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First name: Town Council

Last name: Mammoth Lakes

Organization: Mammoth Lakes Town Council

Title: Town Council

Comments: Dear Inyo National Forest Supervisor Yen,

For your consideration, please find the public comments of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council regarding the initial Inyo National Forest Subpart-C proposed action. Town Council unequivocally supports access to public lands for OSV users, and unless otherwise stated, is supportive of the current proposed action. The Council discussed its recommendations provided herein at a public meeting on October 4, 2023.

Town Council is recommending changes to a few areas, specifically related to staging, access, and conflict mitigation that are not addressed in the current proposed action, which council recommends addressing through the Subpart-C process.

\*Town Council supports the proposed Staging area at the New Shady Rest Campground. However, the chosen route for the groomer shown in the proposed action is not viable. Council would propose the Forest groomer use the existing Multi-Use Path (MUP) from the new proposed staging area, cross the entry road into Shady Rest Park onto 3S289, east onto 3S288, then connecting with the 'A Trail' just north of the park. The MUP is currently groomed by TOML for non-motorized use and to ensure no net loss of non-motorized trail mileage, council supports moving TOML's groomed route into the forest east of the MUP. This option would reduce the number of OSVs in Shady Rest Park minimizing congestion and reducing user conflict, while maintaining the existing non-motorized trail mileage.

\*Address the need for a high elevation OSV staging area. The current cinder shed would be an ideal location for this use. To support the high elevation staging area, improvements to the site are recommended, such as leveling, paving, and information/ educational signage.

\*Address the need for OSV staging along the Mammoth Scenic Loop Road, but not immediately adjacent to the additional paved lane used for snow-play parking. The Council recommends the entrance to 3S22 (Inyo Craters Road) as a viable staging option. Council also recommends consideration of another staging area near the junction of the Scenic Loop and Highway 395, allowing for staging opportunities when the Scenic Loop isn't plowed.

\*Council would like to see increased safety measures implemented related to the ORMAT Pipeline. Many of these measures are spelled out in the CD IV pipeline NEPA document and the measures called for in the document should be fully implemented. The requirements are on pages 2-67 and 2-68 from the final EIR for the ORMAT Pipeline, "Casa Diablo IV Geothermal Development Project 2-67 June 2013.

\*Town Council is supportive of the Town of Mammoth Lakes previously submitted proposal for expanded grooming in both the Sherwins and Shady Rest Areas. In the Sherwins area, the Town has initiated and is pursuing a winter grooming program consistent with a recommendation from the Sherwins Area Recreation Plan (SHARP), adopted by town council in 2011 along with the Trail System Master Plan (TSMP). The SHARP was developed and drafted by the Sherwins Working Group, a citizen stakeholder collaborative directly supported by staff from both the U.S. Forest Service and the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Winter Map ID 9a is being developed by the town for expanded non-motorized winter recreation opportunities in the Sherwins meadow area. Please see the attached concept, rationale, and map for SHARP Winter Map ID 9a from SHARP.

\*Also, per the SHARP, the Sherwins Meadow, from roughly the Tele-Bowls west to the bluffs, is recommended as non-motorized should a groomed trail system be developed and implemented in the meadow. The specific recommendation from the SHARP document for OSV use in the Sherwins area - SHARP Winter Map ID #18 - is tied to winter grooming. Town Council looks forward to working with the Inyo National Forest to further develop this recommendation from SHARP as part of your final decision on Subpart C.

\*Town Council is supportive of delineation of uses on SR 203 during winter months between the Main Lodge area of Mammoth Resorts and the Minaret Vista. This could include creating lanes for motorized and non-

motorized uses along the road or 're-opening' of the original road for OSV use which sits below the existing road to the North.

We appreciate your consideration and through our Subpart-C MOU, look forward to our continued partnership to enhance opportunities and experiences for our residents and visitors enjoying the Inyo National Forest.

Please see the attached as well.