

SNC Grants Team
c/o Matt Driscoll
Sierra Nevada Conservancy
11521 Blocker Dr., Ste. 205
Auburn, CA 95603

Attn: Matt Driscoll, Eastern Sierra Area Representative, Sierra Nevada Conservancy

RE: Letter of Support for SNC Application #1417-RT and #1485-RT "Sherwins Area Trails and Trailheads"

To whom it may concern,

The Inyo National Forest staff have been coordinating with Mammoth Lakes Recreation and the Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) as we develop a Vibrant Recreation and Tourism grant application being submitted July 2022. The project is designed to assist the Forest in providing quality recreational opportunities in the Mammoth Lakes area, as well as planning for future projects.

The Mammoth Ranger District of the Inyo National Forest has a MOU and Challenge Cost Share Agreement with Town of Mammoth Lakes to perform maintenance on Forest Service system trails and trailheads. The Town has committed to a long-term planning effort of the Sherwins Area through efforts such as the Sherwins Working Group and the Sherwins Area Recreation Plan. The applicant and Town, in coordination with the Inyo National Forest, will collaboratively work together to implement the Sherwins Trailhead project and identify and plan future soft-surface trails in the area.

NEPA/CEQA documents are complete for the Sherwins Trailhead. The Mammoth District Ranger (Authorized Officer) has provided authorization for construction of this facility. On-going maintenance is the responsibility of TOML and is supported by Inyo National Forest.

On February 1, 2012, the Mammoth Lakes Town Council unanimously adopted Resolution No. 12-09. This policy decision directed the Town Manager to establish and formalize a high level of interagency cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, to plan, design, implement, construct, operate, maintain, and promote a program of trails-based recreational experience enhancements to be known as the Mammoth Lakes Trail System. This action empowered TOML to work more closely with the U.S. Forest Service to fulfill the intent and desire of the Resolution.

In 2013, TOML and the U.S. Forest Service entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to "create an enhanced trails-based recreational experience using a comprehensive program of physical trails improvements; integrated wayfinding and interpretation using both traditional and contemporary communication formats; and continuing system maintenance."



In January 2020 the Town of Mammoth Lakes and U.S. Forest Service renewed the MOU (FS Agreement No. 20-MU-11050400-005). The current MOU will expire December 31, 2024. The Inyo National Forest, with full confidence, intends to renew the MOU with the TOML allowing the continued service of providing “an enhanced trails-based recreational experience” on Inyo National Forest lands for a minimum of 10 years as required for this grant application. In addition, the Town is working to secure a Special Use Permit for the Mammoth Lakes Trail System partnership which will add an even stronger level of formal partnership toward the future.

The Inyo National Forest supports the goals of Mammoth Lakes Recreation’s application and will continue to work closely with the applicant and Town towards its implementation.

Sincerely,

FRED WONG
DISTRICT RANGER
MAMMOTH RANGER DISTRICT
INYO NATIONAL FOREST