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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Preserving the Past for the Future – Crystal Mill Restoration Project

On Sunday, Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 **SGM**, and local Snowmass Contractor **Summit Construction**, joined forces to help preserve pieces of the historic Crystal Mill. With an enormous turn out from each company - collectively 24 volunteers - we were able to check off numerous items on the list for this year's Crystal Mill Restoration Project.

Each year **SGM** commits to performing a few service projects or four or five. Service projects are most often chosen by a staff person who has the passion for a particular project and has the will to lead a team of volunteers. Since **SGM** staff are typically the outdoors-y type, the service projects generally involve preserving, restoring or building trails, roads or bridges, enabling them to more fully enjoy the outdoors with their families.

The Crystal Mill is reportedly one of the most photographed historic sites in Colorado and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. Originally it was built as a compressor station which used a water turbine to drive an air compressor for the mining equipment for a nearby mine. When the mine closed the mill ceased operation. Since then it has seen the care of individuals and historical societies in the region; although currently owned by a private party, it continues to receive donations to maintain its structural integrity. Matt Hutson, its caretaker and an **SGM** project manager, and several other staff felt the old mill would serve as a rewarding **SGM** service project. The **SGM** Grassroots Committee quickly agreed and began planning an approach late last summer.

A site visit a few weeks ago by Matt, several **SGM** structural engineers, and contractors from **Summit Construction**, identified critical tasks to be addressed in the restoration project. Stabilization of aging penstock – an ongoing process – was started with the help of **Summit Construction**. The bottom logs at the rear of the building had deteriorated and were replaced with a tree that had been cut down from last year's restoration project. A few other items that had been taken care of; such as the installation of the door on the downstream side and a general interior and exterior clean-up of the mill. In addition, numerous chainsaws were used to cut down trees and brush within 100' of the structure to provide defensible space to protect the mill from potential adjacent fires.

Next year the team will look at replacement of the bottom front logs on the corners of the building above the mill pond, as well as fire mitigation efforts, as well as general clean-up of the interior and exterior of the mill.

For many years to come, the Crystal Mill will continue to delight those persistent enough to make their way up to its stunning setting. The **SGM / Summit Construction Team** truly have

helped to preserve the past for future generations to enjoy. Not bad for a weekend adventure for a few chainsaws, a dozen jacks, a construction team, and two handfuls of engineers.

***Thank you for all who helped make this special event happen.***

***We value our communities and we want to take care of them.***

**Summit Construction** is a trusted commercial and residential contractor located in Aspen / Snowmass Village Colorado. **Summit Construction** provides local General Contracting services for projects in the Roaring Fork Valley and beyond. **Summit Construction** welcomes your inquiries at: <http://cosummitconstruction.com/> or 970.279.4212.

**SGM** is a full-service engineering and surveying firm for both the public and private sectors. For more than 28 years, **SGM** has had a strong presence in western Colorado serving as town engineers for 12 municipalities and 11 special districts. **SGM** welcomes your inquiries at: [www.sgm-inc.com](http://www.sgm-inc.com), or 970.945.1004.

*Photographs are compliments of Louis Meyer, President & CEO of SGM and Dr. Ryan Zwelling*