



PROPOSAL FOR MAMMOTH LAKES TRAILS AND PUBLIC ACCESS MASTER PLAN

Presented by Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access (MLTPA)

MLTPA has authored this Proposal to assist the Town of Mammoth Lakes in fully integrating the area described by the Urban Growth Boundary with the surrounding public lands, with the aim of securing for future generations efficient, ample, and enjoyable public access to those lands. The Town is currently in the home stretch of a period of intensive growth, whereby, in the next 12 months, construction will begin on the last remaining parcels of undeveloped land; since a trails and public access system has not been articulated or adopted by the Town in the past, the need to embark on this journey now is critical. It is the hope of MLTPA that the approval of this planning process will serve to ensure that, in line with the Town's "feet first" initiative and the Vision statements of its General Plan, the Mammoth Lakes community can begin at one's doorstep and end in its wild places.

Though this Plan may be funded and implemented incrementally, the intent is always to ensure that each phase fits into a comprehensive, overall vision of a fully integrated trails and public access system. MLTPA is committed to working with the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Inyo National Forest, Mono County, businesses, residents, and all other interested parties to create a Master Plan, for adoption by the appropriate jurisdictional agencies, that will serve as the foundation for future development and will reflect the importance of the Town's interface with its surrounding environment—ensuring a vibrant, sustainable community for the future.

This Proposal describes the scope, goals, partners, and tasks inherent in conducting a trails and public-access master planning process for the Planning Area of the Town of Mammoth Lakes (approx. 125 sq. mi.). The Executive Summary on the following page provides a summation of this project with its estimated total costs; the supporting material will detail each task's individual steps, costs, and deliverables.

WHY MLTPA? As a nonprofit organization that is based in the Mammoth Lakes community, yet holds no tangible interest in the lands described by the Planning Area, MLTPA can serve as a neutral, knowledgeable coordinating entity between the public and private sectors, jurisdictional agencies, and planning team members. MLTPA's previous trails and public access work here, including the GIS contract fulfilled for the TOML, demonstrates our considerable local knowledge and community support. Our position as a local nonprofit also enables us to partner with other agencies in pursuit of special grant funding.

PRE-PLANNING

Planning Proposal: MLTPA will submit a detailed, budgeted proposal for a trails and public-access master plan to the community of Mammoth Lakes with the assistance of TOML Staff, the Tourism & Recreation Department, Tourism & Recreation commissioners, jurisdictional partners, design consultants, the Task Force, and MMSA.

Funding: Based on the attached budget, MLTPA will verify contracting procedures, identify subcontractors and formalize relationships, and secure funding to execute the Planning Proposal via a financial agreement with the TOML, federal, state, and other grants, private donations, and business commitments, including MMSA.

MASTER PLANNING

First Steps: Once the Planning Proposal has been adopted by the TOML and related jurisdictional agencies, and funding has been secured, MLTPA, as the contracting entity, will: engage and manage subcontractors to fulfill the objectives and produce the deliverables described in the Master Plan; identify stakeholders; and establish a base of operations and acquire the tools needed to conduct subsequent tasks.

Team Organization: MLTPA will define relationships between Master Plan team members, establish a detailed project timeline, assign tasks, and outline the vision, goals, objectives, and deliverables of the master-planning process.

Public Participation: The public process will gather regular input from all stakeholders and to build consensus and support for the master plan as it evolves. Local outreach efforts will include themed open-house public meetings, intensive design charettes, jurisdictional stakeholder meetings, construction and utilization of a robust, interactive project website with forums and survey capabilities, e-newsletters, and field trips. Broader outreach efforts will include paid advertising in regional and local media to access outside interest groups and indirect stakeholders, as well as possible presence at related conferences and trade shows.

Data Collection: All existing trails and public access data—maps, field books, planning documents, ownership and easement information, GIS data, etc.—whether digital or analog, will be collected, consolidated, and housed in the MLTPA Data Library, from which design consultants can pull data from the same verified set. Consultants will conduct additional fieldwork throughout the process to obtain missing data, as well as to supplement the Library with such data as habits, usage, needs, current conditions, environmental issues, and safety issues.

Data Analysis: Collected data will be analyzed and evaluated to provide information about current and potential opportunities and constraints as related to

user experience and trail corridors, networks, and access points, as well as to produce cost/benefit studies, development/public access assessments, and other analyses.

Reporting and Progress: MLTPA will be responsible for maintaining the comprehensive project calendar, and ensuring that all subcontractors meet pre-set deadlines. MLTPA will produce a series of reports for financial stakeholders regarding the project's progress and timeliness, as well as produce timely reports to the public.

Trails and Open Space Network Identification: This step will identify a multi-user, multi-use trails and public-access system for the eight identified land areas in the Planning Area: Northern Lands, Western Lands, MMSA, Urban Limit, Eastern Lands, Hidden Lake/Sherwins, Lakes Basin, and High Country. The system will identify trails in a hierarchical manner based on terrain, skill level, remoteness, and conflict potential to identify the preferred use or uses for each trail, or systems of trails. Care will be taken to provide a range of experiences for each user group. Concept maps will be developed showing current, potential, and rehabilitated or modified trails, as well as supply recommendations for appropriate facilities, transit connections, and acquisition of easements. Future needs, system extensions, and connections to surrounding communities or public lands areas will also be identified.

Infrastructure and Capital Improvements: Recommended design guidelines consistent with those used by the Town and agency partners will be provided for the built environment, natural surface trail system, ADA compliance, and signage and wayfinding.

Implementation and Management: The Master Plan will be presented with recommendations for all aspects of plan implementation, in phases, as well as its short- and long-term management, operations, maintenance, and stewardship. Further recommendations and guidance will be provided for cost estimation, funding opportunities, benchmarking, best practices, and adaptive management.

Draft and Final Master Plan: The final task will involve preparing trails and public access system recommendations, design treatments, and best-management practices into one comprehensive, user-friendly document, which will include the vision and goals of the Master Plan. Alternative configurations of the system and its design will be provided to address constraints or conflict. Recommendations for implementation phasing, policy additions or adjustments, related programs, and best practices will be included. The Draft Master Plan will be circulated among the jurisdictional partners, the public, and all other stakeholders for a last opportunity for comment; the Final Master Plan will be presented to the public, and to jurisdictional partners for adoption.

Environmental Compliance: The planning process will include development of an Environmental Assessment (EA), or equivalent, as required by the United States Forest Service and the State of California, for compliance with NEPA and California state guidelines. This task will be performed simultaneously with the master planning to enhance efficiency and facilitate timely implementation.