



## 2011 Spring Application

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Town of Mammoth Lakes  
RECREATION DEPARTMENT  
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### APPLICANT INFORMATION

#### ORGANIZATION

<b>Name of Organization:</b>	Mammoth Winter Biathlon
<b>Type of Organization (non-profit, HOA, Govt.):</b>	Special Event
<b>Contact Person:</b>	Dr. Mike Karch
<b>Organization's Address:</b>	P.O. Box 1550
<b>State / Zip:</b>	Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
<b>Office Phone Number:</b>	760-914-0010
<b>Email Address:</b>	mikeandkimkarch@cs.com
<b>Internet Address:</b>	www.esnsa.org

#### PROJECT CONTACT PERSON

<b>Name:</b>	Dr. Mike Karch
<b>Mailing Address:</b>	P.O. Box 1550
<b>State/Zip:</b>	Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
<b>Home Phone Number:</b>	760-914-0010
<b>Mobile Phone Number:</b>	760-914-0010
<b>Email Address:</b>	mikeandkimkarch@cs.com

### PROJECT SUMMARY

1. **Name of Project:** Feasibility, Planning and Design of Expanded Nordic Trail System and Biathlon Facility
  
2. **Project Category:** Recreation
  
3. **Project Type** Development/Design If **Other** please describe:
  
4. **Measure R Funds Requested:** \$ 35,000\*  
\*This amount should be the same as requested in the application.

# PROJECT APPLICATION

## SECTION 1 - PRELIMINARY QUALIFICATIONS:

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**1. Describe why this project is considered urgent and was not submitted during the Fall 2010 application process?**

During the Fall 2010 application process, the concept of developing a biathlon facility was being considered by representatives from Mammoth Winter Biathlon and Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA). Having just hosted the largest biathlon event in North America in March 2011, Mammoth Winter Biathlon has identified this opportunity to bring in a professional trail and facility planning firm to conduct a feasibility study summer 2011 in order to deliver a comprehensive Nordic system and biathlon facility plan in preparation for phasing implementation to begin winter 2011-12.

**2. Does the project live within the Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan and/or the Draft Trail System Master Plan?**

(Choose One)

If **YES**, please cite (page # & Section #): See Attachment A

**3. Does the project meet the "Principles and Priorities" established by the Recreation Commission for the 2010 Fall Measure R funding cycle?**

YES

If **YES**, please cite: This proposal meets objective #1 - Finish Parks, Trails and Recreation Projects that remain incomplete and objective #2 - Plan for the Future

**4. Describe your project's/service conceptual plan including size, scope, context/type, design specifications, use, and budget, or budget document.** (This should be an attachment to the application titled: "Project Concept Plan.")

See attached Project Concept Plan

## SECTION 2 - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

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### 1. Project Location

#### A. If your project is Development/Design, Implementation/Construction, or Maintenance/Operational, what is the location of your project?

The proposed study will look at locations throughout the Town's UGB and Planning Area as defined in the Draft Trail System Master Plan.

#### B. If your project is Contractual Services where will your services be provided?

N/A

### 2. Do you have approval to use the location identified in this application?

YES

If **YES**, Please provide documentation of approval. The Inyo National Forest will participate in the feasibility study and special use permits with the INF may need to be secured based on identified locations for Nordic trails and biathlon facility/center.

If **NO**, describe how and when you will secure this approval?

### 3. Provide the costs for each phase of your project or service. (Where applicable)

A. Development/Design: \$35,000

B. Implementation/Construction:

C. Maintenance/Operation:  
(anticipated annual costs)

D. Contractual Services:  
(define length of contract)

### 4. Provide the estimated timeline for each phase of your project or service. (Where applicable)

A. Development/Design: Completion by October 2011

B. Implementation/Construction:

C. Maintenance/Operation:

D. Contractual Services:  
(define length of contract)

**5. Based upon your project type ("Project Summary" Question 3) who is/will be responsible for maintenance and operation upon completion of the project/service?**

This will be identified during the analysis provided in the study and may be a combination of TOML, INF, NGO's, for-profit entities and volunteer efforts.

**6. Will there be volunteer hours used for any phase of your project?**

YES

If **YES**, please identify which phase, how many hours and the value of those hours: Stakeholders will participate in onsite meetings, assist with data gathering and flagging exercises as identified in the project scope.

**7. Have any public funds (Town Funds – includes Measure R) been previously committed to this project/service or project site?**

YES

If **YES**, please list: Measure R funds were used to purchase youth biathlon rifles and shooting range mats for the 2011 Mammoth Winter Biathlon.

**8. Is Measure R your only funding source for this project/service?**

YES

If **NO**, provide amount and source of additional funds(You will be required to provide proof of this funding) Please Note: efforts to engage MMSA and Mono Co in processes parallel to this may expand the scope with their funding support, however Measure R is the identified funding source this initial proposal.

**9. Is your project/service going to have an impact (positive or negative) on existing use in the location you have identified?**

(Please Describe) The locations for a Nordic trail system and biathlon center will be identified in the study. Based on the determined size and scale of the biathlon center, the location selected may be impacted because a new facility will be constructed. Mammoth Winter Biathlon believes the impact will be positive in nature because of the need for a facility to support an enhanced Nordic trail system and year-round special event venue.

**10. Describe your plan for how the Town of Mammoth Lakes will manage/maintain oversight of this project/service?**

The Town staff and INF staff will provide "sideboards" for elements to be considered in the study and will be asked to engage in the process as needed. It is anticipated the study will be integrated into the Mammoth Lakes Trail System with roles and responsibilities determined as the integration occurs. Because the study is intended to be conceptual, it is not anticipated it will need to go through a CEQA/NEPA process. Specific projects from the study selected for implementation may need environmental review.

## **SECTION 3 - PROJECT BENEFITS**

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**1. Describe how your project/service provides a measurable community benefit (incremental visits, revenue, etc..) to the residents and visitors of Mammoth Lakes?**

The Winter Trail Use Survey in the Draft TSMP showed 54% of respondents listed Nordic skiing as their top winter activity, exhibiting a strong local interest in the sport. This feasibility study would plan a competition and event venue for biathlon, year-round trail-related activities and other special events. The plan seeks to enhance Mammoth's role as an internationally recognized location for endurance training and competitions, intended to increase visitation desiring access to the trail system and center.

**2. Describe the targeted users of your project/service? (Include numbers of participants)**

The Nordic trail system and biathlon center is intended to be used by locals and visitors alike on a year-round basis for activities such as cross country running, mountain biking, snowshoeing and other activities. Part of this study will quantify potential users.

**3. Is it available for limited or year round use?**

The trail system and center will be accessed for year-round activities and events.

**4. Describe the economic benefits of your project/service.**

With the development/management of a Nordic trail system and biathlon center, it is anticipated visitation to the area will increase because of an added amenity and activities. Part of the study is to provide an analysis of potential economic benefits in order to determine the feasibility and need for an expanded Nordic trail system and biathlon center.

**5. Please provide any additional information you would like the Recreation Commission to consider when reviewing your application.**

For many years there have been community-based discussions about how to capitalize on Mammoth's natural resources and provide unique experiences for our visitors and residents alike through the development of additional winter-based sports and activities. This request for funding of a feasibility and planning study attempts to combine all of those discussions and various efforts into a unified and focused project to determine this community's capacity to support a world-class Nordic trail system and biathlon center. It will identify practical locations for the placement of a center and outline a trail system to support the center. It will also use professional experience to define operational needs.

**Submission Deadline: Friday, April 15, 2011; 12 Noon**

Measure R Spring 2011 Application  
Mammoth Winter Biathlon  
Nordic Trail System and Biathlon Center development feasibility study

Attachment A

Citations from Draft Trail System Master Plan

- Chapter 1. Vision, Goals and Objectives

1.1 Vision

Page 16

• The Town of Mammoth Lakes Trail System Master Plan was conceived as a way to guide the development of an extensive, integrated, year-round trails network for the community. See Table 1-1 for guiding principles.

1.2. Goals and Objectives

1.2.1 Trails Network

Page 16

• Goal 1 – Develop a plan for an integrated year-round trail network that provides for a seamless transition between the Town of Mammoth Lakes, the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area and the surrounding federal lands (USFS)

Objective 1.4 Identify locations for potential recreation nodes and public access easements that will enhance connections between Town and surrounding public lands for summer and winter recreation

Objective 1.5 Identify preferred summer and winter uses for each segment in the network

Objective 1.6 Provide design guidelines that will minimize user conflicts, provide for sustainability and reduce maintenance needs

1.2.3 Implementation

Page 17

• Goal 3 – Create a plan that clearly identifies the projects and programs necessary for implementation

- Chapter 4 Future Trail System Recommendations

• Recommendation G12 – Coordination with Local Non-Governmental Organizations

Page 116

The Town of Mammoth Lakes should seek opportunities to form partnerships with local non-governmental organizations that may be able to assist in the planning, development and/or maintenance of the trail system.

• Recommendation N6 – Winter Recreation Nodes

Page 123

Identified winter recreation nodes should be enhanced through the provision of the amenities described in Table 4-3.

• Recommendation SS3 – Shady Rest Winter Trails

Page 150

Consider the options shown in Map 4-8 to help mitigate congestion and user conflict at Shady Rest.

• Recommendation E4 – Trails-Related Education Programs

Page 154

Work with the local agencies and organizations to develop trail-related educational programs for children and adults.

- Recommendation E5 – Trips for Kids Page 155

Work with local organizations to develop programs to provide moral and material support to children so that they may participate in any of the numerous winter or summer activities in and around Mammoth Lakes.

#### - Chapter 7 Operations and Maintenance

- Recommendation M1 – Development of Coordinated Year-Round Maintenance Plan Page 260

Collaborate with Town departments and local organizations to develop a year-round maintenance plan.

- Recommendation M2 – Snow Removal and Grooming on Paved Paths (MUPs) and Sidewalks Page 260

All segments of paved pathway within the Town of Mammoth Lakes – or under its control through a special use permit with the INF – should be open and accessible for year-round use.

- Recommendation M4 – Prioritization of Winter Grooming along Individual Paved Path (MUP) Segments Page 262

Identify segments of the paved path system that have the greatest recreation value and prioritize winter grooming on these paths.

#### Citations from Draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan

- Goal 3 – Create a Master Plan for an integrated trail system that will maintain and enhance convenient public access to public lands from town. Page 34

- Policy 3B – Coordinate with multiple organizations, agencies, and jurisdictions to plan, steward, interpret, promote and sustain trails, public access and outdoor recreation amenities in the Mammoth Lakes region.

- Goal 4 – Provide and encourage a wide variety of outdoor and indoor recreation readily accessible to residents and visitors of all ages. Page 34

- Policy 4A- Expand recreational opportunities by proactively developing partnerships with public agencies and private entities.

- Policy 4B- Provide an affordable and wide range of year-round recreational opportunities to foster a healthy community for residents and visitors.

- Goal 5 – Link parks and open space with a well-designed year-round network of public corridors and trails within and surrounding Mammoth Lakes. Page 36

- Policy 5B- Design and construct trails as components of a regional and local network for recreation and commuting.

- Goal 6 – Provide parks and recreational facilities and programs that foster a sense of community and nurture the emotional connection people have with each other and Mammoth Lakes.

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Measure R Spring 2011 Application  
Mammoth Winter Biathlon  
Nordic Trail and Biathlon Center Development Feasibility Study

Project Concept Plan

The Mammoth Winter Biathlon is proposing to contract with Morton Trails to produce a feasibility and planning study for the development of a world-class Nordic trail system and biathlon center. The study is intended to provide a significant aspect of a larger effort to provide enhanced recreational opportunities to the residents of and visitors to Mammoth Lakes.

This study would provide the framework for developing Nordic trails intended to become a supplement to the emerging Mammoth Lakes Trail System, providing additional and enjoyable recreational options and offer trail linkages to destinations beyond Mammoth Lakes. The proposed biathlon competition center and venue will provide safe and enjoyable facilities for biathlon (both summer and winter), cross country skiing and Nordic combined, cross country running, mountain biking, orienteering, snowshoeing and other activities. In addition to competitive events, the center could be used as a venue for special events such as concerts, festivals, art shows and could also serve as a location for community gatherings.

Below is an outline of the various tasks/elements to be included in the study-

Task #1 – Off-site Review and Planning

A review and evaluation of existing plans, studies, documents, maps, photos, survey data and other relevant materials. This task is intended to conceptualize and identify potential sites for the biathlon center and evaluate potential trail alignment for Nordic trail system development, enhancement and expansion. Additionally, work will be done to identify relevant stakeholders (jurisdictional agencies, NGO's, local businesses, user groups and other entities) and engage them in the process.

Note: Morton Trails will attempt to conceptualize a venue and trail loops that would comply with FIS (International Ski Federation) cross country skiing homologation standards as well as USSA (United States Ski Association) and IBU/USBA (International Biathlon Union/United States Biathlon Association) requirements. Input and data analysis would be with a FIS-sanctioned homologation software program, with the intention of designing the trails to conform to international standards, even if it is decided to postpone pursuing a FIS homologation certificate until a later date. Homologation certification and licensing requires additional documentation and application to the governing bodies identified above. Formal certification may be difficult to secure due to Mammoth's elevation,

but would provide a distinction shared by only a handful of venues across the U.S.

#### Task #2 On-Site Visit, Field Investigation, Design

Meet with key stakeholders, inspect the sites and design the loops. Focus of the on-site visit would include:

- Identifying best location for a race stadium/venue area; high priority for the start/finish area is spectator accessibility; essential priority for the biathlon range is public safety
- Configuration of the trails to fulfill the terrain and length requirements of IBU and FIS; determine alignment to minimize impact; creatively integrate proposed racing trails into existing recreational trail network
- Opportunity for early season/late season training location in the region
- "Flag" a draft of the proposed competition venue, dealing with topography, vegetation, complexity of the proposed trail network and other variables. (This element is achievable from logistical perspective; having all stakeholders available to make a decision on design and final layout may be unrealistic - a second on-site visit may be required, but will be TBD based on completion of work)

Note: The formation of a local steering committee and appointed project leader will help make this on-site visit efficient and effective. Volunteer assistance will be needed to do the "flagging" exercise and coordinate stakeholder meetings and site inspections. Mammoth Winter Biathlon is proposing to take the lead on forming the steering committee and serving as project leader, with secondary support from MLTPA, facilitator of the Mammoth Lakes Trail System.

#### Task #3 Preparation and Delivery of a Written Report and Nordic-based Trail Plan

Delivery of a report with maps of the proposed trail plan/system and center plus cost estimates for trail/venue construction (based on other venues, but not based on a formal engineering analysis). The report will include identification of other structures and facilities not directly associated with the trails (day use/officials building, timing, range equipment and other items necessary for sanctioning of events), but necessary for the center venue.

#### Task #4 Economic Impact Analysis

An economic impact evaluation of a Nordic-based program as proposed in the Nordic-based trail plan. The evaluation would include an assessment of the existing economic base, demographic structure and recent trends using secondary data sources and review of primary data collected in Task #1. It would not constitute a comprehensive econometric analysis, but would provide an idea of the magnitude of impacts on the Mammoth Lakes economy from a Nordic-based strategy.

#### Task #5 Organizational and Other Programmatic Activities

Based on the experience of other communities, this task will provide an evaluation of the multiple means by which a trail-system can be organized, administered and managed via for-profit, public or non-profit entities and make recommendations that would best suit the situation for Mammoth Lakes. Examples will be provided of other Nordic and trail-based programs and activities that could be developed to capitalize on the Nordic trail-based infrastructure proposed in the overall plan.

#### Task #6 Financial Feasibility Analysis

Develop broad estimates of costs for managing and maintaining a system of Nordic-based trails and facilities. This includes construction, maintenance schedules, equipment needs and trail-based programming.

#### Budget

The proposed budget for the above scope of work is \$35,000. This budget includes delivery of the above tasks and travel expenses. Anticipated local resources have been factored into developing the budget for this project. Items such as access to existing GIS data, use of existing maps/plans, volunteers for on-ground work (flagging) and even lodging and meals will need be secured in order to keep the project at the proposed budget.

In addition to this proposed scope of work, Mammoth Winter Biathlon is also pursuing two parallel scopes/projects that could eventually be integrated into one comprehensive Nordic-trail and biathlon center plan for the region. An opportunity is being pursued with Mammoth Mountain Ski Area to utilize the expertise of Morton Trails to provide an evaluation and potential reconfiguration of the existing recreational Nordic trail system at Tamarack.

Additionally, Mammoth Winter Biathlon is pursuing a potential opportunity to engage Mono County in a collaborative effort to conduct a feasibility analysis for the development of a Nordic-based trail system throughout the county. Morton Trails has the ability to expand their scope to include these two additional areas of interest should they materialize. There is an efficiency of scale that could be realized by having all three aligned, but they are not dependent upon each other.

With this feasibility study completed for the community of Mammoth Lakes, a "roadmap" will be in place to help make informed decisions for where to invest limited financial resources and achieve the greatest return. It will also identify potential roles and responsibilities for all parties who are engaged and interested in bringing this area to a status at par with some of the most recognized Nordic and trail-based destinations in North America.

Morton Trails plans, designs and oversees the construction of sport and recreational trails for hiking, cross country running, walking, road and mountain biking, cross country skiing, showshoeing, horse riding and other trail-based outdoor activities. They have experience with projects requiring a shared-use environment where diverse sport trail users such as pet owners, snowmobiles, non-motorized and pedestrians all interact with each other.

Their philosophy is trails are a valued amenity, creating real positive financial and economic benefits for communities in the form of visitor expenditures, increased property values and economic multiplier impacts resulting from special events based on trail activities. They have experience developing year-round trail systems and activity centers throughout North America.

The two principals for Morton Trails have extensive personal experience as biathletes, participating in eight Winter Olympic Games as athletes, coach, chief of course and event leader. They have developed competition venues for major international events such as the World University Games and Biathlon World Cups.