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First name: John

Last name: Wentworth

Organization: MLTPA Foundation

Title: CEO / Board President

Comments: October 20, 2023

Re: MLTPA Foundation Subpart-C Public Comments

Dear Inyo National Forest Supervisor Yen,

The MLTPA Foundation is pleased to share our public comments regarding the initial Inyo National Forest Subpart-C proposed action. MLTPA supports access to public lands for OSV users, and is generally supportive of the current proposed action. We look forward to working with other stakeholders and interested parties in the development of future alternatives, including a potential "community alternative" focused around the community of Mammoth Lakes.

*MLTPA generally supports the proposed Staging area at the New Shady Rest Campground, although there may be logistical concerns to coordinate the various grooming programs that are active in the Shady Rest area. Reducing the number of OSVs in Shady Rest Park minimizing congestion and reducing user conflict, while maintaining and enhancing non-motorized trail mileage, should be a priority in your final decision.

*MLTPA generally supports a high elevation OSV staging area should be considered at the current "cinder shed" on SR 203 near Mammoth Mountain Ski Area. Improvements to the site should be recommended and implemented.

*MLTPA supports the need for OSV staging along the Mammoth Scenic Loop Road at appropriate sites including another staging area near the junction of the Scenic Loop and Highway 395, allowing for staging opportunities when the Scenic Loop is not plowed.

*MLTPA supports increased safety and information measures to be implemented related to the ORMAT Pipeline. These measures are specifically spelled out in the CD IV pipeline NEPA document and the measures called for in the document should be fully implemented. The failure to implement these measures has been a consistent source of frustration for users and the local community. Please see attached specific highlighted citations from pages 2-67 and 2-68 from the final EIR for the ORMAT Pipeline, "Casa Diablo IV Geothermal Development Project 2-67 June 2013."

As a partner with the Inyo NF and the Town of Mammoth Lakes in the convening and facilitation of the Sherwins Working Group, MLTPA is supportive of the specific recommendations from the Sherwins Area Recreation Plan (SHARP). 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. Facilitation was provided by the U.S. Forest Service through the Center for Collaborative Policy at California State University in Sacramento. The Sherwins Working Group was recognized with the Far West Ski Association's 2010 Jordan-Reily Award for achievements in ski-related public affairs.

*The Town of Mammoth Lakes has initiated and is actively pursuing a winter grooming program consistent with a recommendation from the SHARP, which was adopted by Town Council in 2011 as a component of their Trail System Master Plan (TSMP). Through permits for pilot programs with the Inyo National Forest, SHARP 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 "winter recreation area" 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 the winter grooming program currently being pursued by the Town, and reads as follows:

"Defining and articulating a developed, partially groomed non-motorized recreation area will offer a "quiet recreation" experience for those who wish to snowshoe, walk, cross-country ski, or enjoy snowplay by providing a sight and sound buffer from OSV use. The establishment of a grooming plan as described in Winter Map ID #9a will preclude motorized use of this area; however, OSV use will continue to be permitted in this area until the grooming plan is established. The location of this zone will allow for direct OSV access to Solitude Canyon via the Tele Bowls. The SWG recognizes that implementation of this feature will likely limit OSV access to the face of the Sherwins; however, the intent is to allow OSV access to Solitude Canyon via a sustainable route that takes into account variable snow conditions and topography and that maintains a clear demarcation between activity areas. Further study is required to determine the exact boundary alignment that will achieve the goals described above."

Please see the attached concept, rationale, and map for SHARP Winter Map ID 18 from SHARP.

*MLTPA 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 should include creating lanes for motorized and non-motorized uses along the road.

MLTPA appreciates your consideration of our comments. We look forward to actively participating in the balance of your Subpart C process and to our continued partnership to enhance winter opportunities and experiences for residents and visitors as they enjoy the Inyo National Forest.

Best -

John Wentworth
CEO / Board President