'm not betting on it yet.

Cheers,
Star Ford, Program Manager

Here's some of the builder's assistants cutting and placing rastra block for the foundation:

