

Mammoth Lakes Town Council Agenda Action Sheet

Title: Letter of Support for Bioenergy Wood Innovations Grant.

Council Meeting Date: 3/15/2023

Prepared by: Daniel C. Holler, Town Manager

Recommended Motion: Approve letter of support for Bioenergy Wood Innovations Grant.

Summary:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy recently awarded a grant of nearly \$4 million to the Whitebark Institute for its Reds Meadow II project, which will help reduce wildfire risk for the Town of Mammoth Lakes and the surrounding landscape by reducing fuels on 1,538 acres. It is part of the larger Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project. To realize this important project that is gaining attention from the State, an end use for the woody material that will be generated is of paramount importance. The USFS is now offering the 2023 Wood Utilization Grant Opportunity and Whitebark has been working with INF, MLFD, ESCOG, TSS consultants, and ORMAT technologies to put together a proposal to fund the final technology selection as well as the pre-development tasks needed to help attract a developer. This includes regulatory permitting, NEPA/CEQA and up to 30 % engineering design. The Proposal is due the week of March 20. Mono County has agreed to be the grant applicant. Letters of support for the project have been requested from the area stakeholders. Staff is recommending the attached letter of support for this grant be approved.