

Jordan-Reily Nomination

John Wentworth

Nominated by:
John Watson

The Association took great interest in the late 1980s and early 1990s in the possibility of lift capability to the top of the Sherwins, even conducting a heliskiing reconnaissance of the San Joaquin Ridge and Sherwin in 1990. Snowcreek, an amenity ski area, died with the death of the developer and since that time the Sherwins have been a favorite recreation area for back country skiers and snowboarders during snow season and hikers in the summer season. FWSA thus followed with great interest the process which unfolded in Mammoth starting in 2005 to facilitate and legitimize the recreation access to and egress from the Sherwins south of the Mammoth Lakes townsite. The mover and shaker for this process is John Wentworth.

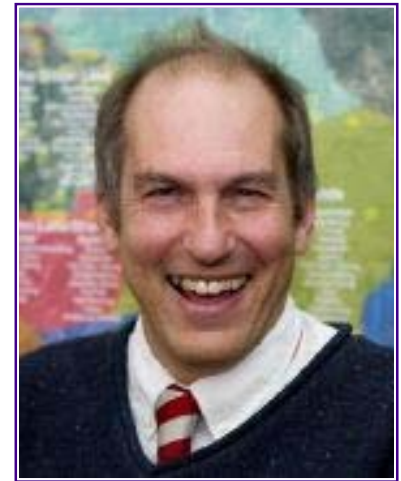


photo courtesy mltpa.com

Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access (MLTPA) was informally initiated in December 2005 by Mammoth resident John Wentworth in response to concerns about skier/snowboarder egress from the Sherwin Range back to town. Building on the knowledge gained from this issue, Wentworth and a handful of volunteers compiled the Mobility Plan Resources Report in the summer of 2006, documenting more than 100 points of trails and public access in Mammoth to raise awareness at the government level of the need for considered and thorough trail system planning. Since that time, MLTPA has worked diligently to bring much-deserved focus and attention to the future of the Mammoth community and its critical relationship with its unique and bountiful setting. MLTPA engages with Town government, federal agencies, other nonprofits, the public and private businesses to work cooperatively toward the goals identified in the MLTPA mission and vision. MLTPA is a public benefit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of California (501c3).

The rigorous attention to detail and thorough and systematic analysis by the Sherwins Working Group (SWG) has resulted in the release by MLTPA of the Sherwins Area Recreation Plan (SHARP). The final deliverable of the SWG, SHARP lays out a thoughtful, collaborative plan for summer and winter trail use, recreation, and public access in the Sherwins area to the south of town. The success of this collaborative effort with the US Forest Service and the Town of Mammoth Lakes has resulted in a contract to produce a countywide inventory of points that access outdoor recreation activities and amenities – the Mono County Recreation Access Tool (MCRAT).

For his leadership and perseverance in the MLTPA collaborative effort, a model for recreation communities, John Wentworth is recognized with the Jordan Reily award. The namesakes for the award are Bob Jordan, a Guadalcanal veteran, and John Reily, one of the developers of Alpine Meadows. Both had a life-long dedication to the proper use of the land.