

## **TOWN COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

Title: Authorize the Town Manager to sign a collection agreement with the Inyo National Forest for \$70,000.

Meeting Date: November 6, 2024

Prepared by: Lawson Reif, Outdoor Recreation Manager

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Authorize the Town Manager to sign a 5-year Collection Agreement with the Inyo National Forest, pending final review from the Town Attorney.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The Sherwin Area Recreation Plan (SHARP) continues to move through environmental analysis with the Inyo National Forest (Inyo). Part of the anticipated costs of this analysis were Inyo Specialist Staff time to support the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. This collection agreement is the instrument to allow the Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) to reimburse Inyo staff for their work on the SHARP project.

An ancillary motive for this agreement is also to also have a general mechanism in place that easily allows TOML to exchange funds with the Inyo, should the need arise. No funds are to ever be utilized without express written permission from TOML and written approval from the Inyo that the dollars will be used to support an actual approved project.

### **ANALYSIS:**

The attached agreement outlines the terms and conditions of the agreement, along with a breakdown of anticipated specialist time. When charging to this agreement for SHARP, Inyo staff will fill out a detailed ledger recording hours charged and work performed. This will be collected by Office of Outdoor Recreation (OOR) staff who will work with Mammoth Lakes Recreation (MLR) to ensure proper upward reporting to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC).

While the Outdoor Recreation Manager understands there may be trepidation related to entering into another Collection Agreement with the Inyo, considering recent history, the funds will be reimbursed through our existing SNC planning grant. The Outdoor Recreation Manager will also be tracking any use of these funds with a critical eye and will ensure appropriate use of TOML funding at all times.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

All funding spent related to the SHARP project shall be reimbursed to TOML via the SNC Planning Grant. No funds shall be used without written approval from TOML.

As shown on the Collection Agreement Financial Plan, it is anticipated that \$60,000 will be used by the Inyo Specialists to facilitate SHARP NEPA, while the other \$10,000 will be maintained in this agreement should needs arrive in the future.

Recently, the Outdoor Recreation Manager was able to work with the Inyo to be refunded \$58,000 from a previous collection agreement (16MJ-11050452801) initially held for the Inyo to review sites for the potential location of a solid waste transfer station on USFS lands. The Outdoor Recreation Manager will ensure proper oversight to this new collection agreement to ensure proper use of funding and proper return of funding if all dollars are not utilized through this agreement.