

2016 April 13

Dear Supporters of Ocate Cliffs,

The building season is here. We've done major road work already this month so that regular cars can get to the site in one piece. In the rest of the spring and summer we will be building the staff house and doing other projects - trails, outdoor shower, shed, amphitheater, and more tent pads. Ten people have expressed significant interest so far in coming, and the one definite date for a short working retreat is Sat 6/18 through Tue 6/21. I'd like to hold at least one more longer retreat, perhaps in July, and will work it around your schedule if you wish to come.

We received a second grant this year, so we have money in the bank, and a vote of confidence from two foundations. All together the three grants we received for the project total \$20,000. I'm spending it very slowly so far, as I'm sensing what is the most direct and efficient way to spend it that achieves the mission - the mission of creating an autistic workspace and of building the economic and social relationships that help us become meaningfully represented in the world. To that end, I'm open to concrete proposals. I'd mentioned in a previous newsletter about hiring an Americorps intern, and I'd also mentioned the need for a caretaker to stay on the mountain over the winter. These roles could be the same person - an autistic person or ally who would like a free place to live, with some level of stipend in exchange for caretaking and working on various projects. Please consider if this idea fits you or someone you know.

At your service!

Star Ford, Ocate Cliffs Program Manager

PS - A small apology that my last newsletter said Dear (your name) and some people weren't sure if I was writing them personally or writing a newsletter. Email gets delivered more reliably with a name, so I've changed the salutation to include the name and also be more clear that it is in fact a newsletter going to the whole list.