

AGENDA BILL

Subject: Resolution to establish and formalize a high level of interagency cooperation with the USDA Inyo National Forest to plan, design, implement, construct, operate, maintain, and promote an integrated year-round Mammoth Lakes Trail System

Initiated by: David Wilbrecht, Town Manager
Stuart Brown, Recreation Manager

BACKGROUND:

Since Measure R funding was approved by the voters on June 3, 2008, the Recreation Commission and Town Council have approved funding requests for a variety of projects and programs. This past fall, the Town Council vetted eight Measure R applications that were submitted for review and approval, including an application that was completed on the Town's behalf by Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access (MLTPA) for the Mammoth Lakes Trail System. The application was larger and more complex than previous applications, and deserved the necessary time and attention to understand it and invite interested stakeholders to participate in the next steps.

Since the application was submitted, several meetings have been held to determine the best approach to address its different and unique aspects. Consequently, the application has been divided into two separate but integrated parts: 1) A policy decision and Resolution to continue to work closely with the Inyo National Forest on the trails program, and 2) Specific project decisions on the implementation of the trails plan made by the Mammoth Lakes Trail System Coordinating Committee (MLTSCC).

The first part of the application is a policy decision in the form of a resolution by the Town Council to formalize a high level of interagency cooperation with the Inyo National Forest Service Mammoth Ranger District. The Town and the Mammoth Ranger District have had many successful projects throughout the years which have included complicated land use permits, land exchanges, and parks, roads and trails facilities.

Recent trails projects include the widening of Lake Mary Road and construction of the Lake Mary Multi-Use Trail, the Lakes Basin Multi-Use Trail. Older

projects include the Mammoth Lakes Loop trail, the trail between Shady Rest Campground and Shady Rest Park, and the development of Shady Rest Park. All of these large projects and many smaller ones are a result of a long-term positive and effective working relationship between the Town and the Forest Service.

The next steps in the partnership are to recognize the importance of the Inyo National Forest trails that have been developed by the Forest Service over time that are within the Town's planning boundary. The Town recognizes the importance of these trails to its citizens and visitors and desires to work closely with the Forest Service by allocating resources to help maintain, preserve, and enhance trails and infrastructure. A list of 17 trails and map are attached to this agenda for your information.

The second part of the application is for a more project specific. This work includes completion of ongoing projects this spring that are related to the information infrastructure of the trail system and developing on-the-ground projects. The information system elements are efforts to develop and support activities such as the trail system website, mapping, standards, practices, and volunteer development.

On-the-ground projects include completion of physical trails, maintenance, and repair of trails. These types of projects will most likely be developed under a variety of Forest Service instruments such as collection agreements, special use permits, and other similar instruments. Each project or group of similar projects will be reviewed to determine what instrument best fits the requirements of the Forest Service system.

This process will be coordinated by the Mammoth Lakes Trail System Coordinating Committee (MLTSCC). This committee was initiated by the Recreation Commission and includes two Recreation Commissioners, the Town Manager or designee, and the MLTPA trails coordinator, in consultation with Inyo Forest Service representatives. The Town Manager is recommending an additional member from the Mobility Commission be included as well since there are common themes relative to signage, trail head access, bus route planning, and others. The on-the-ground projects and funding needs will be presented in an agenda bill later this spring.

The Town Council may wish to consider the inclusion of a Mobility Commissioner and/or member (s) of a "user group" to the MLTSCC as recommended by the Recreation Commission at a special meeting on January 19, 2012.

Staff is recommending that the approval and appropriation of Measure R funds for projects identified and prioritized by the MLTSCC, and accepted by the Recreation Commission for 2012 be conducted during the FY 2012-2013 Town Budget process. Insufficient funds reside in the Measure R Sales tax account at this time.

ANALYSIS/DISCUSSION:

A resolution by the Town of Mammoth Lakes Town Council provides several advantages to both parties. The Town will be able to express its willingness and desire to work with the District Ranger on common goals, objectives, and priorities.

The District Ranger will have assurances that the permits, processes, and funding will be available to complete projects initiated by the Town. With the resolution and an ongoing successful record of starting and completing projects and programs, the District Ranger will be better able to leverage resources to support the Town's interest but also the interests of the larger Inyo National Forest.

Similar to the Lakes Basin Trail that was recently completed, the Mammoth Lakes Trails System Master System Plan (TSMP) provides an opportunity for several projects to be initiated simultaneously at several levels such as public processes, environmental review, design review and permitting, construction, volunteer coordination, and project management. A resolution, if approved, will recognize this opportunity and relationship for current and future generations.

OPTIONS:

Therefore, it is recommended that the Town Council Approve Option 1:

Option 1:

- a. Approve the Resolution to establish and formalize a high level of interagency cooperation with the USDA Inyo National Forest to plan, design, implement, construct, operate, maintain, and promote an integrated year-round Mammoth Lakes Trail System
- b. Direct the Town Manager to present a proposal to the Town Council for the formation and convening of the "Mammoth Lakes Trail System Coordinating Committee" as discussed above including a member of the Mobility Commission, and/or member(s) of a "user group" whose purpose shall be to make

recommendations to the Recreation Commission and Town Council regarding projects for the Mammoth Lakes Trail System, including a five-year capital and minor project list, prioritization, schedule, and annual budget for the Mammoth Lakes Trail System.

- c. Direct the Town Manager to work with the Recreation Commission to deliver to the Mammoth District Ranger a copy of the Town's recently adopted "Trail System Master Plan," which represents the Town's adopted policy for the development of a Mammoth Lakes Trail System, including a list of proposed MLTS projects within the District.
- d. Direct the Town Manager to pursue the appropriate legal instrument(s) deemed to be necessary by USDA Inyo National Forest and the Town of Mammoth Lakes to plan, design, implement, construct, operate, maintain, and promote an integrated year-round trail system to be known as the Mammoth Lakes Trail System.

Option 2:

- a. Modify the Resolution establishing and formulating a high level of interagency cooperation with the USDA Inyo National Forest to plan, design, implement, construct, operate, maintain, and promote an integrated year-round Mammoth Lakes Trail System, as the Council desires.
- b. Direct the Town Manager to present a proposal to the Town Council for the formation and convening of the "Mammoth Lakes Trail System Coordinating Committee" as discussed above including a member of the Mobility Commission, and/or member (s) of a "user group" whose purpose shall be to make recommendations to the Recreation Commission and Town Council regarding projects for the Mammoth Lakes Trail System, including a five-year capital and minor project list, prioritization, schedule, and annual budget for the Mammoth Lakes Trail System.
- c. Direct the Town Manager to work with the Recreation Commission to deliver to the Mammoth District Ranger a copy of the Town's recently adopted "Trail System Master Plan" which represents the Town's adopted policy for the development of a Mammoth Lakes Trail System, including a list of proposed MLTS projects within the District.

- d. Direct the Town Manager to pursue the appropriate legal instrument(s) deemed to be necessary by USDA Inyo National Forest and the Town of Mammoth Lakes to plan, design, implement, construct, operate, maintain, and promote an integrated year-round trail system to be known as the Mammoth Lakes Trail System.

Option 3:

1. Take no action. Do nothing at this time.

RECOMMENDATION:

Therefore, it is recommended that the Town Council Approve Option 1.

Attachments:

- A. List of Proposed Projects for the Mammoth Lakes Trail System
- B. Map of Proposed Mammoth Lakes Trail System

RESOLUTION NO. 12-09

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, TO ESTABLISH AND FORMALIZE A HIGH LEVEL OF INTERAGENCY COOPERATION WITH THE USDA INYO NATIONAL FOREST TO PLAN, DESIGN, IMPLEMENT, CONSTRUCT, OPERATE, MAINTAIN, AND PROMOTE AN INTEGRATED YEAR-ROUND MAMMOTH LAKES TRAIL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, The Town of Mammoth Lakes' 2007 General Plan articulates the importance of developing recreational opportunities and acknowledges the value of an expanded system of parks, open space, and trails to the community's long-term economic sustainability and livability; and,

WHEREAS, Mammoth Lakes desires to be the best alpine recreation community in the country; and

WHEREAS, the voters approved Measure R, a .5% special sales tax rate increase restricted to funding Parks, Recreation, and Trails in June 2008; and

WHEREAS, The Town Council has already invested both Measure R funds and General Funds to the enhancement, improvement, and promotion of the Town's component of the Mammoth Lakes Trail System; and

WHEREAS, the Town has applied for Measure R funds so as to make a long term and sustained financial commitment to the Town's component of the Mammoth Lakes Trail System; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Council adopted the Mammoth Lakes Trails System Master Plan and EIR on October 11, 2011; and

WHEREAS, The Town Council has declared by previous Resolution (10-56) its desire to: "... steward and enhance four season and year-round recreation opportunities on that portion of the landscape that lies within its municipal boundary as well as that portion of the landscape that lies within its sphere of influence by working effectively with its partners and with its fellow signatories to the Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Memorandum of Understanding ('MLTPA MOU')"; and

WHEREAS, the Town desires to create an integrated year-round trail system within its sphere of influence that provides for a seamless transition between the Town of Mammoth Lakes and the surrounding federal lands managed by the USDA Inyo National Forest, the National Park Service (NPS), and other agencies; and

WHEREAS, The Town has partnered with the USDA Inyo National Forest on a number of successful projects, including the \$13 million Lake Mary Road Bike Path Project, whereby, establishing a productive and mutually beneficial working relationship.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

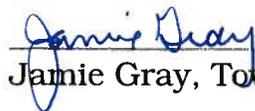
That the Town of Mammoth Lakes desires to establish and formalize a high level of interagency cooperation with the USDA Inyo National Forest to plan, design, implement, construct, operate, maintain, and promote an integrated year-round trail system to be known as the Mammoth Lakes Trail System.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS 1st Day of February, 2012



JO BACON, Mayor

ATTEST:



Jamie Gray, Town Clerk

STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
COUNTY OF MONO)
TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES) ss.

I, JAMIE GRAY, Town Clerk of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, DO HEREBY CERTIFY under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 12-09 adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, California, at a meeting thereof held on the 1st day of February, 2012, by the following vote:

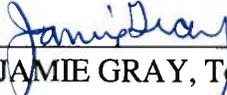
AYES: Councilmembers Eastman, Harvey, Wood, Mayor Pro Tem Lehman,
 and Mayor Bacon

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

DISQUALIFICATION: None



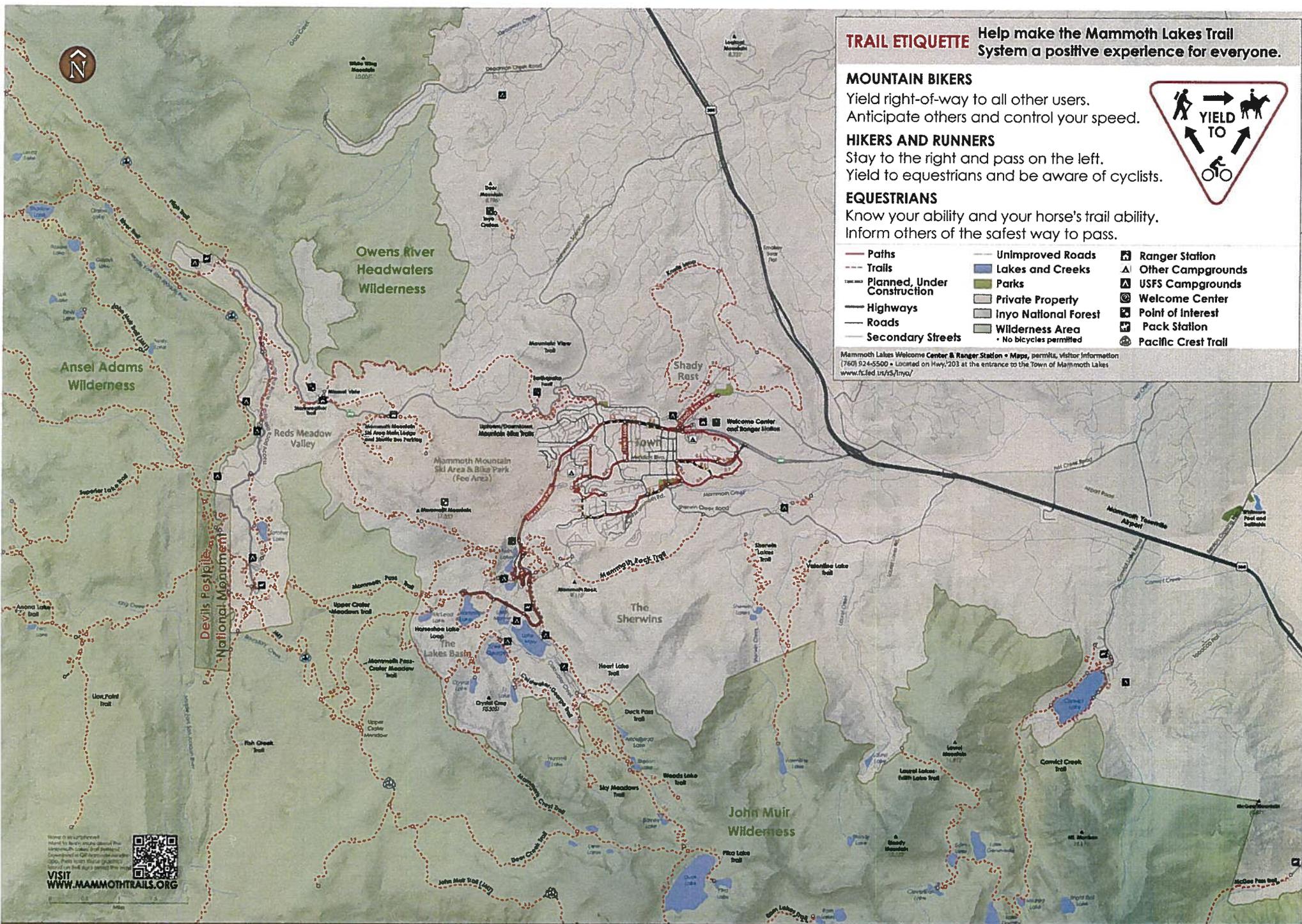
JAMIE GRAY, Town Clerk



Management Plan

List of Proposed Projects for MLTS (Partial List)

1. MLTS Website
 - a. Coordination with USFS
2. Adopt-A-Trail (Trail System Master Plan)
 - a. Coordination with USFS
3. ARRA interpretive signage and QR code
 - a. Coordination with USFS
4. Print and Web-based Maps/Guides
 - a. Coordination with USFS
5. MLTS Standards Manual
 - a. NEPA decision by USFS
6. Trail Patrol (Trail System Master Plan)
 - a. Coordination with USFS
7. Construction of SHARP trails
 - a. NEPA decision by USFS
8. Construction of Lakes Basin Trails
9. Soft surface trail signage and wayfinding
 - a. NEPA decision by USFS
10. Formal trail counter program including soft surface trails
 - a. Coordination with USFS
11. Soft Surface Trail Maintenance - Summer of Stewardship
 - a. Permit with USFS
 - i. Arrowhead Lake Trails
 - ii. Coldwater-George Trail
 - iii. Crystal Lake Trail
 - iv. Duck Pass Trail
 - v. Earthquake Fault Trail
 - vi. Heart Lake Trail
 - vii. Horseshoe Lake Loop
 - viii. Knolls Loop
 - ix. Mammoth Rock Trail
 - x. Mill City Wheel Trail
 - xi. Mountain View Trail
 - xii. Panorama Dome Trail
 - xiii. Panorama MTB Trails
 - xiv. TJ Lake Loop
 - xv. Sherwin Lakes Trail
 - xvi. Mammoth Crest Trail (a portion of this trail)
 - xvii. Mammoth Pass-Crater Meadow Trail (a portion of this trail)



TRAIL ETIQUETTE Help make the Mammoth Lakes Trail System a positive experience for everyone.

MOUNTAIN BIKERS

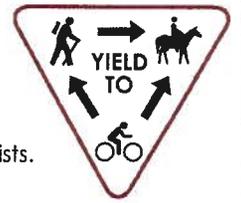
Yield right-of-way to all other users.
Anticipate others and control your speed.

HIKERS AND RUNNERS

Stay to the right and pass on the left.
Yield to equestrians and be aware of cyclists.

EQUESTRIANS

Know your ability and your horse's trail ability.
Inform others of the safest way to pass.



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| — Paths | — Unimproved Roads | Ⓜ Ranger Station |
| - - - Trails | ▭ Lakes and Creeks | Ⓜ Other Campgrounds |
| - - - Planned, Under Construction | ▭ Parks | Ⓜ USFS Campgrounds |
| — Highways | ▭ Private Property | Ⓜ Welcome Center |
| — Roads | ▭ Inyo National Forest | Ⓜ Point of Interest |
| — Secondary Streets | ▭ Wilderness Area | Ⓜ Pack Station |
| | • No bicycles permitted | Ⓜ Pacific Crest Trail |

Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center & Ranger Station • Maps, permits, visitor information (760) 524-5500 • Located on Hwy. 203 at the entrance to the Town of Mammoth Lakes
www.fs.fed.us/r5/mly/

Map of the trail system is for informational purposes only. It is not a guarantee of trail conditions. For more information, please visit our website.

VISIT WWW.MAMMOTHTRAILS.ORG