



Sherwins Working Group Volunteer Work Group Meeting #2
Wednesday, July 22, 2009
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Mammoth Ranger Station Conference Room

USFS staff Matt Peterson (facilitator) and Jon Kazmierski (mapping/data support) led the meeting. Kim Stravers (MLTPA) recorded the following notes.

Participants:

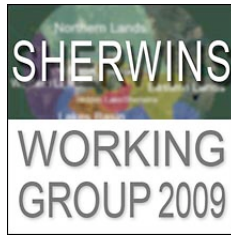
- Malcolm Clark
- Stacy Corless
- Henning Jensen
- Hans Ludwig
- Chuck Megivern
- Clayton Mendel
- Greg Norby
- Mary K. Prentice

Mr. Peterson provided the following outline to the group to guide the evening's work:

- Goal
 - A proposal
 - Map
 - Rationale
- Agenda/process
 - Intros
 - Review maps
 - Work on map
 - General zones
 - Specific features
 - What?
 - Where?
 - Why?

Mr. Peterson explained that the purpose of this Volunteer Work Group effort is to meld the maps and narratives created by the sub-groups formed in the previous full Sherwins Working Group (SWG) meeting into a combined proposal, with rationales, for each season. The full SWG will consider the Volunteer Work Group's summer and winter proposals at the August 11 meeting.





Participants introduced themselves to one another and re-formed the three sub-groups that created the previous meeting's Winter Opportunity Zones map work. Mr. Peterson asked each group to review their map and related narratives so that they could provide a quick overview to the larger group. The full group would then compare their notes and maps to find commonalities that will help them to draft the combined proposal.

Group 2 map review highlights:

- Develop winter closure on Old Mammoth Road as a trailhead with parking, signs, and possible restrooms and ADA facilities; this accommodates existing and potential future uses and diffuses use from the main staging area at the borrow pit.
- Develop a connector from the meadow to the Old Mammoth Road trailhead; it doesn't have to be groomed, but should be signed.
- Create a trail from the meadow to the Lakes Basin to tie into Tamarack Ski Center and other opportunities; this may incorporate the connector described above.
- Delineate motorized/non-motorized use: boundary drawn north to south, approximately from the borrow pit; motorized to the east and non-motorized to the west.
- Develop the borrow pit area as a major trailhead with parking, restrooms, and a beacon basin; needs to accommodate all users (OSV trailers, etc.)
- Develop trailhead signage to explain conditions and uses and offer other educational opportunities at Lake Mary Road, the Old Mammoth Road closure, and the borrow pit, as well as in the meadow and along the primary hiking route on Sherwin Ridge.
- Allow off-leash dog-walking to the east of Sherwin Creek Road. Concerns about possible OSV conflict noted.
- Opportunity exists to create more groomed cross-country ski trail system that ties into the proposed cross-country ski area within Snowcreek VIII.
- Situate the snowplay area at the borrow pit trailhead; snow removed from plowing might be incorporated into sculpting features.
- Develop a groomed trail connecting the borrow pit to Mammoth Creek Park at the bridge.
- Develop a groomed path from the meadow to the borrow pit, which could possibly contribute to a non-motorized loop with groomed connectors into Snowcreek VIII, the Ranch Road public easement, Tamarack Street, etc.; this would enable Mammoth Creek Park to be used as a secondary staging area for snowshoers, cross-country skiers, and other non-motorized users.

Group 1 map review highlights:

- Recommendations were very similar to Group 2's.
- Delineate motorized and non-motorized uses; Nordic trails with OSV are incompatible uses, so the southeast section of the study area would be motorized. Create a buffer zone between the two areas to reduce conflict/impact on quality of experience.
- Develop a connector to facilitate backcountry skiers' egress at the Ranch Road public easement.





- Grooming for Nordic skiing is possible in the non-motorized zone; consider aligning trails with golf-cart paths and other summer trail alignments.
- Develop a trailhead at the borrow pit, with parking.
- Consider situating the snowplay area at the borrow pit; use the plowed snow to sculpt features, as snowpack can be thin in this area.
- Develop a trailhead at the Old Mammoth Road closure with facilities (parking, etc.); both water and wastewater lines are currently situated nearby, which could be made available for facilities depending on discussions with Mammoth Community Water District and other agencies.
- Ensure connectivity into Snowcreek VIII and Snowcreek V via both trails and public transit.

Group 3 map review highlights:

- Recommendations were similar to Group 1 and Group 2, especially with regard to access/egress points and trailheads/staging areas.
- Separation of motorized and non-motorized use is critical; a specific boundary alignment was not suggested.
- Develop a separate motorized staging area (OSV use) farther east on Sherwin Creek Road to avoid congestion and use conflict with non-motorized parking.
- Consider a designated kite-boarding zone in the current driving range area.
- Preserve Solitude Canyon for motorized use.
- Consider Snowcreek V OSV access; previously requested access to the Lakes Basin is not feasible due to permitting (typical April 15 opening date for OSV use) and snowpack.

Volunteer Work Group #2 Specific Recommendations:

1. **Non-motorized staging area at the borrow pit:** Develop a major trailhead at the borrow pit. Facilities will include parking, bathrooms, signage, and a beacon basin/education space.
2. **Motorized staging area beyond the borrow pit:** Develop a separate, OSV-specific staging area farther down Sherwin Creek Road, past the non-motorized staging area, to reduce or eliminate use conflict and to provide OSV-specific facilities (a graded turnaround at the end of the lot might be desirable, for example). Facilities will be limited to signage; users will access the additional facilities at the main, non-motorized staging area.
3. **Motorized/non-motorized boundary:** Delineate motorized and non-motorized use with a boundary that runs north to south, aligned with the main staging area at the borrow pit. The motorized area should include access to the motocross track area and to Solitude Canyon. Inclusion of the Tele Bowl area needs further discussion.
4. **Snowplay area:** Situate the snowplay area on the moraine close to the borrow pit; the aspect is north/northwest, which helps retain snow, and the area is large





enough to accommodate potential increased future use. This site is also close enough to and visible from the trailhead parking lot, which will encourage use by families. This location may be less than ideal, but seems to offer the best opportunity so far. Parking lot and facilities in Recommendation 1 above could be situated at the base of the moraine to decrease distance from play area to parking.

5. **Off-leash dog area:** Designate a zone that is north of Sherwin Creek Road and east of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) stables. Staging areas/trailheads and other developed or use-designated areas are leash-on. This area is close enough to the parking lot to facilitate quick and easy use by dog owners. Other off-leash areas may be considered later.
6. **Non-motorized staging area at end of Tamarack Street:** Develop a secondary trailhead that facilitates current/neighborhood use. Facilities will be limited to parking (six to eight vehicles) and signage, and there will be no grooming. Terry Plum's development application will impact facilities.
7. **Access/egress at Ranch Road public easement:** Present appropriate signage to guide backcountry skiers and snowboarders to the public easement for Sherwins egress. This area is possibly seasonal (winter only).
8. **Non-motorized staging area at Old Mammoth Road closure:** Develop a staging area that will be secondary to the major trailhead at the borrow pit. The area is smaller, but will take pressure off of existing parking at the Lakes Basin. Facilities will include signage, parking, and bathrooms.
9. **Non-motorized staging area at Lake Mary Road winter closure:** Develop a secondary staging area east of Lake Mary Road, above the bridge, that will relieve existing pressure on Lake Mary Road parking for Sherwins and Tamarack Ski Center access. Facilities will be limited to signage.
10. **Improved trail to the Sherwins from Lake Mary Road:** Develop a simple system trail to make a visible, guided connection. Currently there is only a use trail (not officially recognized, not maintained), which is causing erosion to the slope as well as damage to sensitive soils on plateau. Signage will be needed at the trail access point.
 - Winter trail type 1, with no winter maintenance.
11. **Access/egress point from Snowcreek VIII:** Formalize access/egress point proposed near the flagship hotel as identified in the Snowcreek VIII Master Plan by placing signage, as there are 20 public parking spots planned for the site as well as a public transit stop.
12. **Snowplay area near Snowcreek VIII:** Consider situating the a snowplay area here as an alternative to the borrow pit location, as it is also on a moraine, is more north-facing/has better snow than the other location, and is near the flagship hotel and proposed access/egress point, which may facilitate use by guests and other visitors. Another possibility is to determine if Snowcreek is amenable to a designated snowplay area on the golf course; it has potential to bring additional





customers to their development, and snowplay on grass would require less snow than snowplay over sagebrush.

13. **Ungroomed half-loop trail:** Articulate an ungroomed half-loop trail from the borrow pit trailhead along the base of the Sherwins to the Tamarack Street trailhead, where it will connect with the groomed half-loop described in Recommendation 14 to form a closed loop.
 - Winter trail type 2 (preferred Nordic, but snowshoeing and hiking allowed), no winter maintenance.
14. **Groomed half-loop trail:** Develop a groomed half-loop trail (corduroy, but no Nordic track) that connects the access points from Tamarack Street to the borrow pit, with spurs to Snowcreek VIII, the Ranch Road public easement, and other access/egress points as described above. Will connect to the ungroomed half-loop described in Recommendation 13 to form a closed loop. Align over summer-use trail to reduce impact. Possibility to subcontract with Snowcreek for grooming services since they will already be grooming in the area.
 - Winter trail type 2 (preferred Nordic use with no Nordic track, but snowshoeing and hiking allowed), groomed.
15. **Grooming on Old Mammoth Road:** Groom over existing road alignment from the Old Mammoth Road winter closure trailhead to the intersection of Old Mammoth Road and Lake Mary Road. Possibility to work with Tamarack Lodge for grooming since it connects with the Tamarack groomed system.
 - Winter trail type 3, groomed.
16. **Groomed Sherwins egress trail:** Articulate proper Sherwins egress from the east side of Hidden Lake to the Ranch Road public easement via a groomed path. Purpose is to provide direction to backcountry skiers coming off of the Sherwins and to ensure use of egress rather than walking through neighborhoods.
 - Winter trail type 2 (preferred Nordic), groomed
17. **Ungroomed connector from meadow to Old Mammoth Road winter closure trailhead:** Articulate an ungroomed connector between these two points with signage; will be aligned with summer-use trail.
 - Winter trail type 1, no winter maintenance.
18. **Groomed connector from borrow pit to Mammoth Creek Park at bridge:** Develop a groomed (corduroy, but no Nordic track) connector between these two points that goes through the off-leash dog area described in Recommendation 5 and around the USFS stables. This will facilitate use of Mammoth Creek Park as an alternative non-motorized staging area and provide a compacted surface for dog-walkers.
 - Winter trail type 2 (preferred snowshoe/hiking, but Nordic allowed), groomed.





The group agreed to meet Wednesday, July 29, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Mammoth Ranger Station Conference Room to draft the summer map proposal. Group members may instead meet with Group #1 on Tuesday, July 28, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. if this date and time won't work for them.

