



Town of Mammoth Lakes

Town Manager's Office

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December 6, 2023

Re: Town of Mammoth Lakes Town Council Eastern Sierra Climate and Communities Resilience Project (ESCCRP) Public Comment

Dear Inyo National Forest Supervisor Yen,

For your consideration, please find the public comments of the Mammoth Lakes Town Council regarding the ESCCRP draft Environmental Assessment (EA). Town Council unequivocally supports the ESCCRP project *in its entirety*, and unless otherwise stated, is supportive of the current EA. The Council discussed its recommendations provided herein at a public meeting on December 6th, 2023.

This project is not only vital from a forest health perspective but is also essential for long term resilience and community protection. The EA adequately addresses these issues along with preparing the landscape for the reintroduction of beneficial fire which will serve as an invaluable management tool into the future. We encourage that the implementation of this work be managed to limit impacts on recreational amenities, and to the extent possible enhance these existing amenities.

The Town of Mammoth Lakes (TOML) would also recommend following the latest science on recommended tree densities and apply that logic to the entire program area, including the Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA's). Due to their proximity to the Town, elevated tree densities, and high mortality these areas are essential for treatment.

The importance of this project cannot be underestimated, and one may look no further than the recent Caldor Fire near Lake Tahoe. A similar project in that region helped to protect South Lake Tahoe from a potentially catastrophic result. Like Lake Tahoe, wildfire here would not only endanger residents, but the thousands of visitors that visit our mountain community.

Lastly, the Town's 2019 Community Wildlife Protection Plan identifies an increasing potential for wildfires to affect the area and fuels treatments were identified as a critical measure to mitigate that risk. As such, the Eastern Sierra Climate & Communities Resilience Project (ESCCRP) continues to have our full support.

Sincerely,

Daniel C. Holler
Town Manager

CC: Town Council
Lawson Reif, Outdoor Recreation Manager