



## Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access

Tourism and Recreation Ad Hoc Committee Report

October 19, 2006



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TO: MLTPA Strategic Conference  
FROM: John Wentworth/MLTPA  
RE: Tourism and Recreation Commission Ad Hoc Committee Meetings  
on "Mammoth Trails"

Strategic Conference Participants:

On September 7<sup>th</sup> of 2006, John Wentworth made a presentation to the Tourism and Recreation Commission outlining a proposal for MLTPA and its user group element "Mammoth Trails". The Commission agreed to form an Ad Hoc committee to explore what kind of an organization "Mammoth Trails" might be, and to generate specific ideas and suggestions for the MLTPA Strategic Conference.

The Ad Hoc Committee met three times: September 22, September 29 and October 13.

Included in this report are three items:

- An excerpt from John Wentworth's September 7<sup>th</sup> presentation to the Tourism and Recreation Commission outlining Mammoth Trails.
- A summary of ideas and suggestions for "Mammoth Trails" including a potential mission statement and recommended strategies, goals and objectives derived from the Tourism and Recreation Ad Hoc committee meetings.
- Printouts from a trial mock up of a "Mammoth Trails" website, available online at: <http://mltpa.org/mammothtrails/>

These materials should serve as useful points of discussion for the formation of "Mammoth Trails" and its institutional incorporation into MLTPA.

Many thanks to Danna Stroud and the Tourism and Recreation Department for making the Ad Hoc Committee possible, and to the Tourism and Recreation Commission members for their time and participation.



## MLTPA PROPOSES FORMATION OF “MAMMOTH TRAILS”

September 7, 2006

Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access is an unincorporated, local volunteer citizens organization. Based on ideas presented in "Mobility Plan Resources", a report prepared by MLTPA, the Mammoth Lakes Town Council recently voted to award a contract to MLTPA to create an inventory of all the outdoor recreation amenities and their points of access both here within town of Mammoth Lakes but more importantly, outside of town in the surrounding public lands.

Within the next six months, MLTPA will present to the community a proposal that will incorporate MLTPA as a trails and public access advocacy organization, based in part on already existing organizations in Park City, Sun Valley, Jackson Hole, and Whistler, and more significantly, as an organization designed specifically for this town, for our community. We will present this information at a public community forum now planned for early November.

An important part of our plan is to create a beneficiary organization that will exist within MLTPA: Mammoth Trails. Mammoth Trails will be a confederation of user groups and clubs organized and maintained to promote the pursuit of each group's recreation mission and, importantly, to extend the necessary stewardship to the physical resources upon which their activities take place. We believe that the Tourism and Recreation Commission has a particular role to play in the formation of Mammoth Trails.

We propose that MLTPA and the Tourism and Recreation Commission - or an ad hoc committee of its selection – work together to accomplish three specific tasks:

- 1) To draft the requirements and qualifications that a user group or recreation club must satisfy in order to become a member of Mammoth Trails. This may include a mission statement, a proposed annual budget, a membership plan, but most importantly, a detailed plan of action to extend the organization's resources for the purposes of stewardship to its use area, both for the benefit of the natural environment and for the Mammoth Lakes community.
- 2) To identify sources of funding for a grants program to be administered by Mammoth Trails that will distribute grants (\$5,000 - \$10,000) to qualified recreation clubs or user groups for projects including seed money to get a club started, infrastructure projects, tools and machinery purchase and maintenance, or matching funds for other grants from outside organizations



that will specifically better and improve the outdoor natural resource in which their activity takes place.

3) To budget and identify funding sources for a web server and IT infrastructure that will support all qualifying recreation clubs and user groups with server space, provided and maintained by Mammoth Trails, and access to graphic artists and web site designers for use by qualified user groups and clubs. This will allow these groups to create competent and engaging web sites that will provide complete access and activity information for the clubs primary outdoor recreation pursuit as well as information germane to its resource stewardship mission and contact information for commercial resources in the Mammoth Lakes community.

Many years ago, leaders in this community were wise enough to insist on an Urban Growth Limit for Mammoth Lakes, to ensure that the physical presence of the town would not sprawl out into the natural surroundings. Their effort was successful, and we have the unique opportunity to take advantage of their foresight.

Mammoth Trails as proposed here today - established, funded, and embraced by the community, will see to it that outdoor recreation amenities, resources and public access are planned for, fought for, advocated and protected, while the public lands on which these activities take place will be stewarded, protected, maintained and nurtured for many years to come. As we live in a town within a park, we hope you will agree that this effort will surely benefit this community, but ultimately truly benefit this park we call home.

## **Mammoth Trails - Tourism and Recreation Ad Hoc Group Discussion**

### **Ideas for consideration in a Mammoth Trails mission statement:**

To provide credible, legally verifiable and pertinent information on all outdoor recreation amenities in the Mammoth Lakes region through a confederation of user groups for the benefit of town residents, tourists and visitors.

To create, support and maintain a confederation of user groups and clubs in the Mammoth Lakes Region.

To provide logistical and organizational support to a confederation of user groups and clubs in the Mammoth Lakes region through internet based tools including email services, web site creation and server space for accredited clubs and user groups

To provide financial support to a confederation of user groups and clubs through annual and one time grants and the non-profit status of MLTPA

To provide dispute mediation and resource and amenity issue representation to local, state and federal agencies through MLTPA.

### **Mammoth Trails user groups and clubs shall provide credible, legally verifiable and pertinent information on:**

Their specific outdoor recreation activity

The physical amenity on which the activity takes place

The information shall be organized and presented for residents and visitors alike and shall be:

Credible

Reliable

Current

Inclusive

Standardized

Accurate

Accessible

Legal

Agency Information

Rules and Regulations of agencies

**Ideas relevant to the Mammoth Trails clubs and user groups:**

Mammoth Trails benefits for user groups and clubs

Benefits of the internet including web sites, email and organizational tools.

Resource and facility sharing

Structured opportunity for local business participation

The health and viability of user groups and clubs will come from

Identity and Pride

Annual Grants

One Time Grants

Product Improvement

Minimum requirements for accreditation need to be established

Requirements need to be consistent with guiding community principals and values

**Organizational considerations for Mammoth Trails:**

The institutional relationship to MLTPA

Non profit relationship to MLTPA

A rotating leadership

An advisory Board

A governing body

Club criteria enforcement

summer

# Mammoth Trails

winter

# Mammoth Trails

## Winter

Biathlon

Sled Dog

Ice Climbing

Ice Fishing

Ice Skating

Ski Areas

Nordic Skiing

Snowmobiling

Snowplay

Snowshoe

Winter Hiking

Backcountry Ski and Snowboard

