

Mammoth Lakes Town Council

Agenda Action Sheet

Title: Consider resolutions and a letter opposing local forest health, wildfire mitigation, and social and economic impacts that will result from federal funding cuts.

Council Meeting Date: 3/19/2025

Prepared by: Rob Patterson, Town Manager

Recommended Motion: 1. Adopt a resolution opposing federal funding and staffing cuts that will have negative local impacts to forest health and wildfire mitigation. 2. Adopt a resolution opposing federal funding cuts that will have negative local economic and social impacts. 3. Direct staff to draft a letter expressing the Town's opposition to federal staffing and funding cuts.

Summary: The Town of Mammoth Lakes is dependent on successful management of federal lands that surround our Town and provide amenities that draw visitors to our area. Federal funding cuts and required reductions in workforce have hampered the ability of the USFS to deliver even basic needs. The Town has been forced to hire additional staff to ensure the visitor experience on our surrounding federal lands is not diminished.

In addition to recreational impacts, wildfire is an ever-present threat to the health of the forest. Local initiatives like Whitebark's ESCCRP (Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resilience Project) mitigation efforts have been dependent on grant funding for fuels reduction activities. Currently there are grants that have been awarded to these efforts but are frozen by federal actions.

The Town of Truckee is leading a region-wide effort to get all agencies affected by these actions to express their concerns and provide a united voice on these issues. The Town is currently in review of these resolutions to ensure they demonstrate this alignment while specifically addressing concerns for the Town of Mammoth Lakes. Staff will have the proposed resolutions available before the Town Council meeting.

In addition to the resolutions, staff will draft a letter of support for these efforts, which will be added to documents from other agencies that will be delivered directly to Congressman Kiley's office.