

LETTERS

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is not Mammoth Lakes, but simply an important part of it. We should start to stand on our own and create our ownpersonality, for us, and for our LOCAL economic and cultural stability. We should format our own destiny.

5. Today we have a world which, more than ever, and due to over population, is anxious to find recreational and peaceful retreats for an escape from urban insanity. We will continue to see huge numbers of visitors regardless of any expensive marketing efforts. Our tourist tax base should remain relatively stable to fund our local government needs into the future, without much marketing.

Due to these strong drivers, Mammoth's economic future is almost guaranteed, throughout good times and bad. The money will be there for local businesses that adapt with the right can advertise their own unique products and services, but there is seemingly no need for continued communal advertising, given the drivers above and the destructive threat to our town by "over promotion." I would like to see us slow or stop all external advertising, before irreversible damage is done to our overall quality of life in the Eastern Sierra. We may be marketing ourselves to death.

Also, I would suggest abandoning the absurd government subsidies to support air service to Mammoth. We do not need hoards of people arriving by big jets with unreliable scheduling. For me, one of the real attributes of living and recreating here is the "remoteness" of

our village. It is a thrill to discover the quaintness and cultural throwback of a charming mountain hamlet ... without the noise and congestion of modern transportation and over population.

The vast amounts of money saved by limiting marketing could be put to better use by funding community development aimed at building a great town that locals and visitors can enjoy together. Build more great infrastructure like Shady Rest Park, Whitmore, skate parks, and pedestrian/biking paths and trails. Save the trees where we can. Bury the wires.

We are definitely facing changing times, and with it we are challenged to change ourselves to better fit in with the new real world, and build a new SUSTAINABLE quality of life that can feed us spiritually, economically, and recreationally into the unpredictable future.

We have got to open the conversation before it is too late, and before we allow the further desecration of this special place.

Byng Hunt  
Mammoth Lakes

Preserve Solitude

Dear Town of Mammoth Lakes

Building an expensive new multi-use trail into the rugged terrain of pristine Solitude Canyon makes no sense when we already have a multitude of trails many of which are in serious need of

repair. Moreover, the exiting network of trails is accessible to everyone, not just those who can afford expensive trail bikes and not just those who are upper tier athletes, the likes of whom a trail in Solitude Canyon would largely be limited to. Such people already have access to an extensive network of trails on Mammoth Mountain that are well maintained and capable of challenging the strongest hikers and runners and best equipped mountain bikers. At a time when the science is abundantly clear that everyone needs access to trails in nature for walking, hiking, biking, or horse riding, building a few and expensive trail limited to a few instead of performing much needed repairs on our existing trails that are appropriate for everyone sends a message to our visitors that we are a community that is more concerned about those who are in exceptional shape and can afford expensive gear than people of all income levels and physical fitness levels. Please put our precious resources where they will benefit the most.

Gregg Vane  
Mammoth Lakes

Dear Editor,

Regarding the proposed mountain bike trail up the Solitude Canyon portion of the "Lakes Basin and Sherwins Area Trail Enhancement Project," is there a project plan the public can review, including a schedule, budget and

risk analysis? Having hiked and skied in Solitude Canyon since the 1970s, I am concerned that the cost of construction in such steep, rugged terrain could easily run into the upper hundreds of thousands of dollars, if not millions. Regardless of whether or not we believe this project should proceed, in these financially challenging times we absolutely need to be assured that if it does move forward, a realistic budget will be presented, as well as a secure, reliable source of funding for the entire project before any work ensues.

Sam Roberts  
Mammoth Lakes

USFS policy in the North Mono Basin

Dear Mono Board of Supervisors:

Recently, I [Mammoth District Ranger Gordon Martin] had a chance to view the video of the Board of Supervisor's June 2, 2020 regularly scheduled meeting and read the letter to the Board from Hillary Hansen Jones regarding North Mono Basin Water and Resource Management, which Ms. Jones commented on during the June 2nd meeting as well. As a result, I felt compelled to write to help the Mono County community better understand the Forest Service's policies and actions in managing its land and water resources in the North Mono Basin Watershed.

As the Board is aware, the Inyo see LETTERS, page 6