



**Town of Mammoth Lakes**

*Town Manager's Office*

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October 20, 2023

*Re: Town of Mammoth Lakes Town Council Subpart-C Public Comment*

Dear Inyo National Forest Supervisor Yen,

For your consideration are 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 provide 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 were 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 milage, council supports moving TOML's groomed route into the forest east of the MUP. This option would reduce the number of OSV's in Shady Rest Park minimizing congestion and reducing user conflict, while maintaining the existing non-motorized trail milage.
- Address 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 informational/educational signage.
- Address the need for OSV staging along the Mammoth Scenic Loop Road, but not immediately adjacent to the additional paved lane used currently 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.
- Town Council 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 this motorized closure is implemented, council also recommends an access corridor be established or through Sherwin meadow beginning on April 17<sup>th</sup> to allow motorized users to access the Lakes Basin. This would take pressure off the Old Mammoth Road and Lake Mary Gate parking areas.

- If feasible, council 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.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel C. Holler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Daniel C. Holler  
Town Manager

Cc: Town Council  
Lawson Reif, Outdoor Recreation Manager