



Winter 2017 Draft Report

Alignment Proposals for the Inyo National Forest and the Town of Mammoth Lakes

Map ID #S16

March 14, 2017





**Map ID #S16 Key Agreements
As of March 14, 2017**

- A. Alignment:** This trail is intended to be a soft-surface non-motorized connector from the Mill City Staging Area (see Summer Map ID #S04) to the trail connecting it to the western end of the meadow (see Summer Map ID #05a) and Mammoth Rock Trail with additional connectivity to La Verne Street.
- 1. Trailhead and Destination(s):** Mill City Staging Area, Summer Map ID #S05a (The Bluffs Trail), Mammoth Rock Trail, and La Verne Street.
 - 2. Naming:** Sherwins Vista Path
 - 3. Control Points/Narrative:** Beginning at the existing parking area near the grave at Mill City (1), travel east and then almost immediately south 450 feet to the series of switchbacks that will deliver you to the old four-wheel-drive road, which is unnamed/unnumbered (2). From here, head southwest along the road 395 feet until you reach the road's intersection with SHARP #S05a (3). Travel east along this alignment for 670 feet, then head north briefly to reach the endpoint at the proposed ADA vista point (4). Also proposed is a non-ADA-accessible spur trail from the vista at control point 4 (an endpoint to SHARP #S16) to La Verne Street (Benz Way). From the vista (4), travel northeast 341 feet to the trail's divergence from SHARP #S5a (5). Travel northwest and then northeast along the natural contour 940 feet to the alignment's terminus at La Verne Street (Benz Way) (6). Design specifications for this spur will be the same as those for SHARP #S05a.
 - 4. Map Reference:** SHARP TTC: Map ID #S16, 12/02/2011
- B. Design Specifications:**
- 1. Trail Type:** Type 3 (Shared Non-Motorized) and Type 4 (Shared Multi-Use)
 - 2. Users:** Non-motorized users (ADA Accessible)
 - 3. Width:** Thirty-six inches wide meets ADA standards, though this trail must include room, at intervals, for passing. Trail width will likely match current road width.
 - 4. Grade:** Variable; to be determined by ADA standards.
 - 5. Surface:** Native or imported materials. Decomposed granite is a desirable surface.
 - 6. Features:** ADA-accessible vista point (control point 4).
 - 7. User Experience/Aesthetics:** Users may take in fantastic 360-degree views from an accessible trail that offers some feeling of remoteness. This trail is expected to be a standout amenity for the Town of



Mammoth Lakes. The vista point is a significant feature of the Mammoth Lakes Trail System as a whole - particularly for its views of Mammoth Rock and the bluff's rock formation. This trail is connected to other SHARP alignments, offering potential loop opportunities.

- 8. **Trail Amenities:** Possible trail amenities include: trash cans, dog bag stations at trailhead (control point 1), and a picnic table at vista, though maintenance must be considered. An interpretive sign exploring the geological and geographic features visible from this vista point, Mammoth Lakes Trail System/recreation information, and/or historical information could be installed at the vista point. See TSMP Standards Manual for guidance on specific amenities at the vista point. See SHARP #S04 for amenities specific to that project, which is near to SHARP #S16.

C. Winter/Summer Interface: SHARP #W07 (potential non-motorized connector from Mill City staging area to Hidden Lake Meadow).

D. Signage and Wayfinding Special Considerations: As directed by the *Mammoth Lakes Trail System Wayfinding and Signage Standards Manual*. ADA accessibility signage is desirable.

TO BE COMPLETED BY AGENCIES/JURISDICTIONS

A. Environmental Review: "SHARP Projects – NEPA" as submitted to USFS.

B. Construction & Maintenance: Town of Mammoth Lakes under CCS and potentially SUP.

C. Funding Considerations & Ownership: Funding construction through Measure R and MLTS Trail Facilities Construction Reserve Account; ownership via USFS with maintenance provided by the MLTS.

D. Construction Cost Estimator:

Total Linear Feet New Trail Construction	3,833 feet
Total Estimated Cost per Linear Foot	\$190
Total Estimated Cost of New Trail Construction	\$728,270
Type of Amenities	Multi-Use Pathway Signage
# of Amenities	16
Cost per Amenity	Varies
Total Cost of Amenities	\$90,000
Rehabilitation Cost	TBD
Total Cost Estimate for SHARP ID #S16	\$818,270



- a. **Total Linear Feet of New Trail Construction:** 3,833 linear feet
- b. **Total Estimated Cost per Linear Foot:** \$190 per foot
- c. **Estimated Cost of Amenities:** Varies. Estimated multi-use pathway signage needs include: (2) Type 2 signs (approximately \$10,000 each), (6) Type 4/6 signs (approximately \$8,000 each), (4) Type 6a signs (approximately \$5,000 each), and (4) bollards at (approximately \$500 each).

Sign Type	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total
Type 2	2	\$10,000	\$20,000
Type 4/6	6	\$8,000	\$48,000
Type 6a	4	\$5,000	\$20,000
Bollard	4	\$500	\$2,000
Total Signs	16	Grand Total	\$90,000

- d. **Rehabilitation Cost Estimate:** TBD
 - e. **First-Guess Cost Estimate:** \$818,270
 - f. **Preferred Alignment:** \$818,270
 - g. **Alternative Alignment:** None.
- E. **Other Special Considerations:** There has been significant dialogue, as well as a field trip, between SHARP TTC team members and Bluffs-area residents concerning the main alignment and the non-ADA spur. Please see the attached e-mail correspondence for more information.

SHARP

Sherwins Area Recreation Plan

Trails Technical Committee





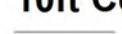


SHARP TTC: Map ID #16

CONCEPT: Soft-surface non-motorized connector from the Mill City staging area (see Summer Map ID #4) to the trail connecting it to the western end of the meadow (see Summer Map ID #5a) and Mammoth Rock Trail, with additional connectivity to La Verne Street

See The Sherwin Area Recreation Plan (SHARP) for detailed concept and rationale

Map Draft Date 12/02/11

Legend

-  SHARP TTC Trail Alignments
-  SHARP Proposed Trails
-  INF Trails
-  Centerlines
- 10ft Contours**
 -  Contour Line, Major
 -  Contour Line, Minor
 -  Contour Line, Intermediate

SHARP TTC

- The SHARP TTC is committed to staying true to the original wording and intent of the SHARP proposals, as crafted by the Sherwins Working Group, and will therefore not revisit or revise any part of any recommendation unless warranted by agency sideboards or other opportunities or constraints as identified by land management agencies such as the INF.
- This map is for informational purposes and may not have been prepared for, or be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Users of this information should review or consult the primary data and information sources to ascertain the usability of the information.



0 155 310 620 Feet





**Project Cover Sheet:
Map ID #S16**

SHARP CONCEPT	<p>Soft-surface non-motorized connector from the Mill City Staging Area (see Summer Map ID #04) to the trail connecting it to the western end of the meadow (see Summer Map ID #05a) and Mammoth Rock Trail, with additional connectivity to La Verne Street</p> <p>Develop a soft-surface non-motorized connector trail that will link into Mammoth Rock Trail and the meadow via the trail connection described in Summer Map ID #05a. This spur, which will be ADA-accessible, should be aligned with the identified existing use-trails/roads if possible and will include an ADA-accessible constructed overlook/scenic vista area. ADA access may terminate at the vista point. A spur to La Verne Street should be developed as well.</p>
SHARP RATIONALE	<p>This trail provides an essential, though short, link between the Mill City Staging Area and the trail that connects it to the meadow. As an ADA-accessible trail with a constructed scenic-overlook point, it will offer vista opportunities from The Bluffs to disabled users. This connection provides access to potential public transportation (see Summer Map ID #28) and to Mill City, which is a historic point of interest that has further connections to other area trails. Additionally, this alignment will take pedestrian and bicycle traffic off of Old Mammoth Road and help to minimize the use of unsafe roadside turnouts along Old Mammoth Road. There is good visibility in this area, which will help to prevent or mitigate conflict between users. A trail to La Verne Street will provide neighborhood residents easy access to the larger trail system in the meadow as well as to the Lakes Basin.</p> <p>NOTE: A La Verne Street spur alignment will require further study and will take into account private-property opportunities and constraints.</p>
RELATED PROJECTS	<p>SHARP project ID #S05a - See the SHARP Summer Proposal for details. SHARP project ID #S04 - See the SHARP Summer Proposal for details. SHARP project ID #S28 - See the SHARP Summer Proposal for details.</p>
WORKFLOW CHECKLIST TASK	DATE COMPLETED
Group overview in-house meeting to present work plan and desired deliverables	N/A
Group overview field trip and technical analysis in-house	Field trips: July 28; August 25; September 8; September 15; October 4; October 13; November 4
Drafting/staking	N/A
Technical review field trip	October 19, 2011
Draft revision	N/A
Final review meeting	November 15, 2011
Presentation to USFS	TBD
AGENCY SIDEBOARDS	N/A
DESIRED OUTSIDE PARTICIPANTS	Town of Mammoth Lakes, Inyo National Forest



**Project Cover Sheet:
Map ID #S16**

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW	"SHARP Projects –NEPA" as submitted to USFS.
OTHER NOTES	None.
PARTICIPANTS	2011 Participants: Lesley Bruns, Maggie Palchak, Malcolm Clark, Drew Foster, Charlie Hurd, Mary Blankenbaker, Jonathan Bourne, Doug Will, Chuck Megivern, Kim Stravers, Drew Blankenbaker, Steve Speidel, Keith Dawley, and John Wentworth 2016 - 2017 Participants: Joel Rathje, John Wentworth, Andrew Mulford, and Kelly Workman.



Summer 2011 Final Report

Alignment Proposals for the Inyo National Forest and the Town of Mammoth Lakes

Appendix A



Updated December 12, 2011



From: CARL DENZ <ctbenz@verizon.net>

Subject: MLTPA - Comments on Proposal

Date: December 14, 2011 1:40:34 PM PST

To: "drewblankenbaker@mltpa.org" <drewblankenbaker@mltpa.org>

Cc: "johnwentworth@mltpa.org" <johnwentworth@mltpa.org>, Anne Tweet <anne@summitperformance.com>, "mpalchak@disabledsportseasternsierra.org" <mpalchak@disabledsportseasternsierra.org>, Charlene hollander <cb.hollander@yahoo.com>, "cbenz@buckinstitute.org" <cbenz@buckinstitute.org>, "gbenz@grbtv.com" <gbenz@grbtv.com>, William Krauss <wckrauss@hotmail.com>, jamey krauss <jameykrauss@gmail.com>, Kaitlyn Krauss <kaitlynkrauss@gmail.com>, "Thiele, Carol \[NIH/NCI\] \[E\]" <thielec@mail.nih.gov>, Bill Thiele <wftdds@hotmail.com>, jthiele <jthiele@studiotmt.com>

Reply-To: CARL DENZ <ctbenz@verizon.net>

Dear Mr. Blankenbaker,

I am one of the 5 Benzes that own the Benz cabin on the Bluff. I am writing you in response to the notification about the Mammoth Lakes proposed trail system, particularly the portion described for the bluffs. I will be unable to attend any meetings with you this December, and I wanted to make sure you heard my voice regarding the proposed bluff trail. You have already heard from other members of our family, so you are well aware of our long tenure in Mammoth, (since 1956), our love for this community and of this area and passion for passing on to our children's children the same opportunities and environmental opportunities and awareness that we had growing up. Not surprisingly, our government has identified conserving our environment as essential to a healthy and prosperous society. Why should this be important to us? Our nation is growing, which means more people and consumption, which in turn means less resources for everyone and less for wildlife. What's scary is that the rate of increase in increasing, the U.S. is the 4th leading nation in population growth. It is because of this and other reasons I am writing you.

My sister Barbara Krauss wrote clearly about our family experiences with the evolution and development of the community of Mammoth, the changes such development brings, and our understanding that when planned, designed and implemented wisely, is a good thing for the community. And so it is essential that we consider what has already been lost for "the good of community development" as we look forward to ensuring that the beauty of this area (which is probably what attracted most of us to Mammoth Lakes) and conserving the integrity of a fully functioning ecosystem, of which we are all apart, is secured.

I am a professional wildlife biologist, and received my undergraduate and graduate degrees from U.C. Davis and Humboldt State University, respectively. Professionally, I have applied my knowledge and abilities in the conservation of our natural resources for over 30 years. First off, please know that I support trails systems that allow access (including for those with disabilities) and expose people to nature and enhances their appreciation our environment, but trail systems must work with the community (including affected members), allow access but not necessarily everywhere, and work with the environment, not to its detriment. I believe a well designed ADA-accessible overlook (off Old Mammoth Rd.) would be good. However, as a home owner on the bluff, I am opposed to this trail for numerous reasons. Construction of a large trail that promotes horse riding (and the impacts that creates) is insensitive to the local homeowners and has adverse impacts to the environment. A trail that serves this purpose already exists, the Mammoth Rock Trail. There may be other issues that need to be addressed there, but the trail does exist and it makes good planning sense to adapt and manage what already is in place. I am opposed to this trail because of the potential environmental impact, as well. Construction and maintaining a trail system as proposed is challenged with extreme slopes, vulnerable to erosion and difficult and expensive to maintain. Cutting a large swath across the bluff opens up yet more of the area to invasion of non-native weeds that degrade the environment, typically crowding out and out-competing our native plants. The local plant community would also be adversely affected by the increase in nutrients added to the soils from horse excrement (which can also introduce non-native seeds). The excrement also attracts flies and other insects which are undesirable and degrade the outdoor experience of other hikers and likely those who live near the paths used by the horses. This occurs all the time on hiking trails which are also used by horses and is definitely an issue that must be considered when planning such a trail in peoples backyards. The increase in use by people, horses, etc. also has and impact on the local wildlife. Of significant concern is the added affect this trail route would have on the local deer herd and the migratory route this area serves. With all the development on the bluff and near by, we have seen a notable decline in deer use in this area, and we (as a community) should be mindful of our actions to ensure that we are working within the fabric of a natural functioning ecosystem - not diminishing or destroying it, but being a vibrant part of it, ensuring it will continue for it's own right to exist and for the enjoyment of future generations.

As a community, we need to think better about the affects of our actions and what we can do to improve the environment, we need to consciously think about landscape sustainability; and we should have a vision that is committed to conservation of our resources and a healthy environment, not just for us, but for our children's children.

Thank you for this opportunity to share my views and position. I would be happy to work with you and others on this issue. I know that this proposal, as it is further developed, will need to be proposed to the U.S. Forest Service. I would appreciate being notified as to when that occurs.

Sincerely,

Carl T. Benz

From: barbara krauss <quailcornr@gmail.com>
Subject: Proposed horse trail behind our homes on the Bluff
Date: November 15, 2011 12:19:49 PM PST
To: drewblankenbaker@mltpa.org
Cc: johnwentworth@mltpa.org, Anne Tweet <anne@summitperformance.com>, mpalchak@disabledsportseasternsierra.org, Charlene hollander <cb.hollander@yahoo.com>, cbenz@buckinstitute.org, Carl_Benz@fws.gov, gbenz@grbtv.com, William Krauss <wckrauss@hotmail.com>, jamey krauss <jameykrauss@gmail.com>, Kaitlyn Krauss <kaitlynkrauss@gmail.com>, "Thiele, Carol (NIH/ NCI) [E]" <thielec@mail.nih.gov>, Bill Thiele <wftdds@hotmail.com>, jthiele <jthiele@studiotmt.com>

Dear Mr. Blankenbaker,

I am one of the 5 Benzes that own the Benz cabin on the Bluff. Our parents bought this old log cabin in the 50's, so I have been going there for almost 60 years. It is one of the original log cabins in Mammoth (without electricity, heat and limited water for 50 years) and dates back to the 20's. Our summers were spent roaming the Bluff, which had no other structure (or roads) besides another old log cabin which is now gone. To use it in the winter, we had to cross country ski in from where we parked at the Valentine Preserve, with packs on our backs with supplies (including our babies). Eight years ago, our cabin needed to be restored, and our biggest priority was to keep intact the essence of the original cabin and its impact on the surrounding area. We did not alter our footprint. My purpose in revealing our history is to show our strong commitment to preserving Old Mammoth and what we consider to be Mammoth's greatest assets: it's beauty, wildlife, history, and connection to a simpler and natural lifestyle.


Every resort has it's commercial component involving greater density in buildings, people, public recreational areas, noise and pollution. We have seen this evolve over all these years in Mammoth. Keeping pristine areas reserved for other pursuits such as bird and wildlife viewing, hiking in undeveloped areas surrounded only by nature and it's solitude, should have the highest priority now when these areas can never be replicated once developed.

Speaking for the Benzes, we are unconditionally opposed to any further development on the Bluff. We have already witnessed the devastating changes to this unique area due to the new homes; with hundreds of trees cut down, wildlife habitats destroyed in the process, and pioneer and Paiute artifacts disregarded. The Benz historic log cabin is our parent's legacy to us and we in turn will strive to preserve the Bluff in it's pristine state as our legacy to our children and to future generations of nature lovers.

Bringing in horse trails and greater use on the Bluff behind our cabin is unnecessary, given that other less fragile and more appropriate areas exist (and are already developed) for this future project in Mammoth. We feel it would be a grossly shortsighted attempt to create a recreational site on such a fragile area of pristine beauty. Access to this unique area for viewing already exists on either side of the Sherwin Meadow (Mammoth Rock Trail and portions of the Bluff). If the over use of a beautiful area contributes to its demise, you must ask if it then defies the purpose of making it accessible to see it's unique beauty. Once developed, it can never be reclaimed, so "Let It Be."

Sincerely,

Barbara Benz Krauss

From: Douglas Will <adouglaswill@gmail.com> 
Subject: Re: SHARP TTC Key Agreements Meeting, Nov. 15 at 5:30 p.m.
Date: November 14, 2011 6:08:56 PM PST
To: Drew Blankenbaker <drewblankenbaker@mltpa.org>

1 Attachment, 588 KB

Drew,

It will be difficult for me to make it but I would appreciate it if you could convey a couple of thoughts for me. First, I want to thank the TTC for their hard work. Second, I have heard that one of the property owners in the Bluffs is very concerned about an "equestrian trail" and the couple have been approaching others who live in the area about their concerns. The couple that is concerned have their home on the other side of a hill and the proposed trail is no where near their property. However, I think it would be helpful if the proposed trail not be referred to as an equestrian trail. It is a trail for all non-mechanized users, as the case for most USFS trails. As we have discussed, the actual use by equestrians will probably be very limited but I think that hikers and runners will enjoy the trail very much. The other group that I think will actually use and enjoy the trail will be the residents of the Bluffs who will likely be the only users in the shoulder season.

Doug

On Mon, Nov 14, 2011 at 3:42 PM, Drew Blankenbaker <drewblankenbaker@mltpa.org> wrote:

No worries Doug. We'll be incorporating all of the input that you have provided thus far, and we'll keep you posted on the results of the key agreements meeting.

Thanks -

Drew Blankenbaker
Natural Resources Director
Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation
www.mltpa.org
(760) 934-3154 [phone]
(866) 760-0285 [fax]



From: "Krauss, William T." <krausswt@lavc.edu>
Subject: FW: Proposed horse trail on Mammoth Bluffs
Date: November 14, 2011 12:35:52 PM PST
To: <drewblankenbaker@mltpa.org>
Cc: <mpalchak@disabledsportseasternsierra.org>

From: Krauss, William T.
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2011 12:26 PM
To: 'drewblankenbaker@mltpa.org'
Cc: 'johnwentworth@mltpa.org'; 'anne@i-human.com'; 'mpalchak@disabledsportseasternsierra.org'; 'cbenz@buckinstitute.org'; 'carl_benz@fws.gov'; 'gbenz@grbtv.com'; 'cb.hollander@yahoo.com'
Subject: Proposed horse trail on Mammoth Bluffs

Dear Mr. Blankenbaker,

As a biologist and environmentalist I am adamantly opposed to the proposed horse trail on the Mammoth Bluffs area.

I have been hiking on the Mammoth Bluffs trail for over 40 years. During the summer I hike the trail several times a month and in the winter I snowshoe and cross country ski on this same trail. I hike on the trail that starts at the stream that parallels Old Mammoth Memorial road to the bluff behind the Benz Cabin. This trail offers some spectacular views of the bluffs, Sherwin Meadow and Mammoth Rock. Over the years I have observed migrating deer herds on the way to Sherwin meadows. I have observed several other mammal species using this area as a wildlife corridor which include bobcats, bear, and mountain coyotes. Also, a few of the bird species I have identified in this bluff area include golden eagles, mountain quail, Clark's nutcrackers, stellar jays, northern flickers, blue grouse, and many other species. This trail offers impressive views as well as amazing mountain solitude that allows a hiker to connect with nature. I have seen many other hikers on this trail over the years and they have come to enjoy this natural and pristine environment.

A horse trail would alter many aspects that I have outlined above. A horse trail would widen considerably the existing trail and would not only impact the native plants but would interfere with the migrating wildlife in the area. Horses would not only leave their excrements on the trail but their impact on the soil could contribute to the erosion of the bluff area which has many steep and loose soil canyons between the rocky areas. There is already a horse trail along Old Mary Road which connects to the horse trail that runs parallel to Old Mammoth Memorial Road which goes by the old historic mine sites. This new horse trail would negatively impact the wildlife of this area, which should be preserved as is, rather than be severely altered because this is a natural treasure of the Mammoth area.


I am a Professor of Biology at L.A. Valley College. I have personal experience with horses in a wildlife area. Our college district owns a 250 acre ecological reserve (Gold Creek Ecological Reserve) in the San Gabriel Mountains. For over 20 years I have been the coordinator of this reserve. Over the years the District Gold Creek Committee (which consists of biologists from several colleges) has not allowed horses in this reserve because of the adverse affect on the native wildlife.

Furthermore, a detailed environmental impact report should be filed before the construction of this proposed horse trail takes place.

These are my insights as a biologist as well as a concerned Mammoth visitor over 40 years.

Sincerely,

William T. Krauss, Professor Biology at L.A. Valley College, 5800 Fulton Ave. Valley Glen, CA 91401

From: "Jan Rutkin" <jan@toddrutkin.com> 
Subject: RE: proposed horse trail behind our homes on the Bluffs in Mammoth update...resend plus something I left off the first message
Date: November 6, 2011 6:00:27 PM PST
To: "Anne Tweet" <anne@i-human.com>, "Bpodosin" <bpodosin@alianzadevelopment.com>, "Brad Podosin" <bpodosin@PM2Group.com>, "Bonnie" <bbgregory105@gmail.com>, "Brian" <guizot@npgcable.com>, "Cindy Podosin" <cindy@reoam.com>, "Dan OConnell" <djolaw1@aol.com>, "kami: snowcreekproperty.com" <kami@snowcreekproperty.com>, "Maria King" <maria@minaret.com>, "Rusty" <rgregory@mammoth-mtn.com>, "Steve Horman" <bluffsmammoth@gmail.com>, "Paul Wolfe" <Paul@komarinvestments.com>, "leslie rosser" <leslieanner@yahoo.com>, <acumom1@earthlink.net>, "barbara krauss" <quailcornr@gmail.com>, "Barbara Krauss" <quailcornr@sbcglobal.net>, <triche@usc.edu>, "Margaret Triche" <mytriche@yahoo.com>, <cbenz@buckinstitute.org>, <carl_benz@fws.gov>, <gbenz@grbtv.com>, <cb.hollander@yahoo.com>, <martiemc@npgcable.com>, <craig@summitperformance.com>, <Lisa@casacassidy.com>, <staylor@npgcable.com>, "Tony Taylor" <tonytaylor8164@gmail.com>, <duke.ostendorf@gmail.com>
Cc: "John Wentworth" <johnwentworth@mltpa.org>, "Drew Blankenbaker" <drewblankenbaker@mltpa.org>, "Maggie Palchak" <mpalchak@disabledsportseasternsierra.org>
Reply-To: <jan@toddrutkin.com>

1 Attachment, 2 KB

Hi Anne et al,

Thank you so much for bringing all this to our attention. We are extremely concerned about these issues as some of the proposed trails would significantly impact our property in a very negative way. We also want to point out that when we got permission from the Town of Mammoth Lakes and the Mammoth Lakes Fire Department to bring our driveway to our house from Benz Drive (access road next to propane tanks), they were adamant that there would be NO parking allowed on Benz Drive because parked cars would inhibit access by the Fire Department in case of emergency. The sole purpose of Benz Drive is to give us and the Benz family access to our properties. There is no other legal purpose. Furthermore, there is no legal street parking on any of the Bluffs streets. So, a trail head would be out of the question.

With respect to item #8, below, we too are extremely disturbed that we were not contacted by either the MLPTA or the Disabled Sports of the Eastern Sierra regarding these issues.

We welcome an opportunity to discuss all of this with other Bluffs residents as soon as possible.

Best Regards,

Jan & Duke Ostendorf

Jan Rutkin
President
323-584-9225; cell: 323-422-4146
jan@toddrutkin.com



From: MLTPA - John Wentworth <johnwentworth@mltpa.org>
Subject: Re: proposed horse trail behind our homes on the Bluffs in Mammoth update...resend plus something I left off the first message
Date: November 6, 2011 7:37:25 PM PST
To: Anne Tweet <anne@i-human.com>
Cc: "Bpodosin" <bpodosin@alianzadevelopment.com>, "Brad Podosin" <bpodosin@PM2Group.com>, "Bonnie" <bbgregory105@gmail.com>, "Brian" <guizot@npgcable.com>, "Cindy Podosin" <cindy@reoam.com>, "Dan OConnell" <djolaw1@aol.com>, "kami: snowcreekproperty.com" <kami@snowcreekproperty.com>, "Maria King" <maria@minaret.com>, "Rusty" <rgregory@mammoth-mtn.com>, "Steve Horman" <bluffsmammoth@gmail.com>, "Paul Wolfe" <Paul@komarinvestments.com>, "leslie rosser" <leslieanner@yahoo.com>, <acumom1@earthlink.net>, "barbara krauss" <quailcornr@gmail.com>, "Barbara Krauss" <quailcornr@sbcglobal.net>, <jan@toddrutkin.com>, <triche@usc.edu>, "Margaret Triche" <mytriche@yahoo.com>, <cbenz@buckinstitute.org>, <carl_benz@fws.gov>, <gbenz@grbtv.com>, <cb.hollander@yahoo.com>, <martiemc@npgcable.com>, <craig@summitperformance.com>, <Lisa@casacassidy.com>, <staylor@npgcable.com>, "Tony Taylor" <tonytaylor8164@gmail.com>, "Drew Blankenbaker" <drewblankenbaker@mltpa.org>, "Maggie Palchak" <mpalchak@disabledsportseasternsierra.org>

1 Attachment, 588 KB

Anne -

Thanks for your excellent summary of our discussions this last Friday afternoon. It was great to get out on the ground with you, Martie, and Galen to review some of the ideas that have been proposed by the Sherwins Working Group and the "Sherwins Area Recreation Plan" (SHARP) which are now being further reviewed by the efforts of volunteers with the assistance of MLTPA. With snow on the ground, we'll be wrapping up the efforts of the volunteers from this summer and hope to have a "key agreements" document posted to our website in the next couple of months. Your input has been very helpful to that effort.

A couple of things that we discussed on Friday that I think are important to emphasize -

- 1) The kind of constructive conversation that we all had on Friday is right in line with the spirit of the Sherwins Working Group and I'm looking forward to that conversation continuing. As you mentioned in your email, I am around for portions of the December holidays, and would be pleased to get together with anybody who'd be interested in furthering the dialogue that was started on Friday. That may be the best time as I'm pretty sure there are some second homeowners in your neighborhood who will be up for the holidays who might not otherwise be in Town. Let me know a date and a time and I'll look forward to getting together.
- 2) The potential for any trail development from SHARP is in the most preliminary of phases. Any trail construction - should it happen at all - is years off, and would require an environmental analysis through both NEPA and CEQA before any construction would actually happen. The "on the ground" review efforts that have been underway over the last two summers are only intended to prepare SHARP proposals for possible environmental analysis.
- 3) The proposals in the SHARP document - and the efforts of the Sherwins Working Group - were very clear with regards to any proposals that may effect private property. I am quoting here from SHARP's "Executive Summary: Project Scope and Existing Conditions" - "Private property interests, such as the Old Mammoth neighborhood, and real estate development projects, such as Snowcreek V and Snowcreek VIII, are contained within the TOML UGB and lie beyond the scope of the specific recommendations made by the SWG as reflected in SHARP." This statement includes any private property interests in your neighborhood, and would obviously apply there as well.

I'm attaching here links to pages on MLTPA's website that have background material on the Sherwins Working Group process, the SHARP document, the SHARP TTC, and the Town's Trail System Master Plan, which was adopted by the Town Council on October 19th of this year. Hopefully this information will be helpful to folks as well.

The Town's "Trail System Master Plan"

The "Trail System Master Plan" was adopted on October 19 of this year - the Town is in the process of preparing the final draft for publication, so we don't have that version published yet. Here's the link to the current page that we have, with background on the plan in its draft form.

http://www.mltpa.org/projects/current/TSMP_final_draft_2009/

The Sherwins Working Group

This page has a pretty extensive documentation of the Sherwins Working Group effort which happened back in the summer of 2009.

Please let me know if any of the links are no longer active on the page - some of them, including the public outreach effort - were time sensitive and we may have taken those down.

http://www.mltpa.org/projects/archived_projects/sherwins/swg/

The Sherwins Area Recreation Plan (SHARP)

Please click on the following link for further information on the SHARP document itself.

http://www.mltpa.org/projects/archived_projects/sherwins/SHARP/

The SHARP Trails Technical Committee (SHARP TTC)

This is the volunteer effort that MLTPA has been assisting with to refine proposals from the Sherwins Working Group on the ground. Note that the goal is to prepare SHARP proposals as recommended by the Sherwins Working Group for environmental analysis only - that's as far as the "on the ground" work goes.

Please note that we haven't finished the efforts that were worked on this (recently passed!) summer - there should be something posted in the next month or so once we get things wrapped up.

http://www.mltpa.org/projects/archived_projects/sherwins/SHARPTTC/

Hope all of this is informative - please let me know some dates in December that might work for you guys and I'll look forward to seeing you then.

Thanks!

john

John Wentworth
CEO/Board President
Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation
www.mltpa.org
(760) 934 3154 [office]
(760) 934 1279 [direct]
(213) 309 5637 [cel]



On Nov 5, 2011, at 11:03 AM, Anne Tweet wrote:

I am resending this note from yesterday to those whose email addresses I was missing (thanks for getting many of those to me Martie). Also there was an item I left off the previous note which I have included as item 7 of this note.

Hello all,

Yesterday afternoon Martie, Galen (owner of the log house next to the Taylors), and I went on a "field trip" with Drew Blankenbaker and John Wentworth from MLTPA and Maggie Palchak (who is a staff member of Disabled Sports and was a participant on the original SHARP group that proposed the trails from the meadow up to the area behind our homes on the Bluffs). We met at the grave site near Mill City and walked from there to just behind the Nathan's house discussing the revised/proposed map that I have attached of their trails idea. You will see that there are differences between this map and the one I sent from an earlier SHARP document.

Here is a summary of key points we/they made:

- 1) The biggest thing we emphasized over and over was we were NOT in favor of making any of the pieces of these proposed trails accessible to horses. We said our concerns were in what horses do to beat up trails and that we don't want to have to wade through horse poop and have our dogs exposed to the same, and very much not in favor of them crossing the stream (further polluting it) to reconnect with the Rock Trail.
- 2) The second thing we emphasized is we are TOTALLY opposed to the proposed access trail from the little driveway/road by the propane tanks and the Ostendorf's house and going next to the Benz cabin. We said that anyone in the neighborhood who wants access to the current use trail that is behind our houses (and any future trail) is happy with how they get there now, and we didn't want to encourage others to use the propane tank road as a trailhead and attract traffic to the neighborhood thinking of it as an official trailhead destination.
- 3) Drew said the ADA portion of the trail would go from the grave site up to the flat area just above the end of the old dirt road that goes from Old Mammoth Rd paralleling the stream and going to the outlook over the meadow and stop there. He said that this would not necessarily mean paving, and could involve railroad ties and decomposed granite. He said the outlook might just be a flat area or they may add some benches - still not determined. In general we said we weren't opposed to giving access to

disabled folks with some modifications, namely...

4) we are not in favor of the little loop piece of the trail that starts out at the grave site (see map), and think they might be able to take another direct low angle approach that would be ADA compliant and avoid having a loop that might encourage people to take a "wrong turn" and go down the old dirt road that got beat up during the fire safety clearing. They said they were also thinking of eliminating that little loop piece of the proposed trail.

5) In general we would like to see things done to discourage people wandering down the old part of the dirt road that winds up on our back porches. We would like improved barriers (that discourage continued use of the old dirt road) and restoration of that area that is still beaten up by the fire safety clearing. John Wentworth said there might be other Forest Service grant money that could help with that effort.

6) From the flat outlook area mentioned above, they intend to essentially use the use trail we are all accustomed to walking that hugs the edge of the bluff going up the rise toward the area behind the Benz cabin (we call the phlox garden). When they get behind the Nathan's house, they intend to try to make the trail drop below the site line of the houses and hug the bluff edge as much as possible, on the other side of the fire break barrier (mowed manzanita) so that there would be a "natural barrier" provided by the manzanita that would keep people from taking a "wrong turn" and wandering toward our homes. We said this might be OK (we would pass this information along to the Benz's, Nathans, Wolfe's, Gregory's and Cassidy's since this directly effects their homes.)

7) We suggested that a good use of limited trail building/maintenance resources could be better spent to improve horse access to the Rock Trail (since the unofficial "on ramp" from the meadow is a total mess and gets thoroughly trashed every year) and sections of the Rock Trail could be widened and improved so that there is less pulverizing by horses. In addition there need to be improvements to the trail that connects to the Rock Trail at the Old Mammoth Rd trail head and parallels Old Mammoth Rd (goes by the old historic mine site) and ends up connecting to the horse trail along Old Mary Rd. That trail is starting to degrade horribly because of horse traffic. The Rock Trail already allows horses to connect from the Meadow all the way to the Lakes Basin. It doesn't seem logical, necessary, and certainly not desirable to create yet another horse trail behind our houses.

8) Finally, Martie emphasized it was disturbing that while all this planning has been going on, no one ever thought to contact anyone in the neighborhood, and that we only learned about this by happenstance.

John Wentworth is willing to come and talk to all of us at a gathering to hear concerns and answer questions. Please let me know if this makes sense to set up a gathering over the December holidays. If so, Martie and I will try to put something together for the neighborhood.

Hope this information is useful and helpful to all. John, Drew, Maggie, if I made a mistake in my representation of our "field trip" today, please chime in.

Sincerely,
Anne Knoche
760-924-7813

<SHARPTTC_MapID_s16_5a_111103.pdf>

From: Brian Hollander <bnhdds@hotmail.com>
Subject: (No Subject)
Date: November 4, 2011 8:27:18 AM PDT
To: <drewblankenbaker@mltpa.org>
Cc: <johnwentworth@mltpa.org>

Dear Mr. Blankenbaker,


I would like to express my extreme displeasure with the recent idea to develop the Sherwins Area Recreation Plan. My family has been visiting Mammoth for over 50 years and have enjoyed the beautiful scenery without all the added man-made improvements!! I am hoping that my children and the future generations can enjoy the same situation.

Please do not destroy the Sherwins Area!!

Best regards,

Brian Hollander

*Brian N. Hollander, DDS MS
Diplomate, American Board of Periodontology
Periodontics and Dental Implants
1615 Hill Road, Suite 4
Novato, CA 94947
415-898-6660*

From: Paul Wolfe <Paul@komarinvestments.com> 

Subject: Horse trails/soft trails

Date: November 4, 2011 11:14:07 AM PDT

To: "drewblankenbaker@mltpa.org" <drewblankenbaker@mltpa.org>

Cc: "mailto:johnwentworth@mltpa.org" <johnwentworth@mltpa.org>, Vache Hanessian <Vache@komarinvestments.com>, Linda Shirvanian <Linda@komarinvestments.com>, Paul Wolfe <Paul@komarinvestments.com>

1 Attachment, 835 bytes

Drew,

My name is Paul Wolfe, and our family owns a home at 420 Le Verne. We actually built on and own 2 properties on the Bluffs. I was notified by email yesterday of the plans for the horse trails that will connect to the Bluffs area. We were never notified previously (that I'm aware of) of these plans that seem to be in their "final" phase. I would expect, that as homeowners who purchased land and built a home in the bluffs, we would have a say in whatever vote if and when trails will be added.

I am not necessarily against the trails, I just don't have enough information or time to explore what is being planned, and when we purchased the lots, we were never notified nor expected that our view corridor and back yard may be the subject of horse trails. Can you please inform me of the process and what are the next steps? If you prefer, we can discuss on the phone, as well.

Cordially,

Paul (for - Shirvanian, Hanessian, & Wolfe Families)

Cc: Arnie Rothlisberger, A.R. Law Offices

Paul A. Wolfe

Komar Investments, LLC

23 Corporate Plaza, Suite 247

Newport Beach, CA 92660

949.718.4844 O

949.718.4845 F

949.903.6107 M

paul@komarinvestments.com

From: "Anne Tweet" <anne@summitperformance.com>
Subject: update on proposed trails behind our homes on the Bluffs in Mammoth
Date: November 4, 2011 8:30:07 PM PDT
To: "Paul Wolfe" <Paul@komarinvestments.com>, "leslie rosser" <leslianner@yahoo.com>, <acumom1@earthlink.net>, "barbara krauss" <quailcornr@gmail.com>, "Barbara Krauss" <quailcornr@sbcglobal.net>, <jan@toddrutkin.com>, <triche@usc.edu>, "Margaret Triche" <mytriche@yahoo.com>, <cbenz@buckinstitute.org>, <carl_benz@fws.gov>, <gbenz@grbtv.com>, <cb.hollander@yahoo.com>
Cc: <martiemc@npgcable.com>, "John Wentworth" <johnwentworth@mltpa.org>, "Drew Blankenbaker" <drewblankenbaker@mltpa.org>, "Maggie Palchak" <mpalchak@disabledsportseasternsierra.org>

2 Attachments, 2.4 MB

Hello all,

This afternoon Martie, Galen (owner of the log house next to the Taylors), and I went on a "field trip" with Drew Blankenbaker and John Wentworth from MLTPA and Maggie Palchak (who is a staff member of Disabled Sports and was a participant on the original SHARP group that proposed the trails from the meadow up to the area behind our homes on the Bluffs). We met at the grave site near Mill City and walked from there to just behind the Nathan's house discussing the revised/proposed map that I have attached of their trails idea. You will see that there are differences between this map and the one I sent from an earlier document.

Here is a summary of key points we/they made:

- 1) The biggest thing we emphasized over and over was we were NOT in favor of making any of the pieces of these proposed trails accessible to horses. We said our concerns were in what horses do to beat up trails and that we don't want to have to wade through horse poop and have our dogs exposed to the same, and very much not in favor of them crossing the stream (further polluting it) to reconnect with the Rock Trail.
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- 4) we are not in favor of the little loop piece of the trail that starts out at the grave site (see map), and think they might be able to take another direct low angle approach that would be ADA compliant and avoid having a loop that might encourage people to take a "wrong turn" and go down the old dirt road that got beat up during the fire safety clearing. They said they were also thinking of eliminating that little loop piece of the proposed trail.
- 5) In general we would like to see things done to discourage people wandering down the old part of the dirt road that winds up on our back porches. We would like improved barriers (that discourage continued use of the old dirt road) and restoration of that area that is still beaten up by the fire safety clearing. John Wentworth said there might be other Forest Service grant money that could help with that effort.
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- 7) Finally, Martie emphasized it was disturbing that while all this planning has been going on, no one ever thought to contact anyone in the neighborhood, and that we only learned about this by happenstance.

John Wentworth is willing to come and talk to all of us at a gathering to hear concerns and answer questions. Please let me know if this makes sense to set up a gathering over the December holidays. If so, Martie and I will try to put something together for the neighborhood.

Hope this information is useful and helpful to all. John, Drew, Maggie, if I made a mistake in my representation of our "field trip" today, please chime in.

From: Charlene hollander <cb.hollander@yahoo.com>
Subject: (No Subject)
Date: November 2, 2011 7:49:02 AM PDT
To: "drewblankenbaker@mltpa.org" <drewblankenbaker@mltpa.org>
Cc: "johnwentworth@mltpa.org" <johnwentworth@mltpa.org>
Reply-To: Charlene hollander <cb.hollander@yahoo.com>

Dear Mr. Blankenbaker,

Please stop "improving" Mammoth. As one of the original landowners in old Mammoth (Benz cabin - over 52 years), our family and now our new generation have watched this beautiful, one of a kind area lose its natural charm in many areas to "improvements." We are understanding of making areas user friendly for special interest groups, but please leave some areas as is for this "special interest group" that would like it left as it used to be. We are against the goals of the Sherwin Plan.

Sincerely,
Charlene Benz Hollander

From: Kimberly Stravers <kimstravers@mltpa.org>
Subject: Re: SHARP Trails Technical Committee
Date: October 28, 2011 11:57:24 AM PDT
To: Douglas Will <adouglaswill@gmail.com>, Stacey Crockett <stacey@mammoth-mtn.com>
Cc: Drew Blankenbaker <drewblankenbaker@mltpa.org>, John Wentworth <johnwentworth@mltpa.org>

3 Attachments, 26 KB

Hi, you two!

Thanks so much for the added feedback! It's great to see others in the equestrian community getting involved and asking good questions.

I've CC'ed Drew here so that you two may continue to be in touch about this alignment. We appreciate your diligence!

Best,
Kim Stravers
Community Engagement Director
Mammoth Lakes Trails & Public Access Foundation
www.mltpa.org
(949) 632-7882 [phone]
(866) 760-0285 [fax]



From: Douglas Will <adouglaswill@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, 26 Oct 2011 19:42:23 -0700
To: Kimberly Stravers <kimstravers@mltpa.org>
Cc: Stacey Crockett <stacey@mammoth-mtn.com>
Subject: Re: SHARP Trails Technical Committee

Hi Kim,


I told Drew that I would solicit feedback from equestrians regarding the proposed trail. I put most Mammoth area equestrians into one of three categories- packers, local riders, and visitors/tourists. Packers won't use the proposed trail. I have heard that some of the local riders will definitely use it and some won't because it is too technical. Most visitors/tourists probably won't use the trail because it is too technical. I am going to include the email I received from Ruth Gerson because Ruth is very involved in equestrian issues at the State and Federal level and has been coming to Mammoth to ride the trails here for many years. She asks good questions and she has had some first hand experience with danger on equestrian trails since her horse slipped on the granite slabs coming down from Valentine and both she and the horse sustained significant injuries.

"Hi Doug

I have not ridden the trail that is now apparently called the Rock Trail in quite a few years, actually since bikes were allowed on it. I'm not sure what you call the Bluffs. In the old days we did ride from Sierra Meadows to the Lakes Basin. This proposed new trail - would it be wide enough to ride without being at the edge of a major dropoff, a cliff-hanger? Would the switchbacks between the cliffs be easily negotiated or quite technical? If the trail is just for horses that are used to climbing narrow, steep, rocky areas, then it would not have a lot of appeal. Is there a comparison for the proposed trail to any trails now in popular usage? Is a 10% grade the best that can be built? Can the trail go longer across and edge uphill so there are fewer switchbacks? How many switchbacks are proposed? Are they steep?

A trail for hikers and equestrians is certainly needed. Any chance we could have the Rock Trail back and let the FS give the proposed one to bikers who like challenges?"

Ruth's last question is actually a very good one. The proposed trail has excellent line of site visibility and I personally think that mountain bike riders would use it more than the Rock Trail if given the opportunity because it is more of a technical ride and it drops down into the middle of town. That might create a natural directionality to the trail system- ride up the Rock Trail and down the new trail. I am certain that runners will establish a directionality- up the Rock Trail and down the new trail. As things are now, I have encountered as many as 200 runners going up and down the Rock Trail within an hour in the morning and the bottlenecks on the trail with all those runners passing each other really makes the run unpleasant for everyone. I were in an administrative position in the USFS I would recognize the enormous liability that they are accepting by the current mountain bike usage. The Rock Trail does not meet any reasonable or customary criteria for a multi-user trail because it is narrow, has steep drop offs, and blind turns. If a heavy down hill bike ever does come around one of those blind turns and hits a child or older adult hiking, or force a horse over the edge it will be a goldmine for the plaintiff's lawyer who will certainly take the case on contingency given the deep pockets involved. Worse, if serious injury or death occurs, there could easily be criminal prosecution because it is pretty obviously reckless endangerment. However, I prefer to let users sort these things out themselves rather than dictating use, but I would certainly put up warning signs/speed limits etc if I was the responsible administrator for the USFS. Actually, I think it might be an improvement to open the new trail to mountain bike riders to take some of the traffic off the Rock Trail and, if I am correct and mountain bike riders like the fast descent, everyone might be able to more or less follow a preferred direction with some limits on the downhill speeds on the Rock Trail. Just a thought.

From: Kimberly Stravers <kimstravers@mltpa.org> 
Subject: Re: SHARP Trails Technical Committee
Date: October 25, 2011 6:05:50 PM PDT
To: Douglas Will <adouglaswill@gmail.com>

From: Douglas Will <adouglaswill@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, 13 Oct 2011 20:21:44 -0700
To: Kimberly Stravers <kimstravers@mltpa.org>
Subject: Re: SHARP Trails Technical Committee

Kim,

Thanks very much for having Drew do the field trip with me. Kudos to the SHARP TTC for doing some terrific work on the alignment. I really appreciate it. The alignment has wonderful views and will be a valuable and highly appreciated expansion to the local trail system. As I explained to Drew, equestrian trails are like ski trails- they come in different degrees of difficulty for horse and rider. The alignment is certainly not an easy "green run" but the grade and exposure make it a "blue run", not a "double black diamond". The line of site is very desirable and the grade is mostly excellent with a fairly short steep section that is very navigable on a horse. The trail will definitely be used by equestrians, but not excessively. I think that it will be used most extensively by local runners early in the season while the Rock Trail is still snow covered, and in July and August it will be used by thousands of runners who will run it as a loop- probably up the Rock Trail and down the Bluffs trail. The second most common user will be hikers. Equestrians will be infrequent users but they will definitely appreciate having the option to access the Lakes Basin. I will solicit feedback from the equestrian community as well.

Thanks for your good work,

Doug

Keith Dawley comments on 5a and 16

5a between 16 and the mammoth rock trail:

- The top section of the trail should be no more than 15% grade, this could be accomplished easily using climbing turns within the vicinity of the existing use trail
- Construction of Bridge:
 - USFS specs
 - Minimum 5ft bridge with for stock
 - Bridges elevated over 2ft from water require a hand rail
 - In this location, a bridge that can accommodate stock rather than pedestrian bridge/ stock ford would be preferable from an environmental perspective

For Construction of 16 as a ADA facility:

- This could be constructed by confining compacted Decomposed Granite with landscape ties.
- Portions of the trail could probably be constructed without the containing landscape ties, though this would likely require greater amounts of DG
- Examples of this construction in the region are the Nanatak Nature trail on Tioga pass and the South Tufa trail at Mono Lake as well as a short trail at Mono Mills on highway 120
- Of the alternative alignments from the Mill City staging area, the more direct alignment with switchbacks would be preferred
- Because paving of this path is not recommended, the creation of separate bridle path would be required.
- The use of soil stabilizer products could be explored for the very low grade sections of this trail, though their upkeep maintenance and suitability would need research.

5a from the Vista Point to the meadow and SHARP 8

- The route to the south closer to the bluffs would be preferable
- Several sections crossing the open slope before descending the technical switchbacks would require skilled labor to construct the trail bed in a few sections where the trail may cross rocks with a cross slope
- Descending the gully will require technical switchbacks that will need to be constructed by skilled labor, one switchback in particular will require the construction of climbing steps in the turn. These steps should have 3ft deep treads to accommodate stock
- Leaving the gully a short steep section will require rock steps/water bars
- To construct the many required rock reinforcements to this trail, much rock will need to be gathered from the hillside and used in the trail construction. This has been represented as standard practice by USFS in the construction of their trails. It appears that there is approximately enough rock material in the vicinity of the trail, and bringing in outside material should not be necessary.