



**Sherwins Working Group  
Meeting #3 (July 14, 2009, 4–7 p.m.)  
Sierra Meadows Ranch (Old Sherwin’s Restaurant)**

**DRAFT SUMMARY**

**4:00–4:10**            **Welcome, Agenda Overview, Introductions, Housekeeping:** Mr. McNerny introduced himself as the Sherwins Working Group (SWG) facilitator. He asked participants to introduce themselves and to note any group affiliations and/or special interests they have in the study area.

- **Review of overall process status/progress:** Mr. McNerny stated that this particular meeting would focus on map work. It is the third of six community-based meetings to develop a recreation alternative for the Sherwins area. He suggested that the only way this group will have its proposal done by October is for the SWG participants to break into smaller working groups to complete a number of tasks between now and the next meeting, scheduled for August 11.
- **Web site/process blog update:** Mr. McNerny noted that the blog has been made available but that there has been little activity. He encouraged the participants to use the blog to set up between-meeting sessions, field trips, and other get-togethers.

Mr. McNerny reviewed the meeting agenda with the group and spoke briefly about the SWG process, goals, and expectations. The purpose of the SWG is to brainstorm, share different needs and desires, and then come to consensus on a proposal that the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) will take through the environmental review process. Group work has been divided into summer and winter conditions as a means of achieving clear decisions. During Meeting #2 the four sub-groups did a lot of work on Summer Opportunity Zones; the new maps (both small versions on tables and large versions on easels) represent the outcomes of these efforts as interpreted in GIS by Jon Kazmierski (USFS staff). The outdoor-recreation activities list also has been updated from the previous meeting’s notes. The numbers on the maps correspond to the constraints from the Opportunities & Constraints document on each table (opportunities were left off of the maps for visual clarity). The master legend document is the key for all maps.

In the following exercise each group will review the winter base maps and build upon them to create a first draft of Winter Opportunity Zones. Each group will choose a reporter to present their findings to the larger group. Participants may stay with the groups they formed in the previous meeting or create new ones. The updated Summer Opportunity Zones maps will be reviewed next. At the end of this meeting the group will discuss next steps in anticipation of the last three meetings. After this evening the pressure will be on participants to move from general concepts to refined specifics (trail types, etc.). Once volunteers have been selected to carry out the between-meeting work, they will set one meeting for next week to





focus on representation/treatment of specific uses (such as mountain biking, as displayed on the map developed by Clayton Mendel, shown). The following week's meetings will be focused on representatives from these smaller groups blending those uses into maps that can be presented at the August meeting. The trail-types document on each table is derived from the Trail System Master Plan Design Guidelines and will assist participants with planning facility and trail details in the future.

#### **4:10–4:15 Meeting #2 Summary and Charter Adoption**

- **Review and adoption of Meeting #2 Draft Summary:** To allow additional time for participants to review the summary, this task was deferred to the next meeting. Mr. McNerny reminded the group that the final, adopted version of the summary will be available on the SWG Web page and that materials are sent out in advance to allow review prior to the meetings.
- **Recirculation of Working Group Charter signature page:** Mr. McNerny briefly explained the significance of the Charter for the benefit of new participants and noted that the signature page from the previous meeting had gone missing. A replacement signature page was circulated and signed by group members.

#### **4:15–4:25 Planning and Decision Criteria for Evaluating Options Within Opportunity Zones**

- **Review of comments received on draft criteria:** Mr. McNerny reported that only two participants had provided feedback on the draft criteria presented at the previous meeting. No further comments were made; the document will be reviewed in more detail at the August meeting.
- **Discussion and development of refined criteria and proposal evaluation mechanism:** Tabled to August meeting.
- **Revised criteria to be distributed after meeting for further review and use by small groups:** Mr. McNerny asked the group to review the criteria document and submit any comments to him or to Kim Stravers by July 30.

**4:25–5:45 Opportunity Zone Delineation: Winter:** Having explained the mechanics of this exercise in his opening remarks, Mr. McNerny asked the group to break into smaller subsets and begin drafting Winter Opportunity Zones, paying careful attention to providing rationales for decisions. SWG Partners mixed with the three groups to help move the activity along.

- **Clarification regarding intent and purpose of opportunity zones. Need for broad thinking in terms of both activity scope (opportunity zones vs. specific trails) and uses (what's best for the area and its users as a whole vs. focus on one's preferred activity and taking measures/forming options designed to protect them):** Mr. McNerny stressed the importance of working in a zone-based, rather than solution-based, manner at this time.





- **Report from small groups who worked between meetings on Winter Opportunity Zone map:** Mr. McNerny reported that at least two groups had met after the June meeting to work on winter concepts. Though a formal report was not given, those participants were encouraged to share their findings and ideas with their current Winter Opportunity Zone groups.
- **Following report-outs, small groups to form and use time to build upon or create new concepts for winter zones:** Reporters from each group presented their concepts to the larger group. SWG Partners provided feedback for each group's presentation. See "SWG\_Mtg 3\_Winter OZ Notes\_Group Comp\_rev.pdf" for summaries of these presentations.

5:45–6:40

**Opportunity Zone Delineation: Summer:** Mr. McNerny asked the group to form four groups rather than three and to continue the exercise with the summer maps, which have been revised from the previous meeting's group work. Participants were asked to either add to these new maps or to revise them.

- **Report from small groups who worked between meetings on Summer Opportunity Zone map:** Mr. McNerny reported that some participants met after the June meeting to refine the summer concepts. Though a formal report was not given, those participants were encouraged to share their findings and ideas with their current Summer Opportunity Zone groups.
- **Following report-outs, small groups to form and use time to begin reviewing various opportunity zone proposals and developing "blended" map. Intent is to develop proposal that could serve as base for map for proposed recreation features within study area.**  
**Remember: Not everyone will get everything they want; need to begin thinking, proposing, and evaluating with this "selflessness" in mind:** Reporters from each group presented their concepts to the larger group. SWG Partners provided feedback for each group's presentation. See "SWG\_Mtg 3\_Summer OZ Notes\_Group Comp\_rev.pdf" for summaries of these presentations.

6:40–6:55

**Activities Prior to Meeting #4**

- **Schedule potential site visits (who, when, where):** Mr. McNerny again encouraged the group to use the blog to set up between-meeting field trips. He reported that Clayton Mendel went on a field trip to the Solitude Canyon area with a few other participants before this meeting, with GPS units, to work on summer mountain-bike opportunities. These concepts were inputted into Google Earth and then exported into a file usable by Jon Kazmierski in GIS. Mr. Mendel presented a large map printed from this file





and briefly explained a few key features, such as a “High Pass Trail” connecting to the Lakes Basin. Mr. McNerny stressed that this map of desired mountain bike trails was being shared as an example of how various proposals could be shown on maps for discussion with the full group and that it was not intended to represent what the full Working Group desires at this time.

- **Identify small group of volunteers to meet to refine Opportunity Zones for summer and winter based on opportunity and constraint data and, if possible, apply criteria to their proposal:** Mr. McNerny explained that the goal is to create maps identifying refined Opportunity Zones for both seasons that take into account identified opportunity and constraint data and concerns raised by all groups and begins identifying possible recreational features appropriate to the various zones. The volunteer work team will describe how their refined proposals provide for the stated needs of the various recreational interests. Work will be presented at the August 11 meeting and will serve as the basis for developing proposed “on-the-ground” recreational features (trails, access points, etc.). USFS and MLTPA staff is available to assist with this effort. These proposals, once reviewed and approved by the larger group at the August meeting, will be made public for community feedback that will be considered at Meeting #5 in September in anticipation of preparing a final proposal for Meeting #6, also in September. Mr. McNerny and select participants set two meetings for the following week—Tuesday, July 21, and Wednesday, July 22, from 5–7 p.m. at the USFS Mammoth Ranger Station Conference Room—and volunteers indicated their meeting preference on a sign-up sheet. The meeting(s) to be held the week of July 26 will be determined at these initial meetings. Ms. Stravers promised to e-mail to the group the Meeting #3 Draft Summary and a compilation of tonight’s group notes before July 21.

6:55–7:00

#### Meeting Wrap-Up

- **Review of what has been decided:** Maps and descriptions of identified Summer and Winter Opportunity Zones will be distributed shortly after Meeting #3. Breakout groups will meet July 21 and 22 and again the following week (see above).
- **Next steps/meeting schedule:** Ms. Stravers reminded the group that the next meeting is set for Tuesday, August 11, from 4–7 p.m. and will be held in the Ellie Randol Reading Room of the Mammoth Lakes Library.

