



December 8, 2025



Dear Friends,

"Access to America's beautiful public lands and waters is part of what makes our country the greatest nation on earth," said House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Bruce Westerman of the **Explore Act**, which became law this year.

"These incredible resources," Westerman continued, "should be shared by all Americans, and expanding access and recreation opportunities is the kind of bipartisan work that we're here in Congress to do."

The Explore Act, the Great American Outdoors Act, and California's Proposition 4, are bringing significant opportunities to the communities and public lands of the Eastern Sierra. The Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA), the principal community-based advocate for sustainable outdoor recreation in our region, is putting these laws to work.

Hello, my name is John Wentworth. In collaboration with the Mammoth Lakes community, we founded MLTPA in 2006 as a community-based non-profit foundation. Since my election to public office in 2014, I've served as MLTPA's volunteer CEO and Board President.

As we look forward to celebrating our 20th anniversary in 2026, I've been reflecting on community-based non-profits such as MLTPA and the vital role they play in taking advantage of federal, state, and even local opportunities to address local and regional needs.

MLTPA's focus has always been to strengthen communities through trail systems and the opportunities that sustainable outdoor recreation delivers. And since our founding in 2006, we have seen the organization accomplish much more in pursuit of that vital work.

MLTPA has helped to strengthen the Eastern Sierra community socially, economically, and culturally through enhancing sustainable outdoor recreation programs and infrastructure that connect local communities and people from all over the world to the unique landscapes of the Eastern Sierra.

Over the decades, MLTPA has proven itself a nimble, grassroots solution, providing critical community capacities that government and the for-profit sectors don't always deliver. MLTPA's journey has been led by friends and individuals who have contributed time, physical labor, wisdom, and financial gifts to the opportunities MLTPA has identified that benefit our communities—*these individuals remain and always will be our critical partners.*

In pursuing a vision for recreation and conservation throughout the Eastern Sierra, MLTPA has brought together hundreds of community members working collectively and voluntarily toward a shared goal that surpasses what any one individual could accomplish on their own:

To be an effective independent leader that connects all people with nature and natural landscapes while ensuring the public's access, and to implement sustainable trail and recreation systems that support prosperous economies and healthy communities in Mammoth Lakes, the Eastern Sierra, and beyond.

As MLTPA looks ahead to the next 20 years, we are inspired by the dedication of those who, through their voluntary efforts and vision, have improved outdoor recreation on public lands around Mammoth Lakes and throughout the Eastern Sierra. In doing so, they have greatly contributed to the Eastern Sierra community. Even today, some volunteers, including MLTPA board members, donate up to 100 hours of their time each month. That's remarkable!

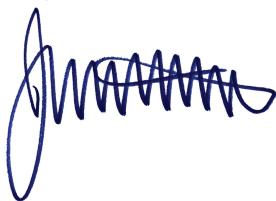
As we approach our 20th anniversary, we will be reaching out to you for advice, engagement, and support. We are expanding capacity to support recreation partners across the entire state, including all seven counties of the state's Sierra Jobs First Region. This effort will require ongoing involvement from a wide range of community members throughout the Eastern Sierra, and the financial resources to invest in trails, campgrounds, job creation, climate and wildfire mitigation, as we collaborate with our local, regional, state, tribal, and federal partners.

Many of you are accustomed to making a year-end gift to MLTPA. If you have the means and interest, please consider a gift in the amount of \$50, \$100, \$250, or even \$1,000. A gift of whatever amount you can afford will go a long way to building our intergenerational organization, necessary to support sustainable outdoor recreation in the Eastern Sierra.

During this season of reflection and gratitude, I am honored and humbled to continue serving my community and the entire Eastern Sierra region as the volunteer Board President and CEO of MLTPA, alongside my fellow volunteer board members.

Community-based trail and recreation system builders are also community builders. Helping Eastern Sierra communities take advantage of generational opportunities like the **Explore Act**, the **Great American Outdoors Act**, and **California's Proposition 4** will be vital to the health and resilience of our Eastern Sierra communities and, by extension, those of the state and nation.

Thank you,



John Wentworth
CEO and Board President, MLTPA Foundation

