



Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation

SATSS: "Documented Public Outreach from CAMP:SUMMER and CAMP:WINTER"

November 11, 2008



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Public Comments gathered during CAMP regarding Sherwin Area

I. From Public Comment Appendix

- a. Jane Kenyon: Keep Kerry Meadow Trail and Sherwin Creek Road open for Nordic
- b. Dave Neal: “ “
- c. Mary K. Prentice: Kerry Meadow to Lost Lake for non-motorized Nordic use. Suggested user-group dividing line.
- d. John Walter: Open Lake Mary Road as soon as plowed in spring for backcountry access
- e. J. Parsons: Suggestion to improve existing roads and trails on USFS land
- f. Jen Heintzelman: Historical/Interpretive path from Hayden Cabin to Coldwater Creek
- g. Patty Schwartzkopf: Need for access to east end of Sherwin Meadow (Near GIC Points 163 and 19).
- h. Terry P. Working to provide pedestrian access across private property (GIC Points 27 and 137)
- i. Lynette Armstrong: Suggested bike, equestrian, Nordic trail from Sherwin Creek Rd. to Crowley or McGee Creek (GIC #56)

II. Pete's Notes from Summer CAMP

- a. Soft Surface Trail Tour:
 - i. User conflict is a concern shared by all trail users. Conflict can arise in part from trail crowding, poor trail design, poor management, or lack of respectful visitors; however in most cases it can be reduced with proper planning.
 - ii. Trail users seek a wide variety of experiences, from solitude and escape to exercise and camaraderie. Balancing these various needs can be best accomplished through diligent planning.
 - iii. Due to the Lake Mary Bike Path, we anticipate an increase in the number of mountain bikers in the lakes basin, yet there currently is not a high quality natural surface trail system up there to meet their needs.
 - iv. Areas near town that offer most potential for new trails are Shady Rest/the Knolls, Lakes Basin, Panorama Dome/Mammoth Rock.

III. Focus Groups from Summer CAMP

- a. Mountain Bike
 - i. There is a pent-up yearning for more mountain biking trails near town. (Trails at ski area do not meet their desire for cross-country single-track.)

- ii. The loose soils in the area seem to easily churned up by horses and motorized vehicles, making the trails used by those visitors less enjoyable for mountain biking.
 - iii. Mountain bikers are seeking to develop a closer working partnership with the Forest Service that can lead to new trails. They have little faith, little hope due to long-term lack of progress.
 - iv. Dirt roads are not appealing. Beginner/Intermediate single-track most underserved.
- b. Hiking
 - i. A concern that hiking has been displaced on some trails by an increase in mountain biking.
 - ii. Hikers would like some hiking-only trails to provide a less-crowded experience.
 - iii. The trail planning process might benefit from input from other organizations such as Friends of Inyo, Mono Lake Committee, and Sierra Club.
 - iv. The trail damage caused by horses is a concern.
 - v. Mammoth Rock Trail is less enjoyable, dangerous due to downhill mountain bikers.
 - vi. Panorama Dome area is less enjoyable due to mountain bikers.
- c. Equestrians
 - i. Homeowner has closed historic access to the National Forest. Re-establishing access from the end of Mill Street point is a priority.
 - ii. Mammoth Rock Trail is less enjoyable, dangerous due to downhill mountain bikers.
 - iii. More trail loops needed near Mill City.
 - iv. Not many equestrians are engaged in trail planning process, and there is no local equestrian organization.
 - v. Trails near Sierra Meadow Equestrian Center are very important to local horseback riders and visitors alike.
 - vi. About 35 private horses are boarded at Sierra Meadow Equestrian Center. Additional horses are kept there during summer vacations by visitors. A handful of private equestrians keep their horses at their home, but this is few. All other horses use is by concession with USFS.

IV. CAMP Summer Notes from Public Officials Meeting by Cimarron Chacon – Trails Solutions

- a. Golf Courses
 - i. Access potential for winter/Nordic access. Particularly Snowcreek
- b. Challenges to moving forward

- i. USFS - Issues around agency planning process – lack of capacity/staff to put towards efforts
 - ii. USFS- Time is right; USFS hasn't been asked previously for new trails, now the opportunity is emerging.
 - iii. USFS – FS trail heads and access points need to be secured before new trail systems
 - iv. TOML- No maintenance budget (\$30,000 annual for trails) looking for political will to support recreation and training for trails maintenance.
 - v. TOML- Need to market new trails and attract and cater to events. Trail- running is one event that gained momentum. Runnmammoth.com website
 - vi. Need for Trails Coordinator on Staff – benches, signs, etc. Manage the system
 - vii. Mono County- Need to complete in town loops before looking to county. Need connections through Snow Creek, Need Improvements on Main Street
- c. Town Issues
 - i. Winter Staging areas don't exist. There needs to be thought into winter staging
 - ii. Snow creek VIII is a high priority right now.
- d. Summer Soft Surface Existing Facilities Group
 - i. Most existing trails follow good sustainability principals.
 - ii. Most existing trails do not connect to major nodes, or each other
 - iii. Current starting and terminus points for existing trails are unsafe
 - iv. Existing trails are not meeting user needs or visitor expectations
- e. Summer Public Officials Listening Session
 - i. Eminent need to develop public access alternatives through Snow Creek and other undeveloped parcels.
 - ii. FS Motorized Proposed Action released – opportunities for non-motorized access where motorized use was removed
- f. Summer Missing Links Tour
 - i. The main areas to connect from town are the Knolls, Shady Rest, the Village to the Mountain on the North Side of Minaret, and various points on the South side of town to the Sherwins, and the main Mammoth Mountain Lodges to each other.
 - ii. Many users are currently utilizing routes were created for other purposed and objective or creating their own route via land feature to add to the experiences no provided by the current established soft surface trail system.

V. Alta CAMP Summer notes

- a. Existing Facilities Tour
 - i. Define key destinations like an 18 hole golf course: M. Rock, Skate Park, Wood Products, overlook, etc...
- b. Agency Focus Group
 - i. Urgent New Development Issues: Mark Wardlaw – Snowcreek perimeter trail, Hidden Creek Crossings – need response from MLTPA in 2 weeks.
 - ii. Pete: Snowcreek Meadow includes a drainage easement along its length... possible “environmental trail” but not likely as paved bikeway. Could be made accessible with new trail surface technology, reduce environmental impact/braiding of creek corridor. Interim solution: Waterford Rd., underground utilities to get class 1 path – applied for grant funding but unsuccessful...

VI. CAMP Winter

- a. Winter Mobility Listening Session (notes by Jo Bacon)
 - i. Issues – “Out at Snowcreek 5 but not close enough to transit – if had it, would use it; could change if convenient”
 - ii. “Get snow easements eg golf courses (Cimarron) do we have open areas to do it? Maintenance as snow softens is a problem”
- b. Portal Bus Ride (notes by Jo Bacon)
 - i. Mill St. – access area (maybe 5 cars?) not a portal – secondary access to Sherwins
 - ii. Sherwin Creek Road – sidecountry access to Bardini Point to board and ski in addition to XC and snowmobiling staging; has potential beyond that based on Snowcreek VIII?
- c. Trails Network Workshop: Recreation (notes by Brooke Pace)
 - i. “Group was broken into 3 sub-groups: motorized recreation, nordic recreation, skiing/backcountry recreation. Each group asked to identify “dream scenario” for their recreation group. Shady Rest and Sherwin Meadows biggest areas of contention, but all groups wanted to see a snowplay area developed - maybe out by Sherwin Ranch for sledding, Nordic, dog-walking,, snowmobiling riding and access to Sherwins. All groups agreed that access/mobility around town an issue: suggest a groomed trail all around town, some areas accessible to all, others non-motorized around neighborhoods Lake Mary/Lakes Basin spring access also a point for all groups because the road is plowed in April but not opened and they’d all like it opened for access to the Crest and areas.
- d. Listening Session (notes by Cimarron Chacon)

- i. Dog walking – besides Shady Rest other areas that dog walkers are going are Junction and Sherwin Creek Road (Sierra Meadows)



Mammoth Lakes Area Trails and Access Points

Lakes Basin and Urban Limit

Group #2 - Bikes

0.5 0 0.25 Miles

Scale Management Technology, Inc.

MLIPA

alta

9000

DATA

MAP

County Boundary

Urban Limit

Town Boundary

MLTPA Access Points

Natural Surface Trails

Existing Bike Path / MUP

Near-Term Planned Bike Paths

Parcels

Streets



