

**MAMMOTH LAKES**  
**W I N T E R**  
**R E C R E A T I O N**  
**S U M M I T**

**“WINTER RECREATION IN THE LAKES BASIN”**

*Presented By:*

**The Town of Mammoth Lakes**

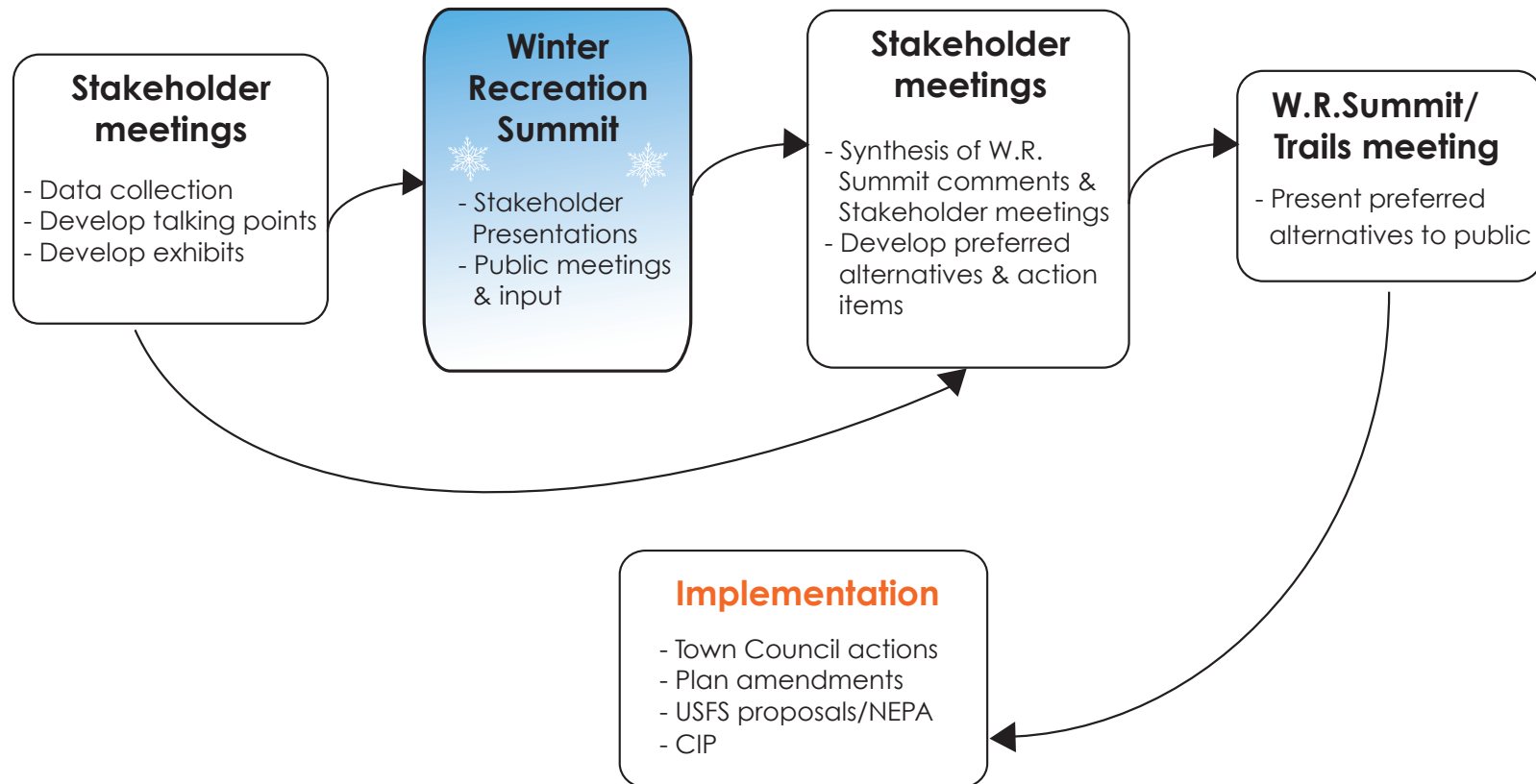
Saturday, March 19

4:30 PM- 5:30 PM

Sierra Event Center, 452 Old Mammoth Road



# Winter Recreation Summit Process



# Town of Mammoth Lakes Trail System Master Plan

- Goals
  - 1) Develop a plan for an integrated year-round trail network that provides for seamless transition between the Town of Mammoth Lakes, the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area Mountain Bike Park, and the surrounding federal lands overseen by the USFS.



# Town of Mammoth Lakes Trail System Master Plan

- Goals
  - 2) Develop a plan that provides guidance for enhancing year-round mobility in a way that is consistent with the Town's "Feet First" strategy.



# Town of Mammoth Lakes Trail System Master Plan

- Goals
  - 3) Create a plan that clearly identifies the projects and programs necessary for implementation.



# Town of Mammoth Lakes Trail System Master Plan

- G13: Summit Process

Key issues not addressed in the TSMP will be resolved through a collaborative Summit Process, led by the TOML with assistance provided by MLTPA.



# SUMMIT PROCESS

## Winter Recreation in the Lakes Basin Stakeholder Meeting

- TOML Public Works
- MMSA
- Inyo National Forest



# SUMMIT PROCESS

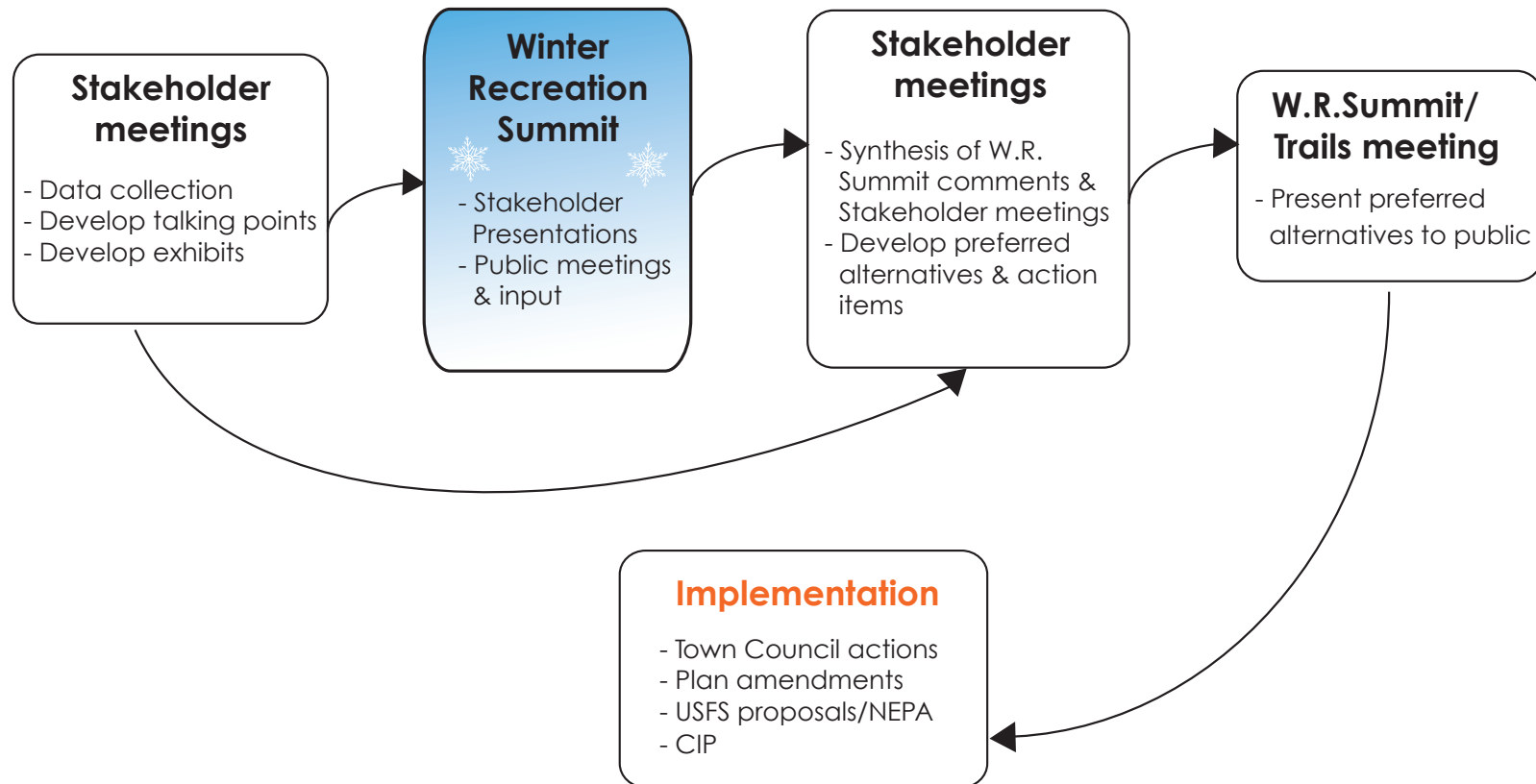
## Winter Recreation in the Lakes Basin Stakeholder Meeting

- Lake Mary Road Closure
  - Parking
  - Restrooms
  - Snow-play, Backcountry Access
  - Transit
- Public Access Corridor
- Lakes Basin Path/Future Multi-Use Pathways
- User Conflicts





# Winter Recreation Summit Process



A blue banner with white snowflake graphics. The text "MAMMOTH LAKES" is in yellow, and "WINTER RECREATION SUMMIT" is in white, stacked vertically.

**MAMMOTH LAKES**  
**WINTER**  
**RECREATION**  
**SUMMIT**

**“WINTER RECREATION IN THE LAKES BASIN”**

**TAMARACK**



# Agenda:

- Tamarack mission
- Define Lakes Basin users
- Discuss numbers of users
- User feedback
- Current management of multi-use
- New ideas for multi-use management



# Tamarack Mission:

THE TAMARACK CROSS COUNTRY SKI CENTER  
IS COMMITTED TO:

Professional and friendly service and providing a unique and peaceful winter experience.

## CAT CREW MISSION STATEMENT:

Groom the cross country trails to the best quality possible, in the most efficient and safe way, every day.

Tamarack Lodge and it's Nordic Ski Center is one of the oldest and only full time permittee in the Lakes Basin. Our stewardship of the Lakes Basin spans nearly 50 years.

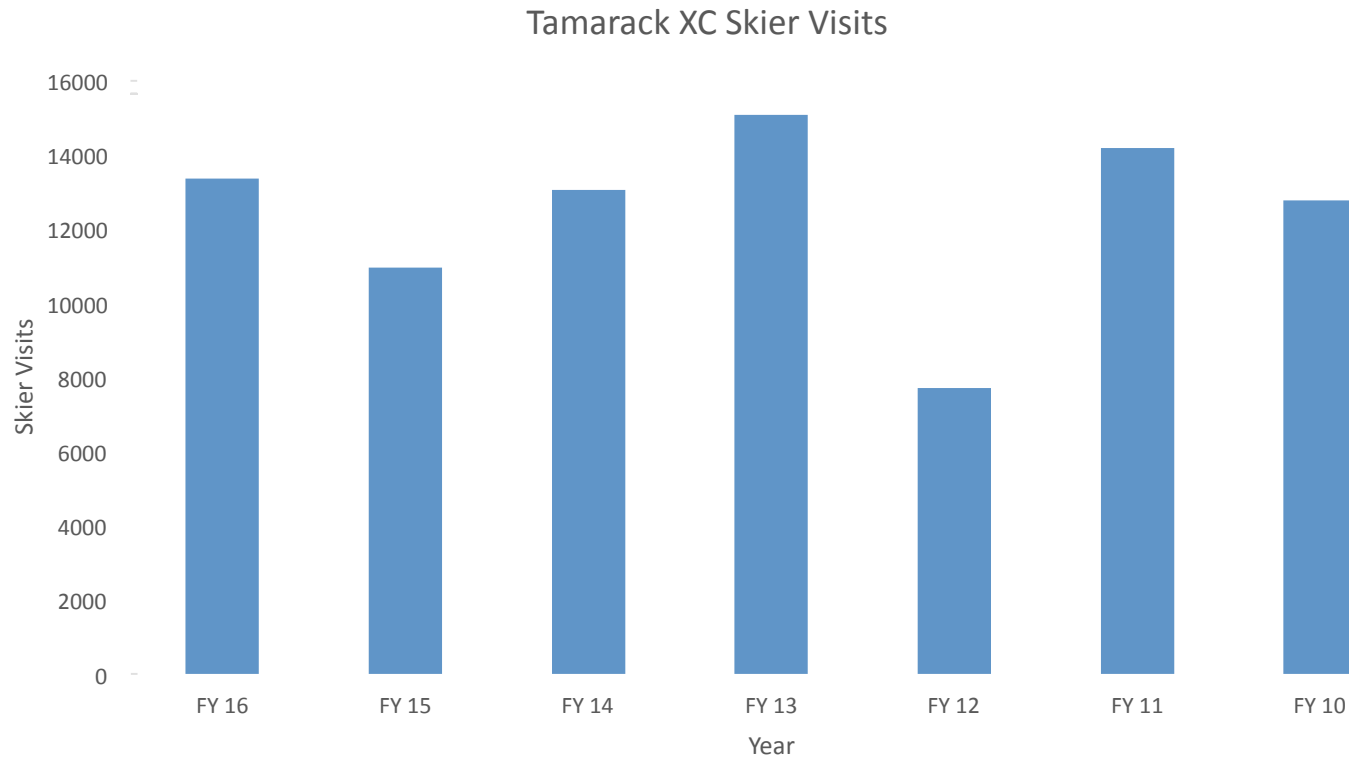


# Lakes Basin Winter Recreation Users:

- Nordic Skiers
- Snow Shoe Guests
- Hikers
- Back Country Skiers/Snowboarders
- Snow Play
- Dog Walkers
- Snowmobiling
- Cabin Permittees



# Numbers of Users:



- 2016 is estimated to end the year above 15,000. the highest year on record.



# Numbers of Users:

## December 2014 vs. 2015

Date	Public Access	Backcountry	Dogs	non paid skier
Dec-14	1990	76	178	70

Date	Public Access	Backcountry	Dogs	non paid skier
Dec-15	916	213	158	119

- Counting spot moved up to Twin Lakes Art Gallery in 2015.
- Close to a 1,000 people less at new counting spot.
- Assume we had just as many snow play people (if not more) but less multi-use conflicts due to XC trail adjustments.



# Numbers of Users:

## January 2015 vs. 2016

Date	Public Access	Backcountry	Dogs	non paid skier
Jan-15	2463	86	382	281

Date	Public Access	Backcountry	Dogs	non paid skier
Jan-16	1264	336	189	115

- 1,200 people less at new counting spot.
- Assuming we had more snow play people given town occupancy but less multi use conflicts.
- Backcountry usage showing a good increase in addition to snowshoe usage up 200%, reflected by our rentals.





# User Feedback:

We have collected guest feedback from our user groups through various means.

- Spread sheet below represents our current post departure survey for 2016

	Other Recreation: Cross-Country Skiing						
	Feb 28	Mar 6	Mar 13	Mar 20	STD	LSTD	Difference: STD vs. LSTD
Staff Engaging/Attentive	94%	92%	100%	-	94%	93%	1 pt.
Staff Friendly	95%	92%	100%	-	95%	93%	2 pts.
Staff Able to Answer Questions	95%	92%	100%	-	94%	94%	1 pt.
Trail Conditions	89%	90%	90%	-	91%	83%	<b>9 pts.</b>
Tamarack Signage	87%	90%	85%	-	87%	86%	0 pts.
Cleanliness of Restrooms	84%	86%	70%	-	89%	86%	2 pts.
Overall Experience	95%	92%	90%	-	93%	87%	<b>6 pts.</b>
Cross Country Stressful	90%	84%	90%	-	91%	-	-



MAMMOTH LAKES TRAIL SYSTEM

Great to have enough snow to open side trails. So nice to have such friendly staff.

Love it!

Could use more grooming on stormy days. There used to be a groomer running around here for the main trail(s) - thanks!

I think the current situation with the hoods at the gallery, has really helped with slipping dog & non-paidley use. But I sure hate to have to skate from the ski center - much steeper!!

Great  
tracks!  
Great grooming!

WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE LAKE MARY ROAD GROOMED AS BEFORE

- Verbatim comments from our pass holders
- Please see Appendix A for complete list



# Management of Multi Use

- Signs
- Hosts/ Nordic Staff
- Spur grooming change
- Berms
- Ideas for further multi-use management



# Signs:

- New for 2016 season
  - New content signs
  - Plus More signs





# Signs:



# Hosts/ Nordic Staff:

- We continue to increase our host and XC staff as the Lakes Basin becomes more populated with multi-users.
- 2016 season- 66.5 hours a week
  - Mon-Thursday 8:15 to 1:00
  - Friday, Saturday and Sunday AM 8:15 to 1:00, Pm shift 12:30 to 5:00 plus a six hour ski host.
- 2015 Season- 42 hours per week
  - Welcome center at spur- staffed 5 days a week.
  - One ski host for six hours on Sat and Sunday
- 2014 Season-24 hours per week
  - Two ski hosts on Sat and Sun for six hours



# Spur grooming change:

## Problem:

- Groomed trails being walked on resulting in a degradation of the grooming quality.



# Spur grooming change:

## Reason to cause Change:

- Increased multi-use of the Lakes Basin requires a greater separation and understanding between users.

## Change:

- Move the improved trail system up to the junction of Twin Lake Road and Lake Mary Road creating a buffer zone between Nordic skiers and other users.

## 2016 results:

- At least 1,000 public access people captured in between the spur gate and Twin Lakes Road
- Some lost terrain at Tamarack
- Our season pass holder survey is 3/2 between those who think it helped and those who feel unconvinced by our decision.
- Deterioration of Dome/Vista/Ueli's Alle.





# Berms:

- Plowed Berms to show separation



# Ideas for further multi-use management:

- Increase hosts for greater information and education.
- Uniform signage
- Enforcement of rules
- Dog clean up stations
- More multi-use trails
- Improved parking and restrooms
- Public transportation incentives by creating, advertising and issuing a token for a discount at Tamarack when you ride the Orange Line.
- Shared financial responsibility for non-fee user management



**MAMMOTH LAKES**  
**W I N T E R**  
**RECREATION**  
**S U M M I T**



**MAMMOTH LAKES** TRAIL SYSTEM

**THANK YOU!**

# Appendix A:

HAVING a great year on the  
spectacular trails. many thanks.  
Ted.

Beautiful day Beautiful tracks!!  
A miss doing vista and dome trails  
and being able to ski up the lake  
Mary Rd.

I ♥ TAMARACK

Best spot on earth!

I Miss the Convenience of  
parking at the lower elevation.  
I understand the idea behind it.  
but I think it would be a good idea  
to go back and come up with  
a better plan.

WE LOVE Mammoth  
X-COUNTRY SKIING →  
HAVE BEEN HERE MANY  
YEARS. WE MISS LAKE  
MARY RD. BEING GROOMED-  
PARKING IS SO MUCH  
EASIER THERE. TIX FOR  
ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!



MAMMOTH LAKES TRAIL SYSTEM



# Appendix A:

THE TRACKS ARE SUPER NICE  
ISN'T IT WONDERFUL TO HAVE  
GOOD SNOW AGAIN

THIS IS MY FIRST SEASON XC SKIING AND  
AM ENROLLED IN THE MASTERS BEGINNERS  
CLASSES. REALLY ENJOYING MYSELF AND AM  
MAKING PROGRESS. STAFF IS SUPER FRIENDLY  
AM HELPFUL. KEEP GROOMING TRAILS  
WITH THE TRACKS  
CONSIDER SELLING EQUIPMENT OR PACKAGES!

2/15/16 Main road, skating lanes  
were excellent. No foot prints  
either! Thank you for the  
cordway.

I love it here!

LAKE MARY ROAD UNGROOMED  
IS A "CHALLENGE" FOR WALKERS  
AND A MARVELOUS DISCOURAGEMENT  
FOR "DOGBERS" YAY!!  
APPRECIATE THE CHANNELING OF  
X ENTRY SKIERS PAST THE HUT  
BUT TOUGH ON US OLDIES.

I like the side trails  
I like the side trails. Sledders + dogs scare  
me.

WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE LAKE MARY  
ROAD GROOMED AS BEFORE

Excellent season. Love all  
the groomed trails.



MAMMOTH LAKES TRAIL SYSTEM

# Appendix A:

The spur closure has really helped keeping folks not skiing off the ski trail.

Keep up w/ trail grooming during storms.

I'd like to see more trail updates on [Face Book](#)

Excellent season. Love all the groomed trails.

Lots of great varied trails  
Good effort on grooming when snow is locking and it has to be moved.

I like having lots of trails  
The snow is really good this year

I love that Mine Shaft is finally open, but why did it take so long would like to see Backside Horse shoe open. I like the new Spur. I love the Gliders Program and think coaches are doing great.

The tracks today were beautiful. Very well structured - I was able to get lots of speed. A beautiful day indeed!!

Nordic skiing has been awesome this season. Hats off to the groomers. We do take many to Horseshoe and the runs have been excellent during sun and snow days. Have fallen in love with the Nordic at Mammoth again!





# Appendix A:

Worlic -

Trails are OK. Sometimes NOT  
deep in pm in Lake Mary Area  
otherwise it's been a fun year

Love cross-country skiing @ Mammoth  
Seasons pass member. Miss Lake  
Mary Rd being groomed. Thanks  
otherwise for such a great time!

I did like skiing from the  
Spruce and having access  
to dome + Vista. But I do think  
it might be helping for the walking  
situation.

Prefer Lake Mary Rd be groomed  
to bottom for parking vehicles

TANARAK SKI CENTER -

THE HIDDEN JEM OF  
MAMMOTH! NOTHING MAKES  
ME HAPPIER THAN TRAIL SKATE  
TRACES FOR MICE!!!



# Appendix A:

groomed track - perfect! lots more trails open than previous years / because of snow, I'm sure.

Ungroomed area approaching Lake Mary challenging / difficult because of berms.



good idea to leave spur trail ungroomed so less dog-walkers use it. YAY!

on Mammoth Mountain page / website - there is no direct contact # for ski center - had to call main # and be on hold 5 minutes  
would LOVE a FB page for Tamarack

still problems w/ walkers on the trails - more stuff out on the trails instead of at the hut? They are sometimes back country skiers or →

at the beginning from the upper parking lot (HLE's run). Maybe more obvious signs - "NO WALKING IN SKATING LANE?"  
Good luck!





# Appendix A:

the non-groomed area between the spur  
+ welcome center seems fine to me -  
I seldom have used that trail.

So HAPPY there is great snow this year.

I live much closer to Royal Gorge & Inver

Tahoe x-country, Kirkland, but  
you do a superior job of grooming -  
(plus the views + trails here are  
gorgeous here).

I'm still disappointed with the loss  
of terrain + I do not see an improvement  
in people not walking on the tracks.  
On 1/20, I followed deep boot tracks  
up Saddlemead until I came upon the  
walker's BM in the skating lane with  
wads of paper tracks on top. Bummer ex-  
perience for me. Appreciated the  
email from Heidi. Grooming is good!

2/5 Skating lanes had piled up snow in  
the middle or it was dug out in  
many places. People walked on Edwinder  
2/12 Boot lanes were good except Headbreak  
Hill had a "curb" at the bottom + Lake  
George was very rough. People had left  
huge, deep foot prints on 1/2 the tracks + I'm  
not exaggerating. 😊 Staff always friendly  
& positive!

