ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN WINTER RECREATION PROJECT

Mammoth and Mono Lake Ranger Districts
Mono County, California

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1. Introduction:

The USDA Forest Service has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This Environmental Assessment discloses direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts which would result from the proposed action. Additional documentation, including more detailed analyses of the project-area resources can be found in the project planning record located at the Mammoth Ranger District Office, Mammoth Lakes, CA. The project area is located within the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area special use permit boundary and within Wooly's Adventure Summit, a winter snow play area adjacent to MMSA.

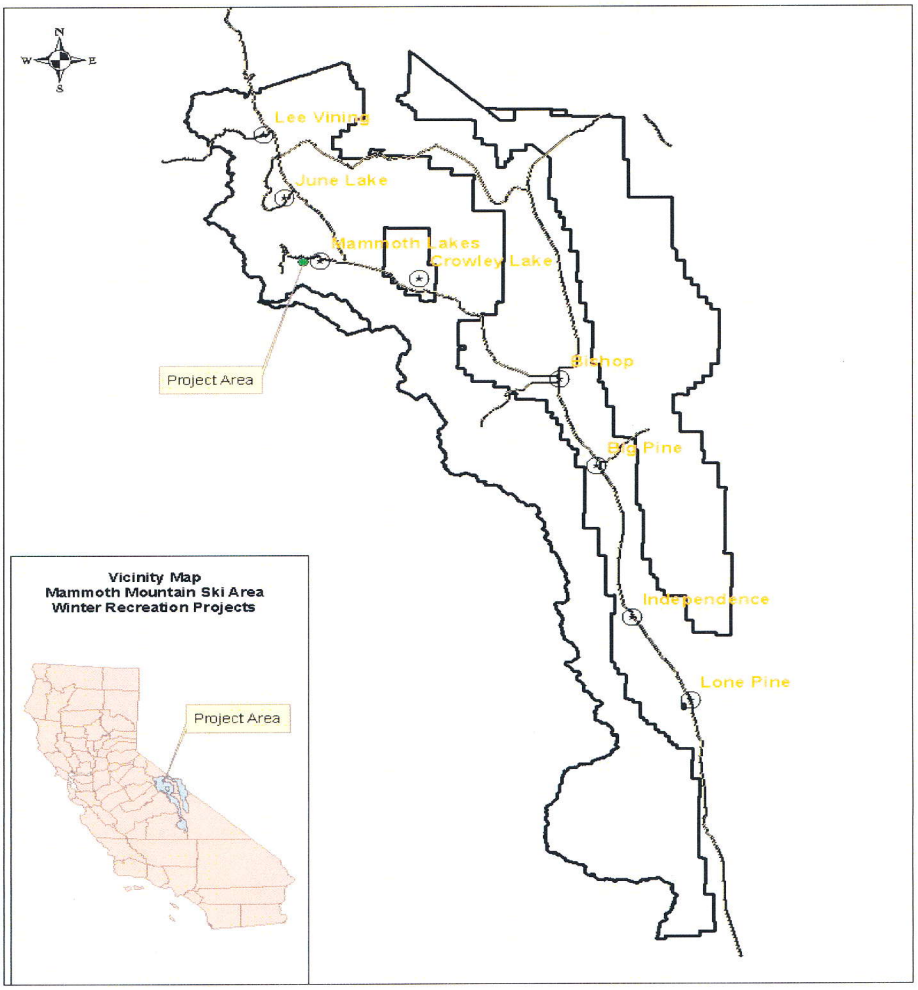

Figure1. Vicinity Map-Mammoth Mountain Ski Area Winter Recreation Project Area Map

1.1 Background

Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA) is a large ski resort located in Eastern California along the east side of the Sierra Nevada mountain range in the Inyo National Forest. MMSA, LLC has permit authority to operate and maintain a winter sports resort within the permit area under a ski area term permit and at Woolly's Adventure Summit, a winter snow play area adjacent to the ski area

under a term special use permit. The special use permits total 3326 acres and 50 acres, respectively. A Project Location Map (Figure 1) is found on page one and individual project maps in Appendix D.

Skiing history in the Inyo National Forest dates to the Inyo's earliest history. Legendary early skiers used skis, modified snowshoes, to deliver the post office mail between regional mining camps in the 1880s, and regional residents held races as early as the 1930s. MMSA made history in the early 1930s, when Dave McCoy, who skied the backcountry as a hydrographer for Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, obtained the first in a series of rope tow permits from the Inyo National Forest, to be followed by the first of MMSA's permits in 1954. Since that time, MMSA has served millions of members of the skiing public and has become a world class ski area. The community of Mammoth Lakes has grown up around MMSA, developing from ranches and summer cabins to a sustainable year-round economy. MMSA became the permittee at Wooly's Adventure Summit, a developed winter recreation area, in 2011, and quickly instituted several long needed upgrades to the authorized improvements, including the installation of erosion control measures.

1.2 Purpose and Need

The purpose of these projects is to improve operator deficiencies and meet current and future public expectations for quality skiing, tubing and enjoyable mountain oriented recreation experiences. The project proposals are aligned with US Forest Service goals and objectives in the Inyo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP, 1988), as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA, 2004). These Plans provide direction to the Forest Service in the area of Recreation Management. These goals include:

- Permit further expansion of areas already developed for alpine skiing. Expansion may include runs, lifts, base areas, and access to a degree that is often not compatible with other resource management options.
- Design and locate improvements to provide for user safety and to harmonize with the natural environment.
- Emphasis is on upgrading and expanding facilities to meet allowable capacity (Skiers-At-One-Time) consistent with approved plans.

In summary, the purpose and need achieves the referenced objectives at MMSA by proposing run improvements to two ski runs, providing snowmaking capacity at Rollercoaster half-pipe, and improving the tubing, snowplay and parking areas at Woolly's Adventure Summit. The grading work on two existing ski runs, the extending of snowmaking lines and improving tubing lanes, snowplay and parking area at Woolly's Adventure Summit contributes to meeting allowable capacity, skiers at one time consistent with approved plans.

1.3 Proposed Action

The Forest Service proposes to authorize MMSA to carry out a number of winter project activities to enhance developed winter recreation at MMSA and at Woolly's Adventure Summit. The proposed actions includes the following winter recreation enhancement projects; removal and relocation of

two old shacks; removal of abandoned footings, and ski run grading, all in an area adjacent to the top of Face Lift Express (Chair 3) and on the Face of Three ski run; grading within the Coyote ski run; and, extension of a snowmaking line to enable snowmaking at the Rollercoaster half pipe.
The proposed action also includes improving Woolly's Adventure Summit, area, including lengthening tubing lanes to provide a lesser slope over run, facilitating a more controllable safety slow zone near the bottom of the run. With an increased interest in tubing at WAS, a proposal exists to expand the snow play area by thinning and removal of smaller trees to better define the snowplay area. The WAS project also includes improving ingress and egress opportunities for the public to park more efficiently.

The proposed actions include improvements to resolve possible safety issues. The proposed grading at Face of Three and Upper Coyote eliminate ski run slope deficiencies, as the proposed run redesign is proposed to meet current and future public visual and safety expectations for quality skiing. Removal of the shacks will resolve line of access operational deficiencies during winching, such that winching will be possible while the Gondola is running, enabling better and faster opening and snow maintenance operations.

Identified deficiencies at Woolly's Adventure Summit are limited parking spaces, short tubing lanes and minimal snow play area.

1.4 Public Involvement

The project proposal was provided to the public and other agencies for comment during a 30-day scoping and comment period from May 17, 2012 to June 18, 2012. In addition, as part of the public involvement process, the agency published a Legal Notice inviting the public to comment on project proposal May 17, 2012 in the newspaper of record, the Inyo Register. Notice was additionally provided by publication in the Mammoth Times on May 22, 2012, in the Sheet on May 15, 2012, and on the Sierra Wave on May 15, 2012. The Forest Service also provided notice to the public by inviting the public to comment through the Inyo National Forest website.
http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=39225

One comment in the form of a formal letter was received as a result of scoping. This comment was specific to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Permitting Requirements, Best Management Practices, Best Management Practices Checklist and Monitoring.

CEQA

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 14 Section 15096, responsible agencies must specify the scope and content of the environmental information germane to their statutory responsibilities. In reference to this comment provided by Lahontan Regional Water Quality Board the attached CEQA Environmental Checklist Form provides the review requirements under CEQA and is attached as Appendix E. The California State Clearinghouse, Office of Planning and Research shall receive the MMSA Winter Recreation Project Planning Environmental Assessment with the attached checklist for the Forest

Service to be in compliance as the lead National Environmental Policy Act agency in the CEQA process.

The project sponsor, MMSA will meet the requirements of CEQA before commencing any implementation phase of project proposal activities.

Permitting Requirements

The required permits may include:

- Land disturbance of more than 1 acre may require a CWA, section 402(p) stormwater permit, including a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Stormwater Permit, obtained from the State Water Board, or an individual stormwater permit obtained from the Lahontan Water Board.
- Water diversion and or dewatering activities may be subject to discharge and monitoring requirements under the NPDES General Permit for limited Threat Discharges to Surface Waters, Board Order R6T-2008-0023, issued by the Lahontan Water Board.
- Streambed alteration and/or discharge of fill material to a surface water may require a CWA, section 401 water quality certification for impacts to federal waters (waters of the U.S.), or dredge and fill waste discharge requirements for impacts to non-federal waters, both issued by the Lahontan Water Board.

These permits were reviewed and it was determined that Mammoth Mountain Ski Area will be disturbing more than one acre cumulatively in the implementation of the proposed action and therefore will need to apply for and obtain a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) permit through the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board. As a condition of approval, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area shall obtain a project specific SWPPP permit prior to commencing any ground disturbing activities associated with the project, in accordance with the General Construction Stormwater Permit, Order 2009-0009-DWQ.

Since it is not anticipated for there to be any water diversion or dewatering activities or any excavation anticipated to hit ground water or any creeks anticipated to be diverted, or tributaries rerouted, there is not any requirement to apply for either of the other two permits.

Best Management Practices, Best Management Practices Checklist and Monitoring.

This additional concern shared by Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board was to describe the Best Management Practices and other measures used to mitigate project impacts.

Best Management Practices, Best Management Practices Checklist and project monitoring are referenced in Appendix B, but will be described more specifically in the eventual SWPPP to be submitted by Mammoth Mountain Ski Area prior to commencement of proposed project ground disturbing activities.

1.5 Issues

The Forest Service separated the issues into two groups: significant (substantive) and non-significant (non-substantive). Significant issues are defined as those directly or indirectly caused by implementing the proposed action. Non-significant issues were identified as those: 1) outside the scope of the proposed action; 2) already decided by law, regulation, Forest Plan, or other higher level decision; 3) irrelevant to the decision to be made; or 4) conjectural and not supported by scientific or factual evidence. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA regulations require this delineation in Sec. 1501.7, "identify and eliminate from detailed study the issues which are not significant or which have been covered by prior environmental review (Sec. 1506.3)...."

No significant or substantive resource issue was determined to be potentially affected by this project. The issues to be considered in this document were identified by the Forest Service through internal and public scoping.

2. Alternatives, including the Proposed Action

This section describes and compares the alternatives considered for this project. It includes a description of each alternative considered. Individual project maps are listed in Appendix D.

2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action alternative, the current Inyo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP, 1988), as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment, 2004) would continue to guide management of the project area. No construction or additional facilities would be implemented.

2.2 Proposed Action

Three activities comprising the proposed action within MMSA and Wooly's Adventure Summit(WAS) are improving runs to two existing ski runs; delivering additional snowmaking capacity to the Rollercoaster half pipe feature and ski run; and improving tubing lanes, snowplay and parking areas at WAS.

2.2.1. Ski Run Improvements

The proposed action includes run work to two existing ski runs.

- Face of Three (Top of Chair 3 Grading): The proposed action includes grading work at the top of Chair 3 (Facelift Express) and grading work within the face runs. At the top, MMSA proposes to remove and replace the two existing shacks (one currently used for top lift operator, the other used for ski patrol) with one shack at the current location of the lift operator shack. MMSA will also remove all abandoned lift terminal footings above and below the patrol shack. Removal of the shack and the footings as well as some minor associated rock removal and minor grading will create unobstructed access to the face runs, resulting in a substantially improved and safer skier experience. The proposed work will

also result in operational efficiencies during winching, such that winching will be possible while the Gondola is running, enabling better and faster opening and snow maintenance operations. On the runs, MMSA proposes to grade several rock dome features, improving upon grading work done over the years. This work will increase operational efficiencies and improve the skier experience. Altogether, approximately less than one acre of the project area will have some level of grading. There is no grading in previously undisturbed areas. The project is likely to be in balance with respect to cut/fill. Any excess dirt will be exported to the Main Lodge Half-Pipe Project.

- Upper Coyote China Bowl Grading: The Proposed Action includes grading a connection from China Bowl to the existing grading on Lower Coyote. The project will improve on-hill safety by increasing the visibility of traffic coming from Chair 5 and Chair 9. Altogether, approximately 2.15 acres of the project area will be graded. Approximately 0.5 acres adjacent to the ski run is previously ungraded. The project is likely to be in balance with respect to cut/fill, with a chance that there will be surplus dirt. Any surplus dirt will be used to help complete the Main Lodge Half Pipe project.

2.2.2. Rollercoaster Line Extension

The proposed action includes extending a snowmaking line from above the top of Chair 4 to the top of Chair 21. The proposed line is approximately 1,900 feet, and will include ten snowmaking cans. The work will take place entirely within disturbed ski runs. The line would add no new capacity to the snowmaking system, but would permit sufficient snowmaking to utilize the Rollercoaster half pipe and adjoining runs during early season and low snow periods. Work would commence after proper permitting requirements are met with a tentative completion before 2012 snowfall.

2.2.3. Woolly's Adventure Summit Improvements

The proposed action at WAS includes modifications to three aspects of the permit area:

- Extending the Tubing Runs: MMSA proposes to extend the tubing runs at the top and bottom of the existing runs. The total area implicated by the extension will be approximately 0.2 acres. The purpose of the extension is to provide additional length, primarily to increase run-out. The current layout is less than optimal with respect to safety, as a counter-slope and rubber mats are required to slow tubers down. By extending the lanes, MMSA will be able to have an extended area of zero degree slope, which should significantly minimize the use of mats, and will greatly reduce the reliance on counter slope.

- Expanding the Open Snowplay Area: The first Open Snowplay Area was approved in the 2011 Woolly's Adventure Summit Tubing Hill Decision Memo. This area primarily serves families with children who are too small to tube (less than 42 inches tall). Children and families use plastic sleds to slide down a very moderate slope, and are also provided a

number of snow toys to use. The current area is quite small, and demand has overwhelmed the available space. MMSA seeks to expand the area up the slope, from 0.35 acres to approximately 1.27 acres. The natural slope of the area is acceptable, so there is no proposed grading. Although the area is not heavily timbered, MMSA proposes to carry out tree thinning to make the area more amenable to safe snowplay. Smaller lodgepoles and other trees will be removed. Significant trees will be left in place and padded for safety during operations.

- Expansion of Parking Lot: Part of the extension of the tubing runs will require utilizing area that is currently used for parking. In addition, even during the drought season of 2011-12, which experienced significant reduction in visitation, the parking lot was insufficient to handle demand and tubing area capacity. Accordingly, MMSA proposes to extend the parking area to the east, utilizing approximately 0.75 acres of ground with a mixed amount of previous disturbance. The project contemplates the removal of approximately 75 merchantable trees, 4 cull snags, and 20 trees under 8" dbh. Seven out of the 75 trees are greater than 30" dbh, and 2 out of the 4 snags are greater than 30"dbh.

3. Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

This section discusses the existing environmental conditions.

3.1Affected Environment

3.1.1 Soils and Hydrology

Soils in the project area are highly permeable, sandy soils with low to high erosion hazard rating (depending on slope) and low soil productivity (USDA Forest Service, 1995). The soil type in the project area is dominated by shallow, sandy to gravelly pumice-derived soil that is well drained and unconsolidated. The soil erosion process in the project area is predominately gravity dominated, although the pumice in the soils can float on runoff during high flows. Soil creep is the major type of erosion in this landscape of very sandy soil and minimal intense precipitation. On steep slopes, these soils have high erosion hazard ratings. Slopes in the project area are between 0 and 35%.

The project area has existing soil disturbance, as it is on and near existing ski and tubing runs that have had trees removed. Over 90% of the project is within existing ski runs, where the soil has been previously disturbed by recreational activities and/or heavy equipment as part of ski area operations.

The hydrology portion of this analysis will discuss direct and indirect effects at a local scale, but necessarily discusses downstream effects and cumulative effects at a watershed scale. The entire project area is within the Dry Creek Watershed (HUC #180901020202), with the exception of the Woolly's Adventure Summit which is located within the Mammoth Creek Watershed (HUC # 180901020204). These watersheds naturally drain into the Upper Owens River, but Dry Creek very rarely flows into the Owens River, only in years with far above average precipitation. The stream's hydrology is altered both upstream and downstream of the project area due to ski area development and in the case of Mammoth

Creek by the community of Mammoth Lakes. Table 1 identifies the characteristics and beneficial uses for the affected watershed. Beneficial uses are designated by the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board and are listed in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region North and South Basins (California 1995).

Table 1. Attributes of the watershed effected by the Mammoth Mountain Winter Recreation Project

6th Field HUC Watershed (Name/#)	Beneficial Uses (Existing)	Acres
Dry Creek 180901020202	Municipal and Domestic Supply, Fresh Water Replenishment, Recreation[1], Commercial and Sport Fishing, Cold Fresh Water Habitat, Wildlife Habitat, Spawning	15,204
Mammoth Creek 180901020204	Municipal and Domestic Supply, Agriculture Supply, Ground Water Recharge, Fresh Water Replenishment, Recreation[1], Commercial and Sport Fishing, Cold Fresh Water Habitat, Wildlife Habitat, Rare Species[2], Migration of Aquatic Organisms, Spawning	22,348

1: Contact and Non-Contact Recreation
2: Yosemite Toad

The project area is located on Mammoth Mountain or on ridges and is well over 500 feet from Dry and Mammoth Creeks. This is outside the Riparian Conservation Area (RCA) of the creek. Therefore, the project will not be analyzed to determine whether it meets Riparian Conservation Objectives (RCOs).

Water Quality within Dry and Mammoth Creeks is likely currently altered due to ski area development in the creek's headwaters. Mammoth Mountain Ski Area took water quality samples from 2000-2007 in Dry Creek. They measured multiple nutrients, sediment, and anions during spring and summer, and reports those results to the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board. Those results show a spike in turbidity, total suspended solids and chloride for a week or two in most years during rapid snowmelt. Nutrients, including nitrogen and phosphorous, are often undetected and show little increase during snowmelt. None of the parameters measured have specific water quality objectives in the Lahontan Basin Plan (California 1995), but levels are limited to below the threshold for affecting beneficial uses.

Turbidity, settleable materials and suspended materials cannot have any increase over background levels. Mammoth Mountain does not take any background sample, so it is unknown how much effect is due to development and how much is natural seasonal variation.

3.1.2. Wildlife Resources

This section contains a summary of information presented in the Biological Evaluation and Management Indicator Species Report developed for this project (Perloff 2012a, Perloff 2012b) which are hereby incorporated by reference.

The Forest Service manages habitats for a variety of species, including federally listed threatened or endangered animals, Forest Service sensitive species, Management Indicator species (MIS), and locally important species. This section identifies the habitat types present within the project areas, the species potentially associated with these habitats and the expected effects of the Proposed Action.

Three of the four projects Face of Three (Top of 3 Grading), Upper Coyote/China Bowl, to Coyote, and Rollercoaster) are located in the same general area, approximately mid-way up Mammoth Mountain within the ski area permit boundary. Elevations range from approximately 9,100 feet on Rollercoaster ski run to 10,500 feet at the top of Chair 3. Vegetation at these sites is extremely limited; the majority being barren rock outcrops, developed ski runs and a small area of lodgepole pine regeneration located between China Bowl and Coyote ski run. Due to the lack of vegetation or other structural features (e.g. caves, streams, etc.) there is little or no habitat for resident wildlife species at these sites.

The fourth project is located immediately adjacent to the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA) permit boundary at approximately 8,645 feet elevation. The area surrounding Woolly's Adventure Summit (WAS) supports a mixed coniferous forest consisting of red fir (*Abies magnifica*), lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) and Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*), with a very sparse understory of lupine (*Lupinus spp.*), native bunchgrass (*Stipa spp.*) and red fir regeneration. Several cleared tubing runs and lift lines bisect the site.

Federally listed threatened, endangered, proposed or candidate species potentially occurring on the Inyo National Forest were identified in a letter from U. S. Fish and Wildlife dated July 16, 2012 (USDI Fish and Wildlife Service 2012). Forest Service sensitive species are presented in the Regional Forester's list of sensitive plants and animals (USDA Forest Service 1998 as amended). Management Indicator Species are identified in the Record of Decision for the Sierra Nevada Forests Management Indicator Species Amendment (USDA Forest Service 2007).

The Biological Evaluation (BE) for this project determined that no federally listed threatened, endangered, proposed or candidate species or their suitable habitat is present within the project areas. The BE identifies the following sensitive species as potentially being affected by the Proposed Action: Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) and American Marten (*Martes americana*).

The American marten is also an MIS representing late-seral closed canopy coniferous forest. Management Indicator Species represent specific habitat types subject to the effects of forest management. MIS for specific habitat types are intended to represent other wildlife species with similar requirements. The MIS report for this project did not identify any other MIS that would potentially be affected by project implementation. No species of local concern were identified in the project area.

The area surrounding WAS provides marginally suitable habitat for both northern goshawk and American marten. Much of the area has been previously disturbed during initial construction of the sledding facilities. The residual stand is fragmented, but does provide limited foraging opportunities for both species.

Two goshawk nesting territories are known to exist within three miles of the proposed project site. Goshawk surveys of the project area were conducted during the summer of 2012. All trees in the vicinity capable of supporting a nest were visually examined and goshawk vocalizations were broadcast throughout the area. No signs of northern goshawks (e.g. vocalizations, feathers, nests or fecal remains) were detected. The surveys indicated that the project area is not within a goshawk nesting territory.

Numerous marten sightings have been documented in the area surrounding the project boundary. Casual observations have been recorded near MMSA main lodge, around the community of Mammoth Lakes, in the Lakes Basin and along Hwy 203 near minaret vista. Surveys conducted using Trailmaster cameras indicate marten are present in moderate numbers along Dry Creek (one-half mile to the north) and along San Joaquin Ridge. Additional casual observations have been recorded in similar habitat types throughout the upper San Joaquin drainage. A radio-telemetry study conducted during 1996 detected a single male marten near the project area.

3.1.3. Botanical Resources

Vegetation types within the project area include rock outcrops, red fir forest at the Woolly's Adventure Summit (WAS) snow play area, and very sparsely vegetated, and in some cases previously disturbed, ski slopes and adjacent areas.

Botanical surveys have been conducted at the WAS area, as well as within the Chair 3, Coyote, and Rollercoaster project areas (Howald 1983; USFS various dates). No sensitive plant species have been located in these areas. A small amount of potential habitat may exist for Pinzl's rockcress (*Boechera pinzlae*); however, no individuals of this species have been located within Mammoth Mountain Ski Area boundaries to date. There are no threatened, endangered, or proposed species known from the project area. For additional information, refer to the Biological Evaluation for Sensitive Plants for this project.

No non-native invasive species were observed within the project area. Non-native invasive species that occur elsewhere within the ski area include Russian thistle (*Salsloa tragus*), cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum*), tumble mustard (*Sisymbrium altissimum*), common knotweed (*Polygonum arenastrum*), common dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*), goat's beard (*Tragopogon dubius*), and curly dock (*Rumex crispus*). For additional information, refer to the Noxious Weed Risk Assessment for this project.

3.1.4. Heritage Resources

A number of cultural and heritage resources exist within the project vicinity. Many have been previously located, but it remains possible to detect cultural and heritage resources in

previously undisturbed areas. To protect cultural resources, where feasible and previous inventory data is lacking or insufficient, the Forest Service will conduct an intensive inventory of the project's Area of Potential Effect (APE) in accordance with the Programmatic Agreement among the USDA Forest Service - PSW Region, California State Historic Preservation Officer, and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Regarding the Identification, Evaluation and Treatment of Historic Properties Managed by the National Forests of the Sierra Nevada, California (Sierra PA, 1996) prior to any ground-disturbing activities.

3.2. Environmental Consequences

3.2.1. Soil and Hydrology

3.2.2 No Action: under the No Action alternative, no construction activity would occur. No additional impacts to Soil and Hydrology resources would occur because current conditions would not be altered.

3.2.3. Proposed Action

3.2.3.1. Soil and Hydrology

MMSA proposes to complete the following activities at Face Three Run, (Top of Chair 3 Grading), Upper Coyote/China Bowl Run, Rollercoaster and Wooly's Adventure Summit areas (Table 2). All ground disturbances would be completed using heavy equipment (i.e. bulldozer, excavator, or loader), using existing access roads and previously disturbed runs to access the sites. All projects are expected to balance the amount of cut and fill with the grading projects. However, if there is extra material it would be moved to the existing Main Lodge Half Pipe project.

Table 2: Proposed Action by project area for the Mammoth Mountain Winter Recreation Project

Project Area	Proposed Action
Face Three Run(Top of Chair 3 Grading)	Two old shacks at the top of the lift would be removed, replaced by one new shack. Remove the old terminal footings just below one of the old shacks. 0.41 acres of grading would occur on the Face three runs near the top of Chair 3.
Upper Coyote/ China Bowl Run Grading	Grading would occur on the apron located at the bottoms of China Bowl, Center Bowl and Christmas Bowl, where the terrain rolls into Lower Coyote. 2.15 acres would be graded, including 0.5 acres that has been previously ungraded.
Rollercoaster Snowmaking Line Extension	The existing snowmaking line would be extended 1,900 feet.
Wooly's Adventure Summit	The existing tubing runs would be extended by 0.2 acres. The existing parking lot would be increased by grading 0.75 ac. The existing open snow play area next to the tubing runs would be increased in size from 0.35 ac to 1.27 by hand thinning some trees in this area. No grading would occur in the open snow play area.

The proposed project should have very local effects to water quality and soil quality (with implementation of the Best Management Practices (BMPs) listed in Appendix B of this

document). None of the project would be within a Riparian Conservation Areas (RCA) and therefore there would be very little potential for water quality degradation. The project would add about 1.45 acres of new ground disturbance (0.5 in Dry Creek watershed and 0.95 acres within the Mammoth Creek watershed), and 4.16 acres of grading would occur on existing ski runs. The entire project area with the exception of the tubing run and parking lot extension and 0.5 acres on Coyote Run is located on existing ski runs in a developed ski area, so most of area has some previous disturbance. This amount of ground disturbance would not affect conditions enough to change any runoff or sedimentation processes outside of the ski runs, and therefore would not affect water quality. It would alter soil productivity over the previously undisturbed areas at Woolly's Adventure Summit and the Upper Coyote Run, which would be up to 1.45 acres. On a watershed scale, there would be no measurable effects to soil or water quality.

The project is within the Dry and Mammoth Creek watershed, which both are municipal watersheds. However, because there would be no effects to hydrology or water quality, the project would have no effect to the beneficial uses of the municipal watershed.

Mammoth Mountain Ski Area shall prepare and submit a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan through the Lahontan RWQCB prior to commencement of any ground disturbance associated with the proposed action.

3.2.4. Wildlife

3.2.4.1 No Action: under the No Action alternative, no construction activity would occur. No additional impacts to wildlife resources would occur because current conditions would not be altered.

3.2.4.2 Proposed Action: Construction activities near Chair 3, China Bowl and Rollercoaster are not expected to have any impact on threatened, endangered, proposed, candidate, sensitive or management Indicator species. Lack of suitable habitat at these areas suggests that none of these species are present and no habitat modification would occur. Construction activities would be limited to existing disturbed ski runs.

Proposed improvements at Woolly's Adventure Summit would have minor impacts on marten and goshawk foraging habitat. Work in the "snow play" area would entail thinning small and medium diameter trees within an area approximately 0.3 acres in size. Although the larger diameter trees would be retained, some reduction in canopy closure and near ground cover is expected. This would slightly reduce habitat quality in the treated area. The remaining work at WAS entails removal of single trees or small islands of trees in previously disturbed areas. The existing areas of disturbance are not currently suitable habitat for marten or goshawk and no reduction in habitat quality is expected.

Construction and use of the expanded facilities at WAS has the potential to disturb resident wildlife species, including American marten and northern goshawk if present. Noise associated with tree felling and grading could temporarily displace martens and goshawks during the construction period. Disturbance associated with construction activities is expected to be of low intensity and relatively short duration, with martens and goshawks able to re-occupy the site shortly after cessation the perturbation. Winter time use of the sledding facility and snow play area may also cause martens to avoid the site during periods of operation (daylight hours). Goshawks are unlikely to be affected by operation of the facility as they generally migrate downslope during the winter months.

3.2.5 Botanical Resources

3.2.5.1 No Action: under the No Action alternative, no construction activity would occur. No additional impacts to Botanical resources would occur because current conditions would not be altered.

3.2.5.2 Proposed Action: Due to the lack of sensitive plant species and very limited potential habitat within the project area boundaries, there will be no impacts to sensitive plants from this project. Several small trees (less than 12 inches dbh) will be removed at the WAS project site, reducing forest canopy cover. This removal of small trees will not impact any sensitive plants, or habitat for any sensitive plant species.

Grading and other earth moving may increase the vulnerability of the project area to invasion and establishment of non-native invasive species, due to the associated vegetation removal and soil disturbance. In addition, plant parts, such as seeds, root fragments, etc., have been shown to be transported on the tracks or wheels of heavy equipment, bringing new weed species into previously uninfested areas. Establishment of aggressive non-native species could potentially impact the re-establishment of native vegetation, and could subsequently affect soil stability over the long term. Mitigation measures identified below will help to prevent the establishment of non-native invasive species in the project area:

- All equipment used in ground disturbing activities will be cleaned free of soil and plant parts prior to beginning work on the project to prevent introduction or translocation of weed species. Ensure equipment is free of mud and plant parts by completing a thorough visual inspection of tires, tracks, and underbody.
- Minimize the amount of ground disturbance through careful equipment operation.
- WAS will be monitored for 2 years following project implementation for new invasive weed species.

- Weed control will be conducted as necessary to prevent the establishment of new State listed invasive weed species, at Woolly's Adventure Summit and elsewhere in the project area.

3.2.6. Heritage Resources

3.2.6.1No Action Alternative: Under the No Action alternative, no construction activity would occur. No additional impacts to heritage resources would occur because current conditions would not be altered.

3.2.6.2. Proposed Action:

- Ski Run Improvements: the area of potential effect (APE) has been previously surveyed for heritage resources by Heritage Report No. R1983050400310, which found no Heritage Resources within the APE for this project. In addition, most ground disturbance will take place within previously disturbed/heavily modified areas.
- Roller Coaster Line Extension: the area of potential effect (APE) has been previously surveyed for heritage resources by Heritage Report No. R1983050400310, which found no Heritage Resources within the APE for this project. In addition, most ground disturbance will take place within previously disturbed/heavily modified areas.
- Woolly's Adventure Summit: the APE for this project has been previously surveyed for heritage resources by Heritage Report Nos. R1979050400075, R1983050400310, R1990050400488 and R2011050401702 which found no Heritage Resources within the APE for this project.

3.3 Cumulative Impacts

3.3.1. Soil and Hydrology

Cumulative watershed effects (CWE) were analyzed for the Dry and Mammoth Creek Watersheds. The ERA method was used, which considered the disturbance due to past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. The types of disturbance evaluated includes past activities such as timber sales, fires, grazing, and existing features such as roads, ski areas, parking lots, trails and campgrounds, and future proposed activities such as new fuels thinning projects and other ski area proposals.

The ERA in the Dry Creek Watershed was calculated to be about 5.5%, far below the 14-16% threshold of concern. The addition of this project, with only 0.5 acres of new disturbance, is not large enough to alter the current 5.5% threshold of concern and therefore will not contribute to any cumulative watershed effects.

The ERA in the Mammoth Creek Watershed was calculated to be about 4.9%, far below the 12-14% threshold of concern. The addition of this project, with less than 0.95 acres of new disturbance, is not large enough to alter the current 4.9% threshold of concern and therefore will not contribute to any cumulative watershed effects.

The indicators of soil health (Soil compaction, soil cover, displacement and erosion) would be altered over a small area, within a much larger area of disturbance. The ski area has had extensive effects to soil resources, reducing productivity in ski runs, roads, trails, parking lots, and other areas of vegetation removal and soil compaction. The newly disturbed areas would increase the area of reduced soil productivity by about 1.45 acres. This area is small enough that it will not effectively change the already altered soil condition on Mammoth Mountain. On a watershed scale, the new disturbance is less than 0.01% of the watershed. Therefore, there are no effects to soil health on a watershed scale.

3.3.2. Wildlife

A number of other activities have occurred in the vicinity of WAS that cumulatively affect the suitability of marten and goshawk foraging habitat in the area. The construction of Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA) beginning in the 1950s removed a substantial amount of habitat for ski runs and related facilities. Approximately 896 acres of un-vegetated ski runs occur throughout all habitats in the MMSA, a portion of which consisted of suitable northern goshawk and American marten habitat. The recently completed "ski back trail" removed an additional 6.2 acres of coniferous forest similar in nature to that present at WAS. Kucera (2004) hypothesized that habitat within the MMSA may have already changed from potential American marten denning habitat to marginal foraging habitat. During his radio-telemetry study of martens within the MMSA, he captured 10 males and one female. This disproportionate gender ratio suggests that females are avoiding the developed areas within the ski area. Given the existing altered state of habitat within the MMSA, the proposed activities at WAS are not expected to have a cumulative impact on either northern goshawks or American martens. It is estimated that approximately 1,086 acres of potentially suitable marten and goshawk habitat exists within the MMSA. The removal of 0.3 acres of additional habitat as a result of the proposed activities at WAS represents less than 0.03 percent of the remaining available habitat.

Based on the above discussion of effects, it is my determination that construction activities in the vicinity of Chair 3, China Bowl and Rollercoaster would have no impact on American marten or northern goshawk. Construction at Woolly's Adventure Summit may impact individual martens and goshawks, but is not likely to result in a trend towards federal listing or loss of viability within the planning area. This determination is based on the following factors:

1. Slightly less than 0.3 acres of habitat would be affected which represents less than 0.03 percent of available habitat within the MMSA

2. Disturbance associated with construction would be of low intensity and short duration,

Habitat quality at the project site is marginal and does not provide important reproductive habitat for either species.

3.3.3. Botanical Resources

Due to the lack of sensitive plant species and very limited potential habitat within the project area boundaries, there will be no impacts to sensitive plants from this project. Accordingly, there are no cumulative impacts.

3.3.4. Heritage Resources

Due to the lack of heritage resources within the project area boundaries, there will be no impacts to heritage resources from this project. Accordingly, there are no cumulative impacts.

3.4 Effects Relative to Finding of No Significance (FONSI) Elements

1. *Beneficial and adverse impacts*:

Mitigations and management requirements designed to reduce potential for adverse impacts were incorporated into the proposed action. These mitigations and management requirements would minimize or eliminate potential adverse impacts caused by soil disturbance. See Appendix B Best Management Practices and Appendix E Environmental Checklist (EA pgs. 20-25 and 33-50 respectively).

Mitigation measures to help prevent the establishment of non-native invasive species in the project area, such as cleaning equipment, monitoring and weed control are identified on pages 13-14 of the EA. Analysis prepared in support of this document considered both beneficial and adverse effects. None of the potential adverse effects of the proposed action would be significant, even when considered separately from beneficial effects which occur in conjunction with those adverse effects. There were no cumulative impacts for archeology, hydrology, wildlife or botany(EA pgs 13-16).

2. *Degree to which the Proposed Action affects public health or safety*:

There will be no significant effects on public health and safety. However, there would be improved public and employee safety, as projects are designed for safer skiing and tubing experiences. The grading at Face of Three and Upper Coyote eliminate ski run slope deficiencies, as the proposed run provides a wider and more friendly run thus meeting current and future public safety expectations for quality skiing. Removal and relocation of the shacks and the abandoned footings at the top of Face of Three will resolve line of access operational deficiencies during winching, such that winching will be possible while the Gondola is running, enabling better and faster opening and snow maintenance operations thus meeting current and future public visual and access expectations for quality skiing. The identified deficiencies at Woolly's Adventure Summit are short, steep tubing lanes, minimal snow play area and limited parking spaces. The lengthening of tubing lanes thus reducing the tubing speed near the end of the run, the thinning of trees within the snowplay area and the expanding of the parking area resolve minor safety issues for the public and employees.

3 *Unique character of the geographical area:*

There are no parklands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas within the project area. The project area is completely outside of designated wilderness. Protection of heritage resources has been incorporated into the project and will follow stipulations in the

Programmatic Agreement between Forests of the Sierra Nevada and the California State Historical Preservation Office.

Information regarding field surveys and management recommendations for heritage resource sites and features are contained in the Heritage Reports No. R1983050400310, Heritage Report No. R1983050400310, Heritage Report Nos. R1979050400075, R1983050400310, R1990050400488 and R2011050401702 as referenced on EA page 14. As further referenced on EA 14, no heritage resources were found within the area of potential effect. California Environmental Quality Act requirements and permit requirements will be in place before project activity is initiated.

4 *The degree to which the effects on the quality of the human environment are likely to be highly controversial.*

The project follows management direction in the Inyo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (USDA Forest Service 1988), as amended by the 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (USDA Forest Service 2004). Potential adverse effects have been minimized to the point where there are few effects to draw controversy. Public involvement efforts did not reveal any significant issues or any other significant controversies regarding environmental effects of this proposal. Based on the supportive comment received during the comment period and the analysis of effects by an interdisciplinary team of Forest Service specialists referenced in EA Appendix F, List of Preparers, there are no significant effects expected to quality of the human environment from implementing either of the alternatives, including the proposed action alternative.

5 *The degree to which the possible effects on the human environment are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.*

The project follows management direction in the Inyo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (USDA Forest Service 1988), as amended by the 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (USDA Forest Service 2004). The project reflects management requirements designed to reduce potential for adverse effects. Local expertise in implementation of these types of projects minimizes chance of highly uncertain effects or effects which involve unique or unknown risks. On pages 13-16 of the EA, specialist input is referenced from Stewart, Lutrick-Noesser, Nelson, Perloff and Foxworth supporting project activities are routine in nature, employing standard practices and protection measures, and their effects generally well known.

6 *The degree to which the action may establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects, or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration.*

The Mammoth Mountain Winter Recreation Project represents a site-specific project which does not set precedence for future decisions with significant effects or present a decision in principal about future considerations. Any future decisions would require a site-specific analysis to consider all relevant scientific and site-specific information available. These activities are in accordance with the best available science to manage winter recreation activities and land stewardship.

7 *Whether the action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts.*

A cumulative effect is the consequence on the environment which results from incremental effect of an action when added to effects of other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency or person undertakes these other actions and regardless of land ownership on which these actions occur. A cumulative effects analysis was completed separately for each resource

area. None of the resource specialists found potential for significant adverse cumulative effects (EA pgs. 14, 15, 16)

8 *The degree to which the action may adversely affect districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed , or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places or may cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.*

It is determined there would be no effect to cultural, or historical resources from implementing this project as ground disturbance is taking place within previously disturbed/heavily modified areas or areas where no cultural or historical resources were found. There are no adverse effects to district, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and there will be no loss or destruction of cultural or historic resources(EA pgs.14 and 16).

Six heritage reports are sited as: Heritage Report No. R1983050400310, Heritage Report No. R1983050400310, and Heritage Report Nos. R1979050400075, R1983050400310, R1990050400488 and R2011050401702. There are no adverse effects to district, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and there will be no loss or destruction of cultural or historic resources(EA pgs.14 and 16).

9 *The degree to which the action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973.*

There are no federally listed threatened or endangered wildlife or plant species known to occur or have suitable habitat (including critical habitat) within the project area. There would be no effect to federally listed threatened or endangered wildlife or plant species or critical habitat from implementation of the proposed action (EA pgs. 12-16).

Nelson, Kathleen July, 2012 Biological Evaluation for Sensitive Plants, Mammoth Mountain Winter Recreation Project: Woolly's Adventure Summit, Face of Three Run Improvements, Coyote Run Improvements, Rollercoaster Snowmaking Line Extension, Inyo National Forest. Project file, Mammoth Ranger District, Mammoth Lakes, CA. 2 pgs.

Perloff, Richard July, 2012 Biological Evaluation, Sensitive Animal Species,Mammoth Mountain Winter Recreation Project. Mammoth Lakes, CA: USDA, Forest Service, Inyo National Forest, 5 pgs.

10 *Whether the action threatens to violate Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.*

The action will not violate Federal, State, and local laws or requirements for the protection of the environment. The proposed action is consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Forest Management Act (NFMA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), Clean Water Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, Executive Order 13007 (1996), under Section 101(d)(6) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended), and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act (as amended), the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, Executive Order 13007, Executive Order 13175, and 36 CFR 800.2(c). The proposed action is fully consistent with the Inyo National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (USDA Forest Service 1988), as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (USDA Forest Service 2004.

APPENDIX A

Agencies and Persons Consulted

1. Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce
2. Mono County Board of Supervisors (Vicki Magee Bauer)
3. Lahontan Water Quality Control Board
4. CA Department of Fish and Game
5. Benton Paiute Reservation- U tu UTU GWAITU Paiute Tribe
6. Big Pine Paiute Tribe
7. Bishop Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley
8. Bridgeport Paiute Indian Colony
9. Mono Lake Kutzudika Indian Community Cultural Preservation Association
10. Eastern Sierra Audubon Society
11. Friends of the Inyo
12. Mono Lake Committee
13. The Wilderness Society (Sally Miller)
14. Mono Lake Kutzadika Tribe
15. Bishop Paiute Indian Tribal Counsel
16. John Walters
17. Bryce and Wilma Wheeler
18. Byng Hunt
19. Larry Johnston
20. California State Clearinghouse, Office of Planning and Research

APPENDIX B

Best Management Practices

Forest management and associated road building in the steep rugged terrain of forested mountains has long been recognized as sources of non-point water quality pollution. Non-point pollution is not, by definition, controllable through conventional treatment means. It is controlled by containing the pollutant at its source, thereby precluding delivery to surface water. Sections 208 and 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act, as amended, acknowledge land treatment measures as being an effective means of controlling non-point sources of water pollution and emphasize their development.

Working cooperatively with the California State Water Quality Control Board, the Forest Service developed and documented non-point pollution control measures applicable to National Forest System lands. These measures were termed "Best Management Practices" (BMPs). BMP control measures are designed to accommodate site specific conditions. They are tailor-made to account for the complexity and physical and biological variability of the natural environment. The implementation of BMP is the performance standard against which the success of the Forest Service's non-point pollution water quality management efforts is judged.

The Clean Water Act provided the initial test of effectiveness of the Forest Service non-point pollution control measures where it required the evaluation of the practices by the regulatory agencies (State Board and EPA) and the certification and approval of the practices as the "BEST" measures for control. Another test of BMP effectiveness is the capability to custom fit them to a site-specific condition where non-point pollution potential exists. The Forest Service BMPs are flexible in that they are tailor-made to account for diverse combinations of physical and biological environmental circumstances. A final test of the effectiveness of the Forest Service BMP is their demonstrated ability to protect the beneficial uses of the surface waters in the State.

Best Management Practices, as described in this document have been effective in protecting beneficial uses within the affected watersheds. These practices have been applied in other projects within the Inyo National Forest. Where proper implementation has occurred there have not been any substantive adverse impacts to cold water fisheries habitat conditions or primary contact recreation (etc.) use of the surface waters. The practices specified herein are expected to be equally effective in maintaining the identified beneficial uses.

The following management requirements are designed to address the watershed management concerns. Most are BMPs from the Forest Service publication "Water Quality Management for National Forest System Lands in California" (USDA Forest Service, 2011). All applicable water quality BMPs shall be implemented. The implementation phase of the BMPs occur after a project is completed, but before the winter season. BMP monitoring of the project is done one year later after the project experiences one rainy season. A list of BMPs used within the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area winter recreation Project is as follows along with a brief summary of what each entails:

2.13 Erosion Control Plan

Implementation of BMP 2.13, Erosion Control Plan, effectively limits and mitigates erosion and sedimentation from ground-disturbing activities. There is little potential for erosion or water quality effects from this project, as it is located far from any surface water, and is in an existing highly disturbed ski area. The major drainage features have already been put in place to control erosion on the adjacent ski slopes, and these newly graded ski runs and expanded tubing runs/parking lot will be constructed to follow the existing drainage networks. Implementation and monitoring of the relevant BMPs constitutes an erosion control plan, because erosion control will be simple for these grading projects. The Mammoth Mountain Ski Area currently has an Erosion Control Plan on file with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board. In addition all areas under this project would have a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) on file with the water board before any ground disturbing activities.

2.3 Road Construction and Reconstruction (here, used for all grading work)

The objective of this practice is to minimize erosion and sediment delivery from roads during road construction or reconstruction, and there related activities. Operations would be scheduled when rain, runoff, wet soils, snowmelt or frost melt are less likely. Follow seasonal restrictions of the forest's WWOS, and notification protocols, as outlined in an approved erosion control plan.

- Optimally, schedule construction during dry periods, while still adhering to other seasonal restrictions (wildlife breeding, spawning, fire activity levels, and so forth).
- Stabilize project area during normal operating season when the National Weather Service predicts a 30 percent or greater chance of precipitation, such as localized thunderstorm or approaching frontal system.
- Keep erosion-control measures sufficiently effective during ground disturbance to allow rapid closure when weather conditions deteriorate.
- Complete all necessary stabilization measures prior to predicted precipitation that could result in surface runoff.

Install erosion-control measures on incomplete roads prior to precipitation events or the start of the winter period (November 16 through March 31) and in accordance with the approved erosion control plan:

- Do not leave project areas for the winter with remedial measures incomplete.
- Plant vegetation, mulch, and amendments, or provide other protective cover for exposed soil surfaces.

4.7.2 Location and Design

This practice is to reduce the risk that sediment originating from designated ski and tubing runs will enter watercourses and water bodies by locating ski and tubing runs to minimize hydrologic

connectivity, and by incorporating drainage structures into trail design to disperse concentrated runoff. The newly graded areas as part of the Mammoth Mountain Ski Area winter recreation project would have water control and drainage structures (ditches, water bars, and/or rolling dips) installed when the project is implemented. All disturbed areas under this project are located well away and uphill from stream channels.

5.4 Revegetation of Surface Disturbed Areas

The objective of this BMP is to "protect water quality by minimizing soil erosion through the stabilizing influence of vegetation foliage and root network." Mammoth Mountain would minimize disturbance during the grading including, where possible, the retention of existing vegetation and root networks.

7.8 Cumulative Watershed Effects

The objective of this practice is to protect the identified beneficial uses of water from the combined effects of multiple management activities when individually may not create unacceptable effects but collectively may result in degraded water quality conditions. See the Cumulative Watershed Effects discussion in the Environmental Consequences section of this report. Pgs. 14-15

Monitoring

See attached Best Management practice Checklist developed by the Forest Service watershed staff, to monitor Best Management Practices before, during and after project implementation.

One pre monitoring session of the proposed winter recreation projects occurred on July 7, 2012.

During project and post project monitoring shall occur as project implementation commences.

Best Management Practice Checklist for Mammoth Mountain Ski Area 2012 Winter Recreation Projects

A separate checklist is to be filled out pre-project, during project construction, and post-project, though not all fields are applicable to each stage. If not applicable, check the "N/A" box.

Date_____ **Reviewer (s)** _____

Project Status:

Pre-Project ☐ Active Project ☐ Post-Project ☐ Other ☐

If "Other", explain_____

BMP 2.13 – Erosion Control Plan

Objective: Effectively limit and mitigate erosion and sedimentation from any ground-disturbing activities, through planning prior to commencement of project activity, and through project management and administration during project implementation.

Prescription	Yes	No*	N/A*
1. A Stormwater Pollution Prevent Plan (SWPPP) has been filed with the Lahontan Water Board.			

* **If you checked "No" or "N/A", include explanation here:**

BMP 2.2 and 2.3 – Road/facility Construction and Reconstruction

Objective: Locate roads/new facilities to minimize problems and risks to water; aquatic, and riparian resources. Incorporate measures that prevent or reduce impacts, through construction design. Minimize erosion and sediment delivery from roads/facilities during construction or reconstruction, and their related activities.

Prescription	Yes	No*	N/A*
1. Operations are scheduled during dry periods/summer, when rains, runoff, wet soil or snowmelt are less likely.			

2. Project area is stabilized during normal operating season when the National Weather Service predicts a 30 percent or greater chance of precipitation.			
3. Keep erosion-control measures sufficiently effective during ground disturbance to allow rapid closure when weather conditions deteriorate.			
4. Stabilize all disturbed areas with mulch, vegetation, rock, large organic materials, engineered structures or other stabilization measures, before winter.			

* **If you checked "No" or "N/A", include explanation here:**

BMP 4.7.2 – Trail Location and Design

Objective: To reduce the risk that sediment originating from trails and related use areas will enter watercourses and water bodies by locating trails to minimize hydrologic connectivity, and by incorporating drainage structures into trail design to disperse concentrated runoff.

Prescription	Yes	No*	N/A*
1. Disturbed areas have adequate drainage (waterbars and other drainage structures) to prevent accelerated erosion on the trail or at drainage points.			
2. Disturbed areas no large than necessary to complete work			
3. Existing cross-drains and drainage controls re-established post-construction.			

* **If you checked "No" or "N/A", include explanation here:**

BMP 5.4 – Revegetation of Surface Disturbed areas

Objective: Protect water quality by minimizing soil erosion through the stabilizing influence of vegetation foliage and root network.

Prescription	Yes	No*	N/A*
1. During construction, disturbance was minimized to the necessary area and existing vegetation and root networks were retained where possible.			

* **If you checked "No" or "N/A", include explanation here:**

Corrective Actions Taken

List by BMP and Prescription Numbers – (Ex. 4.9 #1)

APPENDIX C

References

California, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board. 1995. Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Basin North and South Basins. Lahontan Region, South Lake Tahoe, California.

Howald, Ann M. 1983. The vegetation and flora of Mammoth Mountain. Prepared for Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, Mammoth Lakes, CA. On file at Inyo National Forest Supervisor's Office, Bishop, CA. 82 pp.

Nelson, Kathleen. July 2012. Biological Evaluation for Sensitive Plants, Mammoth Mountain Winter Recreation Project: Woolly's Adventure Summit, Face of Three Run Improvements, Coyote Run Improvements, Rollercoaster Snowmaking Line Extension, Inyo National Forest. Project file, Mammoth Ranger District, Mammoth Lakes, CA. 2 pgs.

USDA Inyo National Forest. Various dates. Sensitive plant files. Inyo National Forest Supervisor's Office, Bishop, CA.

Perloff, Richard. 2012 Biological Evaluation, Sensitive Animal Species, Mammoth Mountain Winter Recreation Project. Mammoth Lakes, CA: USDA, Forest Service, Inyo National Forest 5 pgs.

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USDA Forest Service, Inyo National Forest. 1988. *Land and Resource Management Plan*. Bishop, CA.

USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest and Intermountain Regions. 2001a. "Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment - Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)." Vallejo, CA.

USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest and Intermountain Regions. 2004a. "Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment - Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD)." Vallejo, CA.

USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region. 1996. "Programmatic Agreement amoung the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, California State Historic Preservation Officer, and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regarding compliance for Section 106 of the National Historic

Preservation Act for Undertakings on the National Forests of the Pacific Southwest Region. Sierra Nevada Forest Programmatic Agreement.": UDSDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region.

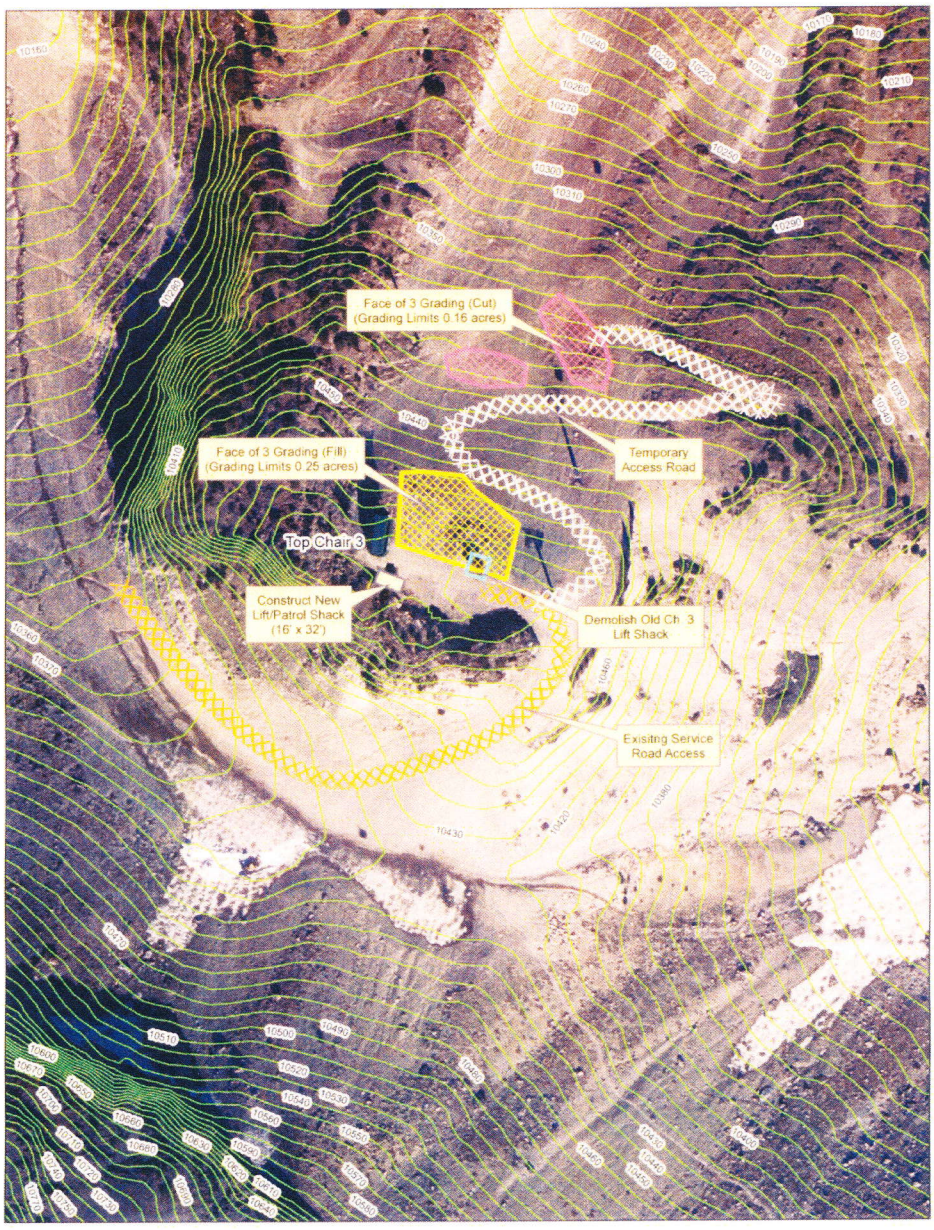
USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region. 2001b. "First Ammended Programmatic Agreement amoung the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, California State Historic Preservation Officer, and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regarding compliance for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for Undertakings on the National Forests of the Pacific Southwest Region. Sierra Nevada Forest Programmatic Agreement.": USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region.

USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region. 2004b. "Stipulation XIV in the Programmatic Agreement amount the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, California State Historic Preservation Officer, and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regarding the identification, evaluation, and treatment of historic properties managed by the National Forests of the Sierra Nevada, California (Sierra PA).": USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region.

Heritage Report No. R1983050400310, Heritage Report No. R1983050400310, Heritage Report Nos. R1979050400075, R1983050400310, R1990050400488 and R2011050401702.

APPENDIX D

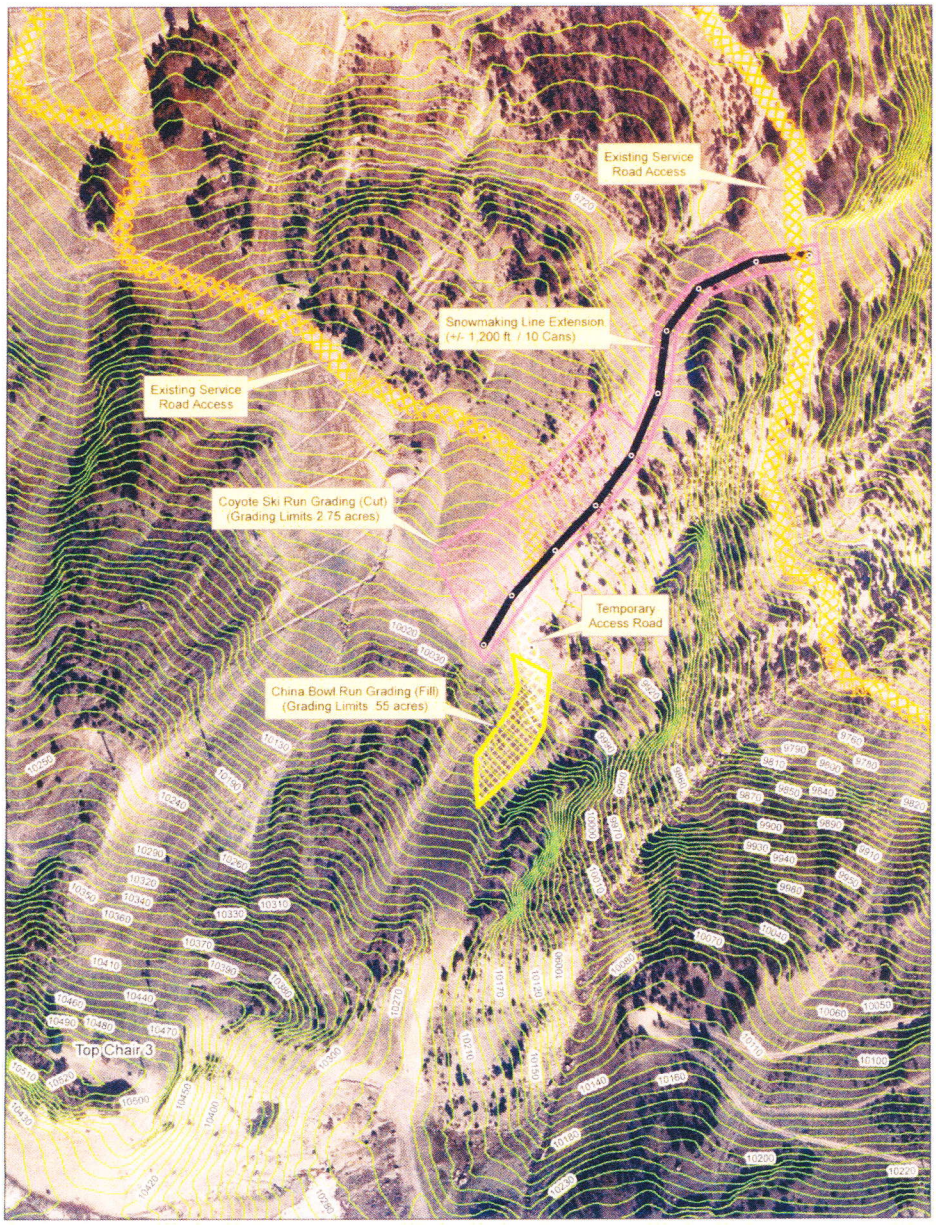
Maps



Top Of Chair 3 Grading

March 9, 2012

FIGURE 2



Upper Coyote / China Bowl Run Grading

0 100 200 400 600 800 Feet

1 inch = 200 feet

Cut

Fill

March 9, 2012

FIGURE 3

Roller Coaster West Snowmaking Extension Project

March 12, 2012

Figure 4

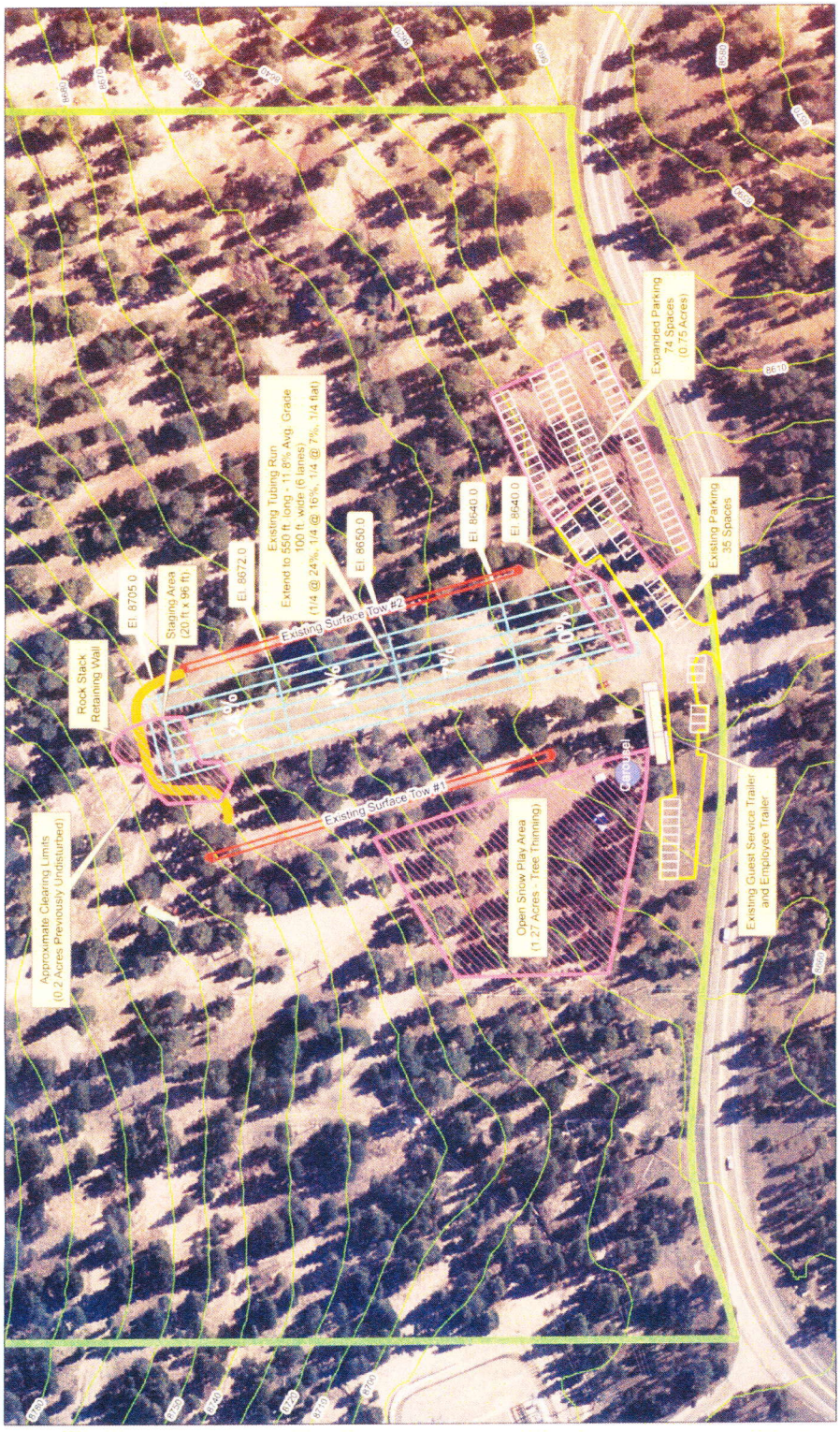

WOOLLY'S ADVENTURE SUMMIT
Summer 2012 Improvements
March 9, 2012
Approximate Clearing Limits
(0.2 Acres Previously Undisturbed)
Rock Stack Retaining Wall
El. 8705.0
Staging Area
(20 ft x 96 ft)
El. 8672.0
Existing Tubing Run
Extend to 550 ft long - 11.8% Avg. Grade
100 ft. wide (6 lanes)
(1/4 @ 24%, 1/4 @ 16%, 1/4 @ 7%, 1/4 flat)
El. 8650.0
Existing Surface Tow #2
El. 8640.0
El. 8640.0
Expanded Parking
74 Spaces
(0.75 Acres)
Existing Parking
35 Spaces
Existing Surface Tow #1
Open Snow Play Area
(1.27 Acres - Tree Thinning)
Existing Guest Service Trailer
and Employee Trailer
Areas of Additional Clearing
(+/- 2.25 acres)
0
50
100
200
300
400
Feet
1 inch = 100 feet

FIGURE 5

Appendix E

Environmental Checklist Form

1. Project title:
Mammoth Mountain Ski Area Winter Recreation Project

2. Lead agency name and address:
INYO NATIONAL FOREST
MAMMOTH RANGER DISTRICT
PO Box 148, MAMMOTH LAKES, CA 93546

3. Contact person and phone number:
ALLISON JACKSON

4. Project location:
MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN SKI AREA

5. Project sponsor's name and address:
BILL COHEN
GENERAL COUNSEL
~~MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN SKI AREA~~, LLC
PO. Box 24
MAMMOTH LAKES, CA 93546

6. General plan designation: N/A - USFS 7. Zoning: N/A - USFS

8. Description of project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)
SEE ATTACHED

9. Surrounding land uses and setting: Briefly describe the project's surroundings:
SEE ATTACHED

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or

participation agreement.)

1) Approval process to meet Lahontan June 13 comment letter will be pursued by the sponsor, MMSA, to acquire permit authority to disturb land of more than (1) acre.

2) Best Management Practices and monitoring to be coordinated through USFS Hydrology, Soils, Wildlife, Botany, Archaeology & Visual Specialists

3. These processes all stipulated in forthcoming Decision Notice.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☒ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☒ Cultural Resources	☒ Geology/Soils
☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	☒ Hydrology/Water Quality	☐ Land Use/Planning
☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Noise	☐ Population/Housing
☐ Public Services	☐ Recreation	☐ Transportation/Traffic
☐ Utilities/Service Systems	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance	

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

SAMPLE QUESTION

Issues:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. AESTHETICS -- Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
II. AGRICULTURE RESOURCES: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. AIR QUALITY -- Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal,	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒
VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS -- Would the project:				
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	☐	☐	☐	☐
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☐
VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS -- Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☐	☐	☒
VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY -- Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?				
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☐	☒
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒
IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING - Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. MINERAL RESOURCES -- Would the project				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XI. NOISE -- Would the project result in:				
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING -- Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES				
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XIV. RECREATION				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
XV. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC -- Would the project				
a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS -- Would the project				
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒
XVII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental	☐	☐	☐	☒

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?				
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Note: Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21087, Public Resources Code. Reference: Sections 21080(c), 21080.1, 21080.3, 21082.1, 21083, 21083.3, 21093, 21094, 21151, Public Resources Code; Sundstrom v. County of Mendocino, 202 Cal.App.3d 296 (1988); Leonoff v. Monterey Board of Supervisors, 222 Cal.App.3d 1337 (1990).

☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Jon C. Regelbrugge — 9/7/12

Signature — Date

Jon C. Regelbrugge, District Ranger — For

Printed Name

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).

5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR

or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.

b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.

c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7) Supporting Information Sources. A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

9) The explanation of each issue should identify:

a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and

b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

8.) Description of project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation.

Three activities comprising the proposed action within MMSA and Woolly's Adventure Summit(WAS) are improving runs to two existing ski runs; delivering additional snowmaking capacity to the Rollercoaster half pipe feature and ski run; and improving tubing lanes, snowplay and parking areas at WAS.

2.2.1. Ski Run Improvements

The proposed action includes run work to two existing ski runs.

- Face of Three (Top of Chair 3 Grading): The proposed action includes grading work at the top of Chair 3 (Facelift Express) and grading work within the face runs. At the top, MMSA proposes to remove and replace the two existing shacks (one currently used for top lift operator, the other used for ski patrol) with one shack at the current location of the lift operator shack. MMSA will also remove all abandoned lift terminal footings above and below the patrol shack. Removal of the shack and the footings as well as some minor associated rock removal and minor grading will create unobstructed access to the face runs, resulting in a substantially improved and safer skier experience. The proposed work will also result in operational efficiencies during winching, such that winching will be possible while the Gondola is running, enabling better and faster opening and snow maintenance operations. On the runs, MMSA proposes to grade several rock dome features, improving upon grading work done over the years. This work will increase operational efficiencies and improve the skier experience. Altogether, approximately less than one acre of the project area will have some level of grading. There is no grading in previously undisturbed areas. The project is likely to be in balance with respect to cut/fill. Any excess dirt will be exported to the Main Lodge Half-Pipe Project.
- Upper Coyote China Bowl Grading: The Proposed Action includes grading a connection from China Bowl to the existing grading on Lower Coyote. The project will improve on-hill safety by increasing the visibility of traffic coming from Chair 5 and Chair 9. Altogether, approximately 2.15 acres of the project area will be graded. Approximately 0.5 acres adjacent to the ski run is previously ungraded. The project is likely to be in balance with respect to cut/fill, with a chance that there will be surplus dirt. Any surplus dirt will be used to help complete the Main Lodge Half Pipe project.

2.2.2. Rollercoaster Line Extension

The proposed action includes extending a snowmaking line from above the top of Chair 4 to the top of Chair 21. The proposed line is approximately 1,900 feet, and will include ten snowmaking cans. The work will take place entirely within disturbed ski runs. The line would add no new capacity to the snowmaking system, but would permit sufficient snowmaking to utilize the Rollercoaster Half Pipe and adjoining runs during early season and low snow periods. Work

would commence after proper permitting requirements are met with a tentative completion before 2012 snowfall.

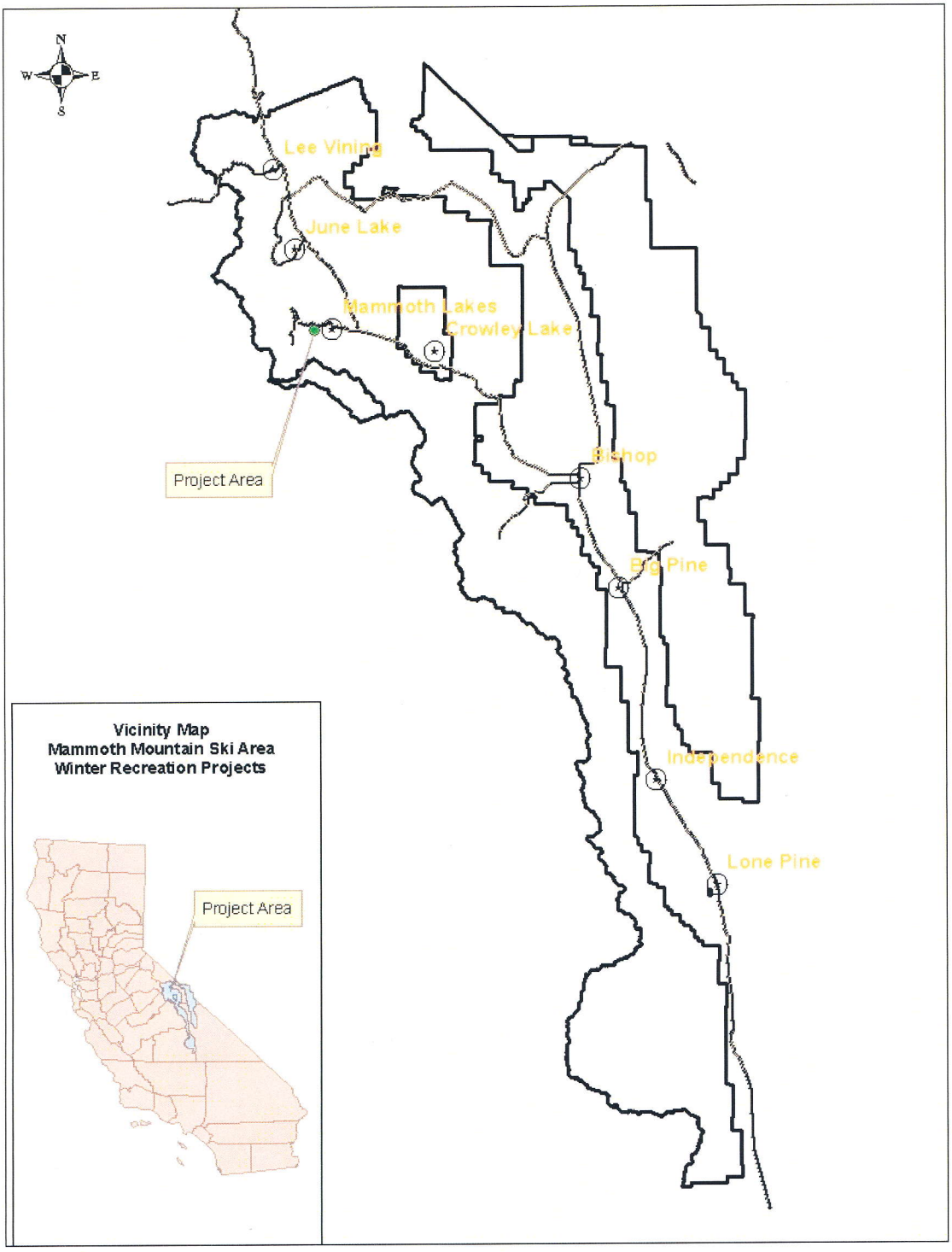
2.2.3. Woolly's Adventure Summit Improvements

The proposed action at WAS includes modifications to three aspects of the permit area:

- Extending the Tubing Runs: MMSA proposes to extend the tubing runs at the top and bottom of the existing runs. The total area implicated by the extension will be approximately 0.2 acres. The purpose of the extension is to provide additional length, primarily to increase run-out. The current layout is less than optimal with respect to safety, as a counter-slope and rubber mats are required to slow tubers down. By extending the lanes, MMSA will be able to have an extended area of zero degree slope, which should significantly minimize the use of mats, and will greatly reduce the reliance on counter slope.
- Expanding the Open Snowplay Area: The first Open Snowplay Area was approved in the 2011 Woolly's Adventure Summit Tubing Hill Decision Memo. This area primarily serves families with children who are too small to tube (less than 42 inches tall). Children and families use plastic sleds to slide down a very moderate slope, and are also provided a number of snow toys to use. The current area is quite small, and demand has overwhelmed the available space. MMSA seeks to expand the area up the slope, from 0.35 acres to approximately 1.27 acres. The natural slope of the area is acceptable, so there is no proposed grading. Although the area is not heavily timbered, MMSA proposes to carry out tree thinning to make the area more amenable to safe snowplay. Smaller lodgepoles and other trees will be removed. Significant trees will be left in place and padded for safety during operations.
- Expansion of Parking Lot: Part of the extension of the tubing runs will require utilizing area that is currently used for parking. In addition, even during the drought season of 2011-12, which experienced significant reduction in visitation, the parking lot was insufficient to handle demand and tubing area capacity. Accordingly, MMSA proposes to extend the parking area to the east, utilizing approximately 0.75 acres of ground with a mixed amount of previous disturbance. The project contemplates the removal of approximately 75 merchantable trees, 4 cull snags, and 20 trees under 8" dbh. Seven out of the 75 trees are greater than 30" dbh, and 2 out of the 4 snags are greater than 30"dbh.

9.) Surrounding land uses and setting. Briefly describe the project's surroundings: Mammoth Mountain Ski Area (MMSA) is located at T3S, R26E, Sections 27, 28, 30-34, T4S, R27E, Section 3-6, 9, T4S, R26E, Section 1. Wooly's Adventure Summit (WAS) is located at T3S, R27E, Sections 22, 28, 29, 32, Mt. Diablo Meridian. Refer to attached vicinity map. MMSA and WAS are both operated under special use permits. MMSA under a Ski Area Term Permit and WAS under a Term Special Use Permit. The SUPs total 3326 acres and 50 acres, respectively.

The following vicinity map conveys the projects to be well within the MMSA and Wooly's Adventure Summit permit boundaries.


N
W
E
S
Lee Vining
June Lake
Mammoth Lakes
Crowley Lake
Project Area
Bishop
Big Pine
Independence
Lone Pine
Vicinity Map
Mammoth Mountain Ski Area
Winter Recreation Projects
Project Area

APPENDIX F

List of Preparers

Kathleen Nelson, Botanist, Inyo National Forest

Richard Perloff, Wildlife Biologist, Inyo National Forest

Erin Lutrick Noesser, Hydrologist, Inyo National Forest

Christopher Stewart, Hydrologist, Sequoia National Forest

Bob Foxworth, Archeologist, Inyo National Forest

Andrew Weinhart, Forestry Technician, Inyo National Forest

Allison Jackson, Winter Sports Specialist, Inyo National Forest