



PHOTO COURTESY FRIENDS OF THE INYO

Join MLTPA and Friends of the Inyo for National Trails Day and help clean up the Sherwin Lakes trail.

## Celebrate National Trails Day Saturday, June 6

In Mammoth and the Eastern Sierra, residents and visitors are fortunate to have hundreds of miles of trails within minutes of their front doors. Whether you hike, bike, ride a horse or an ATV, spend some time on June 6 celebrating and stewarding one of your favorite trails.

Volunteers and Inyo National Forest staff are coming together to care for a popular spot just south of Mammoth: the Sherwin Lakes trail. As snow melts each May and June, trails in the Sherwin area are some of the first to see traffic, and the first to require annual touch-ups such as brush and rock removal. Spend the morning lending a hand to get the Sherwin Lakes and surrounding trails in tip-top shape for summer, learn more about trail maintenance and construction and how you can get involved with stewardship projects all summer long.

This event is co-hosted by Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access and Friends of the Inyo, two local nonprofit groups dedicated to helping people enjoy recreation on the area's beautiful public lands.

National Trails Day Celebration in Mammoth

Where: Sherwin Lakes Trailhead, Mammoth

When: Saturday, June 6 8:30 a.m.-early afternoon

What: Trail maintenance for volunteers of all abilities on both the Sherwin Lakes trail and Mammoth Rock trail, followed by lunch, raffle prizes for volunteers and further explorations on these trails.

Who: All trail users are welcome.

More Information: [www.friendsoftheinyo.org](http://www.friendsoftheinyo.org) or [www.mltpa.org](http://www.mltpa.org).

### What is National Trails Day?

National Trails Day® is a celebration of trails that evolved from the report of President Ronald Reagan's President's Commission on Americans Outdoors. In 1987, the report recommended that all Americans be able to go out their front doors and within fifteen minutes, be on trails that wind through their cities or towns and bring them back without retracing steps. The recommendation, dubbed Trails for All Americans, became the impetus behind several public and private parties joining American Hiking Society in launching National Trails Day® in 1993.

Trails do not just appear for our enjoyment, it takes many hours of planning, labor, and negotiating to develop them. National Trails Day®, the only nationwide celebration of trails, brings awareness to trails and thanks many people and partners for their support and hard work, including volunteers, land agencies, and outdoor minded businesses. It is also a day to introduce people to the many joys and benefits of trails.

#### Why Celebrate Trails?

America's 200,000 miles of trails allow us access to the natural world for recreation, education, exploration, solitude, inspiration, and much more. Trails take us to good physical and mental health by providing us with a chance to breathe fresh air, get our hearts pumping, and escape from our stresses.

The Outdoor Industry Association's annual Outdoor Recreation Participation Study for the United States in 2008 reports

## Inyo National Forest partners with Eastern Sierra Transit to operate Reds Meadow Shuttle

Reds Road Expected to Open June 5, Mandatory Shuttle to Start June 13

### Sports & Outdoors

The Reds Meadow Road, with access to the Devils Postpile National Monument, is expected to open to the public on Friday, June 5. The Forest Service and the Park Service are working with the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area and Caltrans to get the road open and repairs made before opening to the public.

The first day of the mandatory shuttle service will be Saturday, June 13, and the shuttle will continue in operation through Wednesday, September 9. A change this year in the shuttle operation is that the shuttle route has expanded to start at the Village in Mammoth Lakes on a few of the morning runs; most shuttles will begin their route at the Mammoth Mountain Main Lodge. The shuttles will run from 7:15 a.m. until 7 p.m. – visit the Inyo National Forest website for the most up-to-date schedule: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo/>

The change in route is a result of a new partnership between the Forest Service and Eastern Sierra Transit Authority, now known as Eastern Sierra Transit. In this partnership, Eastern Sierra Transit has assumed all elements of the operation of the Reds Meadow Shuttle.

"The Forest Service is very excited to be working with Eastern Sierra Transit to operate the Reds Meadow Shuttle," said Forest Supervisor Jim Upchurch. "We believe this partnership will bring many benefits to the Inyo National Forest and to our visitors. This is already the case with the change in route to begin in Mammoth Lakes, filling a four mile gap in transit service that has existed for years."

The Forest Service and Eastern Sierra Transit have only signed a one-year partnership agreement, but both

hope that this is the first year in a long-term effort.

John Helm, Executive Director for Eastern Sierra Transit, echoed Upchurch's positive sentiments stating, "The partnership with the Forest Service helps Eastern Sierra Transit work toward a goal of the Authority's Short Range Transit Plan, that of creating a seamless transportation system for residents and visitors to the region."

As in past years, the shuttle service is still mandatory for all visitors to Reds Meadow, unless they meet one of six exceptions.

Whether riding the shuttle or driving in an exception vehicle, all visitors must pay a transportation fee during the season of shuttle operation: June 13 – Sept. 9.

The transportation fees are the same as last year: \$7/adult, \$4/child, \$14/adult 3-day pass, \$8/child 3-day pass, \$35/adult season pass and \$20/child season pass.

The new partnership with Eastern Sierra Transit brings a few additional changes to the Shuttle service, in addition to adding service to the Village.

- Shuttle tickets will now be sold at Mammoth Mountain Ticket Booths at the Village and the Main Lodge Adventure Center.

- On early morning trips, the ticket booths will not be open, so passengers should either purchase their tickets the day before, or have exact cash to pay the driver.

- As in the past, dogs are allowed on shuttles, but new this year is a requirement that the dogs must wear a muzzle.

For more information please contact the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center at (760) 924-5500.

## BUDGET

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Eastman that the proposed budget needs more work.

"Show me the money. How much are we paying in payroll? That's what makes a difference, not bodies," he said in a phone interview.

"I hope the citizen budget committee will help flush out some of these issues and get us on the right track."

Mayor Sugimura reminded everyone that the proposed budget is not set in stone. "Get in touch with town council members if you have suggestions," she encouraged the public.

In a conversation about his being tapped for the citizen budget committee, former council member Kirk Stapp agreed with Eastman's May 20 remarks, primarily with regard to the structural versus cyclical deficit. "The questions he's asking and the

direction he's going, I support."

"There are some departments that are experiencing cyclical problems," he said. "There are other departments that are experiencing structural problems. Because if you look at development, no major development is going to come forward in the next three, four, maybe five years. So that's a structural problem."

He agreed, too, with the questions Eastman asked about reserve accounts.

"What he's trying to do is get a picture of what is happening. Two years ago, how much money did we have in different accounts that we've had to pull to keep the town whole? We're talking millions of dollars," Stapp said.

As for his work on the committee, he hopes it will not just be about forecasting.