

Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park
Position Statement
TAMBA Snow Valley Peak TRT Use Change Proposal

We would like to begin this Statement of Position by thanking all the stakeholders, agencies and organizations for their participation in the process of considering the use changes encapsulated in the TAMBA proposal for the Tahoe Rim Trail segment from Spooner Summit to Hobart Rd. All input was considered carefully and thoughtfully by Park Managers at Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park.

Policy Options

- Open the segment to multi-use with no restrictions
- Leave the segment in current status, hikers and equestrians only
- Open the segment to multi-use with restrictions
 - a. even/odd for full segment
 - b. even/odd on the northern half - closed to biking on the southern half
 - c. multi-use on the northern half - closed to biking on the southern half

General Trail Use Policy

Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park **supports the shared use of trails by all user groups, save those where an overriding factor of safety, user conflict or both dictates restrictions.**

Parks Managerial Experience

The Snow Valley Peak portion of the TRT is not one in which user conflicts are deemed significant due to congestion. It is the opinion of LTNSP Managers that user groups can co-exist on this trail section. With the proposed change in management, anticipated levels of increased use by cyclists should be rather low and speeds will be significantly lower than on roads. Good line of sight exists over the nearly the entire length of the portion of trail that passes over Snow Valley Peak. LTNSP supports the idea of establishing occasional trail 'cutouts' to allow for easy passage for parties traveling in opposite directions. There is much evidence within and outside Spooner Backcountry that various user groups are having little or no problems co-existing on established multi-use designated trails, including trails that resemble the Snow Valley Peak TRT section. As Park Managers, we are acutely aware of our location astride a national treasure, Lake Tahoe. Restrictive use designations on this tremendously scenic section of the TRT must be extremely compelling and widely supported in order to continue trail limitations. In our opinion, the facts do not support the continuation of the 1996 use agreement which originally implemented limitations in the Snow Valley Peak area.

LTNSP Position Statement

In accordance with the above rationale, LTNSP would support pursuing a multi-use policy with no even/odd or other restriction on the upper (approx.) 4 miles of TRT - Hobart Road to North Canyon campground connector, including the connector itself.

The Park, however, does not support removing restrictions on the lower 4 miles of TRT – top of the North Canyon connector to Spooner Summit.) In consideration of stakeholder input and our own experience, Park Managers feel there is a more compelling case here for a protected 'settling down' section that that will allow horses some time to calm from a high energy and easily startled level that may be exacerbated by the sharp turns with low sight distance encountered on this more densely vegetated area. Although trail usage here is not as high as other major trailheads, it is still significant and diverse, especially on weekends, with many seniors, children and pets on the trail, many of which are doing short out and back trips.

Action Plan

It is the intention of Park Managers to work with our USFS partners, the Tahoe Rim Trail Association and stakeholders to implement this use change. Engineered trail improvements and the installation of etiquette/informational signage is considered a key element of this effort. The goal is to have full implementation in 3 years, but not more than 5.

Final thought

We fully understand that this policy change may frustrate some of our visitors. We would ask for patience and for you to stay involved as we move forward. You will hopefully all find common ground in your appreciation for these magnificent lands that we have all inherited a responsibility for.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to additional coordination on these issues.