

MAMMOTH LAKES RECREATION (MLR) Board Meeting

FRIDAY, September 26, 2014

9:00am

**Mammoth Lakes Tourism Conference Room
3520 Main Street, Mammoth Lakes, CA**

NOTE: In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please call (760) 934-4932. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable MLR to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title II)

NOTE: All comments will be limited by the President to a speaking time of five minutes.

ROLL CALL

Board Members: John Armstrong, Jo Bacon, Teri Stehlik, Danna Stroud, Betsy Truax, John Urji, Rick Wood.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS (continued from September 22, 2014 Board Meeting)

1. Review and consider action to submit a comment letter regarding Draft General Management Plan and Environmental Assessment for Devils Postpile National Monument (comments due September 30, 2014)
2. Report from Measure R & U Reconciliation Ad Hoc Committee
3. Report from Fund Development Ad Hoc Committee on 100 for \$100 Campaign
4. Review draft legal Requirements Handbook with possible approval at the October 6, 2014 Board meeting
5. Review draft Governance Handbook with possible approval at the October 6, 2014 Board meeting
6. MLR Board Member reports

REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

To the next meeting of the MLR Board scheduled for Monday, October 6, 2014.

I hereby certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, that the foregoing agenda was posted on the Mammoth Lakes Tourism outside door not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting. Dated this 24th day of September, 2014.



Jo Bacon, MLR Treasurer

September 22, 2014

Ms. Deanna Dulen, Superintendent
Devils Postpile National Monument
P.O. Box 3999
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

RE: Devils Postpile National Monument Draft General Management Plan and EA

Submitted via: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/depo>

Dear Deanna,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the Draft General Management Plan and EA for the Devils Postpile National Monument. We are pleased with the work you and the planning team have undertaken to complete this first-ever plan for the monument and would like to commend you for a very thorough and thoughtful collaborative process.

These comments are being submitted by the Board of Directors for Mammoth Lakes Recreation (MLR). As a brief background, MLR is a recently formed 501c3 organization based in Mammoth Lakes, CA with a focus on enhancing and improving the recreation assets that sustain our community's tourism-based economy and quality of life. These assets include many that are found within and adjacent to the monument and also accessed through the monument. We are currently negotiating a contract with the Town of Mammoth Lakes to administer funds generated by two special tax measures to be used to enhance Mammoth's recreation product. This will include possible projects in partnership with Devils Postpile National Monument.

MLR supports the preferred alternative – **Alternative C, Connecting People to Nature and Heritage**. The comments below are intended to help identify potential enhancements to the preferred alternative. These enhancements may include expanding on partnership opportunities to assist with the implementation of the final adopted General Management Plan. The comments below follow the outline of Chapter 3 of the Draft GMP.

Management Zones

MLR supports the four management zones as defined in the document – Front country, Sensitive Resource Management, Natural and Portal and the characteristics defined for each management zone.

Actions Common to All Alternatives

MLR supports the NPS actions common to all alternatives as defined in Table 3.2 of the Draft GMP.

Alternative C: (NPS Preferred Alternative) Connecting People to Nature and Heritage Site Specific Management Guidance

Mammoth Lakes – MLR supports expansion of the monument's presence in the Town of Mammoth Lakes by expanding its current co-location with the Inyo National Forest at the Mammoth Welcome Center and/or Ranger Station to improve contact with the public. We also support the concept of the

monument extending its operation into the shoulder seasons and winter months through increased interpretive and educational experiences and by enhancing outdoor exhibits. This includes the integration of technology into the interpretive and educational programs. We also encourage the monument to consider developing partnership opportunities with Mammoth Lakes Tourism, the Mammoth Unified School District, Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association (ESIA) and MLR to develop shoulder season programs.

Devils Postpile NM Developed Area

Ranger Station – MLR supports the enhancement and expansion of the ranger station in order to improve accessibility and provide additional outdoor space for interpretation. We also support the redesign of the shuttle bus stop and parking area to clearly identify points for accessing the bus and the ranger station.

Campground, Parking and Day Use Area – MLR supports the monument continuing to provide camping and day use opportunities in the developed areas of the monument. However, MLR is concerned about the proposed removal of campsites in Loop B and would encourage the monument to consider designing improvements to campsites in Loop A to accommodate the loss of sites in Loop B. This redesign should also take into consideration the camping needs of the changing demographic to the monument and design some campsites to accommodate generational families and groups.

Operations Area – MLR supports the recommendations for operations and would encourage the monument to consider working with Mammoth Lakes Housing to identify affordable housing options in the community for staff housing needs. MLR also supports the monument collaborating with the Inyo NF to consider the development of a new maintenance facility in the Pumice Flat location.

Devils Postpile NM Viewing Areas – MLR supports the monument’s desire to enhance the experience at the base of the Postpile through small site improvements. MLR also supports an evaluation of the Postpile trail to identify ways to improve accessibility from the ranger station to the Postpile. We would encourage the monument to engage with MLR and the Town of Mammoth Lakes as additional trail enhancements are being considered.

Rainbow Falls – MLR supports the identified enhancements to the Rainbow Falls experience through slight trail realignments and improvements to the viewing platform.

Additional Program Management Guidance

MLR supports the recommendations in the areas of *Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, Climate Change and Sustainability, Wilderness, Visitor Experience, Interpretation, Education and Information*. MLR encourages the monument to work with Mammoth Lakes Tourism, ESIA, the Town and MLR to partner on many of the implementation recommendations in these areas. MLR is very interested in working with the monument and the Inyo NF to create an interagency multi-modal trail plan due to its future administration and oversight of the Mammoth Lakes Trail System (MLTS). We welcome the opportunity to explore new or enhanced accessibility for a variety of trail users throughout the monument, including the consideration of potential access for mountain bikes and the separation of stock trails from hiking and mountain bike trails.

Transportation and Facilities

MLR supports the recommendations in the areas of *Level and Character of Development, Transportation and Access, Facilities and Employee Housing, Concessions Operations and Commercial Services, Outreach and Partnership Programs*. MLR encourages the monument to expand outreach and partnership programs to include Mammoth Lakes Tourism, ESIA and MLR for potential partnership development for the implementation of the recommendations.

Management Zones Applied to Alternative C

MLR supports the management zones applied in Alternative C for the *Front Country Zone, the Sensitive Resource Management Zone, the Portal Zone and the Natural Zone*.

Recommendations to the Inyo National Forest

While the recommendations included in the preferred alternative only represent suggestions for the Inyo NF to consider, MLR supports the recommendations made for *Minaret Vista, Pumice Flat, Boundary Creek Junction, Agnew Meadows, Reds Meadow Guard Station and Bathhouse and Sotcher Lake*. Specifically, MLR is very supportive of potential improvements to the Minaret Vista site as this is a key destination for visitors to the area and we would encourage the monument and Inyo NF to consider partnering with local organizations including MLR and ESIA to help with implementing any improvements to this area.

Boundary Modifications

MLR appreciates, and supports the minor boundary adjustment to the monument that would include the main trail corridor connecting Devils Postpile and Rainbow Falls. We encourage the ongoing accessibility to the trails within this area.

MLR is very interested in the recommendation of creating a complementary USFS National Monument for the entirety of the Upper Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River watershed. We would encourage a collaborative process with the community to determine the viability of, and support for such a designation. We appreciate the potential for a designation and would like to make sure an analysis of agency capacity is considered and also how partnerships with local organizations might assist with the pursuit of such a designation.

Estimated Costs

MLR appreciates the development of a budget that outlines the improvement costs resulting from implementation of key recommendations in Alternative C. MLR encourages the monument to consider the utilization of partners for potential funding sources to assist with implementation of key projects.

Mammoth Lakes Recreation appreciates the opportunity to submit our comments for your consideration. As referenced throughout our document, we look forward to working with you and the rest of the Devils Postpile National Monument team to begin implementation of recommendations once the General Management Plan decision has been made.

Respectfully submitted,

Danna Stroud, President
Mammoth Lakes Recreation

Board Members

John Armstrong

Jo Bacon

Teri Stehlik

Betsy Truax

John Urdi

Rick Wood