



Update to Town Council

September 2022

(Last Joint Meeting Update - March 30, 2022)

1. Capital Projects/Grants

a. Sierra Nevada Conservancy – Buckeye Hot Springs Grant - \$80,000

December 2020 – July 2022: PROJECT COMPLETE

This project is an excellent example of how multiple partners working together can provide sustainable recreation and public access while improving quality of life for the region. Mammoth Lakes Recreation (MLR) has strengthened partnerships with Mono County, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, and the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership through administration of this grant. The Mammoth Lakes Trail System (MLTS) Trail Crew provided additional capacity to help complete construction of the new trail alignment. Grant deliverables include: Grading and delineation of the parking area; Hillside stabilization; Installation of regulatory and interpretive signs and displays; Installation of a single vault toilet; Installation of picnic tables and picnic area pad; Construction of a single, sustainable access trail; Restoration of user-created impacts.

b. National Endowment for the Arts – ARP Sub-Granting Program - \$150,000

July 2021 – June 2023 – MLR awarded \$150,000 grant for sub-granting to local arts agencies.

April 2022 - Dispersed \$80,000 directly to local arts organizations.

Spring 2023 - Second disbursement of remaining grant funds.

c. CA State Parks - Regional Parks Program Grant

November 2021 - Submitted \$3,000,000 application to the Regional Park Program on behalf of TOML for improvements at Whitmore Recreation Area.

August 2022 - Grant application rejected.

d. National Endowment for the Arts – Grants for Art Projects

July 2022 - Submitted \$21,500 grant application to the National Endowment of the Arts for audio visual and technology improvements at the Edison Theater.

November 2022 – Earliest announcement of grant award or rejection.

e. Sierra Nevada Conservancy – Vibrant Recreation & Tourism Grant Program

July 2022 - Submitted IMPLEMENTATION proposal for the Sherwins Trailhead requesting \$950,000 to construct the shovel-ready trailhead design.

July 2022 - Submitted PLANNING proposal for the Sherwins Area Trails and Trailhead Expansion requesting \$620,000 to perform environmental analysis for the proposed Sherwins Area Trails and an expanded trailhead area.

December 2022 – Earliest date SNC Board will meet to evaluate proposals.



2. Sustainable Recreation

a. Mammoth Lakes Trail System

- i. Provide support to further the goals of the TOML Office of Outdoor Recreation
- ii. Convene the Mammoth Trails Committee providing fiscal and operational oversight and recommendations
- iii. Convene next Mammoth Trails Consortium of User Groups meeting October 20, focusing on the current Sherwins Area Trails and Trailhead proposals and the 10th Anniversary of the MLTS.
- iv. Maintain several web pages for public information and engagement with MLTS projects and programs (Sherwins Area Trails and Trailheads, Shady Rest Inyo Craters Trail Planning Project, Lakes Basin Connector Trails, Eastern Sierra Adopt A Trail, Eastern Sierra Adopt A Trail Volunteer Portal, MLTS Information).
- v. Provide reporting platform for several online documents (Volunteer Waivers, Volunteer Reporting Form, Volunteer Survey, Trail User Survey)
- vi. Active Projects:

- Lakes Basin Connector Trails (www.mammothlakesrecreation.org/lakesbasin/)

July 2020 – Present - Continue to coordinate with Trails Manager as project progresses, host and update project web page, convene meetings, and perform public outreach.

Summer 2022 – Up to \$8,000 of MLTS Trail Crew time building these trails being paid for by private donation MLR received specifically for enhancement of mountain bike and trail opportunities, offsetting reliance on Measure R.

October 2022 - Currently coordinating with Outdoor Recreation Manager (ORM) and Trails Manager for October 5 ribbon cutting ceremony officially opening some of the project trails.

- Sherwins Area Trails and Trailheads (www.mammothlakesrecreation.org/sherwins/)

December 2021 – Sherwins Trails project included in Inyo National Forest FY22 program of work.

February 2022 – Pivoted to this iteration of the project after separating the Lakes Basin trails and the Sherwins Area trails from the Lakes Basin and Sherwins Area Trail Enhancement Project; each continuing independently with USFS requested modifications. MLR continues to coordinate with Trails Manager and ORM to develop project, host and update web page, convene meetings, and perform public outreach.

July 2022 - MLR submitted two grant proposals to Sierra Nevada Conservancy for funding to support implementation of the trailhead and environmental review for the soft-surface trails. (See Capital Projects/Grant section)

b. Eastern Sierra Adopt-A-Trail - www.esadoptatrail.org

September 2020 – Present – Eastern Sierra Adopt-A-Trail (ESAAT) started as a pilot program in 2020 with 18 TOML facilities. It has now grown to 40 TOML facilities and 14 Mono County facilities. (*Unadopted Mono County facilities taken offline July 2022 until new Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Coordinator is on-boarded.*)

\$56,550 has been raised to directly benefit trails and recreational facilities in Mammoth Lakes and Mono County, eliminating the use of any Measure R tax dollars for the ESAAT program and



offsetting overall trail maintenance and equipment costs. For example, TOML Trails Manager intends to purchase a new \$8,000 tracked carrier machine with ESAAT funds for trail maintenance efforts.

Volunteer adoptions run from January 1 – December 31. After each shift, volunteers report their time, findings and any maintenance issues on the online reporting platform supported by MLR. (Link to Volunteer Reporting Form:

<https://fs27.formsite.com/mammothlakesrecreation/esaat/index.html>) Since September 2020, volunteers have reported 649 hours helping to maintain trails and facilities in Mammoth Lakes and Mono County, equaling \$19,440 in added volunteer value.

August 2022 – MLR purchased \$4,000 in lumber for the Parker Lake Boardwalk project with ESAAT funds. Project partners include Inyo National Forest, June Lake Trails Committee and Frontier Pack Station.

Sponsorship Totals

	TOML	Mono County	All
FY 20/21			\$16,00
FY 21/22	\$23,000	\$8,400	\$31,400
FY 22/23 (July 2022)	\$6,750	\$2,400	\$9,150
Total	\$29,750	\$10,800	\$56,550

Volunteer Totals

	Volunteer Hours	Visitor Contacts	Pounds of Trash	Pounds of Pet Waste
2020	56	26	140	7
2021	463	318	990	122
2022*	130	107	355	42.5
Total	649	451	1,485	164.5

*Typically receive backlogged reporting at end of season.

c. Tangle Free Waters - www.tanglefreewaters.org

August 2020 – Present – Starting with only a handful of stations, MLR has grown the once neglected Tangle Free Waters (TFW) program to 30 stations in Mono County (8 in Mammoth) harnessing partnerships between local and federal agencies, businesses, clubs, landowners, and volunteers. The program has 18 sponsors and 12 volunteers. Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP) sponsored the program in FY21/22 with a \$7,500 donation and has continued the sponsorship into FY22/23 with an additional \$1,500.

April 2022 – Created and made publicly available TFW Station Locator Map which has been viewed over 200 times. Link to map: <https://mammothlakesrecreation.org/tfw-locations/>

May 2022 – Redesigned the sign and sticker wrap for the stations to provide better aesthetic.

Summer 2022 - Integration with TOML Host program by way of “Water Hosts” who spend their shift cleaning up discarded fishing line and tackle from the shoreline. Before being sent off for recycling, all the line from this effort is being collected and stored to highlight how much line was picked up in just one season.



- d. Camp Like a PRO – Mono County Dispersed Camping Efforts
www.mammothlakesrecreation.org/camping

Summer 2022 - Continuing to support facilities that are not covered by Mono County agreement with Cal-Trans. MLR has placed a dumpster and toilet at Parker Lake through a June Lake Trails Committee sponsorship, at Benton Crossing Rd. through a LADWP sponsorship, and at Navy Beach with left over funds from FY21/22. This is a true regional effort, and a prime example of positioning as a non-profit to directly address and solve a problem in the region. The effort has been possible through coordination with USFS, Mono County, local organizations, and businesses.

3. Community Building

- a. Measure R and U Allocations

MLR Allocations Committee recommended \$154,500 in Measure U Programming Grants to 10 organizations for FY 22/23. MLR convened two public review meetings, a public hearing and presented recommendations to Town Council. The recommendations for the use of Measure R and U Tax funds involves approximately 200 hours of volunteered time by the Allocations Committee and MLR Board, with the Allocations Committee contributing most of those hours reviewing applications and making recommendations for the Measure U Programming Grants. (\$5,990 in added volunteer value). MLR maintains two webpages providing information about Measure R and U and the resources for Measure U applicants.

MLR is coordinating with Parks and Recreation Department and Mammoth Lakes Tourism to coordinate the application period and clearly define eligible applicants for each of the three TOML Community Funding opportunities (Youth Sports Funding, Event Funding, Measure U Programming Funding).

- b. Education & Outreach

1) Communications

MLR has been communicating with local organizations about the local and regional programs, sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities, and upcoming events.

***January 2021 – Present* - News from the Trailhead**

Providing regular communications with nearly 1000 subscribers through the now monthly MLR newsletter. Each month a Measure U partner is a featured story as well as a MLTS program, volunteer, or project.

***April 26, 2022* - Chamber of Commerce Power Lunch – Responsible Recreation**

MLR presented on the Tangle Free Waters program. Other presenters were LADWP, Mammoth Disposal Sustainability Coordinator and High Sierra Energy Foundation.

***June 17, 2022* - ACE Show – KMMT Arts, Culture, Entertainment**

Interviewed on air with MLTS promoting Trail Days, Adopt A Trail, Tangle Free Waters and MLR.

***June 29, 2022* - Volunteer Eastern Sierra**

Presented on volunteer opportunities with Adopt-A-Trail and Tangle Free Waters.

***June 30, 2022* - Community Coffee**

Presented with MLTS Trails Manager on E-biking in and around Mammoth Lakes.



July 8, 2022 - Etiquette Video Series

Produced third "Etiquette on the MLTS" video focused on how to share the trail with equestrians. Video available on MLR You Tube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGrZDaZ18r-HLQJn8O8nCbw>

August 8, 2022 - Lion's Club

Outlined the progress, programs, and funding MLR is generating for the TOML and region.

August 10, 2022 - Biketown Film Screening

Hosted a free screening of "Biketown" at the USFS Auditorium attended by 75 people. The film focused on bringing communities together with land managers and private stakeholders to enhance mountain biking opportunities.

2) Education

Summer 2022 – Bike Like A PRO

In response to an expanding biking community and more conflict between users, MLR spearheaded the design and production of hang tags distributed to bike rental shops educating users on bike and E-bike etiquette on the MLTS. To support the Town in addressing these issues, MLR simultaneously worked with Mammoth Lakes Tourism to acquire TOML branded bike bells distributed to users by TOML Trail Hosts and MLR staff. Both programs will continue next year with supplies on hand to begin distribution and continued education of users in early Spring 2023.

3) Stewardship

September 17, 2022 – Partnered with MLTS and Clean Up the Lake

(<https://cleanupthelake.org/>) to host the Annual Lakes Basin Clean-Up. The event has been cancelled the past two years due to COVID. New this year, the non-profit organization Clean Up the Lake will be performing research dives in several of the lakes in anticipation of full, circumnavigated underwater clean-ups next year.

October 1, 2022 – Facelift: Act Local

Supporting the efforts of Mammoth Lakes Tourism to organize a community wide clean-up of Mammoth Lakes as part of the Yosemite Facelift event.

4. Fundraising

- a. MLR has focused on administering sponsorship and volunteer programs to bring dollars and hours to the TOML while actively looking for outside funding sources to leverage the use of Measure R and U and positioning the organization as a community ally ready for fundraising opportunities.
- b. Online store continues to sell merchandise, tickets and be used as fundraising outlet, at no cost. (<https://mammoth-lakes-recreation.square.site/>)
- c. FY 21/22 Funds Raised/Disbursed
 - i. Raised: \$195,700
 1. \$61,600 in Direct Public Support
 2. \$126,500 in Grant Funds (NEA, SNC, NWSA, CA OHMVR)
 3. \$7,600 in Fundraising/Merchandise income



- ii. Disbursed: \$157,900
 - 1. \$81,900 on Grants to Local Arts Agencies
 - 2. \$51,100 on Contract Labor
 - 3. \$7,800 on Equipment
 - 4. \$8,900 on Facility Maintenance
 - 5. \$8,200 on Materials/Supplies

5. A Look Toward MLR's Future

- a. Continued integration with & support for TOML's Office of Outdoor Recreation and Parks and Recreation Department.
- b. Work collaboratively with TOML to establish priorities and long-term goals while further expanding into the regional area related to both projects and fundraising.
- c. Engagement and support related to the Over-Snow-Vehicle Planning process (Sub-part C).
- d. Continued support of the Sherwins Area Recreation Plan (SHARP) and new trail and trailhead development.
- e. Continued support of funding for MLTS trail maintenance operations through programs such as Eastern Sierra Adopt-A-Trail.
- f. Engagement in Walk-Bike-Ride initiative as determined through the "Action Strategies" document, and as needed. (Loop Trails, Mobility Hubs, Transit/Trail Hubs, Long Distance Hiking Hub, E-bikes, Mobility Partnerships)
- g. Continue to search for grant opportunities to support art, culture, mobility, and parks/trails in TOML, along with potential funding opportunities for MLR as an organization.
- h. Engagement and participation in the up-coming Town to Trails program.
- i. Continue to find innovative ways to fund the organization, staff, and sustainable recreation, arts, culture, and mobility projects through a local and regional approach, while still maintaining roots in Mammoth Lakes.