



Sherwins Egress Handbook

Draft - April 1, 2012



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Production of this document was funded by Measure R, a local sales-tax measure for the specific benefit of trails, parks, and recreation in Mammoth Lakes, and was produced by the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA), a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, under contract to the Town of Mammoth Lakes.



Purpose of the Program

During the winter of 2005–2006, conflicts between local backcountry skiers/snowboarders, homeowners, and private-property interests threatened to permanently close the safest and most convenient winter egress route from the base of the Sherwin Range to the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Today, thanks to a partnership between Snowcreek Investment Company L.P. (developer of Snowcreek VIII), the Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML), and the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA), an approved, legal route leading outdoor recreationists home from the base of this well-loved frontcountry ski amenity has been secured and marked with directional signage.

The Sherwins egress route is the result of a two-year decision-making process and is formalized as a component of the adopted Snowcreek VIII Master Development Plan and the Town of Mammoth Lakes Trail System Master Plan as adopted in October 2011. To protect, maintain, and enhance the Sherwins Egress Program, this handbook was produced by MLTPA, under contract with the TOML, for the benefit of the partners in the Mammoth Lakes Trail System (MLTS) as well as for the general public. The TOML is responsible for the maintenance, publication, and distribution of the Sherwins Egress Program Handbook.

Installation and Maintenance

The following represents an inventory of the Sherwins Egress Program infrastructure, as well as the installation and maintenance procedures for providing outdoor recreationists with the necessary signage and wayfinding information to follow the approved, legal route.

The Sherwins Egress Program infrastructure consists of the following signs:

- 1) One (1) 10', 2"x2" wooden post with an attached 12"x18" dibond sign using 3M Control Tac and 3M UV overlamination, seasonally located at the base of the most popular Sherwins approach just off of the Lakes Basin winter public-access corridor (Lake Mary Road in the summertime).
- 2) One (1) 12"x18" dibond sign using 3M Control Tac and 3M UV overlamination, permanently attached to the Lake Mary Road seasonal-closure sign, aka the "Lake Mary Spur."
- 3) Four (4) signs, property of Snowcreek Investment Company L.P., located on the Snowcreek Golf Course along the specified egress route.
- 4) Two (2) 12"x18" dibond signs using 3M Control Tac and 3M UV overlamination, available for replacement needs in the event of loss or damage.

The installation date for the seasonal signs is dependent upon snowpack, but the program has maintained a general date of November 1 for installation and sometime in April for removal. The program manager shall coordinate with Snowcreek's property manager to verify the date and location of Snowcreek's signs (#3, above) at the time of installation of the other two signs (#1 and #2, above).

Maintenance shall be provided to the installed signs on an as-needed basis, but the recommended schedule should include checking on the signs after any significant

weather events and/or during times of high recreationist visitation (holidays, big snowfalls, etc.).

Partner Coordination

The following action items comprise the necessary coordination and communication to ensure the success of the Sherwins Egress Program:

- 1) Prior to the seasonal installation of the signs, all partners shall be contacted by the program manager to provide an opportunity for comment on the upcoming seasonal operations, including, but not limited to, any updates to the sign graphics, messaging, maps, and locations.
- 2) Confirm that all signs owned and maintained by Snowcreek Investment Company L.P. are installed and properly located.
- 3) Throughout the season, partners shall be provided feedback or updates from the program managers on issues that may arise from the route's regular use.
- 4) At the end of the season, partners shall be provided a season-closing update including, but not limited to, feedback and/or suggestions from users, other partners, and the program manager.
- 5) Ad-hoc meetings may also be necessary throughout the winter season, and any stakeholder should feel free to call a meeting of the partners for concerns raised regarding the Sherwins Egress Program.

Public Outreach

The following constitutes the public outreach for the Sherwins Egress Program:

1. Seasonal-opening press release distributed to local media. (See Appendix B.)
2. Email distributed to all interested parties and partners of the MLTS. (See Appendix C.)
3. Project web page shall be updated to reflect any changes in the signage and wayfinding along the egress route and/or any other updates to the program. (See Appendix D.)

Evaluation

While no formal evaluation program is in place for the Sherwins Egress Program, this document recommends that the partners engage in a regular assessment of the program and look for opportunities for improvement.

Appendices

Appendix A: Sign Graphic and Map
Appendix B: Sample Press Release
Appendix C: Sample Email Messaging
Appendix D: Sample Web Page

Appendix A: Sign Graphic and Map

SHERWINS SKIERS AND SNOWBOARDERS:

If you're planning to get back to town by way of Old Mammoth Road rather than Sherwin Creek Road, you'll be crossing private land. Please follow the approved route to Ranch Road. Four red signs mark this route: the first is located on the fence that edges Snowcreek Golf Course and shows where to cross the course; the second and third signs direct you to Ranch Road; and the fourth is located on the left (west) side of the gate and directs you to the public easement around the gate. This is the only legal route across these private lands. Following it and respecting the privacy of adjoining private-property owners will protect your right to continue to use this route. Look for the red signs.

Thank you and have a great day!
Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation
Snowcreek Resort
Town of Mammoth Lakes

Please follow the four red signs to Ranch Road.



Appendix B: Sample Press Release



December 18, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kim Stravers, MLTPA Community Engagement Director, at (760) 934-3154 or kimstravers@mltpa.org

PUBLIC EGRESS FROM THE SHERWINS TO RANCH ROAD

In 2006, conflicts between private property owners and skiers and snowboarders exiting the Sherwins nearly closed the most convenient route back to town. Through the cooperative efforts of Snowcreek Investment Company, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA), and local homeowners, an agreement was reached that provides a direct and legal route from the base of the Sherwins to the public-access easement at Ranch Road. The route across the Snowcreek golf course has been legally secured through the Town Council's adoption of the Snowcreek VIII Master Plan and the Snowcreek Development Agreement. By following the identified route and respecting the privacy of the nearby homes, skiers and snowboarders can protect their ability to continue to use this route.

The Sherwins area is one of the most accessible and diverse out-of-bounds ski areas in the country. It provides a wide variety of backcountry skiing and riding conveniently located adjacent to the community of Mammoth Lakes. The most direct route for getting back to town from the Sherwins area requires crossing private land to get to the bus or your car. As a part of its approved development plans, Snowcreek Investment Company has provided a legal route that connects the base of the Sherwins area to the gate at Ranch Road. This route across the Snowcreek property is marked with four red signs. It begins at the fence on the south side of the golf course and heads directly to Ranch Road. Once at Ranch Road, walk around the left (west) side of the gate—not through the yards of nearby homes. From Ranch Road, the bus stop at Snowcreek Athletic Club is just a short walk. This is the only legal way out from the western base of the Sherwins directly to Old Mammoth Road. Skiers and riders exiting the eastern parts of the Sherwins may prefer to get back to town via Sherwin Creek Road.

Public parking is available at Mammoth Creek Park and the Tavern Road Park and Ride lot. Both lots can be reached by bus from Snowcreek Athletic Club.

Please be sure to follow the identified route and respect the private property that you are crossing and the privacy of the homes near the route. This will assure that your ability to ski/board/walk out from the Sherwins will be protected.

For more information about skiing the Sherwins, please visit www.mltpa.org. For information on avalanche hazard levels and traveling in avalanche terrain, please visit the Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center Web site at www.esavalanche.org.

Thank you for your consideration in responsibly using the identified routes. Be safe and have fun!

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The Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA) is a 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation dedicated to trails and public access issues in Mammoth Lakes, Calif., and the immediate Eastern Sierra region. MLTPA partners with local jurisdictions and agencies, businesses, nonprofits, and individuals to connect people to nature and to provide a forum for all trail users to be involved.

Appendix C: Sample Email Messaging

Sherwins Egress Partner Update

Greetings Sherwins Egress Partners:
(TOML, Chadmar/Snowcreek, MMSA/Tamarack, MLTPA)

Thanks to the coordinated effort among The Chadmar Group, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, MMSA/Tamarack and MLTPA, during the winter of 2010-2011, we witnessed the successful implementation of the Sherwins egress. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your commitment to this process and assistance in making this a successful endeavor for the community of Mammoth Lakes. We would also like to take a moment of your time to update you on the implementation of this project and inform the partners of some identified opportunities for improvement.

In early March 2011, the Mammoth Lakes community was informed of the Sherwins egress program through various news media outlets, including the Sierra Wave, the Sheet, Mammoth Times, Recreation This Week, and the Town E-News. With this outreach, and improved signage and wayfinding along the route, the egress route was highly visible and allowed for some important feedback from recreationists and other interested parties. Based on the feedback received from users and partners, as well as the observances from a site visit between MLTPA and Snowcreek's John Morris, the following recommendations are being made to improve the Sherwins egress program:

- 1) The first and largest sign along the southern fence line that directs users where to start crossing the golf course, should be moved approximately 150 feet to the east along the fence line to improve visibility and to better direct recreationists to the public easement at the Ranch Road Gate.
- 2) There should be an additional directional sign placed on the golf course, to be located on a prominent knoll in the line of sight of the approved route.
- 3) On the two informational signs located along Lake Mary Road, additional messaging is to be coordinated with MMSA/Tamarack to prevent confusion among MMSA/Tamarack snowshoers thinking that there is a snowshoe route heading up the Sherwin ridge.

Building on the success of this past winter, we hope to continue to provide winter recreationists with a safe and convenient egress route. Thanks again for helping make this project a success and helping to improve the egress route for next winter. If you have any additional comments or questions, please don't hesitate to contact Drew Blankenbaker, MLTPA Natural Resources Director, at drewblankenbaker@mltpa.org (760) 934-3154. We hope to have the Sherwins egress program up and in place prior to the Christmas holidays, 2011.

Appendix D: Sample Web Page

Current Projects

- Mammoth Lakes Trail System
- MLTS Summer of Stewardship 2011
- MLTS Interpretive Services Planning
- **Sherwins Egress**
- Measure R Grants and Reporting
- Mono County Recreation Access Tool (MCRAT)
- MLTS Signage & Wayfinding Program
- Shady Rest Motorized Staging Project
- RecStrats
- LABSS: Lakes Basin Special Study
- Summer of Stewardship 2010
- Trail System Master Plan Final Draft (2009)
- MLTPA GIS Inventory Contract (MLTPA GIC)

Archived Projects

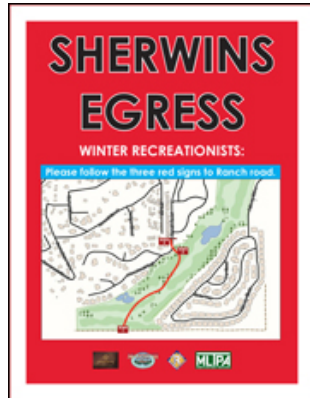
Advocacy

Sign up for our newsletter!
Enter your email address here:

e-mail

Via credit card or e-check: [Click here!](#)

Sherwins Egress



Project Description: During the winter of 2005-2006, conflicts between local backcountry skiers/snowboarders, homeowners, and private-property interests threatened to forever close the safest and most convenient winter egress route from the base of the Sherwin Range to the town of Mammoth Lakes. Today, thanks to a partnership between The Chadmar Group (developer of Snowcreek VIII), the Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML), and MLTPA, an approved, legal route leading outdoor recreationists home from the base of this well-loved frontcountry ski amenity has been secured and marked with directional signage. The Snowcreek egress route is the result of a two-year decision-making process and is a component of the adopted Snowcreek VIII Master Development Plan.

The egress proceeds along a designated route across the Snowcreek Golf Course and terminates on the north side of the gate across Ranch Road via a public easement around the gate's west side. (Please see the accompanying sign detail, downloadable below, for more information). Backcountry enthusiasts are urged to follow only this identified route, as it is the sole legal egress route to town from the Sherwin Range between Mill City to the west and the Borrow Pit to the east. Travel across any other portion of the Snowcreek Golf Course, which is a private holding, is prohibited and users may be cited for trespassing. Please respect the rights of homeowners and private-property interests and assist your fellow backcountry enthusiasts in reinforcing the value of this route for the long term by following the installed signage across the Snowcreek Golf Course as you exit the Sherwins.

Winter 2011/2012 Update:

As a part of its approved development plans, Snowcreek Investment Company has provided a legal route that connects the base of the Sherwins area to the gate at Ranch Road and is in effect once there is adequate snow cover across the golf course. This route across the Snowcreek property is marked with four red signs. This is the only legal way out from the western base of the Sherwins directly to Old Mammoth Road. Skiers and riders exiting the eastern parts of the Sherwins may prefer to get back to town via Sherwin Creek Road. Click [here](#) to download the official press release and learn more about this egress.

DELIVERABLES

[Press Release, 12/17/11](#) (98 KB)

[Press Release, 03/16/11](#) (106 KB)

[Sign Detail](#) (2.2 MB)

PHOTOS

Click [here](#) to check out a photo gallery of the Sherwins Egress signage and route.

PRESS

[Recreation This Week, 12/21/11](#) (139 KB)

[Town E-News, 12/22/11](#) (111 KB)

[Mammoth Times editorial, 03/04/11](#) (1.6 MB)