

# Letters

## The 5 W's (and One Pesky H) of CAMP: Concept and Master Planning, or How Trails Planning Works for You!

WHO: The Concept and Master Planning trails plan update, or CAMP, is a joint effort between three highly visible parties—the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, and the United States Forest Service—and one that's maybe not been so obvious: YOU, the caring and proactive community. You've heard all about the three cooperative configurations of these agencies—how they interact as CAMP's Funding, Jurisdictional, and Planning partners—and maybe you've been thinking that this whole process is just another bureaucratic pile of paperwork, that what goes on up there doesn't have much to do with what you're up to down here. I'm here to say it ain't so, though, pal. The four of us are in this together, and MLTPA is here to help make sure your input gets in the mix in an egalitarian fashion.

WHAT: Good question. I guess we ought to tell you what this job is if we expect you to do it, hey? Okay, then: CAMP is the name of the process that's

going to result in the Town of Mammoth Lakes receiving a professional and forward-thinking update to its Trails Plan, whose current cover, circa 1991, features a woman in legwarmers toolin' around town in tights...on Rollerblades. (Fair enough—the early part of last decade surely suffered its missteps.) I think it's safe to say that we've come quite a way in the last sixteen years; maybe we're still out there doing the same kinds of things—hiking, skiing, crashing our bicycles—but the town certainly looks different. More people around to share our outdoorsy goods with, too. So to make sure that a.) we all can get around this place safely, efficiently, and without sucking Chevron dry, and b.) the places we like to go don't suffer a geographic fate similar to that of the much over-loved teddy bears of our childhood, MLTPA and the above-mentioned partners have hired on a team of trails planning consultants to evaluate our situation and help make it mo' better. (Hello, Alta Planning + Design and Trail Solutions! Whoops—that belongs in "Who," doesn't it?) With your help—ahem, WITH YOUR HELP—this team and these partners will be able to generate a Draft Trails Master Plan that

is unique to our little slice of heaven and addresses the specific challenges of gettin' after it (and gettin' to it) in the Eastern Sierra.

WHEN: We're already hoppin'! Contracts were signed in September 2007, and MLTPA put on CAMP: SUMMER—a free public workshop designed to gather information from the community about summertime recreation and trails in Mammoth—in Canyon Lodge from November 1st through the 4th. But we're not done yet—CAMP: WINTER will be held February 7–12, 2008. This is YOUR CHANCE to tell us what we need to know about wintertime trails and recreation in our town. And if you can't come to any of the (incredibly fun and educational and free) events, we urge you—beg you, even!—to take the Winter and Summer Trail Surveys at HYPERLINK "<http://www.mltpa.org>"

They'll be available to you for another three or four months, and they don't take more than a few minutes to complete, so there goes your excuse about not having any time to participate.

WHERE: CAMP: WINTER Base CAMP will be set up in the Mountainside Conference Center at Main Lodge. Take a break from your Most Epic Day Ever, grab some grub at the Broadway Marketplace, then duck around the corner to take a stroll though the Exhibit Hall. We'll have a couple of computer stations set up as well, so you can wiggle your frozen toes while you take the online surveys.

WHY: Because we asked you to! Actually, this whole thing's come together because YOU asked US. Since its foundation in 2006, MLTPA's been working to serve the outdoor recreation needs of our community, as indicated by its members. And CAMP is a direct result of people like you making your voices heard and demanding on-the-ground action. Mammoth Lakes has come to a significant turning point, whereby folks are beginning to see the benefit to putting their heads together rather

than putting on the personal-interest blinders. Quiet recreationalists, unite with your motorized brethren! Young kicker-builders, lend a hand to your fellow snowshoer! We can work it out. Even Paul McCartney says so. And if you don't speak your mind now, well, then you don't get to whine about the plan later.

HOW: Come on down to CAMP: WINTER, for starters. You can get event details, register for all kinds of sessions, sign up for the CAMP newsletter, and take the Winter and Summer Trail Surveys at HYPERLINK "<http://www.mltpa.org>" [www.mltpa.org](http://www.mltpa.org), or you can call yours truly at (760) 934-3154 to talk trails planning. We look forward to hearing from you!

**Kim Stravers**

*Communications Manager, MLTPA  
Mammoth Lakes*

## Dear Editor:

To all my friends, local and visitor alike – I'd like to wish each of you a New Year full of the joy and dignity, grace and wisdom that only the most bountiful society that has ever existed can bring to all the members of it's society.

Now clean up your dogshit!

Each and every little act of "forgetfulness" by a dog owner who doesn't clean up after his/her dog is building up an avalanche of payback that is going to make owning a dog in Mammoth difficult to impossible – even for those few responsible dog owners who actually do clean up after their dog – both of them. And if we ever accidentally elect a functional City Council, you could someday see \$500 a year dog licenses that will fund a full-time sanitation officer who's only job is to go around and clean up the dogshit.

You all are bringing it down on yourselves...

**Ken Warner**

*Mammoth Lakes*

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13 NFL Party!	14 NFL BYO CD	15 Bob Snow & Friends Foxy Ladies Night!	16 J Boogie Night	17 Calmer Than You Are	18 Bob Snow & Friends Open Jam Night	19
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