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First name: Mammoth Trails

Last name: Committee

Organization: Mammoth Trails Committee

Title: Town Of Mammoth Lakes

Comments: Dear Inyo National Forest Supervisor Yen,

For your consideration are the public comments of the Mammoth Trails Committee (MTC) regarding the initial Inyo National Forest Subpart-C proposed action. The MTC is a sub-committee of Mammoth Lakes Recreation which provides program and fiscal oversight for the Mammoth Lakes Trail System (MLTS). The MTC unequivocally supports access to public lands for OSV users, and unless otherwise stated, is supportive of the current proposed action.

The MTC supports limited modifications to the proposed actions in specific areas related to staging, access, and conflict mitigation, that were not addressed in the current proposed action, which the committee recommends addressing through the Subpart-C process.

*MTC supports the proposed staging area at the New Shady Rest Campground. However, we feel the chosen route for the groomer shown in the proposed action is not viable. We 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 the Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) for non-motorized use and to ensure no net loss of non-motorized trail mileage, we would suggest moving TOML's groomed route into the forest east of the MUP. This option would drastically reduce the number of OSV's in Shady Rest Park minimizing congestion and reducing user conflict, while maintaining the existing non-motorized trail mileage.

*Address need for a high elevation OSV staging area. The current Cinder Shed would be an ideal location for this use. The MTC also recommends improvements to that site, such as leveling, paving, and informational/educational signage.

*Address the need for staging along the Mammoth Scenic Loop Road, but not immediately adjacent to the additional paved lane used currently for snow-play parking. The MTC recommends the entrance to 3S22 (Inyo Craters Road) as a viable staging option. Another staging area near the junction of the Scenic Loop and Highway 395 is recommended allowing for staging opportunities when the Scenic Loop isn't plowed or to create greater dispersion of users.

*The MTC is supportive of the Town of Mammoth Lakes previously submitted proposal for expanded grooming in both the Sherwin's and Shady Rest Areas.

*Per the Sherwin Area Recreation Plan (SHARP), adopted by Town Council through the Trail System Master Plan (TSMP), the Sherwin Meadow, from roughly the Tele-Bowls west to the Bluffs, is recommended as non-motorized if a trail system is groomed in the meadow. This recommendation would be for the Meadow area only, not the Sherwin Mountains.

*If feasible, the MTC is supportive of delineation of uses at Minaret Vista. This could include creating lanes along the road or 're-opening' of the original road which sits below the existing road to the North.

*MTC recommends extending the 'slow zone' to all areas around town, increasing safety and eliminating potential conflict in these high use zones. Where practical and feasible, this could extend up to 1 mile around town. The MTC feels this would increase safety, provide a buffer between private land and public recreation, and potentially eliminate conflict in these high use areas.

*Congestion and limited parking at the Lake Mary Road gate and on Old Mammoth Road near Mill City is an annual issue for winter recreationalists. MTC recommends using the Subpart-C process to analyze alternative options to access the Lakes Basin in order to address these parking and congestion problems.

We appreciate your consideration and look forward to further engagement in this process.

Submitted on behalf of the Mammoth Trails Committee