

## TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES STAFF REPORT

Title: Trails Manager Report

Meeting Date: 07/31/2024

Prepared by: Andrew Mulford, Trails Program Manager

---

The Sherwins Area Trail Planning effort is moving along. This spring the Inyo National Forest employed a new NEPA planner for our district and she was very effective in convening the necessary players to get this project going. We have had two interdisciplinary team meetings to discuss the project this summer. Specialists have been out in the field reviewing proposed alignments. We are currently waiting on a Archaeological Impact Report to be completed. Once this is complete, we will be able to reconvene and hash out the final proposed action. Once the USFS and TOML Office of Outdoor Recreation have established consensus on a final proposed action, we will enter into the public scoping period and subsequent steps leading up to a final signed decision memo authorizing construction.

Our MLTS trail crew has had a very productive summer so far, thanks in large part to the quality members that make up our team. We have a crew of 6 this year with 3 returners and some skilled new hires. After completing the annual logout and springtime trail triage we focused our efforts on addressing the hazard tree situation along the MUP near the Mammoth Lakes Pack Station. Hundreds of dead lodgepole pine in that area were threatening users on the MUP and we made the decision to keep the pathway closed until we could address the imminent hazard. After several weeks of work, the hazards have been put on the ground and with the help of the Mammoth Lakes Fire Department we have begun to clean up the area from a fuels and fire perspective. We will return to this site in the fall to finish the fuels cleanup. This will involve extensive chipping and moving rounds closer to pickup sites for firewood collection.

After addressing the timber work in the Lakes Basin, we once again have returned to Black Bear Run. We are nearing completion and have been working in earnest on the top turn which requires an extensive retaining wall. We anticipate completion of this trail sometime in early September.

Last winter we ordered close to a hundred signs to be replaced along our paved pathways and dirt trails. We have installed all of the replacement signs on our dirt trail system and have begun with the metal wayfinding signs along the paved Multi-Use Paths.