



Mammoth Trails Regular Meeting Summary
January 20, 2010
4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
Mammoth Lakes Library Ellie Randol Reading Room

- A. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by MLTPA Foundation CEO/Board President John Wentworth at 4:07 p.m. in the Ellie Randol Reading Room of the Mammoth Lakes Library. Also in attendance were Mammoth Trails Charter Members Hank Garretson (Eastern Sierra Nordic Ski Association), Forrest Cross (Friends of the Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center), and Malcolm Clark (Sierra Club); Stuart Brown (Town of Mammoth Lakes); John Urdi (Mammoth Lakes Tourism); Bill Sauser and Teri Stehlik (TOML Recreation Commission); Danna Stroud (consultant for Ormat); Kim Stravers and Neil Heinrich (MLTPA Foundation); and Jon Crowley and Michela Adrian (Eastside Ski Running).
- B. Additions to Agenda:** Mr. Garretson expressed concern about the Lakes Basin Path potentially being damaged by snow-removal operations. This view was shared by Mr. Wentworth, who noted that MLTPA has mentioned this issue at its regular weekly meeting with the TOML.
- C. Organizational Items**
- 1. Acceptance of December 16, 2010, Meeting Summary (Kim Stravers):**
The summary was accepted by the Charter Members as it was submitted.
 - 2. Draft Equipment Checkout Form (Andrew Kastor and Stuart Brown):**
Mr. Kastor was unable to attend this meeting, so Mr. Brown provided this update. Mr. Brown noted that the P.A. system and the swim buoys noted in this form are yet to be purchased. The group discussed the need for the deposit, despite it being a minor inconvenience for some potential renters. Mr. Brown noted that the new TOML attorney has read this form and has added language pertaining to volunteers and participants granting the TOML indemnity from claims, such that the applicant group assumes all responsibility rather than having each individual event participant sign a waiver. Mr. Brown would like to get this form in front of the Recreation Commission on February 8, which was supported by the group. It was clarified that the form should be called an "Equipment Use Application" and reference to the deposit be changed to "equipment usage deposit."
- D. Special Updates**
- 1. Casa Diablo Project (Danna Stroud):** Ms. Stroud briefly explained the environmental-review process for the geothermal plant expansion and well additions at Shady Rest. She noted that the Bureau of Land Management is handling NEPA and that the Air Quality Resources Board is handling CEQA. Two key areas of interest for the TOML in this process are water

resource management and significant potential recreation impacts from the proposed pipelines. Ms. Stroud recalled for the group the presentation Ormat's Ron Leiken gave to the group earlier in 2010 and noted that despite some delays the project is back online and is being prepared for NEPA. Town Council has appointed a subcommittee to engage in this process, made up of Mayor Pro-Tem Jo Bacon and Council member Matthew Lehman, which is proposing a discussion about forming citizen subgroups to deal with key issues. Ms. Stroud then shared with the group the letter to Ormat that Town Council approved at their January 19 meeting. She invited the group to think about participating in the subgroups, which will discuss impacts and potential mitigations. ESA, the environmental consultant to Ormat, will benefit from the efficiencies presented by comprehensive comments developed by subgroups as opposed to individual comments on NEPA/CEQA. Mammoth Community Water District will be a partner with the TOML in this and will deal with water resources and impacts to the water table/use of reclaimed water. A Notice of Intent to move forward with the project is expected to be posted by the end of January; public scoping will follow. Comments on the geothermal project provided by Mammoth Trails members to consultant Austin McInerney a few months prior are in a draft report that has been submitted to ESA, which identifies significant issues that the subgroups can start to address. Ms. Stroud recommended that the group use the downtime between now and the public scoping, expected this February, to organize comprehensive preparations for how the community will engage with this process. The ability to see things on the ground will be limited due to snowfall, but there are site maps, photos, and other preliminary work that has already been completed that could contribute to such review.

- 2. Shady Rest Winter Program (Mike Schlafmann and Ray Jarvis):** Neither party was able to attend this meeting, though Jon Kazmierski, Inyo National Forest (INF) Recreation Staff Officer, was able to speak to the group via phone. He noted that the Ormat project is but one piece of the overall winter picture, and if Ormat's proposal is approved and moves forward, there will be opportunity to discuss potential additional recreation impacts.
- 3. Shady Rest Staging Project (INF):** Mr. Wentworth shared that the INF has advised MLTPA that they will be undertaking this project shortly and that it is focused on creating a new motorized staging area at Shady Rest. The INF has indicated that they want to do this prior to the Ormat project kicking into high gear. MLTPA is awaiting a press release from the INF, which they will share with the group and the public when it has been received. The tentative meeting dates so far discussed with the INF are February 9, 16, and 23, with times and location to be announced, though it is likely that the meeting will be held in the Mammoth Ranger Station Auditorium. Once he was able to join the group by phone, Mr. Kazmierski shared that he understands that the current plowing of the road out to the

staging area at Shady Rest Park is a TOML expenditure matched by gas-tax revenues, though this matter needs confirmation and clarification, as there was some discussion that it is instead being plowed by a subcontractor to Ormat. Mr. Kazmierski explained that this planning process will cover a broader view that includes summer and winter impacts as well as motorized and non-motorized needs and the proposed geothermal project. The meetings will be similar in format to the recent Lakes Basin Special Study (LABSS) meetings: meeting 1 will cover visioning, meeting 2 will cover prospective alternatives and locations for the staging area, and meeting 3 will integrate the previous two meetings' topics and received input. The results of this process will inform an INF-developed proposed action for the staging area, which will undergo environmental review; funding for the project can be sourced upon NEPA's completion. The public meetings in February will be funded through a state OHV grant that has been matched by the INF. Mr. Kazmierski noted that the TOML (namely, Ray Jarvis and Ellen Clark) and MLTPA are involved in this public-meeting process, with MLTPA providing some assistance with public outreach. Mr. Kazmierski noted also that there are two loops currently being groomed by the INF for Nordic use at Shady Rest, which is not as extensive a program as what Mammoth Nordic was able to provide last season; limitations exist regarding how much non-motorized grooming can be paid for with state green-sticker funds.

The group then moved on to briefly discuss the current state of staging at Sherwin Creek Road, noting that it has seen a lot of traffic this winter. Mr. Wentworth noted that the borrow pit staging area identified in the Sherwins Area Recreation Plan (SHARP) has been included in the EIR for the Draft Trail System Master Plan 2009. Mr. Sauser shared that he has heard recently of INF employees directing dog walkers to the Sherwin Creek Road area despite the lack of grooming there so that they will reduce their use of the groomed trails at Shady Rest and the impacts of their pets on the trails.

- 4. Strategic Planning for Recreation in Mammoth Lakes (RecStrats):** Mr. Wentworth shared that the Recreation Commission will meet February 2 to discuss the plan's implementation with the RecStrats consultant team. The meeting, open to the public, will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Suite Z of the TOML offices.
- 5. Mammoth Trails Website (Neil Heinrich):** Mr. Wentworth introduced Mr. Heinrich as MLTPA's IT Specialist, noting that he has been hired to help build mammothtrails.org. Mr. Heinrich will be further developing the data that Mammoth Trails Charter Members and others have already provided to MLTPA. Mr. Heinrich explained that he will reach out in person and through surveys to collect a set of user needs for the Mammoth Lakes Trail System (MLTS) and the website; he expects to have a better definition of the project's scope by the next meeting. Mr. Sauser

mentioned the potential for real-time grooming updates in town via Rick Laborde of the INF. Mr. Urdi pointed out that his web-development team is very interested in this project so that visitmammoth.com and mammothtrails.org work together efficiently, as Mammoth Lakes Tourism is working on completely re-launching its website in September. Mr. Sauser further shared that the Recreation Commission, the INF, and Mr. Brown have been meeting with Mammoth Nordic regarding the grooming program the club was responsible for last winter. A new proposal for them has been completed such that the program would be run through the TOML with Mammoth Nordic's groomer and volunteers; there is hope that this would be put into place in February. The TOML is looking to lease the Nordoni rather than purchase it. Mr. Garretson announced that Mammoth Mountain may groom Nordic trails at Sierra Star Golf course next year.

- 6. Signage and Wayfinding for the Mammoth Lakes Trail System (MLTS):** Mr. Wentworth shared that MLTPA, the INF, and the TOML are moving forward on completion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act-funded set of signage. There are efforts to ensure that the sign types that are not directly related to the trail system do not appear in green, but in some other, complementary color, to avoid confusion.
- 7. Mammoth Lakes Sports Council (Stuart Brown):** Mr. Brown noted that the next meeting is set for January 31, at the Mammoth Lakes Community Center, and that RecStrats will be a topic of discussion.

E. Member Events and Projects

- 1. Report: Friends of ESAC Kickoff Event, January 16:** Mr. Cross shared that the event was well attended, with approximately 250 people present, and that they grossed approximately \$6,500 in donations. Two forecasters will be in the field this year (one from the INF, one as a Friends of ESAC contractor) and Friends of ESAC will issue more than three INF advisories per week. They are beginning an observer program where participants will submit one to two reports per week from the backcountry; anyone interested in this program should send a résumé to Mr. Cross; more information is available on esavalanche.org.
- 2. Update: Winter Biathlon, Tamarack Cross Country Ski Center, March 26–27:** Mr. Garretson announced that there will be ski clinics on Saturday and Sunday, with biathlon clinics on Friday. Junior, beginning adult, and Wounded Warrior races will be held on Saturday, with the adult, National Guard, and elite races on Sunday.
- 3. Update: Eastside Ski Running “Mammoth Chase” Randonnee Race, Sherwins, February 5:** Ms. Adrian announced that the event will be postponed until 2012 and that Eastside Ski Running will be working on organizational development until then. The group has been having trouble gaining definitive support for avalanche control on the course, and insurance acquisition has also been problematic.

F. Announcements and Updates: Ms. Stravers noted that the MLTS quarterly reporting will continue on schedule, with the next report slated to be given to the Recreation Commission on the first Tuesday in April. She noted further that MLTPA now has the software necessary to record the presentations as videos and will be able to easily share them with those who cannot attend in person.

G. Requests for Future Agenda Items: None.

H. Next Meeting: Thursday, February 17, 2010, 4–5:30 p.m., Mammoth Lakes Library Ellie Randol Reading Room

I. Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the group, the meeting was adjourned by consensus of the Charter Members at 5:21 p.m.