



Title: Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Updates

Meeting Date: January 14, 2025

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RECOMMENDATION:

There is no action required of the Board.

BACKGROUND:

Mammoth Lakes Recreation (MLR), serves an administrative role is assisting the Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) Office of Outdoor Recreation and Trail System in leveraging Special Tax Measure funding to develop, enhance and implement outdoor recreation opportunities in Mammoth Lakes.

MLR is currently managing two Sierra Nevada Conservancy grants focused on projects in the TOML Sherwins Area Recreation Plan Staff will provide an update on the two grants: (1) Implementation of the Sherwin Meadows Trailhead and (2) Environmental Analysis Planning for the development of proposed trail alignments in the Sherwins area.

ANALYSIS:

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grants

In early 2022, Mammoth Lakes Recreation, in partnership with the Town of Mammoth Lakes, submitted a concept proposal to the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's (SNC) Vibrant Recreation and Tourism Grant Program for the Sherwin Area Trails and Trailheads. The proposal was invited to apply into the full grant program. After site visits with SNC staff, and further review of the concept proposal, it was determined the best course of action was to split the proposal into two distinct grant projects. One being a Planning Proposal for the completion of the environmental analysis needed for proposed trail alignments and an expanded trailhead in the Sherwins Area Recreation Plan (SHARP), and the second an Implementation Proposal for the "shovel-ready" Sherwin Meadows Trailhead, also part of SHARP. Thus began the process of completing two full grant applications for the projects, both of which were successful. In December 2022, MLR was awarded \$953,400 for the Implementation of the Sherwin Meadows Trailhead and \$510, 600 for the Planning and Environmental Analysis of proposed SHARP Trail Alignments. Both projects are within anticipated budgets. Each grant proposal has experienced significant delays due to circumstances out of the control of both MLR and TOML. Forward progress continues to be made

on each project, and deliverables continue to be met. An extension to the completion date of each project was requested and granted.

Sherwin Area Trails and Trailhead Expansion – Planning Grant

Budget: Among other expenses, the Planning proposal assumed there would be a collection request from the Inyo National Forest for their specialist staff time in reviewing the contracted environmental analysis and developing a proposed action for trail development. On November 6th, 2024, Mammoth Lakes Town Council authorized the Town Manager to enter into a Collection Agreement with INF to fulfill this INF request. Through this mechanism, TOML will be reimbursed from the grant for funds expended to INF for review of the SHARP Planning proposal. Sierra Nevada Conservancy is invoiced quarterly for reimbursement of expenses. As of September 30, 2024, \$311,500, or 60%, of the Planning grant has been expended. The bulk being spent on “Field Analysis and Surveys”.

Planning: Verbal update and map provided by Andrew Mulford, TOML Trails Program Manager.

Sherwin Meadows Trailhead Implementation Grant

Budget: The Implementation proposal was written assuming the use of Measure R funds that have been committed to this project to fill any shortfalls in grant funding. When awarding the construction contract for Implementation of the Sherwin Meadows Trailhead on March 6, 2024, Mammoth Lakes Town Council approved the allocation of \$82, 600 to supplement the \$953,400 grant, fully funding the project. Sierra Nevada Conservancy is invoiced quarterly for reimbursement of expenses. As of September 30, 2024, \$130,450, or 14%, of the grant award has been spent. Most expenses will be realized when the construction is complete.

Implementation: The construction contract was awarded by Town Council in March 2024 and construction began in October 2024.

- Construction of the parking lot, restrooms, and recreation amenities is considered substantially complete.
- The parking lot is expected to be striped this week.
- The remaining work consists of completion of the stormwater management system, and installation of a bear box, bearproof trash receptacle, interpretive and informational signs, a seasonal bike maintenance stand, and a seasonal bike rack.
- Pavers needed to complete the ADA ramps to the restrooms are expected to be completed this week. This will allow the restrooms to be fully functional and opened for public use.
- The interpretive panels have been finalized and are in production.
- Work to complete the project is anticipated to be done by the end of this month, with any seasonal items handed over to TOML for installation in the spring.