



Mammoth Lakes Winter Recreation Summit

Saturday March 19, 2016

Presenter: Kelly Workman

Track: Snowplay

Presentation Notes

1. Conducted snowplay experience surveys
 - a. Six (6) days, Saturday-Sunday
 - i. April 27-28
 - ii. March 5-6
 - iii. March 12-13
 - b. Five (5) locations
 - i. Borrow Pit
 - ii. Mill City
 - iii. Lakes Basin
 - iv. Scenic Loop
 - v. Shady Rest Park
2. Introduced “Poo Fairy” campaign
3. Goal of creating definition of “Snowplay”
4. Display of map with designated Snowplay icons
5. Snowplay Etiquette and Safety
6. How to Enhance Snowplay
7. Survey Results

Discussion Notes

1. Designated Snowplay areas on map
 - a. Who establishes designated areas?
 - b. Is anything extra expected when an area is a ‘designated’ area?
 - i. Facilities should be an expectation when designating in future
 1. Restrooms
 2. Trash bins that are serviced
2. Question posed to group: “What are good locations to designate as a Snowplay area?”
 - a. Where there is snow
 - b. Trending to the higher elevation areas
 - c. Minaret Vista Road
 - i. Have to walk moderate distance, but good places to play
 - d. Trail System Master Plan (TSMP) nodes
 - i. Able to handle infrastructure
 - e. Tioga Pass

- i. High elevation
 - ii. Not in Mammoth Lakes Trail System (MLTS)
 - f. Borrow Pit
 - i. Well known
 - ii. Focus on southern boundary
 - iii. Need public transit and amenities
 - g. Scenic Loop
 - i. Able to drive right to snowplay area(s)
 - h. Mammoth Creek Park, West
 - i. Urban snow park
 - ii. Would need management
 - iii. Dump snow from streets and build snowplay hill/area
 - i. Mill City
 - i. Vehicle turn-around challenges
- 3. Need has been established for snowplay late into season
 - a. Areas that hold snow well
 - i. Mill City
 - ii. Scenic Loop
 - b. Plan for worst case scenario
 - i. Mild winter(s)
- 4. Public Transportation System
 - a. Ability to get there
 - b. Can be part of the criteria to be designated Snowplay area
 - c. Part of the analysis to designate or not
 - d. Can a family with all the “stuff” fit on a smaller bus (purple or gray line)?
 - e. Has town discussed winter trailers or such?
 - i. Ask John Hill
- 5. Amenities
 - a. Can be part of the criteria to be designated Snowplay area
 - b. Very few of the places used and/or proposed have amenities
 - c. Bathroom would receive HIGH USE
 - i. Porta-potty
 - ii. Winterized
- 6. Concessions
 - a. Beyond food and beverage
 - b. Toy rental
 - c. Guidelines part of permit to operate
- 7. Parking
 - a. How to mitigate impacts from 25 cars?
 - b. How to manage the ‘landing spot’ (snowplay area) once designated?
 - c. Three (3) designated parking areas on Scenic Loop
 - i. Never implemented
- 8. What is the process to get an area designated?
 - a. Who designates?
 - i. CalTrans

- ii. United States Forest Service (USFS)
 - iii. Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML)
 - b. Designation proposals
 - i. Start with parking
 - ii. Expand and bring in amenities
- 9. Programming without capital
 - a. Simple signs on Scenic Loop
 - b. Start with a very light footprint
- 10. Certain definition for a designated "SnoPark"?
 - a. Managed by California Department of Transportation
- 11. Would TOML stop 'us' from sending people to a designated snowplay area?
 - a. No
 - b. But, at the same time, people should be told to NOT play at AA building (corner of Hwy 203 and Minaret Blvd.)
- 12. Information sharing
 - a. How do visitors know where to go?
 - b. Who is telling them to go there?
 - c. Move away from bad information by providing good info
 - d. Direct to the right place
- 13. "Gravity driven"
 - a. As part of snowplay definition
 - i. USFS is against any gravity driven snowplay activity
 - ii. TOML is ok with it
 - iii. No property conflicts
 - 1. USFS land
 - 2. Private land
 - b. Build hill at snowplay site
 - i. Attractive and compelling
 - ii. Inexpensive infrastructure
- 14. Surveys
 - a. Encounter a lot of people looking for bathrooms?
 - i. Most having so much fun they couldn't think of enhancements until prompted
 - ii. Too in the moment
 - iii. Restrooms, trash receptacles and signage top answers
 - b. How long were they playing?
 - i. Not a survey question
 - ii. Based on observations, it seems to be weather dependent
 - 1. Fair weather days seemed to be an hour or more
- 15. Future tracks
 - a. How to get information disseminated once areas are designated?
 - b. How to frame expectations?
 - c. Commercialization of snowplay areas?
 - i. Need to choose wisely on where to enhance and where to keep rustic.

- ii. Most people discovered some of the rustic areas after a long wait at Mammoth Mountain Ski Area's (MMSA) Woolly's Tube Park.
 - 1. Want more places like Woolly's
 - a. Uphill lift
 - b. Amenities.
 - 2. Woolly's started as bobsled hill, turned into sledding cuz of conditions
- iii. When out playing, food and drink is nice
- d. Facilities that offer elements of snowplay
 - i. Maybe not sledding, but other levels of snowplay
 - ii. TOML currently has ability to offer this type of facilities
- e. MMSA's Canyon Lodge
 - i. Intended to be set up with lights at night for all sorts of snowplay
 - ii. Brilliant idea- revisit
- f. Participation with partners
 - i. No conflicts with parking, bathrooms, concessions, etc.