



**Notes from the Sherwins Working Group (SWG) Field Walk:
Mammoth Community Water District (MCWD) Facilities and Future Activity
in the Meadows Area**

Wednesday, July 22, 2009, at 11:30 a.m.

Walk led by Greg Norby, General Manager, MCWD

- The purpose of the field walk was to provide background information on existing and future MCWD water-system infrastructure in the Sherwins study area and to consider opportunities for integrating future facilities into the recreation/trails system.
- Participants included Greg Norby (MCWD), Stephanie Wolff (Mammoth Pet Shop), Malcolm Clark (Sierra Club), Danna Stroud (TOML Tourism & Recreation Department), Tammy Nguyen (The Chadmar Group), and Mary K. Prentice (Sierra Club).
- The group parked at Stephanie Wolff's house near the end of Tamarack Street and walked from there to the meadow via the existing dirt-road access point.
- The group's walking route basically covered the upper meadows area from the Tamarack Street access point, south along the dirt road, to Hidden Lake, and then up to the end of the meadows, completing the looped trail through the nearby forested stand along the base of The Bluffs and taking the dirt road back to Tamarack Street.
- Observations made by the group included:
 - Amazing wildflower variety
 - Obvious severe erosion gullies along the dirt road to Hidden Lake, likely due to heavy surface-water runoff from the upper meadows area where Bodle Ditch splits into various channels
 - Trail route makes a great loop
 - Lots of variety (sage to meadow to the forested area along base of The Bluffs)
 - Use trail along The base of The Bluffs could be the start of a proposed trail from the meadow up to the Old Mammoth Road area
 - Cross-country ski routes (blue diamond system) are regularly used in winter
- The group discussed the approximate layout of the conceptual Plum family development to get an approximate idea of a possible trailhead location.
- The group stopped at MCWD Monitoring Wells 11 and 12. Well 11 is the obvious artesian well along the dirt road; it was running with a one- to two-foot-high fountain. The well's artesian discharge varies from year to year. Mr. Norby explained that the well's source is thought to be the deep aquifer recharged by snowpack on the Sherwins (not connected to the meadows or to surface water).
- MCWD is working with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to permit a pumping test in the meadow (September 2009 timeline), so there may be a drill rig on site and temporary piping across the lower meadow to Snowcreek Golf Course for approximately one to two weeks. Based on the pump-test results, MCWD may pursue a permanent production well at the site. In that case an improved access road would be needed, which could connect the proposed Tamarack Street trailhead to the well site and be designed for recreational





uses. A buried pipeline would be routed under the improved access road, back toward the existing Well 10 near the southwestern corner of the Snowcreek Golf Course.

