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## **MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN WINS INDUSTRY'S ENERGY CONSERVATION AWARD**

**MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN, CA** – An aggressive approach to conserving energy and promoting renewable resources has propelled Mammoth Mountain Ski Area into the spotlight as a leader in energy conservation within the ski industry.

On May 20, 2005 at their annual conference in Scottsdale, AZ, the National Ski Area Association presented MMSA with a Silver Eagle Award for conserving energy and using cleaner, renewable energy. Mammoth has adopted a comprehensive approach to conservation of natural resources that includes tightening up on waste, exploring alternative energy sources and widespread education.

The Silver Eagle awards were established in 1993 to honor excellence in environmental management within the ski industry. Awards are based on a resort's efforts to establish high environmental standards in a variety of categories. This year's judges included representatives from the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Trust for Public Land, Bonneville Environmental Foundation and the NSAA.

Bob Bradbury, MMSA's Energy Manager (a.k.a. "Prince of Darkness" and "Tight Watt"), had been focused on minimizing energy waste for years before the resort formally started looking for the best ways to reduce energy use in 2001. With over 100 structures totaling about 600,000 square feet, there were countless opportunities for improvement. One of the first things Bradbury did was to conduct energy audits of each building to examine construction, occupancy patterns, user habits and existing energy systems. He then produced a 125-page conservation plan identifying inefficiencies, solutions and implementation timelines.

Solutions ranged from the very simple, like replacing standard light bulbs with compact fluorescents, to more complex fixes, including installation of new building controls and upgrades that integrate and track all energy systems. Through real-time connections with Mammoth's intranet, facility managers can now see and control energy use. The difference is remarkable. Annual electricity use has been reduced by about 11 percent, while propane use has been cut by around 100,000 gallons.

On a different but parallel track, Mammoth is driving to reduce the company's use of fossil fuels. Twenty percent of the resort's purchased electricity comes from renewable resources. All of the company's off-road diesel equipment is fueled with biodiesel, along with adopting a 5-minute idling time limit policy for all vehicles on resort property. Some power and heat backup also comes from solar thermal air panels and photovoltaic cells power the Village Gondola's communication system.

Education is key to the resort's success in becoming energy conscious and using resources wisely. Over 2,000 employees and thousands of guests have been educated through a variety of opportunities and efforts, including special events, newsletters and direct involvement. "Change comes about through one person, one business, one industry at a time," noted Vickie Taton, Mammoth's Environmental Education

Coordinator. When asked about his efforts, Bradbury stated, "I'm happy to have Mammoth recognized for this because we are leading the industry."

Mammoth's Silver Eagle Award is on display with other environmental awards at Main Lodge near the Host Information Desk. For more information on the Silver Eagle Awards go to [www.nsaa.org](http://www.nsaa.org) or contact Mammoth's Department of Environmental Programs at 760.934.0773.

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