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First name: Kellie

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Organization: Montlure Camp

Title: Executive Director

Comments: I am the current Executive Director of Montlure Camp. I was hired a few years after the Wallow Fire displaced us, as the Montlure Board recognized the importance of maintaining a thriving program to bring back to Greer if and when we could return. For over 13 years, Montlure has continued to operate by renting sites at various locations, even offering virtual camp during COVID, to meet the needs of our youth and provide a safe environment for recreational activities.

These years have not been without challenges. Each summer, we packed and transported all our supplies (even bunk beds), trained staff off-site, navigated diverse property management criteria, and operated without full autonomy while using various rental sites. Despite these obstacles, we knew the effort was vital for our long-term sustainability, and never ceased working with the U.S. Forest Service to find a viable path back to our site in Greer.

During this time away from our home site, we have learned that Montlure is more than just a place. Our mission and purpose have grown stronger. However, having a permanent location is essential for sustaining and building our program. With nearly a 100-year history at our Greer site, we have deep roots in the property and the community. Generations of families have camped there, making it a cornerstone of our legacy, and one we desire to offer for many generations to come.

As our mission has expanded to serve many campers who are disadvantaged or at risk, having a permanent site to manage, maintain, and develop is essential to continue serving our community and providing a safe place they can recreate and call home. Moving forward with the categorical exclusion to complete the basic and necessary restoration of our site is vital to our future. Greer is our home, and we look forward to the day when we can focus solely on fulfilling our mission rather than exhausting our efforts to return to our site.