



Town of Mammoth Lakes

Office of the Mayor

437 Old Mammoth RD, Suite R

P.O. Box 1609 Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Phone (760) 934-8989 ext. 223, Fax 934-7493

www.townofmammothlakes.ca.gov

February 5, 2015

Mr. Ed Armenta
Forest Supervisor
Inyo National Forest
351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200
Bishop, CA 93541

Dear Ed,

The Town has been engaged in the Inyo National Forest Management Plan Revision process while recognizing that the work effort extends across two other National Forests, all of which are important to the Eastern Sierra Region.

The Town's interests extend not only from the regional significance of all three National Forests, but also from the direct local importance of the Inyo National Forest on the Town of Mammoth Lakes. The community of Mammoth Lakes shares over 60% of its incorporated area with the Inyo National Forest, meaning that the future of our community is inexorably linked to the relative effectiveness of the management program of the Inyo National Forest. We are the living definition of a "gateway community", offering a full service portal to diverse recreation activities and experiences that visitors access through our community on the Inyo National Forest. Our economy and quality of life are deeply rooted in the recreation and tourism opportunities of our unique setting.

Residents of the Town of Mammoth Lakes have actively participated in the recently convened Eastern Sierra Recreation Collaborative (ESRC), and with this letter, we extend our support on behalf of their efforts and encourage your review of the "ESRC Proposed Recreation Strategy" as recently shared with you by the ESRC. In preparation for the next phase of the Inyo National Forest (Inyo NF) management plan revision process, your planning team is working to develop Draft Alternatives to be included in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). We would like to offer the following recommendations for your consideration as the process moves forward:

Work with the Regional Forester to extend the DEIS schedule to allow for reasonable opportunities for the "ESRC Proposed Recreation Strategy" to be reviewed and appropriately integrated into the draft alternatives of the DEIS.

Strategically integrate the USFS “Framework for Sustainable Recreation” into the draft alternatives of the DEIS. This USFS document provided a baseline roadmap for the ESRC, as it lays out important opportunities for engaging with today’s “facts on the ground” on public lands and anticipates future conditions for the Inyo NF. Consider integrating the ESRC collaborative model into future Inyo NF planning efforts. We believe that bringing together diverse interests to collaboratively engage with important land management issues leads to efficiency and publicly supported decisions.

We trust you will accept these recommendations in the spirit of partnership and a shared desire to elevate the importance of recreation and collaboration to benefit the public lands of the Inyo National Forest, the community of Mammoth Lakes, and the Eastern Sierra region. We also want to express our thanks to you and your staff for the forest plan revision effort to date and the opportunities for the Town and others to provide meaningful input to the process.

Respectfully submitted-

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jo Bacon". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jo Bacon

Mayor

Town of Mammoth Lakes