



Mammoth Lakes Winter Recreation Summit

Saturday March 19, 2016

Track: Introducing Winter Fat Biking

Presenter: Alan Jacoby

Discussion Notes

1. Formation of Sierra Eastside Mountain Bike Association (SEMBA) is critical to effort, and the ability to partner with Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) and United States Forest Service (USFS). This is the first real break through that has happened recently.
2. TOML has looked into grooming of the Multi-Use Paths (MUPS). The idea was to have a pilot program, but the snow ran out.
3. USFS order prohibiting wheeled vehicles on any groomed surface.
 - a. General confusion regarding order.
 - i. The order has always interpreted it loosely, whether it is for Nordic or snowmobile trails. Presenter reads it as trails groomed for snowmobile use; hasn't thought about pointing out that specific point because it isn't just a fight for Nordic trails, but more of a large vision, for forest wide interpretation and use.
 - ii. MMSA Fat Bike Demo today was possible by a Special Use Permit.
 - iii. In 1992 Fat Biking was quite different.
 - iv. Audience member informed group of a forest order prohibiting all bikes, also instated in 1992.
 1. Audience member stated it was instituted without NEPA/CEQA which is necessary, therefore found void and recalled.
 2. Does this apply to the grooming order?
 - b. Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA) found a way around the forest order; their groomed trails are not groomed for snowmobiles. Therefore, who is interpreting/deciding this? Other businesses are maneuvering around this.
 - c. Over Snow Vehicle (OSV) process does a lot to tie the recreation and sustainability communities together. If there is more outreach to Nordic skiers and conservation groups to explain and provide ambassadorship to diverse interest groups, then it is much more likely to get buy in from the USFS.

- d. Skate skiers generally do biking in the summer as cross training, skate skiing is faster than fat biking, especially down hill. Nordic users don't understand why fat bikes are not allowed.
- 4. Folks are going to start poaching; a supply of trails needs to be given to this recreational group
- 5. Best thing about fat biking is when the snow melts, the trail is gone. No impacts.
- 6. As we continue to see a less consistent snow pack, we can't groom.
 - a. Fat biking can go through it all, even the grooming equipment can't get through these conditions.
- 7. What about the June Lake Triple Threat triathlon?
 - a. Held it at Obsidian Dome due to snow.
 - b. A lot of skeptical Nordic skiers at the event.
 - i. Bikes went first (due to temps).
 - ii. Skiers after.
 - iii. Every person at the end noted the lack of impact by fat bikers.
 - c. Overall great outreach event
- 8. Incorporate fat bikes into biathlon at Mammoth Mountain.
 - a. Bikes wouldn't impact the course.
- 9. If the MUPS was groomed, would fat bikers doing the same thing as the summer users in taking the bus all the way up and riding down?
 - a. Tourists would probably take the transit and more serious riders would ride up
 - b. Grooming the MUPS is better than clearing them.
 - i. Easier to walk on or bike.
 - ii. Not as much ice.
 - iii. Ease of travel.
- 10. Everyone can coexist in the summer we should be able to do that in the Winter.
 - a. Nothing is fat bike specific.
 - b. All recreations are equal.
 - c. Fat bikers want to share.
- 11. Shady Rest is integral to this process.
 - a. A pilot program in Town seems a little more workable because it is a smaller chunk.
 - b. Try a small pilot program in the Shady Rest area.
 - c. Conversation needs to continue on how to integrate fat biking before they start grooming the trails for Nordic skiing.
- 12. Every group in general faces a group conflict even inter-group conflict.
 - a. Its all about how you deal with it.
- 13. Vision for the future:
 - a. Access to the 90-mile trail system.
 - i. Ride your bike to June Lake, to Minaret Vista, along the San Joaquin Ridge, and through Shady Rest Park as examples.

- ii. Disperse users to facilitate a solitary biking (skiing, snowmobiling) experience. Fat Bikers, Nordic Skiers, Snowmobilers, all ride different distances.
- iii. Tamarack XC Ski Area pilot program grooming the Lakes Basin MUP.
- iv. Last year, Fat Bikers and Nordic Skiers rode together up to the vista as a sanctioned event; would like to see more of that.