

Community Focus Statement F: Improve resources to support seasonal visitors and tourist activities in the Lake Arrowhead communities.

F2

Action Statement F.2: Investigate opportunities to establish designated sledding areas with parking to avoid visitors establishing quasi-sledding and parking areas.

Benchmark: Snow recreation areas with available parking and amenities, as well as a long-term maintenance plan, are developed.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: variable depending on project components



Families sledding in the San Bernardino National Forest. Photo Source: US Forest Service

An increasing area of concern during winter seasons is the inappropriate use of private property and public roadways for winter recreation activity. Sledding is a popular activity in mountain areas, with both locals and visitors. Without proper facilities, however, it can cause damage to the environment and be dangerous to people. By ensuring there are designated areas for sledding activities, residents can reduce or eliminate sledding in dangerous or damaging locations.

Pairing the Lake Arrowhead communities with local and federal agencies as well as other local partners can manage designated snow play areas and construct additional areas. Local residents can help identify areas where

sledding would be suitable, as well as areas which are often used but not ideal for the activities. Presenting these areas to the Rim of the World Recreation and Park District along with possible funding mechanisms can facilitate the establishment of suitable locations for safe and fun sledding activities, and the provision of suitable amenities such as parking and restrooms. The Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division of California State Parks, the US Forest Service, the California Department of Transportation, the California Highway Patrol, and various community organizations can also be directly involved in coordinating and administering a winter recreation program that can provide safe recreation, as well as funding, through the administration of permits to access the designated recreation areas. Such funding can then go toward the maintenance of facilities and parking lots and wages for employees to staff the sites. For instance, the SNO-PARK program is coordinated and administered by the OHMVR Division of California State Parks, in conjunction with the various public and community agencies, to give visitors access to snow-cleared parking lots and accommodate self-guided activities such as snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, and general snow play.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Create a Community Recreation Committee to serve as action leader	Champion	Month 1	Corporate sponsorship guidance http://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Parks-and-Recreation/Parks-and-Recreation-Funding/Corporate-Sponsorship-and-Naming-Policies.aspx
2. Identify areas often used for sledding and areas suitable for sledding and other snow activities.	Committee with support from the Rim of the World Recreation and Park District, with support from community	Months 1–3	
3. Draft a winter recreation plan to establish, maintain, and provide amenities for designated sledding areas.	Committee with support from the Rim of the World Recreation and Park District	Months 3–12	Federal grant funding resources http://reconnectingamerica.org/resource-center/federal-grant-opportunities/
4. Coordinate with local parks jurisdictions to provide safe recreation areas through administration of permits to designated areas and close off areas not identified for sledding. .	Committee	Months 3–12	California State Parks OHV, Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation SNO-PARKS http://ohv.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=1233
5. Seek businesses and organizations to donate or sponsor the cost of amenities such as restrooms and water fountains.	Committee, with support from local business community	Months 9–12	Sierra Nevada Geotourism, Echo Lake Sno-Park http://www.sierranevadageotourism.org/content/echo-lake-sno-park/sie1E3F0F921685A1B4B
6. Apply for grant funding to go toward operations and maintenance of amenities.	Committee with support from Rim of the World Recreation and Park District	Months 9–12	
7. Install amenities and access improvements.	Committee, Rim of the World Recreation and Park District	Year 1 – 5	
8. Partner with local youth and volunteer groups to help with maintenance.	County, with support from community groups	Year 1 – 5	