

TOWN OF MAMMOTH LAKES STAFF REPORT

Title: Trails Program Manager Report

Meeting Date: April, 11 2024

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In this Trails Manager Report I will share an update on winter grooming operations for the winter of 2023/24. We will also discuss grooming equipment and potential long term solutions to our equipment needs. The Office of Outdoor Recreation has been assisting our USFS partners with planning for the closure of Reds Meadow Road this summer season. We have produced an informational map to help inform the public of the access restrictions this coming summer season.

During the spring of 2023 the trail bridge on the Pacific Crest Trail at Upper Soda Springs Campground washed out. The Inyo National Forest is in the process of planning and procurement for a new bridge. Since this will be a multiyear process to replace the bridge, the USFS has decided to proceed with some new trail development on the east side of Reds Meadow Rd to maintain trail connectivity in the near term. Construction is planned for this summer and the TOML trail crew is planning to provide assistance to add a few miles of new trail to the reds meadow valley. These new trail connections will remain open following the installation of the new trail bridge on the PCT at Upper Soda Springs. This will add more inter-valley N-S connectivity allowing users to move more freely from destination to destination without relying on bus or automobile.

The OOR is interested in the development and re-establishment of recreation amenities in the TOML owned parcel along Mammoth Creek. We have done some design work and developed recommended trail alignments for 1 mile of non-motorized soft surface trail in this area. Also we have identified an optimal location for a small bike skills facility that will be aimed toward progression for young cyclists. In addition we have developed 3 interpretive panels to be installed along the MUP in this area to share information about the fuels reduction effort that occurred on this parcel in 2023. These signs have been developed in close partnership with the Whitebark Institute.

We are in the process of replacing the many broken and damaged signs across our trail system. Many of these signs were destroyed during the winter of 2022/2023 and we are excited to install the replacement signage this spring. Also we are working closely with the public works department to develop a TOML digital asset management system that closely mimics the GIS protocols that have been established and used for sign condition and location tracking across the MLTS.