

Planning meetings held on February 10 and 17, 2011 were well attended, highly productive, and have achieved the goal of identifying several potential sites to design and construct a motorized staging area. The Forest Service, in consultation with meeting attendees, has elected to cancel the third meeting planned for Thursday, March 3, 2011. In the coming weeks Forest Service staff will be using information generated from the two planning meetings to develop a proposed action to be released to the public in the spring or summer of this year. Upon release of the proposed action, a scoping meeting will be held and the public will be invited to review and discuss the proposed new staging area and alternatives prior to conducting environmental analysis as required by the National Environmental Policy Act. Questions about the project can be directed to District Recreation Officer, Jon Kazmierski, by calling (760) 924-5503 or jkazmierski@fs.fed.us.

Egress Route from Sherwins to Public-Access Easement at Ranch Road Gate is Ready to Go!

Thanks to a partnership between The Chadmar Group (developer of Snowcreek VIII), the Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML), and the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA), a legal route leading backcountry skiers and snowboarders from the base of the Sherwin Range back to town has been marked with directional signage. 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. Winter recreationists are urged to follow this legal route across the Snowcreek Golf Course, 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. 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. 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.

March Activities for the Sierra Club, Range of Light Group

The Sierra Club - Range of Light Group hosts Winter Outings every Thursday and Sunday. Thursday is open to snowshoers and skiers that would like to enjoy an easy trek lasting about 2 hours with a concentration on conditioning, technique and learning. Sunday is for strong beginners through experts on cross-country skis and snow shoe, usually 6 to 8 miles off track. Participants are asked to meet at M.L. Union Bank parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Abominable weather cancels. Contact: John Walter (760) 934-1767 or Jean Dillingham (760)-648-7109.

Avy Savvy!

Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center and Mono County Search & Rescue are hosting a FREE evening of Avalanche Awareness on **Friday, March 4, 2011** at 6:30 p.m. in the Mammoth Forest Service Visitor's Center Auditorium. The evening will feature, "Why Good skiers and snowboarders get caught in avalanches", first-hand account of a recent Sierra avalanche accident, Mammoth Mountain's East Side K-9s, information on avalanche courses, display of the latest avalanche safety gear, small gear raffle, free coffee from Stellar Brew, and more!

Tahoe Adventure Film Festival debuts in Mammoth

Highlighting the year's best action sports films, the Tahoe Adventure Film Festival makes its Mammoth debut at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, **March 4 and 5, 2011** at Edison Theatre. Each evening gives audiences the same action-packed film lineup. Adventurers and action sports enthusiasts of all ages will enjoy meeting Tahoe