



FRRS Receives Capital Support Grants in 2023

- Eugene Vicknair

In 2023, the Feather River Rail Society was awarded three grants, including a major award dedicated to the construction on the long-planned Whitman Building. This grant is still in the release process, with financial reporting and project projections being refined and submitted to the Department of Agriculture.

The other two awards we received, while smaller in amount, are very welcome help with our museum needs. We received \$7,500 from the Union Pacific Foundation for Americans with Disabilities Act improvements and \$10,000 from Plumas County for improvements to the drainage system on the north side of the Diesel Shop. Work related to both project specific grants will be occurring in 2024 and is currently in the planning stages.

As for 2024, the FRRS is pursuing several other grants that are applicable to various projects around the museum, ranging from small, sub \$10,000 amounts to almost half a million. As with any substantive grant, they are all highly competitive with no guarantee the FRRS will obtain them. But as the saying goes, "If you never try, you'll never know."

While very beneficial to our programs, grants are almost always tied to specific projects and expenditures and have specific limitations. The large grant for the Whitman Building, for instance, can only be used for expenses related to that project and its construction. With grant

limitations, it is very important that the FRRS continue to build other types of income. For example, we are currently reviewing improvements to the RAL program, exploring new income opportunities, and considering how best to promote the 2024 season to bring in more visitors and members.

As always, you, the members of the FRRS, are the backbone. Your membership dues, donations and store purchases help fund equipment restorations, archive improvements and repairs to the facility. In the upcoming weeks, you will be receiving the Spring 2024 FRRS fundraising letter in the mail, which will also include a request to reach out to non-member WP fans asking them to join. Your support is vital to keeping the WP alive and helping us expand the work of the museum. So help spread the word and continue to support the Feather River Rail Society.

Please consider donating, volunteering and / or signing up a new member today. Every bit is vital!

To donate online, visit the online WP store at <https://westernpacificstore.mybigcommerce.com/donations/> or the main website at:

<https://donate.wplives.org>

You can also donate by mail. Send your check made out to the FRRS to:

*Feather River Rail Society
Fundraising
P O Box 608
Portola, CA 96122*