

VOL. 23 FALL 2026

IDLE TIMES

Newsletter of the Idlewild Community

Letter from the President

Another wonderful summer in Idlewild is in the memory books! A heartfelt thank-you to all the committees and volunteers who organized and facilitated activities, maintained our facilities, and helped make this summer so special. Their efforts are a wonderful reminder that Idlewild is, first and foremost, a volunteer-run community.

We are fortunate to have a community that brings together families who have been part of Idlewild for generations and those who are just beginning to put down their roots here. What makes Idlewild so special is the people who care about it and contribute to its future. Our newsletter is a great way to stay informed about what's happening, learn what our committees are accomplishing, and discover where you might share your own talents. If you're interested in helping, or have an idea or suggestion to share, please reach out to a committee chair. There is always room for another helping hand!

Fall is also the time of year when we come together to keep Idlewild strong. The annual assessment letter will be sent to property owners in November. Please take time to review the information and participate in supporting the maintenance and improvement of our community. We have a remarkable place to call our own, and it is the commitment and involvement of our residents that make it so unique. Now is the time for each of us to do our part to make Idlewild the best it can be.

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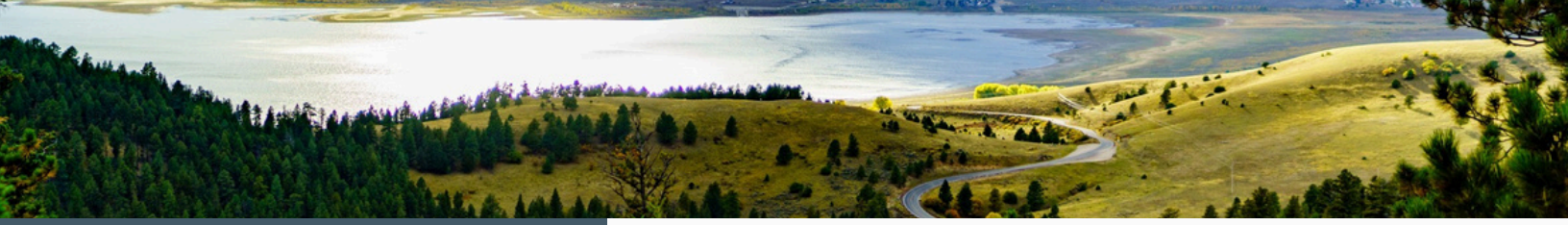


Letter from the President (continued)



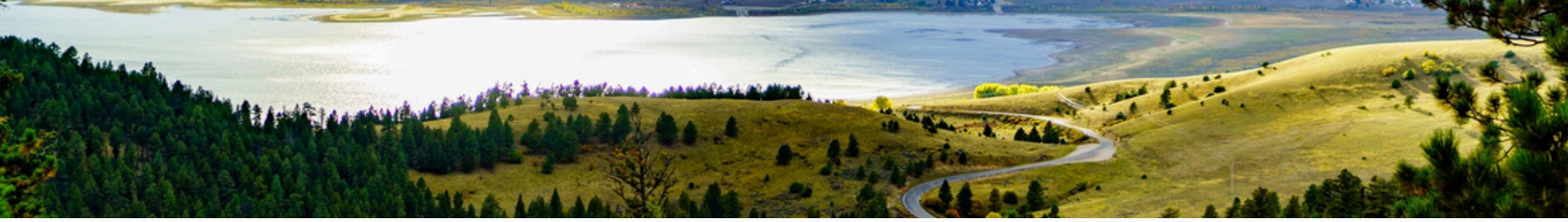
There have been some wonderful accomplishments to celebrate this summer! Be sure to read about the fabulous results of the Raise the Roof fundraiser, which provided funding for a new roof for the garage at the Caretaker Cabin. The campaign was so successful that efforts are now expanding to raise funds for a couple of additional roofs. A big thank-you to Jerri Lynne and her team for making this happen!

Another big thank-you goes to Randy Michael and his team for completing the staining of the Chapel. It's looking fresh and well cared for, ready to welcome us back next summer. Be sure to check out Randy's report and photos in this newsletter.

And don't miss the road report from AJ Beretta! The Road Committee worked hard all summer to accomplish as much as possible with its limited budget. This year, additional community participation helped the team get even more work done. Thank you to everyone who pitched in to improve our roads. Go, Road Team!

I hope many of you had the opportunity to visit Idlewild in early October and enjoy the spectacular fall colors. The aspens put on a particularly beautiful show this year! If you haven't experienced an October in Idlewild, I highly recommend adding it to your plans whenever possible. The autumn scenery is well worth the trip.

As I write this in late October, waves of rain are moving into the area, and forecasts suggest that El Niño conditions may bring additional precipitation and snow this winter. If you plan to visit Idlewild during the colder months, please make weather and road conditions part of your travel preparations.



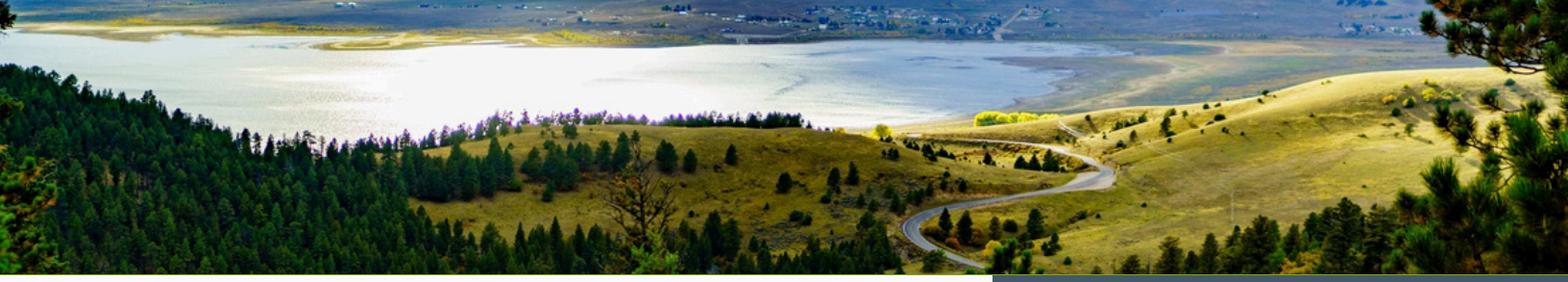
Letter from the President (continued)

Check the New Mexico Department of Transportation's road conditions at NM Roads. For mountain weather forecasts, some residents recommend following Chris Tomer on YouTube. Winter mountain travel requires extra planning. Please monitor conditions closely and, whenever possible, plan to arrive during daylight hours. Remember that the county plows only Highway 127, and by December, darkness arrives around 5:00 p.m. If you need snow removal or clearing to access your cabin, please make those arrangements in advance rather than waiting until you arrive.

As we close the chapter on another wonderful summer and prepare for the seasons ahead, let's continue to look out for one another, celebrate what we accomplish together, and contribute where we can. Idlewild is more than a place—it's a community, and each of us helps make it the special place we love. Thank you for all you do to keep it thriving!
Idlewild is a great place to visit any time of year. Please come and enjoy everything the mountains have to offer.Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season wherever your family is gathering.



Photo by Maxi Millican



Caretaker's Corner



Hello Idlewild Homeowners,

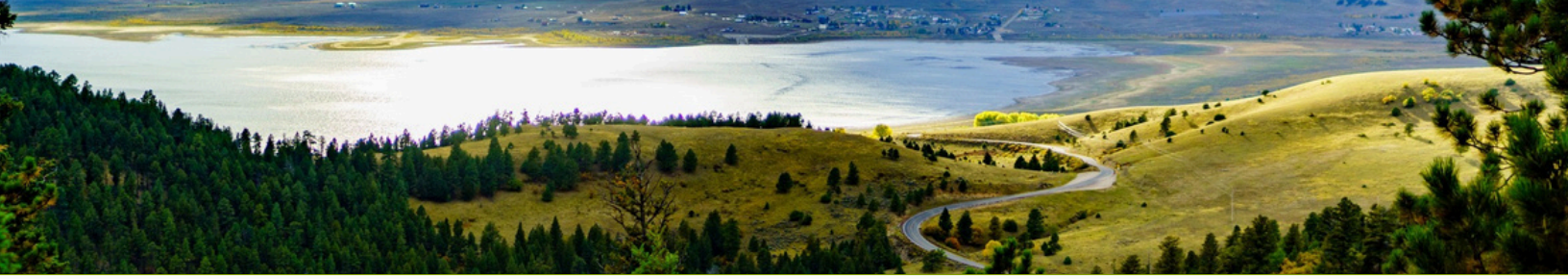
So far, 2026 has been a good year. As everyone knows who was here this summer, it was a full community most of the time. Of course the 4th of July was the busiest time of all!

Let me congratulate everyone on your vigilance during this 'no burn' time. It was a dry summer, as winter and spring were dry also. We did have showers but not the type of rain that was needed to remove the burn ban. The Lake will verify that. Big thanks to Chris and Fred for their continued work getting the Rolloff's for the slash and needles. Many homeowners used them and our community is safer for it. Security cameras showed several bears cruising the community this summer – always remember they are wild.

As winter approaches, remember that the main road is a State maintained road and they do a good job – but we do not know *when* they will plow. Also, if you come up during the winter, remember a couple of things: there could be ice – even on the dirt roads; therefore, a set of chains will be a valuable asset in your vehicle, even if you have 4-wheel or All Wheel drive. Also, the clearance of your vehicle plays a big role in your ability to move around. For example, if your clearance is 5 inches and we have 8 inches of snow, you will not be able to move in most cases.

As always, stay safe in traveling to and from. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone for the great skiing the weather man is forecasting for us.

— Daniel Helker



Preserving Our Beloved Chapel

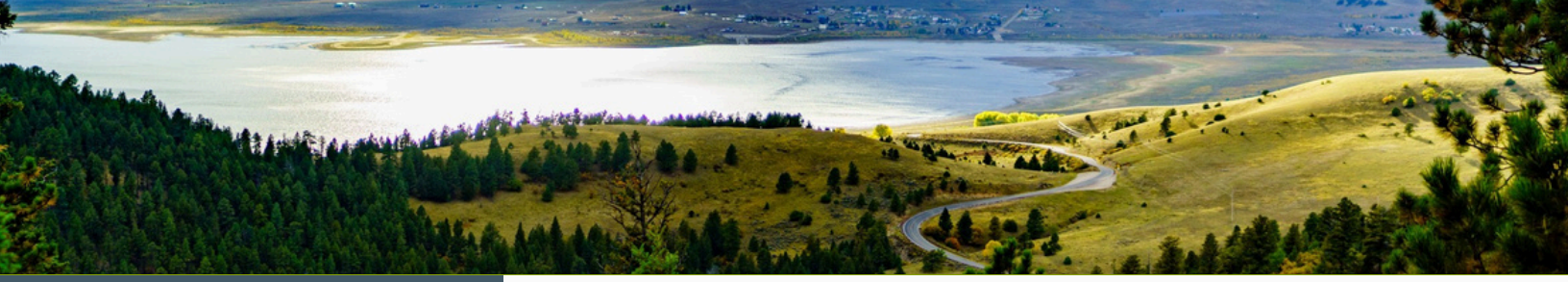


This fall, renovations were completed to our beloved chapel, including a fresh coat of stain to help preserve its beauty for years to come. Nestled beneath the pines, our chapel has been a cherished part of Idlewild since it was built in 1962. For more than six decades, it has been the setting for hundreds of church services, countless potlucks and family gatherings, and even a few weddings. It holds a special place in the hearts of generations of Idlewild residents and their families.
At the heart of our community, the chapel continues to bring residents, families, and friends together. These improvements were made possible through the generosity of church donations and the continued support of those who value this special place.



Thank you for helping preserve our chapel and ensuring it remains a welcoming place for fellowship, worship, and community gatherings for generations to come.

Randy Michael, Facilities Committee Chair



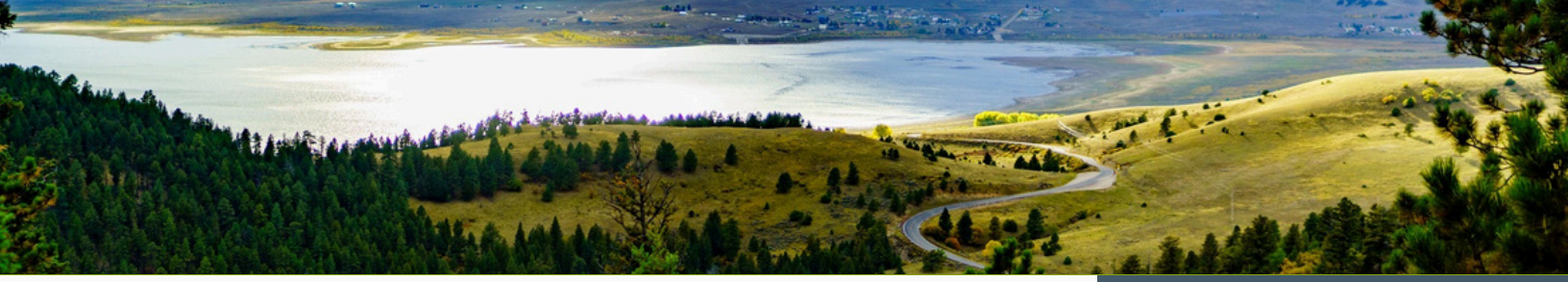
Website & Communications

Website Improvements: This year marked the completion and launch of Idlewild's new community website, www.idlewildcommunity.com, providing property owners with convenient access to governing documents, meeting minutes, financial information, maps, forms, announcements, and other community resources. Throughout the summer, we continued updating Board information, mailing addresses, community maps, and resources relating to emergency services and fire safety. Additional emergency preparedness information is being developed.

Community Communications: The committee continues to use Mailchimp to distribute meeting notices, newsletters, financial updates, community announcements, and information about special events and projects, including the Raise the Roof fundraising campaign. Our mailing list has grown to approximately 344 contacts, helping us keep property owners informed about important community matters. Not receiving Idlewild email announcements? You can sign up directly through our website at www.idlewildcommunity.com or contact the Website and Communications Committee to request that your email address be added.

Website Funding and Future Plans: We gratefully acknowledge a generous $600 donation designated specifically for website maintenance and improvements. This contribution helps offset professional technical support costs and supports continued website development. Looking ahead, our priorities include keeping community documents current, expanding emergency and safety information, improving website functionality, and maintaining reliable communications between the Board, committees, and property owners. We appreciate the contributions of committee members and residents who have helped improve these services. Suggestions for additional website features or improvements are always welcome.

A.J. Beretta, Website and Communications Committee Chairman

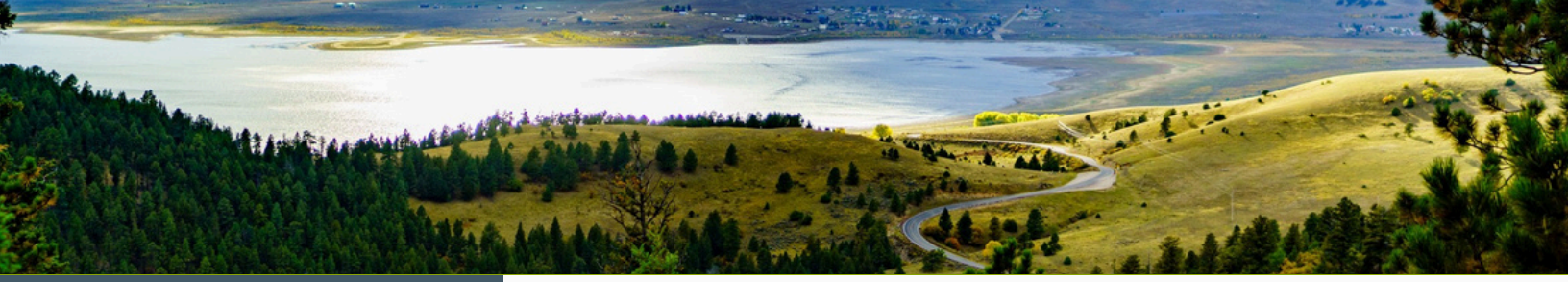


Roads Report

Summer Road Improvements:
With approximately $10,000 in available funding, the Road Committee completed improvements on Roads 4, 8, 9, 14, and 15. Work included grading, reshaping road surfaces, correcting drainage, and stabilizing areas subject to erosion. Proper drainage remains essential to preserving our mountain roads. Special thanks to John Driggers for his many hours inspecting roads, planning projects, working with residents, and supervising construction, and to contractor Eddie Honea for his quality workmanship and flexibility within our limited budget.

Community Participation:
Residents also made valuable contributions. Road 12 property owners undertook significant drainage and roadway improvements. On Road 9, residents contributed materials, equipment, labor, and coordination, extending the work beyond what the budget alone allowed. A Road 15 property owner generously purchased aggregate for roadway improvements. We appreciate this community support.

Planning for Future Road Improvements:
Significant needs remain, including portions of Roads 1, 9, and 10 and Spur 9. Projects may require drainage correction, reshaping, stabilization, and additional aggregate. Larger improvements must be prioritized carefully and sometimes completed in phases. Idlewild maintains its private roads without regular county or state road-maintenance funding. While routine grading may fit within an annual budget, major drainage improvements and reconstruction can require resources beyond a single year's allocation. The Road Committee believes that identifying priorities, developing realistic estimates, and establishing reliable long-term funding are essential.



Roads Report (continued)

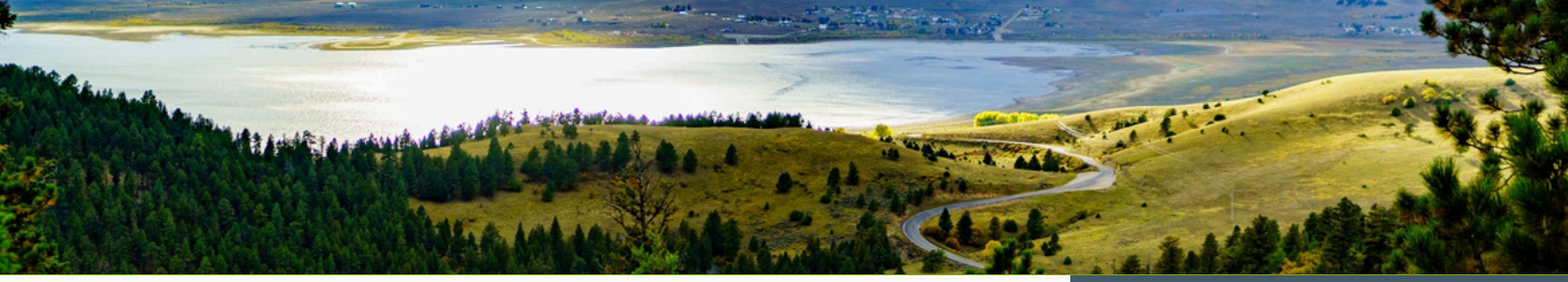
Timely preventive maintenance can help avoid costlier repairs. We look forward to working with the Board on practical funding strategies that meet current needs while protecting our roads for the future. Our goal remains to make the best use of available resources and improve Idlewild's roads for years to come.

Thank you to the participating property owners, and everyone who contributed to this year's work.

A.J. Beretta, Idlewild Road Committee Chairman



Photo by A.J. Beretta



Road 4 - A Heartfelt Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you – and well done Idlewild! What a treat to see road equipment and able bodies at work on Road 4 this summer. I have lived and driven Road 4 from top to bottom my entire life in Idlewild and cannot remember a single repair or work ever being done on it. Our road is short and not accessed by many. I am of the opinion that the monies and efforts on other more traveled roads in our Idlewild community deserved more effort and budgeted funds. You can imagine our delight and surprise at the discovery of road work being done this summer to our beloved Road 4.

From top to bottom, such care was taken with potholes, roots and general unevenness. In addition, there are two drainage paths reinforced with rocks to ensure this road doesn't revert to ruts and potholes in the coming rain and snow for the rest of the summer and upcoming winter.

A huge heartfelt thanks and hats off to Idlewild for the attention, care, expense and effort put into being able to access this road.

Kyle and Bobby Boston
27 Road 4



Friends of Idlewild

Friends of Idlewild: Celebrating Our First Year!

Building Community, Creating Connections, and Making a Difference

What an incredible first year for Friends of Idlewild! Established in 2026, our New Mexico nonprofit was founded by Casey Bratton, Stacy Goodwin, Lisa Henthorn, and Debbie Mincher, with a simple mission: t together, celebrate our beautiful mountain community, and give back to the special place we call Idlewild.

Our inaugural year was filled with exciting milestones! We hosted two successful fundraising events: the Idlewild Summer Cabin Tour and Porch Tour, bringing neighbors together for memorable evenings of mountain hospitality. Our first organized Spruce Up Idlewild event brought volunteers together to beautify our community, while our Welcome Basket Initiative extended a warm Idlewild greeting to new homeowners.

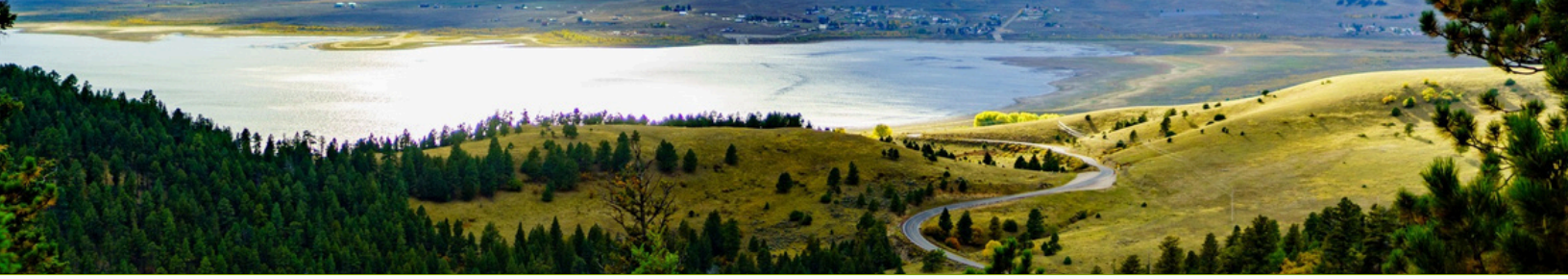
Through the generosity of our sponsors, cabin hosts, volunteers, and neighbors, we have laid a wonderful foundation for the future. Every dollar raised goes directly back into supporting our community through social activities, beautification projects, and volunteer initiatives.



As we reflect on our first year, we are reminded that the true beauty of Idlewild lies not only in its mountains and forests, but in the people who make this community so special.

Most importantly, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who helped turn our vision into reality. We look forward to another year of friendship, community spirit, and making lasting memories together. Here's to the new friends we've made, the neighbors we've welcomed, and all that's yet to come! Next up, our calendar of events in the new year.

Friends of Idlewild — Neighbors Coming Together for the Place We Love.



Raise the Roof Campaign - Thank you, Idlewild!

The Raise the Roof campaign has been a wonderful success! Thanks to the generosity and support of our Idlewild community, we have raised more than $4,000 through apparel sales and direct donations. A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who purchased a T-shirt or hoodie, made a donation, or helped spread the word. Your support has made a real difference and demonstrated what we can accomplish when our community comes together.

Our original goal was to help fund the replacement of the Caretaker's Garage roof, but with the campaign's success, we are excited to expand our efforts to include replacing the roofs on our beloved Preacher's Cabin and Community Center as well!

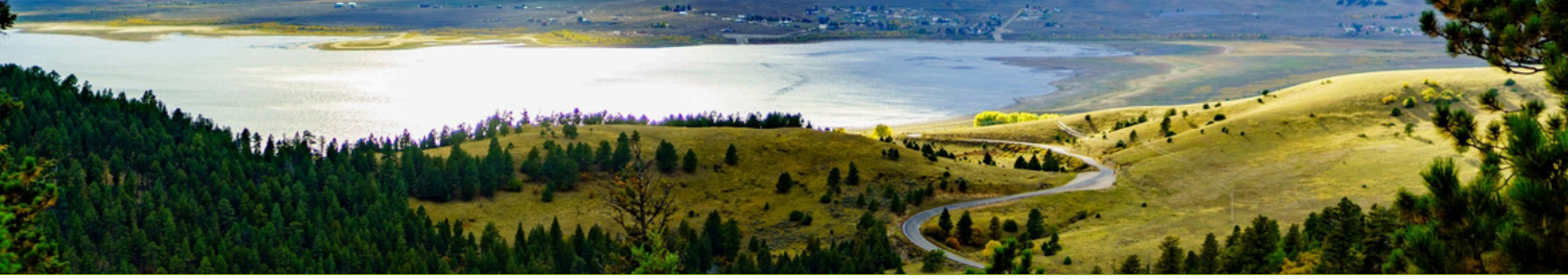
The campaign continues, and you can still be part of it! Online ordering is available for short- and long-sleeved T-shirts, hooded sweatshirts, and direct donations. Looking for a unique holiday gift? Show your Idlewild pride while supporting our community!

Holiday Gift Orders: Please order by November 15 to allow time for processing and delivery before Christmas. While we cannot guarantee delivery dates, ordering early gives your gifts the best chance of arriving in time.

Ready to help us raise the roof? Click here to shop the online store or make a donation: https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/hvfg8mv

Thank you for your continued generosity and for investing in the future of Idlewild!

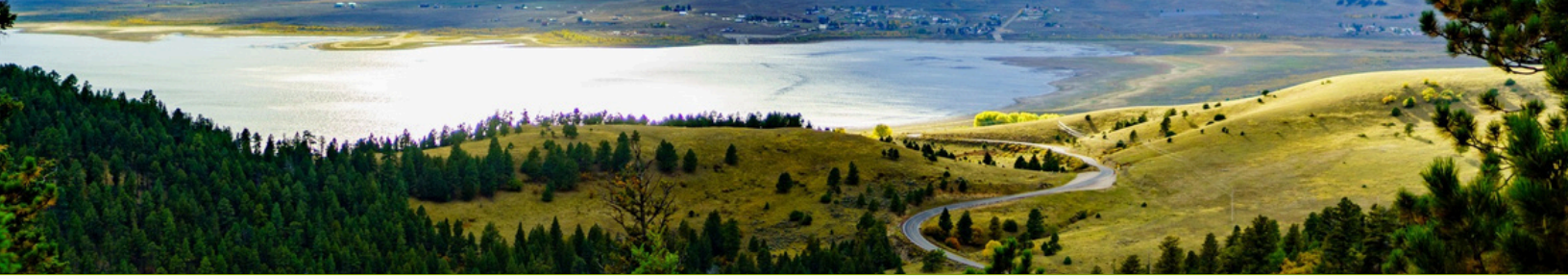




Raise the Roof Campaign - Thank you, Idlewild!



Work underway on the Caretaker's Garage roof, made possible by the generosity of our Idlewild community ♡



In Memoriam

2025/2026

Sarah Anthony
Martha Couch
Barbara Eckles
Sandra Gorohoff
Rhonda Mitchell Hargrave
Carol Warner King
Fred McMann
BK Meyers' daughter
Vicki Mixon
Percy Reid
Craig Sutton
Betty Wilhoit
Phillip Woodburn
Woody Wolverton

