SALT MOUNTAIN PASTORAL RETREAT
Project Spotlight

CUSTOMER:
Salt Mountain Pastoral Retreat
North Fork, Idaho

A worthwhile project located in North Fork, Idaho that was proudly sponsored by LATICRETE.
**Situation**

Salt Mountain is a pastoral retreat and crisis center under construction in the mountains of Idaho that will offer a place for those in the emotionally challenging field of ministry to relax, recover and recharge. The non-denominational, non-profit group is focused on providing support for ministry professionals as they deal with issues of depression, congregational discord, financial solvency, marital instability, and more. Working with 600 acres (243 hectares) donated in the North Fork area of Idaho near the Montana border, Salt Mountain is building the great house, which will serve as the center of the facility where visitors will take meals, attend classes, and meet as a group. Relying solely on donations and volunteers, the organization needed materials for installing a stone veneer on the exterior of the great house and approached LATICRETE for a donation. LATICRETE provided the necessary materials and instructions and construction is underway.

“Salt Mountain will be a very important resource to the ministry community, and we are pleased to be able to help by providing materials and expertise that will create a beautiful, lasting facility in a spectacular location.”

~ Sean Boyle
Senior Director of Marketing and Product Management, LATICRETE

**Challenge**

The organizers faced several significant challenges with this project:

TEMPERATURE VARIATIONS — Due to its location in the mountains, the retreat center is subject to significant changes in temperature throughout the seasons. Low temperatures in the winter can dip below zero (−18°C), while high temperatures in the summer can exceed 110°F (37.8°C).

NATURAL STONE WITH SMOOTH BACK — The stone veneer chosen for the exterior of the main building is assembled from natural stone with a smooth back, making it challenging to achieve a secure bond to the structure.

VOLUNTEER TIME — As a non-profit venture, Salt Mountain relies on volunteer groups for most of its labor needs. These groups are typically available for very short, specific periods of time, so the materials had to be easy to use and quick to apply while offering the best long-term performance.
The first phase of construction for Salt Mountain is to complete the great house—the hub of the facility that will eventually include a number of individual cottages spread across the property. Using the donated Laticrete materials to install the donated stone veneer, organizers are making good progress and are very pleased with the results. The structure is built into the side of the mountain and will operate off the grid, able to maintain a constant temperature year round with natural insulation. Without the donated materials, Salt Mountain would not have been able to make this strong initial progress toward creating a place of solace and encouragement for an underserved community.

"Our research showed us that LATICRETE materials would provide the best results by far for this phase of our building project. Our budget is completely dependent on donations, so when they agreed to provide materials and training at no cost, it was a huge blessing that is allowing us to move forward with the construction of our life-changing retreat facility."

~ Teresa Wade
Salt Mountain Pastoral Retreat

LATICRETE Solutions
LATICRETE solutions that played a role in the Salt Mountain project include:

**MVIS™ Premium Mortar Bed**, a polymer fortified blend of carefully selected polymers, portland cement and graded aggregates was used to produce a thick bed mortar with exceptional strength to prepare for the exterior application of stone veneer.

**MVIS™ Air & Water Barrier**, a single component, load bearing, fluid applied, waterproofing, crack isolation, air barrier membrane that produces a seamless, monolithic elastomeric coating and bonds directly to a wide variety of substrates was used to improve building longevity, save energy and increase building comfort for Salt Mountain visitors.

**MVIS™ Hi-Bond Veneer Mortar**, a polymer fortified, thin-set mortar for interior and exterior installation of masonry veneer, stone, ceramic tile, quarry tile, pavers and thin brick, was used for its unsurpassed adhesion and workability to install the stone veneer on the mortar bed.

Outcome
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