



**Mammoth Trails Regular Meeting
Draft Summary
March 11, 2010
4–5:30 p.m.
Mammoth Lakes Library**

A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA) President John Wentworth at 4:05 p.m. at the Mammoth Lakes Library. Also in attendance were Mammoth Trails Charter Members Forrest Cross (Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center), Stacy Corless (Friends of the Inyo), Malcolm Clark (Sierra Club), John Armstrong (Eastside Velo), Brian Knox (Mammoth Nordic), Tom Higley (High Sierra Triathlon Club), and Hank Garretson (Eastern Sierra Nordic Ski Association); Town of Mammoth Lakes staff Danna Stroud (Tourism and Recreation Director) and Steve Speidel (Principal Planner); USFS staff Andrew Johnson (Acting Deputy District Ranger) and Jon Kazmierski (Recreation Staff Officer); and guests Ron Leiken and Charlene Wardlow (Ormat Technologies) and Jim Ouimet (Mammoth Dog Teams).

B. Additions to Agenda: None.

C. Special Updates

1. Potential Geothermal Project in Shady Rest (Ron Leiken, ORMAT):

Mr. Leiken presented a slideshow about the Casa Diablo 5 Well Field geothermal project slated for implementation in Shady Rest, including a company overview, project history, and proposal details. He noted that a larger-scale public input process will come later on, and that Ormat submitted their project proposal to the Bureau of Land Management two weeks ago. ORMAT is a 50 percent owner in the geothermal plant in Mammoth. The plant that is proposed is a 33 net megawatt binary power plant with two Ormat energy converters, an expanded geothermal well field, new well pads and wells, pipelines, and an electric transmission line; it will supply enough electricity to serve approximately 33,000 people, and up to 16 wells—the placement of which has already been approved through NEPA—may be built over the life of the project, though they may need no more than eight. Each finished well pad takes up about one acre; all pipes will be above ground except for at road crossings. Anyone wishing Mr. Leiken to make this presentation to his or her group separately may contact him directly via e-mail. Though NEPA requires only one public scoping meeting, Ormat would like more public involvement; to this end, they have been speaking with Mr. Wentworth and Austin McNerny, who facilitated the Sherwins Working Group (SWG). Mr. Wentworth clarified that MLTPA may become engaged as a convener if a formal public process moves forward, but until such time MLTPA is only a stakeholder in the process, much like Mammoth Trails. He

noted also that the road-plowing experiment at Shady Rest this winter is related to the proposed geothermal project in terms of well access for Ormat. Mr. Leiken stated that, in the best-case scenario, NEPA would be completed in one year, with construction, which would last approximately one year, to begin in summer 2011. Noise impacts from construction will be mitigated.

2. Mono County Bicycle Racing Ordinance (John Armstrong): Mr. Armstrong handed out copies of the ordinance and accompanying materials, explaining that Supervisor Hap Hazard is proposing legislation that would prevent bike racing on Lower Rock Creek Road. Supervisor Hazard began drafting this ordinance in October 2009 after the Everest Challenge, which is a road race held on Lower Rock Creek Road that features a large number of entrants, in response to a perceived threat of fast-moving cyclists impacting motorists. It seeks to prevent these races from occurring or limit the number of cyclists on the road at one time. If adopted, this ordinance would affect the Fall Century, High Sierra Triathlon, and other popular events. Mr. Armstrong has written to Supervisor Hazard in opposition to the ordinance, claiming that it discriminates against state shared-use policy and will negatively impact economic development in Mono County. He is set to meet with affected parties, including California Highway Patrol, in the near future in hopes of resolving the matter before the ordinance is introduced. It was suggested that Mr. Armstrong invite participating organizations to assist with enforcement of race rules, conduct more door-to-door informational meetings with local residents, and add race marshals to other parts of the course. It also was suggested that a link be made between revenues generated by such races and the provision of necessary services to the district. Mr. Armstrong agreed to forward a meeting recap to Ms. Stravers so that she could share it with the group.

3. Sherwins Area Recreation Plan (SHARP)

a. SHARP Trails Technical Committee (SHARP TTC)

- i. Update:** Ms. Stravers stated that she and Mr. Kazmierski had met the day before to update the master SHARP projects list with status and task information. There are several recommendations that may begin moving forward after the snow melts. Mr. Johnson noted that USFS specialist time (hydrologists, botanists, etc.) would be devoted to these projects, doubling with TOML CEQA efforts for the Trail System Master Plan and Parks and Recreation Master Plan to take those projects through NEPA and have them ready for implementation in 2011. Mr. Wentworth reiterated that MLTPA has the means to engage a land surveyor to assist the TTC. Mr. Johnson emphasized the opportunity for TTC members to gain valuable trails planning and implementation training through this process.
- ii. Project Tracking:** A landscape architect has been engaged by the USFS to begin planning at the borrow pit this summer, and there is a possibility that a connector from the

Lakes Basin Path to Panorama Dome may be ready for implementation this summer as well.

- iii. **Initial Meeting:** A kickoff meeting for the TTC will be held on April 14 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at which time a schedule and a priorities list may be established.

4. **MLTS Signage and Wayfinding Program**

- a. **Fabrication Bid Packet Update:** The bid packet was submitted to EROC under a tight deadline and includes plans for a Town Loop and the Lakes Basin Path. This is a partnership between the TOML and the USFS, and \$80,000 of Measure R money was leveraged into \$300,000 in federal stimulus funds to make the project happen. A prototype of the Type 2 sign will be built and installed this summer.
- b. **MLTPA Contract with Corbin Design:** MLTPA and Corbin have engaged with the USFS and the TOML to put together a Wayfinding and Signage Standards Manual for the entire Mammoth Lakes Trail System. This is intended to be a shared, common manual that keeps the system cohesive and encapsulates all agencies' standards and regulations.
 - i. **Wayfinding Logic:** See above.
 - ii. **Standards Manual:** See above.
- c. **Role of Mammoth Trails Map, Signage and Wayfinding Committee (MSWC):** This committee played a significant role in bringing the above project to its current status, and there may be more work to be done in the near future.

5. **Mammoth Region Recreation Council (MRRC)**

- a. **Update:** MLTPA funded this effort through a Sierra Nevada Conservancy grant with participation by the USFS and the TOML. The process ended last Friday and will inform the TOML's reorganization of the Tourism & Recreation Department and the fiscal year 2010/2011 budget process.
- b. **Next Steps:** MLTPA will keep this group informed as to the results of the reorganization.

6. **Mammoth Trails Measure R Fall 2009 Award (Kim Stravers on behalf of Andrew Kastor)**

- a. **Draft Equipment Check-Out Procedure:** Ms. Stravers circulated a draft of this document from Andrew Kastor and asked that comments be sent to him directly.
- b. **Purchase Update:** Ms. Stravers read from an e-mail from Mr. Kastor stating that a generator had been delivered and that the pop-up tent would be ordered once logos has been approved. Ms. Stroud added that the timing system and the orange event signs also have been ordered.

7. **Utility Users Tax**

- a. **Update from Town Council Meeting:** Mr. Wentworth reported that the Town Council voted unanimously to put Measure U on the June

8, 2010 ballot as a continuation of the 2.5% Utility Users Tax. This will be a special tax requiring a two-thirds-plus-one majority to pass and will benefit recreation, mobility, and arts & culture. He noted that this funding could release a \$10 million bond under the Mammoth Lakes Foundation for the construction of a performing arts center. Mr. Wentworth is heading up the campaign committee outside of his work with MLTPA and asked that interested parties speak to him about becoming involved. Ms. Stroud noted that the methodology for awarding earned revenue to projects would be determined when the measure passes.

8. Future Projects: Status and Updates

- a. Mono County Recreation Access Tool (MCRAT):** Mr. Wentworth announced that the contract between Mono County and MLTPA has been signed, and that MLTPA will subcontract with Friends of the Inyo to complete the scope of work, which involves documenting published points of access to recreation amenities countywide.
- b. Trail System Master Plan CEQA:** Mr. Wentworth explained that this is a Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) grant to the TOML and that it also will apply to CEQA for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Mr. Speidel noted that the RFQ (Request for Qualifications) will be sent out shortly and that he anticipates that about 12 to 15 firms will respond. The RFP (Request for Proposals) will follow the RFQ process.
- c. Lakes Basin Special Study (LABSS):** Mr. Wentworth explained that this is a Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) grant to the TOML and that the monies will be used in part to conduct a Sherwins Working Group–style collaborative planning effort in the Lakes Basin this summer. Stakeholder outreach, a transit study, and data development also will be part of the work plan. The USFS will look to the results of this study to inform the Lakes Basin Management Plan they're working on.
- d. Solitude Canyon/Panorama Dome Study Group**
 - i. Initial Meeting:** See item C3a, above.

9. Winter Recreation Updates

- a. Shady Rest Park Winter Usage**
 - i. Stakeholder Group with Temp. Deputy District Ranger (Andrew Johnson):** Mr. Kazmierski explained that this effort is related to the new OSV staging area at Shady Rest Park, near the ball fields. The group will explore potential expansion of parking and other facilities to meet user needs, the USFS grant application for OHV funds for improvement of the user experience in this area, and the impact of the Ormat geothermal project. This will be a collaborative process. The public can review the grant application and ask questions of staff at the open house on March 23 from 3:00

p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the USFS Supervisor's office. The USFS has another grant application submitted to implement two additional motorized staging areas on the Scenic Loop that will complement the road-improvement project and expand the pullouts. The public can submit comments to the state OHV commission, who will send comments back to the USFS so that they may amend their applications if they wish. Letters of support are welcome, and the grants will likely be determined and awarded in the fall.

b. April 17 Lakes Basin OSV Transition: *This item was taken out of order, after item E2a.*

i. USFS LEO stationing (Andrew Johnson): Mr. Kazmierski announced that they will have maps and info out a couple of days ahead of time and LEOs on the premises on opening day.

10. Summer of Stewardship 2010 (John Wentworth & Stacy Corless): Ms. Corless shared that the application is almost ready for submittal and that she will have a sponsorship package ready for the next meeting for the group's review.

11. Candidates' Forum: This item was deferred to the next meeting.

D. Organizational Items

- 1. Approval of February 18, 2010 Minutes (Kim Stravers):** This item was deferred to the next meeting, as the minutes were unavailable.
- 2. Mammoth Trails Event-Planning Calendar (Kim Stravers):** Ms. Stravers briefly updated the group that the calendar is up and running and that Mammoth Trails members should enter their event dates as soon as they know them.

E. Member Events and Projects

- 1. Recent Events:** None.
- 2. Upcoming Events**
 - a. Winter Biathlon: March 27–28 (Hank Garretson):** *This item was taken out of order, after item C9a.* Mr. Garretson noted that the range, which will be behind the Mammoth Pack Station, will be set up on Thursday, with clinics on Saturday and the race on Sunday, starting at 9:00 a.m. There will be both beginner and adult divisions. Shuttle service to Tamarack Lodge will be provided from the park-and-ride lot on Tavern Road at Old Mammoth Road. This event is part of the Nordic Festival Week, and the Mammoth Nordic moonlight ski will take place Sunday night after the race. More information can be found at www.esnsa.org.
 - b. Earth Day at Canyon Lodge: April 17:** Ms. Stravers noted that Mammoth Trails Charter Members may wish to have a presence there. She advised that the group find out if the pop-up tent will be delivered to Mammoth before the event, which goes from 12:00

p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Ms. Corless noted that Friends of the Inyo will have a table.

F. Announcements and Updates: Mr. Wentworth announced that three signs for the Sherwins Egress project have been approved by the partners involved, including Chadmar. There will be one blue diamond sign on the Snowcreek fence post to direct users to the legal egress route and a single sign on Lake Mary Road at the beginning of the hike up the back side of the Sherwins. A public service announcement will be sent out next week. Mr. Wentworth also announced that Operations Director Lara Kirkner has left MLTPA and that they are in search of a replacement.

G. Requests for Future Agenda Items: None.

H. Next Meeting: Thursday, April 15, 2010, 4–5:30 p.m., Mammoth Lakes Library

I. Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the group, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 6:01 p.m.