

Category 2: Meeting the Challenge of a Difficult Job – Specialty Contractor
Specialty Contractor: Hunt Electric, Inc.
Project Name: Pioneer Crossing Restaurant on Peak 7, Breckenridge, CO

Welcome to a different place. A place where the sunrise produces a spectacular show across a deep blue sky which can only be seen from atop the highest peaks. A place where pristine snowfall is a regular occurrence and glistens like miniature diamonds in the sunlight. The serenity is broken only by the early risers who strap on their skis and jostle in line to catch the first chair to the top. Nearing 11,400 feet, the fresh air is filtered from the haze of the city and is refreshingly crisp and cool. When disembarking from the lift, guests are welcomed by a clearing in the trees where a grand lodge awaits. With southeast facing floor-to-ceiling windows, skiers and boarders alike can warm-up and rejuvenate while watching the storm clouds build over the Rocky Mountains with a promise of fresh powder.

Being the second most visited ski resort in North America with 1.6 million visitors per year, Breckenridge Ski Resort's Peak 7 is a waypoint for advanced skiers and the destination for the rest of the us. Located at the top of the Independence chairlift, nestled between pine trees with spectacular mountain views and meandering wildlife, is the Pioneer Crossing Restaurant. This 18,000-square foot wood frame structure was designed to serve nearly 500 hungry guests and is the highest full-service restaurant in North America. The building also houses the ski patrol and emergency rescue facility to increase the effectiveness of first responders on the mountain.

Hunt Electric was honored to be selected to partner with the Hyder Construction team to successfully bring this picturesque vision to life.

Solutions of Special Projects/Team Approach

Early in the preconstruction phase of the project Hunt Electric recognized several key challenges which would need to be overcome in order to successfully deliver the project to the owner on time. A primary obstacle was the availability of skilled electricians along with other craftsmen due to the construction boom in Colorado. Compounding the manpower shortage further, the project had an accelerated 6-day work week schedule, extremely limited site access, critical work activity coordination with other trades, significant site congestion, and varying weather conditions which rounded out the top of the list.

With this endeavor, Hunt Electric successfully mobilized craftsmen, tools, equipment, luminaires, pad mounted switchgear, 12' diameter chandeliers, and the infinite number of electrical parts and pieces to put it all together. In conjunction with the electrical equipment and materials needed, a unified project team effort was essential for the coordination of material and supply deliveries for all trades. Ascending 2,000 vertical feet with our electrical materials along with concrete mixing trucks, rebar, sheet metal, glue laminated beams, boilers, furniture, kitchen equipment, and the never-ending list of parts and pieces required was not an easy task. Site access required transportation over six miles of an unpaved, grueling, single-lane, forest service road, which was often muddy, snow-packed and slick. Complicating matters further, once the aggregate 90 inches of snow began to fall it never relented. With the service road buried in snow, mobilization to the project site for manpower, materials and tools was limited by way of snow cat and chairlift. Only through precise organization and teamwork could an achievement of this magnitude be accomplished! Hunt Electric coordinated daily with the project team, vendors, and independent carriers to ensure the 'just in time' equipment deliveries were coordinated with military precision.

In order to keep our teams' moral at its peak, we incentivized our employees by implementing our performance program which takes into account safety, quality, production, and attendance to help keep our team focused on the task at hand. Our effective onsite project team implemented a continuous feedback loop which permitted the trades to respond more effectively to resolve constructability and other issues, while maintaining the aggressive 6-month construction schedule. This process turned out to be the keystone of the project and, with thorough planning and organization, resulted in efficiencies in the installations and a significant reduction in the time required onsite to perform the work.

Excellence in Project Executions and Management

Our electrical installations included furnishing, installing and commissioning: two separately derived 13,000-volt electrical services, a 50,000-gallon pump station complete with necessary controls and system integration, Information Technology System infrastructure for all low voltage systems housed in the facility, an extensive beverage distribution system, and the design and integration of the life safety system. In order to meet Vail Resort's commitment to achieving carbon neutrality within the next several years, and without simply purchasing carbon credits,

our scope included the installation of a modern lighting control system coupled with energy efficient lighting and other building systems. This enabled the owner to begin their journey in achieving their goal of zero carbon emissions.

To add to the coordination complexities, the state of the art kitchen is designed to maximize the limited amount of available floor space while serving a large volume of guests in an efficient manner without sacrificing the quality customers have grown to expect from this world class resort. All aspects of the facilities' design and culinary equipment was paramount in ensuring no detail was overlooked in the electrical design and distribution for the facility. Complicating the coordination efforts, the equipment selection was not finalized until over one hundred unique culinary units were vetted to perform at the extreme elevation. Hunt Electric collaborated with the project team to coordinate its installations and ensure the product performed as required, and in the space allowed, to meet the needs of the customer.

Construction Innovation

In addition, to meet the demands of the project, Hunt formulated a plan to reduce the work onsite by prefabricating the majority of the electrical installations at our facility in Littleton, Colorado. By implementing our 'just in time' delivery of the assemblies, the Hunt team was able to maximize production onsite with minimal waste, all while incorporating the latest design revisions into the prefabricated electrical assemblies. With the challenges associated with the mobilization of materials to the jobsite, packaging that was easy to handle but could withstand the rough terrain and elements, was utilized to eliminate the potential for damage. Regardless if the material was transported to the project by truck, snow cat, or chairlift no material was lost or damaged!

Environmental/Safety

Faced with the extreme altitude, daily temperature fluctuations of up to 40°, and the associated physical fatigue, Hunt Electric performed its scope of work without any lost time injuries which contributed to the achievement of our corporate milestone of exceeding 5 million manhours without a lost time injury incident. Our onsite team met several times a day and planned their activities in detail taking into consideration all aspects of site conditions. Reflecting on the demobilization phase of the project in late December when temperatures plummeted below 0°,

with the usual mountain squalls, the Hunt Electric Foreman stated: “We took 5 to 10 minute shifts outside and watched the guys closely. We didn’t want anyone getting frostbite or slipping and falling during demobilizing after a perfect project.”

Excellence in Client Service

Hunt Electric played an integral role in meeting the customer's requirement to complete the project on time and under budget. Without the collaborative efforts of the entire project team, the Pioneer Crossing Restaurant Project could not have been a success, as attested by Ian MacKinnon, Hyder Construction's Project Engineer: “Being stationed onsite for the duration of the work, I have intimate knowledge of the complexities of the project. With proactive collaboration efforts from Hunt Electric's onsite staff, I know their crew of electricians contributed greatly to the overall success of the project”.

Meeting the challenge of a difficult project cannot be achieved without effective leadership and teamwork. Hunt Electric worked in concert to coordinate, plan, and execute our specific feature of work to ensure a successful project. Justin Black, Project Manager with Hyder Construction, said, “Hunt Electric's continuing commitment and dedication to the project and the collective group has set themselves apart as a leader on the Pioneer Crossing project”. Hyder Construction and the Pioneer Crossing Restaurant project were recently awarded ENR's 2017 Mountain States Best Project of the Year in the Residential/Hospitality category.

From project inception to close-out, Hunt Electric's goal was to exceed our customer's expectations no matter what challenges we faced. As the autumn colors faded and the snow started to fly, the difficulties continued and Hunt Electric was ready and able to answer the call. Due to our teams' commitment to excellence and continued perseverance in the execution of the work, we were able to overcome the challenges of this difficult project. Hunt Electric provided superior customer value through a culture of quality, integrity, safety, performance, and most importantly, versatility. Hunt Electric is proud to have been able to rise to the top on the Pioneer Crossing Restaurant on Peak 7 project.









