

## TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES STAFF REPORT

Title: Trails Manager Report

Meeting Date: 12/12/2024

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The Town of Mammoth Lakes Office of Outdoor Recreation is pleased to have the opportunity to share some brief updates on our priority projects with you.

- OSV (Over Snow Vehicle) Grooming – An agreement has been completed between the Town of Mammoth Lakes and the California State OHV program to enable the Town of Mammoth Lakes Office of Outdoor Recreation to operate the state owned Pisten Bully Sno-Cat for OSV grooming. TOML has readied the system with signage and tree clearing work. Training has commenced and we are ready with staff to groom as snow conditions allow.
- Non-Motorized Winter Trail Grooming – The Town of Mammoth Lakes has purchased a snowmobile to use for grooming the non-motorized winter trails at Shady Rest Park and the Sherwins. Staff is in place and grooming will commence once appropriate snow levels are reached.
- SHARP – Archeological report has been completed and delivered to USFS Archeological Staff. USFS has scheduled another interdisciplinary team meeting for 12/12/2024.
- SHARP Trailhead Update – Contractor has completed the site grading and paving as well as bathroom installation. Signage and other final elements are still in progress.
- Summer Trail Crew Preview – The TOML Office of Outdoor Recreation Summer Trail Crew is responsible for the maintenance of Soft Surface Trails within the TOML municipal Boundary. This network is made up of 40 miles of trails, many of these trails have received significant maintenance work over the last decade and are in excellent shape. Around 20 miles of these trails are legacy hiking trails that reach from the Lakes Basin and connect to Wilderness areas. These trails have been degrading over the years due to high levels of use, outdated design and in some cases heavy pack stock use. The Mammoth Lakes Trail Crew has conducted many hours of maintenance on these trails in the last 10 years however there are many maintenance needs that still need to be addressed on these trails. We plan to focus on these Wilderness access Hiking and Equestrian trails this summer season. We will develop a priority schedule based on several factors including severity of trail/resource damage, hazard to users and average daily traffic on that trail. In addition to these soft surface trail maintenance responsibilities, our Summer Trail Crew is responsible for sign maintenance along the Multi-Use-Path network as well as hazard tree removal and railing and bollard maintenance. The USFS will not be able to hire seasonal trail crew staff this coming 2025 summer season and our crew may be asked to assist with logout work on a larger network of trails emanating from the Mammoth Lakes area.
- Shady Rest Inyo Craters Trail Planning (SRIC) – This planning effort began in 2020 and received grant funding through the California OHV fund. Planning focused on motorized singletrack connections in the study area. These connections were designed to connect existing singletrack trails that are very short and far away from each other. Summer and winter OSV/OHV staging areas were also looked at in this study. In 2021 acting INF District Ranger on the Mammoth Ranger District, Leeann Murphy, removed the SRIC project from the INF program of work and at that point TOML ceased work on the grant and returned remaining grant funds to the State OHV fund. The State OHV fund is eager to support projects like these that represent a benefit to recreation infrastructure and improve the environmental situation in popular recreation areas.