

LAKES BASIN

Special Study

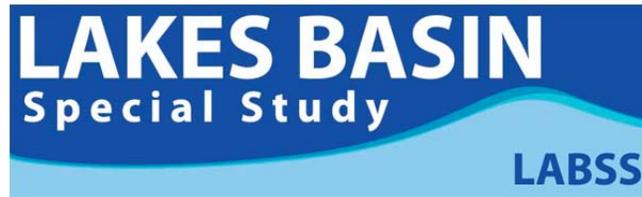
LABSS

LABSS Supplemental Materials

Public Meeting #2: Small Group Notes



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Meeting #2: Small Group Working Session 10/14/10

Node: Horseshoe Lake

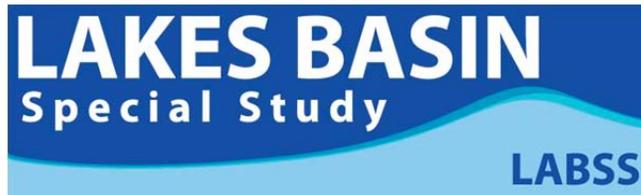
Problems:

- Biking/walking conflict/dogs—Solutions: Leash law/horses (Horseshoe Lake Loop)
- multi-use-where?
- Kiosk @ day-use area (where shuttle let's people off)—interpretation area/education to talk about CO₂ info, backside of lake (remnants of old group camp) trails, maps (local/other lakes and hikes in Basin) with distances
- Borrow pit/slash pit—future alternative day-use parking
- Park and Ride-voluntary before forced/in conjunction with IntraBasin shuttle (or at least Upper Basin shuttle)
- Find small pocket areas for more parking (40-50 spaces in several spots around the Basin, e.g. across the street from the Pack Station stables)
- Better restrooms (deal with restrooms that are closed, increase number of restrooms)
- Picnic areas—disorganized (could be because of lake level)
- Add bear boxes/recycling
- Watershed Problems-trail to McLeod; maintain trail to keep people on it, separating uses to help stop erosion
- Signs-detailed
- Define trails-parallel
- No commercial/economic development (maybe just restrooms)
- Historical-cabin, campsite on back end (well house)

Node: Coldwater

Notes drawn on map:

- Mammoth Consolidated Mine/Red Mine drawn over the use-trails by MCM trailhead
- Intersection of Coldwater Road and Lake Mary Loop Road circled to highlight the traffic/safety issue and the lack of signage directing you up to Coldwater
- Lack of protection for historical resources:
- Attention/TLC/protection to Red Mine area (more accessible and more information about it)
- User conflict:
- Hikers vs horses, bikers vs traffic (paved road going up to campground/trailheads), proliferation of trails (use-trails)
- Signage and wayfinding:
- More durable and weather tolerant for snow (covering or removing signs in winter to limit damage/wear)
- Better signs-bigger, more descriptive with safety issue info (especially at Coldwater)



- Better signage for trailheads and Red Mine
- A more comprehensive signage system for the entire Basin using the same types of signs with the same destination names (problem: very expensive)
- Contradictory opinion that we shouldn't change the Lakes Basin, including the signs and that people should have the opportunity to explore on their own and "stumble upon Red Mine" without using signs
- Better sign at trailheads and parking area for "day-use only"

Enforcement:

- People sleeping in day-use parking area and in vehicles
 - Solution: Allow tent camping/backpacking area

Lack of info:

- Better signs with mileage/direction (mileage to Duck/Emerald Lake)
- More interpretive signs (mining/historic)

Infrastructure not meeting demands:

- Regulate boat rentals
- Trolley to trailhead

Watershed erosion:

- Unofficial trails causing erosion/stream damage (particularly the trail that goes from the trailhead parking lot, along Mammoth Creek, down to Lake Mary Loop Road)

Sustainability of resources:

Limit/control vehicles/motor boat use

- increase more parking on "renegade" spots (make some dirt spots official)

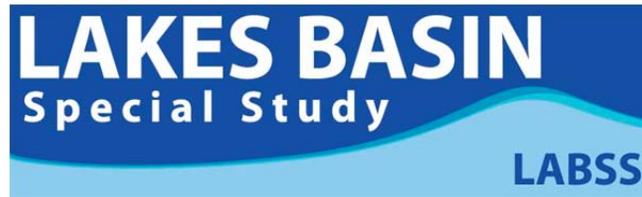
Node: Lake George

Notes drawn on map:

- Direct route from Lake George to climbing areas
- Highlighted area between campground and shoreline/day-use area as a place that could use a trail to funnel people down to the lake instead of letting them go anywhere

Problems:

- Better parking and signage needed
- Official trail around lake to decrease erosion
- Interpretation opportunities—historic and environmental education (lodge)
- Erosion/pollution from parking at rec residence access
- Expanded marina at lake/only allowing electric motors
- Erosion/braided trails to Crystal
- Official connecting trail from campground to lake
- Official upper loops lake trail connecting all lakes (not necessary paved: Lake George-Lake Mary-TJ/Barrett, etc.)



- One comment that there was no discussion about wildlife—an important element of the Basin

Node: Twin Lakes

Webinar comments documented by Linsey:

- Jennifer-traffic congestion, waste, lack of pedestrian corridors
- Saja-bear awareness across the entire Lakes Basin
- Improvement of bike trails for pedestrians without the worry of getting run over by either bikes or cars
-

Watershed erosion is a problem:

- Conflict between horses, bikes, and hikers
- Saja-“reserved signed, may drive people away even though they are not reserved”

Traffic congestion:

- Where is it occurring? Next to Frank’s store, near the Bottomless Pit
- Near Crystal, high traffic on the roads, Twin Lakes Overlook
- Speed of vehicular traffic is a concern; people traveling through to get to Horseshoe Lake
- Formalizing trails- need a better more established trail system; a system that will lead to other areas will relieve congestion
- Shuttle needs to run more than once/hour
- Lack of parking
- Lake Mary Road, pedestrians tend to steer clear, speed of traffic tends to be an issue; focus on reducing traffic instead of creating more parking
- Charging a fee is not the best idea, but having a permit for the highly congested lots; this may encourage people to use public transit
- Will the Lake Mary Bike Path have forks that go down to the Lakes and point of interest locations?

Looking at Yosemite and Zion where there are very successful systems:

- Park and Ride-Shuttle system. Are there more direct transportation services/routes to the Lakes Basin?
- *Solutions:* more parking (less of an option), encourage use of a transportation system and trails is a better option

Would people pay for a transit system?

- Studies done in other cities- charging people for transit doesn’t necessarily work, but charging entry works better



Waste:

- Fisherman-line, trash
- Significant amount of trash around the lakes; surprisingly low amount of trash on trails
- *Solutions:*
- A focused education campaign for the fisherman
- Cost of maintenance of trash pickup, recycling containers
- Adopt-a-Lake program

Bear Awareness:

- Mainly visitors are not aware of the problem-not education or taking it seriously
- Feeding the wildlife in general- people not educated
- Bumper stickers that can educate people that suggests to 'protect the wildlife'
- Brighter signs especially at campgrounds
- Public service announcements
- Ads on public access TV

User conflict/separation of use:

- As a hiker, it is annoying to get run over by a mountain biker; identifying trails for the kind of use that is appropriate or allowed
- Lack of trails for bikers
- *Solution:*
- Segregate user use by days of the week/times of day
- Education- interpretive panels
- Instead of marking the new multi-use trail like a roadway - with dashed yellow centerlines - you could mark one side bicycles and the other peds
- Take user trails and create user specific trails for certain activities

Node: Lake Mary

No time to address