



RECREATION STAKEHOLDER PROJECT IDEAS

Sustainable Recreation Opportunities for Eastern Sierra Communities

2020



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Public lands in the United States hold the creation stories, burial grounds, and ceremonies of indigenous people who were killed or forcibly removed from their ancestral homes during territorial acquisition.

Many tribes, composed of different bands, continue to live in the Eastern Sierra region, caring for their native lands as they coexist with the ongoing impacts of colonization. Past or present tribes and bands associated with the region that this effort is aware of include, but are not limited to, the Miwok, Mono Lake Kutzadika'a, Mono/Monache, Nüümü (Paiute), Newe (Shoshone), Timbi-Sha, Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute, and Washoe.

Two Nüümü terms describe the region and provide important context to ideas offered in this document. The first is Pamidu Toiyabe (Western Mountains), and the other, more widely known place name is Payahuunadü (The Place Where Water Flows).

This acknowledgement is an invitation to all organizations, residents, and visitors to recognize the way this history has shaped the present as all parties work together in anticipation of a better future.

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FUNDING

Funding for this project has been provided by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, an agency of the state of California, under the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018 (Proposition 68) and in support of the Sierra Nevada Watershed Improvement Program.

PROJECT TEAM

HighBar Global Consulting: HighBar Global is a consultancy specializing in Internationally Certified Mastery Professional Facilitation, Training, Leadership, Organizational, and Network Development since 1998. Michael Ward is Chief Strategy & Innovation Officer for HighBar Global providing comprehensive Project Leadership to diverse stakeholder, governance, and cross-sector networks. Through HighBar Global Michael has completed more than 350 projects with an established reputation of accomplishments leading and facilitating complex regional, state, and national strategies addressing large scale public land use and recreational tourism, economic & workforce development, healthcare modernization, governance reform, and multi-sector network planning for sustainable communities. Michael has delivered professional services throughout the United States and in 29 countries globally while operating from South Lake Tahoe since 2002. Michael has provided leadership and professional services to the Eastern Sierra region focused on sustainable recreation since 2010.



Mammoth Lakes Trails & Public Access: The Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation, MLTPA, is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization incorporated in 2007 as a public benefit corporation in the State of California. MLTPA has been engaged with local and regional issues of sustainable recreation and collaboration in California's Eastern Sierra since its inception and provides technical support to a regional public/public recreation-based solution, the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership.



For this process, MLTPA provided a variety of services including project management, grant management and reporting, public outreach and communications, convening of public meetings (both in person and virtual), project research, data recommendations and postings based on local knowledge, and final deliverables review and comment.

CALIFORNIA'S EASTERN SIERRA REGION

The Eastern Sierra is a high-desert landscape in California that shares a common border with the state of Nevada. Composed of three California counties (Alpine, Mono, and Inyo), the region is defined by the Sierra Nevada mountain range, the western terminus of the Northern Basin and Range.

More than 90% of the region's 17,148 square miles is managed by federal government agencies, including the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. The principal owner of the region's private property, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, acquired more than 450 square miles of farm and ranchland in the early years of the 20th century to secure water rights for the city of Los Angeles. The remaining private property and gateway communities are dispersed across the region, home to a permanent population of about 35,000 residents.

Unparalleled opportunities for outdoor recreation have compelled visitation for many generations. The Eastern Sierra hosts both the highest peak and lowest valley in the 48 contiguous United States, as well as the oldest living thing on Earth. Annual visitor estimates range between 4 and 7 million, principally from Southern California, but from across the country and globe as well. Visitation drives the region's recreation-based tourism economy and represents the primary challenge as well as the essential opportunity for achieving regional economic, social, and environmental sustainability.



THE EASTERN SIERRA SUSTAINABLE RECREATION PARTNERSHIP

The Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP) is a unique public/public partnership among local Eastern Sierra governments, state agencies, and federal agencies.

In July of 2018, a Non-Funded Challenge Cost-Share Agreement was signed between Mono County; the Town of Mammoth Lakes, California; and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region, Inyo National Forest and Intermountain Region, and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest memorializing the Eastern Sierra Sustainable Recreation Partnership (ESSRP).

Subsequently, Alpine County voted to join the ESSRP on August 20, 2019, the City of Bishop voted to join on September 9, 2019, and Inyo County voted to join on October 8, 2019. Additionally, the Bureau of Land Management, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and the National Park Service have all formally indicated their desire to join the ESSRP.

THE SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND TOURISM INITIATIVE

In spring 2019, the Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Governing Board demonstrated a pioneering commitment to rural California's outdoor recreation economy and natural resources by authorizing Proposition 68 funding for the "Sustainable Recreation and Tourism Initiative," a project to benefit the conservancy's eastern subregion, including Inyo, Mono, and Alpine counties.

The initiative supports the ESSRP in its goals to "... design, plan, implement, and report out projects to improve and maintain recreational opportunities as well as restore ecosystems to their natural resiliency and functions." The initiative is composed of four tracks, or areas of focus, with specific deliverables: Regional Recreation Stakeholder Engagement; Climate Adaptation & Resilience Assessment; Connection to the Eastern Sierra Visitor Audience; and Project Development & Prioritization for Funding.

For more information, please visit: <https://mltpa.org/essrp/sustainable-recreation-and-tourism-project>.

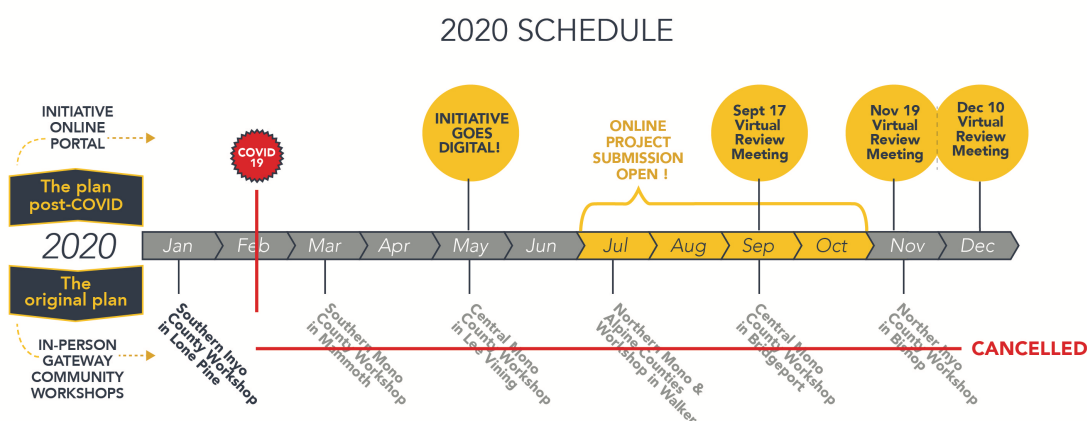
RECREATION STAKEHOLDER PROJECT IDEA SOLICITATION AND SCORING

Originally planned to convene and facilitate regional recreation stakeholder engagement through in-person meetings, efforts migrated to virtual and digital efforts starting in March 2020 in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

183 Sustainable Recreation Project Ideas were submitted from Eastern Sierra recreation stakeholders via an online project form July through October 2020.

The Project Ideas were then scored by the public at virtual meetings (September 17, November 19, and December 10, 2020) for their stewardship, access and equity, and community benefits. Each virtual meeting focused on a different set of project ideas and ultimately 165 scoring surveys were completed.

Through these efforts, public support can be discerned for future programs and on-the-ground infrastructure investments as part of the final portfolio of project recommendations.



RECREATION STAKEHOLDER PROJECT IDEAS

All 183 recreation stakeholder project ideas are included here, sorted by composite score (highest to lowest). The higher the score, the higher the public “desirability” for the project as scored for stewardship, access & equity, and community benefits. Each of these could score as high as 10 with a maximum composite score of 30.

Project information has not been changed or edited by SRTI staff. Each response is listed as submitted.

RECREATION STAKEHOLDER PROJECT IDEAS

Sustainable Recreation Opportunities for Eastern Sierra Communities

Link to the Recreation Stakeholder Project Ideas sortable spreadsheet:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fPAmg2WXVntF4XwDw-ITgCo03h81mbfTdl8uRfAtCjl/edit?usp=sharing>

PLOP - "People Love Our Potties" (ID# 6)

Date Submitted: 7/3/20

Location: Eastern Sierra

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: A system of regional and well-maintained bathrooms as a statement that the Eastern Sierra takes the recreation experience seriously.

Project long description: Public Toilets Program: 1. Toilets at scale across the region - a regional program 2. Maintained restrooms 3. Buildings that blend in with the scenery 4. Gender neutral bathrooms 5. A system of regional and well maintained bathrooms as a statement that the Eastern Sierra takes the recreation experience seriously

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Sustainable Sanitation Practices

What will indicate this project has been a success?

- 1) Users would rather use the restrooms/toilets that relieve themselves outside
- 2) The bathrooms/toilets are a net zero energy system
- 3) The program is a result of regional partnerships"

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

- 1) Positive sanitation experiences are good for visitation to gateway communities 2) "Let's stop at (this Eastern Sierra Gateway Community) they've got great bathrooms!"

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

- 1) This project will create a positive facilities experience for all

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

PLOP or Die - ! Find the Solution!

Sustainable Dispersed Camping (ID# 129)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Eastern Sierra public lands

Project type: Several of the above - temporary seasonal infrastructure, signage, volunteers

Project short summary: Dispersed camping is exploding in popularity. Work with land management partners to support it more sustainably with increased dumpsters, porta-potties, signage, etc.

Project long description: Dispersed camping is exploding in popularity, particularly since management agencies haven't built many new campgrounds since the '70s and have no real intent to add more in the near future. Dispersed camping provides unique recreational opportunities, but completely unmanaged dispersed camping has been leading to trash and waste problems both in the heavily used camping areas and in nearby communities. The project would be to work with management agencies to bring some amount of management to dispersed camping such as strategically placed seasonal dumpsters, porta-potties, and responsible-use signage (including locations of dump stations), and periodic clean-up service.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Partially managing the increasing level of unmanaged dispersed camping and reduce effects on the forest and communities.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Less impact from dispersed camping, less trash, toilet paper, better educated and more responsible dispersed campers.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Reduce the burden of trash and dumping on the forest and local communities.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It helps educate recreational users, but the biggest beneficiaries are the local communities and the public lands themselves.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

This project goes hand-in-hand with the proposal to have the FS charge a fee for dispersed camping described as a separate project.

Eastern Sierra Campground Inspection, Repair, and Replacement Project. (ID# 151)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Multiple locations across the Eastern Sierra region

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: This project will inspect all Eastern Sierra campgrounds, and identify, repair and replace needed infrastructure, equipment, or other facilities to make them adequate for recreation use.

Project long description: Many Eastern Sierra campgrounds are in dire need of maintenance and repair of various infrastructure and equipment. This includes restrooms, roads, water and sewer systems, tables, fire rings, camping spaces, informational kiosks, and other needs. This project will inspect all the Eastern Sierra campgrounds, prepare a list of necessary improvement projects, and then begin prioritized implementation of the work needed. This project must be done to ensure resource and public health protection, while enhancing the developed camping experience for the thousands of campers that use these campgrounds annually.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This project is an opportunity to address campground deferred maintenance and repair backlogs. Most campgrounds are old and have seen much use over the years. Much of the infrastructure needs to be replaced with more modern and environmentally safe alternatives.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

This project will be a success if all the improvement projects identified in the inspection are completed, and visitors notice the difference in the campgrounds through their comments and feedback. Additionally, a decrease in emergency repair and ongoing operational costs can be realized through maintenance and modernization.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This project will add value to Gateway communities by enhancing the experiences of our many visitors as they use campgrounds. This project will create a positive conversation in our Gateway communities and businesses about the well-maintained campgrounds that were a pleasure to use and visit.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Visitors who come to the Eastern Sierra like to camp in our many developed campgrounds across the region. Improvement of these campgrounds will contribute to a more positive recreation experience if the restrooms, water and sewer systems, roads, spaces, and other facilities are in top condition.

Cont.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Complaints about campgrounds are increasing and their poor condition leaves tourists with a bad memory of their time here. This project will get us on the road to stop this trend.

Because of the lack of funds, this work has not been accomplished. This project will begin to correct this problem.

A challenge for this project will be the substantial cost of completing the many improvement projects. This can be overcome with increased public agency capital and other funds, public grants, enhanced concessionaire investment, partnerships with local organizations and communities, as well as individual, corporate, and foundation gifts.

Trails for the Future (ID# 14)

Date Submitted: 7/17/20

Location: Inyo National Forest

Project type: All of the above

Project short summary: Rebuild the trails of the Inyo National Forest for present and future generations.

Project long description:

Hire a Trail Crew. A Real Trail Crew. Permanent Forest Service employees who come back year after year and build on the skills they learn, just like any other trade or discipline in the agency. Why can't trails be the same as any other job within the agency? The need to work on trails is never going to go away and the public will not let it go away. The demand for quality hiking trails has never been higher. Hiking is consistently rated the number one activity visitors choose when visiting the Eastern Sierra. One last professional Forest Service trail crew might be just what is needed to gather the right skills, build on them and then share with the next generation of partners and volunteers. A permanent job would be a great incentive to attract quality candidates and valuable new members of our communities.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The degraded and failing nature of our valuable infrastructure, conceived, created and cherished by generations at a cost of billions of dollars and scores of human lives.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

The project creates a new paradigm for defining the value of trails to local economies and a model for other communities to preserve their own trail networks.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Hiking is consistently listed as the number one activity visitors choose to do on our local public lands. Providing a quality product for our guests and residents to use is just good business. We have the opportunity to create living wage jobs for year-round residents of our gateway communities.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Good trails increase access and enhance the hiking experience for children, seniors and those with disabilities.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

1000 characters dilutes every proposal to black or white. Way too narrow to think out of the box. Good luck.

Inyo National Forest Campground Improvements (ID# 181)

Date Submitted: 10/31/20

Location: Forest Service campgrounds from Lone Pine to June Lake

Project type: Maintenance

Project short summary: Partnerships with the campground concessionaires should be expanded to provide for opportunities to upgrade the water systems. Many are outdated and the Forest Service alternative is to close them.

Project long description: With the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, there is substantial federal funding available to address deferred maintenance issues. The Inyo National Forest needs to make the water systems in the campgrounds a priority for this funding, in partnership with the campground concessionaires, to ensure that potable water continues to be provided in the agency's campgrounds. Presently, the Forest proposes to close many campgrounds rather than make the necessary repairs to upgrade the water systems. Having clean water in the campgrounds is an important value for many of today's campers, and as we have seen with COVID-19, it is essential.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The opportunity is to improve the camping experience for visitors to the campgrounds and to ensure a safe experience. Having clean water also helps to douse any unattended campfires.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Campgrounds with water systems will continue to have them in the future. No campgrounds or water systems will be closed because of the lack of funding to make necessary improvements.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Provide safer camping in developed campgrounds. Alleviates the problems associated with un-managed use (dispersed camping).

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It provides for a much more pleasant and safe camping experience.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

We Care Where You Go (ID# 48)

Date Submitted: 9/4/20

Location: Owens Valley; multiple locations

Project type: "Soft" infrastructure that is not permanent in nature.

Project short summary: With increasing numbers of visiting climbers to the Eastern Sierra, there is an increasing need for where people can go... to the bathroom. We propose seasonal portapotties to be installed.

Project long description: With increasing numbers of visiting climbers (and others) to the Eastern Sierra, there is an increasing need for where people can go... to the bathroom. We propose seasonally appropriate portapotties to be installed at key climbing locations and trailheads. These include the three climber access points to the Owens River Gorge, the Pine Creek unofficial camping area, the Pine Creek main climber parking area, and the junction of Chalk Bluff Road and the road to the Sad Boulders. Other heavy use locations could additionally be identified.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

It would be expected that many user groups would utilize these toilets, including fisherpeople, hikers, cyclists, and campers. This would reduce the unsightly and unsanitary "poop under a rock" that plagues many areas. Setting up timely cleaning would be important.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

The portapotties get used often and heavily. Anecdotal report by BLM and USFS staff (and other users) of less human waste on the landscape.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Providing toilet facilities in areas that are remote, yet still "front country" is an important service for the many and diverse people who visit and recreate here. Providing for sanitary human waste disposal is important for the entire user community.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Everybody poops. Having access to clean and sanitary facilities is a benefit to all types of visitors and recreationists.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Understanding the limited capacity and funding for permanent facilities, especially the maintenance of toilets, by local land managers necessitates an alternative approach such as this one, by contracting out the maintenance, and not building additional infrastructure.

Composite Score: 22.28

Stewardship: 7.95

Access: 6.68

Benefits: 7.65

This is Our Home: Treat this like your home (ID# 3)

Date Submitted: 7/3/20

Location: Southern Inyo County

Project type: Outreach and Communications

Project short summary: A three-pronged education program to reach visitors, engage local businesses, teach local kids how to care for the environment.

Project long description: Create an effective social media campaign to reach visitors before they arrive; Train up local employees to be good ambassadors and sources of quality information.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Education/Change in behavior to reflect stewardship ethics

What will indicate this project has been a success?

1. Reduction of waste in landscape; 2. People stay on trails; 3. Respectful responsible recreators.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Users have become ambassadors themselves to next users

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Proud of your community - proud we attract international visitors and acclaim

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

we can suggest but not require change in behavior. Where is our Hispanic/East Indian Outreach?

Eastern Sierra Public Trails Inspection, Repair, and Replacement Project. (ID# 157)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Multiple locations across the Eastern Sierra region.

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: This project will inventory designated public trails across the Eastern Sierra and prioritize repair and maintenance as needed for each trail and related infrastructure.

Project long description: Many Eastern Sierra public trails are in dire need of maintenance and repair. While some non-profit organizations in the region have provided maintenance and repair work over the years using volunteers and donations, a programmatic approach is needed. Trail infrastructure includes the trail itself, regardless of surface composition, foot bridges, signage, water bars, trailhead parking and kiosks, and, if present, restrooms, and bear boxes. This project will conduct an inventory of the condition of all public trails, identify which ones need work and the specific work needed, and then begin to implement these projects. This work must be done to provide a better experience for the numerous hikers and tourists who use these trails annually so they will protect and sustain the land people are coming to enjoy.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This project is an opportunity to address the deferred maintenance and repair backlog for numerous trails. In many cases, lack of regular trail maintenance has led to degraded and destroyed trails resulting in environmental damage, unsafe conditions and wholesale loss of trail tread and bed.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

This project will be a success if all the trail improvement projects identified in the inspection are completed, and backcountry hikers and others notice the difference in these facilities through their comments and feedback.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This project will add value to Gateway communities by sustaining and enhancing the outdoor experiences of our many visitors as they use improved trails. This project will create a positive conversation in our Gateway communities and businesses about our well-maintained trails.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Trail improvement will contribute to a more positive recreation experience if the trail infrastructure is in top condition. Complaints about trails are increasing and their poor condition leaves hikers with a bad memory, and perhaps a desire not to return. This project will reverse this trend.

Cont.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Some efforts to work on selected trails have occurred over the past several years, but a comprehensive project like this has not been proposed. This is no small undertaking, but if started will eventually result in a major improvement for our trail and recreation infrastructure in the Eastern Sierra.

A challenge for this project will be the substantial cost and labor necessary to complete the many improvement projects. This can be overcome with increased public agency capital and other funds, public grants, and individual, corporate, and foundation gifts in conjunction with strategic leveraging of local partners and communities. Funding and capacity could also be generated using the recently created Adopt-A Trail program by Mono County.

Eastern Sierra Visitor Centers Exhibit Inspection and Review, Repair and Replacement. (ID# 143)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Visitor Centers in Lone Pine, the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, the White Mountain Ranger Station, Mammoth Lakes, and Lee Vining

Project type: Education

Project short summary: Visitor Center exhibits provide information and education for visitors. This project will inspect, repair, and/or replace exhibits needing rehabilitation because of wear, or to be more current.

Project long description: For example, the exhibits in the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center were carefully designed in 1991 to provide interactive opportunities and information for the public, whether they were residents, tourists, or student groups. These exhibits offer opportunities for viewers to gain new perspectives and make meaningful connections with our public lands. Unfortunately, these exhibits have seen much use over the years. In some cases the lettering is gone and cannot even be read, and the interactive parts do not work. Others need updating to reflect new technology, new ways people enjoy public land, and evolving social and cultural values and language. Many exhibits include outdated messaging that fails to connect with today's visitors and convey the personal responsibility and actions required to ensure sustainable recreation. This project seeks to make exhibits in all four of our Eastern Sierra Visitor Centers relevant, effective, and impactful for our 21st century visitors.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This project creates the opportunity to make Visitor Centers more relevant and interesting. New and improved information and interpretation provided by updated exhibits will educate and inspire visitors, thereby building increased commitment to preserving and protecting our public lands.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

This project will be a success if all the VC exhibits in need are inspected, updated, repaired or replaced. The ultimate outcome will be compliments from residents, visitors and students who view the exhibits and come away with new and/or updated information and insights that motivate them to new or renewed understanding about and for our public lands, and are demonstrated by a tangible commitment to taking responsibility to preserve and protect the Eastern Sierra.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This project will add value to Gateway communities by enhancing the experiences of our many visitors. It will create a positive conversation about the impressive and interesting exhibits, and will also increase commitment to protecting our public lands, which is the foundation of our local economy.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

This project increases visitor understanding of and insight about our public lands, through more compelling and culturally relevant VC exhibit information and experience. It will result in a more positive response from our visitors and make them want to come back and learn more about the area.

Cont.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

This project has been talked about for some time but never gets the funding or attention it deserves. It is time to do this to reap the benefits it will create and enable the Visitor Centers to play the role they were built for years ago with taxpayer funds, namely, educating and informing tourists about the Eastern Sierra, and inspiring them to preserve and protect our public lands. It is a well-known tenet in interpretation that the more educated the visitor is about a resource, the more they are likely to want to protect that resource.

Where to "Go" in the Alabama Hills (ID# 5)

Date Submitted: 7/3/20

Location: Alabama Hills; Regional

Project type: Outreach and Communications

Project short summary: Leverage agency partnerships to provide regular on the ground presence and establish a regionally coordinated information network (Signs, websites, apps) on etiquette, way finding and interpretation.

Project long description: Alabama Hills and local visitor education effort. Coordinated regional information system, that includes:. Kiosk at AH, etiquette info available at AH, interpretive signs (like Mono Lake), quality and official website supported by an app with map, guide info, etiquette, includes other regional recreation information. Also supported by agency partnership with enforcement and on-ground presence from BLM and stewardship groups. A way to solicit feedback from visitors - consider using QR codes.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Challenge is the lack of coordinated communication with visitors and a lack of communication and collaboration between agencies and existing organizations. Educating and communicating with visitors about our natural resources and how to use them responsibly and appropriately.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Reduced visitor impacts - trash, toilet paper and human waste, crushed brush, ruined roads, et (If we see less of these)

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It will enhance it - people will have a better, more positive experience and want to come back and also tell their friends to come visit. More people will stay in our hotels, shop at our markets, support our economies, and in a responsible way in the Alabama Hills!

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

users will know what plant they are looking at, what animals live in the area, what history the hills hold, what rec activities are allowed in which areas (where can you hike, ride horses, drive, etc vs not?) Overall, it will enhance it!

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Tangle Free Waters (ID# 17)

Date Submitted: 7/20/20

Location: Inyo and Mono Counties

Project type: Stewardship and Volunteers

Project short summary: Reduce, remove, and recycle monofilament line through partnerships with federal, state, and local government agencies, non-profits, and businesses through stewardship and educational programs.

Project long description: Stewardship

- * Identify sites for installation of and Fishing Line Recycling Tubes (FLRTS) and signage.
- * Create an 'Adopt a Tube' sponsorship program with agencies, organizations, nonprofits and businesses for funding and maintaining tubes.
- * Collaborate with local organized cleanups to collect fishing line from lakes and creeks.
- * Collaborate with local tackle shops to collect and recycle fishing line from respooling services and to create and publicize an incentive program for fisherfolk to bring in collected line to be recycled.

Education

- * Create educational programs such as 'Find the FLRT!' (Fishing Line Recycle Tube) and 'Leave No Line Behind'.
- * Distribute TFW pamphlets with fishing permits, boat rentals, and fishing guide/outfitter services.
- * Incorporate TFW PSAs into local Trout Reports.
- * Utilize local fishing guides to list tube locations and tackle shops that participate in the TFW program.
- * Create an ESIA campfire Trout Talk incorporating a TFW component.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Resource Protection

- * Plastics do not biodegrade - they remain plastics down to the molecular level and cannot be easily filtered from our drinking water.
- * Fishing tackle is a hazard to adults, children, pets, wildlife, and boat propellers.
- * Negative visual impacts to the wilderness experience.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Line and tackle collected from FLRTS and waterway cleanup events could be weighed for a seasonal total. In 2018 15 lbs of line was collected and mailed off to the Berkeley Conservation Fund's recycling center in Iowa. This amount did not include line collected by Silver Lake or Rock Creek Lake Resorts.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

By helping to preserve a cleaner, healthier environment that is more user friendly, and a pristine wilderness experience for visitors and residents alike.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

The reduction of fishing line in the environment means

- * Less line tangling boat propellers
- * Less line tangling fisher folks line
- * Fewer incidents of children, pets, and wildlife being injured by fish hooks and entanglement.
- * Less micro plastic in our drinking water and in our food

Cont.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

This is not a new idea, it was developed some years ago for coastal waters in Florida by the BoatUS Foundation to deal with monofilament line from commercial and sport fisher folk and has spread across the US. About nine years ago Fly Fishers International built and installed 40+ tubes in Inyo and Mono counties. Silver Lake Resort maintains about four tubes and Rock Creek Resort has a line collection bin at its store and plans to install a number of tubes around the lake. Bridgeport Fish Enhancement Fund donated \$200 to Bridgeport Elementary School's Trout in the Classroom program for the construction of fishing line recycling tubes. FOI and MLTPA have added fishing line retrieval to their service events. Mono Lake Committee is now maintaining FLRTS along Lee Vining Creek. Most importantly, Matt Paruolo, from Mammoth Lakes Recreation, obtained a \$5000 grant from Mono Co BOS through the Mono Co Wildlife Commission to be distributed over the next three years for tube construction and signage. He has designed signage and created an 'Adopt A Tube' program which should be up and running by this spring. He also organized the construction and placement of two tubes at last year's Lakes Basin Cleanup Event. With more and more focus placed on the problems with plastics in the environment, the time is right for this program.

Porta potties in popular climbing areas (ID# 137)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Upper Owen's River Gorge, Sads

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: More porta potties in popular climbing/bouldering areas

Project long description: The bathroom in Central Gorge as well as porta potty at the Happies parking lot or at the Pratt's Canyon parking lot have shown that such a simple thing can reduce the human impact on those areas by a lot. Therefore, it would be amazing to expand this success to other popular areas.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Money (as always), porta potties need to be maintained and emptied when full.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

The current success shown by already existing porta potties

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Less trash and fecal matter

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Less trash and fecal matter

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Bear Education Signage on Dumpsters (ID# 176)

Date Submitted: 10/31/20

Location: Mammoth Lakes

Project type: Signage

Project short summary: Add signage on dumpsters that are frequently used by visitors, such as at condo units, to remind visitors to hook the latch on the dumpster to prevent bears from eating garbage

Project long description: Our idea is to put eye-catching signs on dumpsters telling people to latch dumpster lids. The message should only be a sentence or 2 so that people will read it, but should explain why this is important so that people have more motivation to follow through with this action. We think this is necessary because although people may see the "Mammoth: Don't Feed Our Bears" stickers, many do not realize that the carabiners on dumpsters are what keeps the bears out of them or why it is important to not feed bears. These stickers should also be in multiple languages spoken by visitors of Mammoth Lakes.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This project hopes to address the challenge of many bears eating trash because people are careless with properly latching dumpster lids because of lack of education or motivation.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Less reports of bears eating from dumpsters or being seen in town will indicate that this project has been a success.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This project may add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands by protecting wildlife, especially bears, from the consequences of eating trash and relying on trash as a food source.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

This project will enhance the experience of recreating people by decreasing the trash they see around dumpsters because of bear visits and by educating them about protecting wildlife.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Any type of signage would be helpful for this project. However, we think that stickers would be the best option because they are relatively inexpensive, easy to install, and easy to replace if they are damaged.

Trail delineation and sustainability master plan (ID# 147)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Alabama Hills

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: In tandem with the Alabama Hills recreation plan, a complete trails survey would be beneficial, followed by sustainability focused trail improvement and creation in order to establish a network

Project long description: In order to satisfy all users of the Alabama Hills recreation and scenic area, an aligned and professionally established trail network would provide the greatest improvement for its cost. Naturally separating different users through intentional trail creation, will reduce user conflict and disperse users to reduce impact. Sustainable construction methods can better reduce environmental impact through drainage and surface armoring, while improving scenic quality. Well built trail systems reduce user created trails, exist in better harmony with nature, and increase user satisfaction. A well planned and built trail network for the Alabama Hills would cost less than \$100,000, much of which could be raised by public donations. The economic benefit, environmental preservations, and user satisfaction would far surpass the cost of the project.

The nonprofit I direct works with government offices to create trails for public access by leveraging fundraising, grants, and community volunteers.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

User created trails and damage, environmental conservation, economic benefit to community, user dispersion.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

The erasure of user created trails damaging the environment, the establishment of a sustainable trail network, a finalized trail map.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Trails have been proven to improve community health through activity and equitable access. Trails additionally bring economic value to a region through increased tourism opportunities.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

This project will diffuse users, bring them the more intentional destinations, provide a more sustainable and better kept tread surface, and overall connect recreational users to the environment more closely without inflicting damage.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

This project would provide a meeting point for parties interested in conservation, recreation, economy, and local voice inclusion. While I have the expertise to execute this project, I know a number of coalition partners who would be willing to assist in its success.

Highway 395 Wildlife and Recreation Crossings (ID# 138)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Highway 395, Long Valley

Project type: Partnerships

Project short summary: Plan, fund and implement wildlife and soft-surface trail crossings of hwy 395 to reduce wildlife migration mortality and traffic accidents and to enhance connectivity between Mammoth and Long Valley.

Project long description: I understand there is already a multi-agency effort underway but public outreach and fundraising is needed.
https://monocounty.ca.gov/sites/default/files/fileattachments/local_transportation_commission_ltc/page/9002/highway_395_203_wildlife_crossing.pdf?fbclid=IwAR28lqkXwWdy4pkXgzV1H5h7To5HbpdKPRW WYu8-qwBFu123lt6JHZYcjRM

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Mule deer migration barriers, lack of recreational access and connectivity between Mammoth Lakes, McGee and Crowley and areas to the east of 395.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Bridges and trails get built!

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Connects communities, protects wildlife, reduces traffic accidents.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Imagine being able to ride a bike on singletrack from Mammoth Creek Park to the Upper Owens River without having to cross a highway.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Seems like Gerry LeFrancois is the lead on this project for Mono County

Eastern Sierra Developed Day Use Recreation Facility Inspection, Repair, and Replacement Project. (ID# 154)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Multiple locations across the Eastern Sierra region.

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: This project will inspect all Eastern Sierra developed day use recreation facilities and repair and replace as needed all infrastructure and equipment to make them adequate for recreation use.

Project long description: Many Eastern Sierra developed day use recreation facilities are in dire need of maintenance and repair of various infrastructure and equipment. Examples of these include trailheads, and special use areas such as Mono Lake's South Tufa Area, Navy Beach, or June Lake Beach that have thousands of visitors annually. The infrastructure includes restrooms, roads, water and sewer systems, kiosks, tables, parking lots, and other equipment. This project will inspect all these Eastern Sierra recreation facilities, prepare a list of necessary improvement projects, and then begin to implement these many projects. This work must be done to provide a safer experience for the numerous tourists that use these facilities annually.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This is an opportunity to address the deferred maintenance and repair backlog for these facilities. Restrooms, water and sewer systems, and other infrastructure have outlived their useful life and need to be replaced with modern and environmentally safe alternatives.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

This project will be a success if all the improvement projects identified in the inspection are completed, and visitors notice the difference in these facilities through their comments and feedback.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This project will add value to Gateway communities by enhancing the experiences of our many visitors as they use improved recreation facilities. This project will create a positive conversation in our communities and businesses about our impressive and well-maintained recreation facilities.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

A huge number of visitors who come to the Eastern Sierra like to visit our many special recreation areas. Improvement of these facilities will contribute to a more positive recreation experience if the restrooms, water and sewer systems, kiosks, roads, and parking lots, are in top condition.

Cont.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

An example of the need for this project would be at Mono Lake's South Tufa Area where cracked sidewalks, paved trails, and rickety boardwalks are a safety and tripping hazard. Complaints about these and other recreation facilities are increasing and their poor condition leaves tourists with a bad memory of their time here. This project will get us on the road to stop this trend.

Because of the lack of funds, this work has not been accomplished. This project will begin to correct this problem.

A challenge for this project will be the substantial cost of completing the many improvement projects. This can be overcome with increased public agency capital and other funds, public grants, and individual, corporate, and foundation gifts.

Celebrating Indigenous History and Culture (ID# 108)

Date Submitted: 10/23/20

Location: Entire east side

Project type: Education

Project short summary: Interpretive tours of local Indigenous sites, by local Indigenous guides

Project long description: The east side (Payahuunadu) has an incredibly rich Indigenous history. The Paiute (Numu) and Shoshone (Newe) people have thousands of years of history and culture in this landscape, and continue to live and thrive here to this day. The east side has some of the most extensive Indigenous cultural resources of anywhere in California, but visitors and locals alike are often all too unaware of the privilege we have to experience petroglyph sites, village locations, and other remarkable places. This project would partner with local Indigenous guides to create tours of cultural sites, for the education and benefit of the public. This would be done with deep respect and mindfulness of the desires of the local tribal community, including avoiding sites that are sensitive or kept secret for religious, cultural, and archaeological reasons. A "trial run" of sorts of this was done at the 2019 Fall Highball climbing festival, where Kris Hohag led a tour of tribal sites on the tablelands.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Increase appreciation for the extensive Indigenous history of our community.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Locals and visitors alike recognize the east side as a locus of Indigenous history and culture, and appreciate the extensive history of this place.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Besides growing a currently niche recreational activity, it would also increase the appeal of Bishop beyond a fishing/climbing/hiking town to include offering culture-based recreation. Most importantly though, it would help increase awareness around the east side's Indigenous history.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It would enhance their understanding and appreciation of the east side and add a more human dimension to their experience of this landscape.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Eastern Sierra Dispersed Camping Sustainability Project. (ID# 161)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: All over the Eastern Sierra region.

Project type: Improved policy and procedures

Project short summary: This project will review Eastern Sierra dispersed camping, and develop and implement management actions to balance dispersed camping with preservation and protection of our public lands.

Project long description: Over the years more and more visitors to the Eastern Sierra have pursued dispersed camping on public lands. This type of camping is allowed in selected areas of the USFS National Forest, the Bureau of Land Management, and some other areas. USFS and BLM have established regulations to manage this use, including opened and closed areas, stay limits, and fire restrictions. Unfortunately, in recent years, especially this past summer, the incidence of illegal dispersed camping in violation of established policies has grown. This has included illegal campfires, trash, meadow and stream damage, and in some cases fecal and trash waste left at campsites. This project would assess the extent to which current policy needs revision to ensure more oversight and enforcement, as well as establishment of a potential fee structure to support enhanced management capacity and camper education programs to ensure sustainable enjoyment of our public lands.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The opportunity this project provides is to address this problem before it gets more out of hand. This summer there was illegal dispersed camping resulting in damage to the environment and increased wildfire potential. This is a significant risk and threatens the continued use of public lands.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

This project will be a success if complaints about illegal dispersed camping are eliminated, and this activity remains a manageable form of recreation supporting the enjoyment, preservation and protection of our public lands.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Many in the Eastern Sierra were aware of the negative impact of poor dispersed camping this past summer. Correcting these problems will increase security and support from Gateway residents and businesses as they see improvement and prevention of these damaging conditions in the future.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Improving dispersed camping policies will ultimately enhance the recreation experience for visitors while sustaining the lands people come to enjoy. Some may complain about fees or more regulations, but most will welcome increased oversight and enforcement to ensure a better experience for all.

Cont.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

This project is a sensitive matter because dispersed camping is increasing and will continue to be an important and visible part of Eastern Sierra recreation. New management actions and increased education must be pursued now, however, to make sure the poor behavior exhibited by a few of our visitors does not occur in the future. Our public lands must be carefully protected through responsible recreation.

Besides the concern for damage to the environment, there was also extreme concern about the trash and human waste found at some campsites in the region.

Friends of the Inyo Trail Ambassadors (ID# 54)

Date Submitted: 9/10/20

Location: Inyo, Humboldt-Toiyabe, and nSierra NFs, in Inyo & Mono Cou

Project type: Stewardship and Volunteers

Project short summary: Trail Ambassadors educate users on how to recreate responsibly, provide interpretive talks, engage the public in volunteer stewardship events, do trail maintenance, and are a presence on the ground.

Project long description: Friends of the Inyo has been operating its Trail Ambassador program since 2013 and has contributed to maintaining thousands of miles of trail, removing thousands of pounds of trash, and interacting with thousands of visitors. The program operates on a truly region-wide basis, from Lone Pine to Bridgeport, across three National Forests, and six Ranger Districts. The more trail ambassadors available, the more effective the program is. Providing more trail ambassadors in the field, on the trails, helps mitigate the damage caused by rising numbers of visitors and alleviates some of the pressure on USFS wilderness rangers. Trail ambassadors help manage habitat degradation, clean up trash, maintain trails, but more importantly educate visitors on how to conduct themselves on our public lands.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

visitor education, trail maintenance, resource protection, litter mitigation

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Success will look like a robust staffing of trail ambassadors across the entire region. This is lead to continued logging of number of interactions, miles of trail monitored, pounds of trash packed out, hours of interpretation provided, and any other work performed.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This program provides much needed resource protection by providing front-line stewards in the field. TAs mitigate the inherent degradation of the land caused by rising visitation, and provide a resource to Forest Service recreation staffs to bolster their efficacy amid perpetually dwindling budgets.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Trail Ambassadors are knowledgeable resources for visitors. Stewardship and interpretation are key elements to the trail ambassador program. Each ambassador leads educational programs related to the region. Additionally when trails are well maintained, they are more enjoyable for everyone.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Having more boots on the ground, providing more people on more trails is the first line of defense against resource degradation. Being able to teach visitors LNT principles in person and in real time is more effective than cleaning up after them.

County Camp Revamp (ID# 4)

Date Submitted: 7/3/20

Location: Inyo County

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: A program to improve conditions at all Inyo County Campgrounds using tourism dollars.

Project long description: Inventory and assessment of campgrounds (Inyo County) BLM & USFS; identify needs and conditions such as: Potable h2o, toilets, fire rings, signage, parking, accessible parking/campsite, dirt vs paved, different price points and amenities to address different visitor, \$

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Overuse of campgrounds, trailheads, overtourism, outdated facilities, disperse use. Capture tourism \$s, can charge fee for County Campgrounds.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

"Now: Higher occupancy in campground; all campgrounds are desirable, pay for themselves, curtail dispersed camping, all campgrounds are desirable - relieve pressure off higher use areas, community pride, increased campground revenue, adequate oversight and maintenance.

20yrs:

adequate oversight & maintenance, not what Kearsarge is today, understanding County Campground as a competitive option compared to other sites."

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

financial, increased economic benefits; community pride; reducing pressure from other areas (ie Alabama Hills), Staying areas for the resources, locals will use/have new place/facility for community gatherings

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Family friendly, safer for children, plan to accommodate people rather than cars, access to unknown areas, broadening experience/knowledge, more sanitary

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Expectation that there will be huge community support.

Kids in Nature (ID# 112)

Date Submitted: 10/27/20

Location: Mammoth Lakes area

Project type: Education

Project short summary: Provides science and nature-based outdoor education programs to get kids outside exploring and learning about nature and how to responsibly enjoy the outdoors

Project long description: Kids of all backgrounds and ages benefit from time spent outside exploring and learning. Environment and nature-based education is an important way to provide an engaging context for learning and to give children the tools they need to feel comfortable in the outdoors. We propose to build on the highly successful Outdoor Science Education Programs offered by the Valentine Eastern Sierra Reserves to provide additional free and low cost programs for children of the Eastern Sierra to come to the reserves for short summer nature programs where they can blend summer learning and outdoor recreation. We hope to inspire the next generation of environmental stewards by introducing them to the wonder and beauty of the outdoors at an early age.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Getting kids outside, learning about nature, learning about responsible recreation

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Evaluation of programs will be based on evaluation of knowledge, attitudes and behaviors in program participants

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Many of these children will be future leaders in these communities and will learn responsible stewardship and appreciation of the natural world.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Learning about nature and the environmental context of where you are recreating, provides great positive experiences and provides motivation for conservation and protection of the environment.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

We have a lot of experience in this area, and this would provide an opportunity to expand some of our successful programs in new ways

Eastern Sierra Visitor Center and Regional Interpretive Program and Visitor Services Review, and Development and implementation of a Plan for Improvement. (ID# 150)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Lone Pine, Ancient Bristlecone Pines Forest, White Mountain Ranger Station, Mammoth Lakes, and Lee Vining and other recreation areas.

Project type: Education

Project short summary: All Eastern Sierra Visitor Centers and the region need quality interpretive programs and visitor services. This project would review these current programs and develop and implement improvement plans.

Project long description: As an example, the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center once provided interpretive programs, such as tours, onsite lectures, and interactive experiences with rangers and others knowledgeable about the area. They also provide information about the area, permits and other services at the counter in the Visitor Center. Over the years, the extent to which these programs and services can be offered has decreased due to lack of staff, financial resources, and other factors. This project would review all these current programs and services and develop and implement an overall plan for improvement at each Visitor Center and other sites based on a realistic estimate of public and partner resources available.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This is an opportunity to educate visitors about our Eastern Sierra public lands and the need to protect them. It is a chance to increase the impact on our visitors through a high quality experience in the Visitor Centers.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

This project will be a success if tourist compliments about their positive experience in the Visitor Centers and other sites increases, participation in interpretive activities grows, and incidences of bad behavior on our public lands decreases based on greater understanding and appreciation of the need to protect our natural resources in the Eastern Sierra.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This project will add value to Gateway communities by enhancing the experiences of our many visitors. The project will also add value by increasing respect and commitment to preserving and protecting our public lands, which is the foundation of our Gateway communities' local economies.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

This project increases visitor understanding of and education about our public lands, through better interpretive programs and visitor services in the Visitor Centers. It will result in a more positive response from our visitors and motivate them to come back and learn more about the area.

Cont

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

As noted above interpretive programs and visitor services have been the victim of budget reductions in the past. This project seeks to reverse this trend by emphasizing this important component of the visitor recreation experience.

None of our community residents or businesses like to hear complaints about the lack of Visitor Center programs or services. This project will do the opposite, creating a positive conversation among community residents and our Gateway businesses about the quality interpretive programs and visitor services that are a pleasure to experience.

It is a commonly known tenet of interpretation that increasing visitors' knowledge of a resource motivates the visitor to want to protect that resource.

Composite Score: 20.95

Stewardship: 7.16

Access: 6.75

Benefits: 7.04

Inyo National Forest Campground improvements (ID# 68)

Date Submitted: 9/29/20

Location: Inyo National Forest

Project type: Maintenance

Project short summary: Revitalize and address maintenance issued for all forest campgrounds

Project long description: It has been years since the campground in INF have had major maintenance and improvements, especially in light of all the use they get. Things like bathrooms, water systems, road surfaces, parking all need to be addressed.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Addressing the backlog of maintenance issues in the campgrounds with both improve the visitor experience and reduce impacts on the environment.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Campground upgrades across the forest.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Better campgrounds will provide better visitor experiences.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

see above

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Crowley to Lee Vining Multi-Use Bike Path (ID# 142)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Hwy 395 corridor, Crowley to Lee Vining

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Plan and build a quality paved multi-use path along highway 395 corridor connecting Crowley, Mammoth, June Lake and Lee Vining communities, primarily for bikes, e-bikes and runners.

Project long description: See other successful regional bike path projects such as Vail Pass RecPath (Copper to Vail) and Moab Canyon Path (Moab to Arches and Canyonlands)

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Connect communities with recreation pathways, incentivize non-vehicular transit and mobility

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Eastern Sierra communities connected with non-vehicular recreation pathways.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Provide greater opportunities for cycling, e-biking and running without vehicular traffic, better access and connectivity for underserved communities.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Enhances connectivity between communities, including to Whitmore Recreation Area, allows cyclists, e-bikers, walkers and runners to recreate at a healthy and safe remove from vehicular traffic.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Dispersed Camping Management & Education (ID# 73)

Date Submitted: 10/3/20

Location: Mammoth Lakes Area

Project type: Maintenance

Project short summary: Define, limit and manage dispersed camping areas on Inyo National Forest lands around Mammoth Lakes.

Project long description: Dispersed camping is allowed in many areas of the Inyo National Forest. In recent years, dispersed camping has become more popular and is taking place in areas on the forest surrounding the Town of Mammoth Lakes, including areas close to town where it is prohibited. Working with local government and law enforcement, the Inyo National Forest should develop clearer guidelines for dispersed camping, better manage dispersed camping areas, and consider prohibiting dispersed camping altogether on forest lands west of Highway 395 near Mammoth Lakes (in areas around Sherwin Creek Road, the Scenic Loop and Inyo Craters, and Shady Rest Park/Sawmill Cutoff Road). This project must include clear mapping, signage and communication about where and how dispersed camping is allowed, and could also include a permit system and seasonal placement of trash dumpsters and porta potties.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The project would reduce fire danger and trash/human waste left in popular recreation areas.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Dispersed camping taking place in legal areas with no trash, waste and fire concern. Campers have a better experience and adjacent communities feel safer.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Dispersed camping is a valuable public lands experience, but left unmanaged, it causes feelings of frustration and fear (of fire danger, of forests being trashed) in gateway communities.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

This project would improve the on-the-ground experience for the camper, and for people recreating on roads and trails where dispersed camping takes place.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

There have been many requests to "do something" about dispersed camping around Mammoth Lakes, especially after the COVID-19-driven spike in public land use/visitation in summer 2020, when many people could not get a spot in a developed campground and turned to dispersed camping.

Bike (multi-use) paths in June Lake Loop (ID# 144)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: June Lake Loop

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Many sections of Highway 158 are dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists. This proposal is to support the creation of multi-use paths between the town and Silver Lake Resort and June Lake beach.

Project long description: Many sections of Highway 158 are dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists, limiting recreational opportunities that aren't based on automobiles, and endangering those who do decide to ride or walk. This proposal is to support the creation of bike (i.e., multiuse) paths between the town of June Lake and the June Lake beach (also picking up Oh Ridge CG) and between the town and Silver Lake Resort. These areas often have unsafe cycling and pedestrian use during the summer. It is acknowledged that this would be a challenging project and would require substantial additional funding and the effort of many stakeholders and agencies.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Safer and increased non-motorized recreation in June Lake Loop.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

An increase in safe cycling and pedestrian recreation in June Lake Loop.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

The June Lake and surrounding areas would see economic benefits from increased types of recreation in the area that are currently too dangerous for many people. Easier non-motorized transportation around the loop will help relieve congested parking problems and overburdened streets.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

More safe types of recreation would become available in the June Lake vicinity.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

I've been a cyclist most of my life, but rarely cycle in June Lake despite living here except on rare occasions when the snow has melted but the road has not yet opened or other times when there is very little traffic.

Composite Score: 20.64

Stewardship: 6.44

Access: 6.89

Benefits: 7.31

New Eastern Sierra Visitor Information Center (ID# 115)

Date Submitted: 10/28/20

Location: Downtown Bishop

Project type: Visitor Centers

Project short summary: Convert and existing vacant building into a new, enlarged and improved information center for Eastern Sierra guests.

Project long description: The Bishop area information center is operated by the Bishop Chamber of Commerce and currently housed in an aging building owned by the City of Bishop at the Bishop City Park. This center provides comprehensive information on all recreational opportunities, venues and events from Death Valley to Bridgeport and beyond. While the current location is ideal, the building itself is in disrepair and too small to safely and effectively provide vital information services to Eastern Sierra guests. A larger and more modern facility would allow for enhanced educational exhibits and possibly even a place to co-locate the public lands info center/permit office that is currently a few blocks away. The ability to personally connect with Eastern Sierra guests is essential to the goal of promoting sustainable recreation and having an improved facility will allow us to do just that.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Improved guest services including education and outreach on best practices in responsible recreation in the Eastern Sierra.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Increase in number of guests served at the information center and feedback provided by them on quality of experience.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

As stated earlier, the Bishop Area Information Center provides information about all of Inyo and Mono Counties. Giving comprehensive area information encourages guests to stay longer and return more frequently to the region leading to positive economic benefit for all Eastern Sierra Communities.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

By meeting a guest in person, we can assess their interests and help them discover new and unique places to explore. By educating them ahead of time, they will know how to prepare for the best possible experience.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Thank you for your consideration!

Accessible Parks (ID# 51)

Date Submitted: 9/7/20

Location: Various- Alabama Hills, Buttermilks, Happy Boulders, Owens River, Hot Springs, etc.

Project type: To be successful, this would take a little bit from most of these categories

Project short summary: I'd like to see formal parks developed at some of the most popular outdoor recreation destinations that would provide restrooms, trash collection, and parking, etc.

Project long description: There are a number of locations that could be greatly improved by minor investments to make these places more accessible and easier to find, create a family-friendly and tourist-friendly environment, and reduce the impact of visitors to these destinations. Some of the most important improvements would be restrooms, trash collection, and parking, including ADA accessible parking. Many of the sites could also use monument signs to provide a sense of destination and directional signage to make them easier to find. Others could use landscaping and/or ecological restoration to mitigate existing impacts, and delineation of sensitive areas to prevent further impacts. Some tables and benches would make the sites more accessible to the public and more appealing for visitors that are not necessarily there for adventure sports. A paved greenway along the Owens River or LADWP canals would be an appealing asset for visitors and locals alike. Etc.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Accessibility for families, tourists, and people with disabilities. Reduce trash and human waste. Reduce erosion and ecological impacts. Improve wayfinding and signage. Make these formal destinations rather than adventurous excursions.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Increased usership and decreased environmental impact

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Give locals the opportunity to visit local destinations they may not have been able to find or adventurous enough to get there, and give visitors more reasons to come, therefore increasing tourism revenue in responsible ways.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Greatly. Getting lost or lack of accessibility results in an unenjoyable experience or no experience at all. Using the restroom in nature, seeing (or leaving) trash in nature, and/or contributing to environmental degradation can be just as bad for the experience as it is for the environment. Etc.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

There are plenty of existing opportunities for outdoor recreation in the Eastern Sierras. The best way to improve accessibility and diversity, resource protection and environmental sustainability, wayfinding, education, and stewardship would be to improve and protect the recreation resources we have rather than to create new ones.

Composite Score: 20.57

Stewardship: 7.16

Access: 6.57

Benefits: 6.84

Twin Lakes Vista Restroom (ID# 118)

Date Submitted: 10/28/20

Location: Twin Lakes Vista

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Install a year round restroom at the Twin Lakes Vista parking area.

Project long description: Installing a public restroom at Twin Lakes Vista for the public to use year round. This area is a popular stopping point for guests, as well as people accessing the Lakes Basin for many activities.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This project provides extra guest accommodations to people utilizing the Lakes Basin.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Increased use of this scenic area.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This project not only keeps human waste out of our backcountry areas, but shows the importance of proper land ethic and the value of our guests to the recreation community of Mono County.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

This location is perfect for someone that is about to explore the Lakes basin, whether it be visiting the multiple lakes in the summer or someone about to embark in to the backcountry during the winter using the nearby access portal.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Composite Score: 20.53

Stewardship: 7.05

Access: 6.64

Benefits: 6.84

Teen Corps for Healthy Forests (ID# 169)

Date Submitted: 10/31/20

Location: Forests surrounding Mammoth Lakes

Project type: Stewardship and Volunteers

Project short summary: Recruit community members (focusing on teens) to help remove dead and down trees in the forests surrounding Mammoth Lakes.

Project long description: This project would be similar to the Trail Days program but with a focus on removing dead and down trees in and around the town of Mammoth Lakes. Often times we have the same volunteers showing up for various projects. My idea is to draw in new volunteers by creating a Teen Corps program where local teens would work for a summer to improve the health of our forests. The teens will learn new skills, connect with others and give back to their community while benefiting from hard work and sense of accomplishment. This program would help protect our town from the threat of wildfire as well as foster a new generation of volunteers.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This project will address the health of the forest surrounding the town of Mammoth Lakes, reduce the fuels in our forest, reduce the risk of wildfires and improve the aesthetic of our town. Forest Service funding and staff are limited so recruiting teens could be a great way to get this work done.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Healthier forests in town and teens volunteering to help.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This project would help protect our forests and keep the community safe as well as improve the aesthetic of the public lands.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

This project would create more beautiful, safe forests for those recreating.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

keep Convict Lake clean (ID# 153)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Convict Lake

Project type: Maintenance

Project short summary: "Keep Convict Lake clean" would be a project in which more trash and recycling bins would be available near the lake and parking lots. Trash bins would be near transit areas.

Project long description: Trash bins need to be placed near parking lots and transit areas near the lake to prevent trash from going into the lake.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This project can help our environment, because no trash would be going into the lake. Trash bins are far away from the lake or parking spaces, some people decide to leave their trash near the lake instead of taking it or put it in a trash bin.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

No trash near the lake, would be a sign that this project has been successful.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This project will add value by creating a cleaner and more welcoming environment to communities that are gateways to public lands.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

This project allows a person to create a cleaner environment and not contribute to Earth pollution.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

This Idea can help fish and other animals near the lake to have a healthier environment.

Buttermilk Protection Project (ID# 114)

Date Submitted: 10/27/20

Location: Buttermilks climbing area

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: The Buttermilk Road area is heavily overused year-round. This area needs developed campsites, bathrooms, signage and protective signage.

Project long description: This area is heavily trafficked all year round. There are pullouts starting from the entrance off Hwy 168 extending to well above the main climbing area that have tent and RV campers almost every day of the year, and certainly every weekend year round. This area desperately needs some kind of measure to make the currently uncontrolled access less damaging - such as porta-potties, garbage cans, designated camping pullouts, parking areas, etc. It also needs signage and education for climbers to not crush and destroy the vegetation nearest the climbing spots. The local climbing coalition does as much as they can to educate - but this area needs some real dollar investment to keep it from getting more and more degraded.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The challenge is the increasing popularity of Owen's Valley climbing areas on public lands where there currently is no infrastructure to handle the increased visitation. These areas are treasures for all - locals and visitors - and the native wildlife and landscapes. They need protection.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

When visitors can enjoy these climbing areas without damaging them, which means ways to park, pee, poop and sleep that do not degrade what is naturally there.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Right now tens of thousands of climbers come through the Owens Valley and Bishop and the county are doing next to nothing to capitalize on the tourism and visitation. People camp at no cost, don't support our tax base other than through visiting local stores.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It will level the playing field by protecting access for everyone and asking everyone to be responsible for how they use the resources. If they disappear, then we all lose.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

There is a lot of coalition-building that could be done amongst stakeholders (climbers, offroaders, hikers, business owners, tourism agencies, etc.). We are going to hit a tipping point very soon and Inyo County needs a much more proactive vehicle to address this issue.

Buttermilk Dispersed Camping Management (ID# 99)

Date Submitted: 10/19/20

Location: Buttermilk Country

Project type: Visitor Centers

Project short summary: Develop a management plan for traffic and dispersed camping impacts in the Buttermilk area.

Project long description: Develop a management plan for the Buttermilk area that addresses reduced dust impacts (without paving!), informational signage about the impacts of dispersed camping and creation of new campgrounds by pulling off the road on the sensitive Buttermilk ecosystem, and educational information about campfire management.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The Buttermilks are being loved to death. People pull off a little more each weekend, destroying sage and other flora for a generation, and expanding the footprint of use. It should also address impacts from driving too fast on dirt roads, and proper campfire management.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Reduced creation of new campsites and fire rings, reduced dust impacts (again - paving is not an ideal solution for sustainable recreation).

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

The Buttermilks are an enormous draw for the community of Bishop.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Many visitors are from outside the area and are not aware of their cumulative impacts, but probably value conservation and the preservation of the natural beauty they've traveled to appreciate.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Don't pave Buttermilk Road - it isn't a long term solution to conservation of the resource.

Eastern Sierra Backcountry Responsibility Code (ID# 50)

Date Submitted: 9/5/20

Location: The Sherwins and Mammoth Lakes Basin

Project type: Education

Project short summary: This project will develop a "Backcountry Responsibility Code" to promote a local culture of safety, respect and stewardship while backcountry skiing and snowboarding in the Eastern Sierra region.

Project long description: With a marked increase in use of popular backcountry skiing and snowboarding destinations in the Mammoth Lakes region and the Eastern Sierra as a whole has come an increase in the number of near misses, accidents & social impacts. This project will utilize community input to develop a core set of principles which will make up a local "Backcountry Responsibility Code". A crowd-source approach will be used to develop the list of principles by utilizing local mountain professional input, community member input and other stakeholder concerns. Starting the conversation within the community should increase local buy-in and promotion of the end product.

Simple messaging attached to existing trailhead signs at the Propane Tanks, Mill City and Sherwins access point from Lake Mary will be the primary point of exposure for users. Additional resources could be added to the Mammoth Lakes Trails System website. There is also support from the Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center to promote the project.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This project will help to minimize the social and environmental impacts related to the increasing numbers of BC skiers and snowboarders in our region. It will communicate to visitors and new BC users about safe, respectful and low impact use of popular BC ski and mixed use winter recreation areas.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

A consistently low number of accidents and near misses.
Long term unrestricted access to trailheads, parking areas and popular backcountry ski/snowboard destinations.
Peace among diverse user groups.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Establish social norms for locals and visitors to abide by while recreating in popular areas.
Protect long term access to winter trailheads by educating users about minimum impact use.
Promote a culture of safety, respect and stewardship.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Provides a set of guidelines for safe and responsible recreation.
Connects users to other groups which provide safety messaging.
Provides a platform for experienced users to offer constructive feedback and teachable moments to users not respecting social norms.

Cont.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

This would be a pilot project locally, with the ultimate goal of partnering with similar regional movements.

I expect this to be a low cost and low maintenance project.

This project has been endorsed by the Eastern Sierra Avalanche Center, the Mammoth Mountain Ski Patrol Alumni Association and has gained support from local guide services.

Eastern Sierra Rails to Trail (ESR2T) (ID# 21)

Date Submitted: 7/24/20

Location: Inyokern to Laws Museum (approximately 120 miles)

Project type: Trail Planning

Project short summary: Turn the old Carson and Colorado (aka Southern Pacific) railroad grade into a trail: Eastern Sierra Rails to Trail (ESR2T)

Project long description: Anyone whom drives along 395 between Big Pine to Inyokern has seen trail railroad grade. For a short time, 2.5 winters, I lived in Wisconsin. That was my first exposure to a Rails to Trails. At that moment I thought of the The Carson & Co. railroad grade; turning that into a rails to trail: The Eastern Sierra Rails to Trail. The southern terminus would be Inyokern, the northern terminus would be Laws RR Museum. You can easily follow the railroad grade the entire length. You could start/finish anywhere.

I've recently biked, drove or hike-a-bike about 55 MILES from E. Line St. in Bishop south to Manzanar Station. The grade is in varying sates from GREAT to needs help. The main this is, it's still intact and just needs a some TLC, aka shrub removal and fixing a few washouts/bridges. The desert has done good preserving it. Being ON the grade provides fantastic views!

This would be a great economic opportunity during the Valleys off season and a great additional to the trail innovatory.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Challenge: \$\$, WATER, land managers, unsure of community support

Opportunity: added to trail innovatory, economic boost from Fall to Spring (the Valleys slower time), a great way to pay homage to the RR history, a fantastic recreational option, community involvement

What will indicate this project has been a success?

When the first long distance user starts at Inyokern and goes the length to Laws: sleeping in the desert or a Gateway Community, coming into a town to resupply or have a good meal, having pizza and beer in Bishop for a successful adventure while waiting for the hired shuttle take them back to their car/starting point.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Anytime a recreational trail is created it adds value to the community. The peacefulness and solitude can not be matched. Of course there is the historic value as well; teach the users...This will also add an economic boost as the users will need a place to sleep, eat, resupply.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

This could be a life changing experience for the person recreating; what you feel, what you see, what you hear and don't hear, what you smell; it's a totally body sensory experience like nothing they could get elsewhere.

Cont

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

The State, in 2019, passed the Great Redwood Trail Act, for a 300 mile rails to trail in Northern California. There are other R2T in California: Iron Horse, Great Shasta, Santa Cruz coast, the new Great Redwood Trail. Now is the time to seize this opportunity. I truly believe that the communities will get behind this project. It would be a wonderful addition to the existing recreational opportunities and as well as an economic boost. A 2009 economic impact study of the Great Allegheny Passage Trail in Pennsylvania and Maryland found that rail-trail users were spending an average of \$98 per day on food, lodging and supplies in the rural communities along the trail. This has ESR2T name all over it. :-)

I envision way station, kiosk or something of the sort where some of the old RR stations were: Laws (done), Zurich (done), Aberdeen (nothing), Kearsarge (done), Manazar (nothing), Owenyo (just remnants of structures), Lone Pine Depot (a private residence), Bartlett (old tanks and other structures), Olancha (??), Haiwee Lake (??), Little Lake (??) and Inyokern (nothing).

I would love for this to be as MUCH as non-motorized as possible. There are many sections in which the RR grade has been turned into a constructed dirt road, other sections in which the RR grade is the dirt road. There is some type of road, primarily dirt, that parallels most of the railroad grade. This is very useful for access for assessing, constructing and maintaining. And hopefully, with proper signage and education, the motorized users will stick to the plethora dirt roads as opposed to the trail.

In 1961 the track was dismantled. Since then it's been pretty much neglected. The cows love using it, along with sections for OHV, but for the most part it's been untouched. The desert has preserved it quite well making it easy to follow, even fat bike on it. With volunteers and elbow grease to clean up the grade, this has to potential to be something very special. This railroad grade already exists; converting it to a trail makes this a much more affordable than starting from scratch. The environmental impact will be minimal and the long term care should be minimal as well. This would be a outstanding Eastern Sierra sustainable project.

Composite Score: 20.39

Stewardship: 6.84

Access: 6.39

Benefits: 7.16

Dark Sky Initiative (ID# 90)

Date Submitted: 10/16/20

Location: Inyo & Mono Counties

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Use energy saving technology to reduce light pollution in urban areas & outlying industrial facilities. The result: Stunning stargazing rare in California & restore nocturnal wildlife habitats.

Project long description: Bishop is surprisingly bright at night. This, along with several outlying industrial facilities contribute to unnecessary light pollution throughout the Owen's Valley. These extremely bright lights create eye-sores in our beautiful wild landscape, waste millions of lumens of electricity every year and disrupt fragile nocturnal wildlife. Let's transition streetlights and security lights to energy efficient LED bulbs, mandate "low light hours" (Example: dim -50% after midnight), and improve streetlights with upward light shields (to project lighting downward, rather than skyward).

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

By reducing light pollution: we would restore the natural appearance of our high desert landscape at night, protect fragile nocturnal wildlife, save tax payers millions of dollars in energy consumption over several years, and become California's leading astrophotography destination.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Restored beauty of our dark skies, thriving nocturnal habitats, huge reduction in energy consumption, and increase tourism revenue.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Create clear Milkyway viewing without venturing into the wilderness, and save our communities millions of dollars in energy consumption over several years.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

By creating a dark-sky experience unrivaled in California.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

The city of Tucson Arizona already made this transition, read about their success:
<https://www.darksky.org/nights-over-tucson/>

Youth Recreation and Tourism Advisory Committee (ID# 159)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Regional

Project type: Planning and Environmental Review

Project short summary: Empower the region's young people with opportunities for inclusion, influence, and deliberation on local issues which affect their lives through the creation of a advisory committee.

Project long description: Build a program for young people that focuses on getting the youth perspective on regional matters and decision making processes.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

To address the sustainability of recreation and tourism, it is critical to engage young people so the policies and programs we implement today have a greater chance of succeeding tomorrow.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

If a youth advisory group is created and supported by local decision makers.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Showing young people that their perspective matters and have influence over things that impact their lives, inspires connection to the community and encourages young people to want to give back to the community.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

This project will positively impact the experience young people have as members of the community.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Consider looking at "Growing Up Boulder" as a model for reference.
<http://www.growingupboulder.org/>

Bishop Creek Trail (ID# 43)

Date Submitted: 8/29/20

Location: Bishop Creek

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Construct a multi-use hiking, biking and equestrian trail from the City of Bishop to South Lake, Lake Sabrina and North Lake which is maintained by volunteer groups.

Project long description: The purpose of this trail is multi-fold and would be similar in nature to the Lower Rock Creek trail. It would provide access to the full length of Bishop Creek for all non-power sports users: mountain bikers, e-bikers, fishermen, trail runners, day hikers, through-hikers and horse riders, thus assuring the greatest benefit to all types of outdoor recreation which provide the needed tourism base for our town. The path could use portions of the old highway and segments of other use trails already adjacent to the creek. Ideally it would connect the three major Bishop Creek trail heads with the west end of town, specifically Manor Market, however, South Lake may be the preferred location if only one trail head is chosen. The grade would be moderate enough so that mountain bikers could climb up the trail. E-biking needs to be considered as an acceptable use, as this is a way for families and older people to continue to enjoy biking. However, motorcycles would not be compatible.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Increased opportunity for a well-maintained mountain bike trail and an important foot access connection from services to trail heads. An all-season hiking trail. The lower elevation portions can be used by hikers/trail runners during the winter.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

All types of people using the trail and showing courtesy to the other users.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This trail would be an immense value to the Bishop community, as it would provide 20 miles of all-season trail in very close proximity to town and would become popular for tourists in the summer and would be well-used by locals in the winter when higher elevation trails are snowed in.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

People love to explore new areas and this trail would provide that opportunity to an area which most tend to drive past. One of the best ways to allow numbers of people to responsibly experience nature is to provide a well maintained trail.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

There is a wealth of human and natural history along Bishop Creek. A trail provided with informational kiosks will further educate the users on this history and how to respect it. Various local service organizations could be enlisted to provide these types of kiosks.

Education on Responsible Multi-use: A Place for Everyone (ID# 1)

Date Submitted: 7/3/20

Location: Lone Pine; Owens River

Project type: Education

Project short summary: Establish targeted and incentivized education programs; provide inclusive access to recreation areas and a variety of accessible recreation opportunities.

Project long description: Provide targeted education/information through collaborative gathering process. Inclusive access from top to bottom. Transportation to recreation areas for recreation opportunities. Education about multi-use on trails/waterways. OR additional permitting requirements (w/ incentives). Collaborative conversations

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Inclusive Accessibility - Education; Opportunities for face-to-face meeting with user group and agencies

What will indicate this project has been a success?

1. Is there a reduction in irresponsible behaviors. 2. number of participants in education programs

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

1. Reduction in use of SAR/emergency. 2. Decrease in conflict between user groups. 3. Appreciation for local culture and values

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Keep them from making mistakes, added safety, increased appreciation for the resource. Increased stewardship.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Composite Score: 20.14

Stewardship: 5.7

Access: 7.71

Benefits: 6.73

Wounded Warrior Access (ID# 59)

Date Submitted: 9/17/20

Location: Inyo National Forest, Toiyabe National Forest, BLM Land

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: To provide Wounded Warrior access to all lakes and rivers that have road access.

Project long description: As was done at June Lake Beach, provide Wounded Warrior access to all water of the eastern sierra. Only June Lake beach is accessible and that is unsustainable. As more and more people require provisions in order to participate in outdoor recreation it should not just be the able bodied that are allowed to recreate in our wonderful area. Access should be provided for all. The success of the June Lake beach Wounded Warrior access speaks for itself and speaks volumes about the need. That small effort has completely changed the beach usage and numbers that now come to the ONLY accessible lake in the eastern sierra.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Access for all.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Creation on a broad scale of the accessible infrastructure.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

By allowing ALL to enjoy our backyard.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Makes it possible.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

I'd like to see the people who don't support the access for our Wounded Warriors to stand up and be recognized.

West Walker River Parkway (ID# 25)

Date Submitted: 8/3/20

Location: Walker Canyon/ West Walker River

Project type: Trail Planning

Project short summary: This project will develop a system of trails and public access along the West Walker River aka "West Walker River Parkway" including Mtn. Gate Park, CDFW, BLM, and HTNF managed lands.

Project long description: Project deliverables are being developed in cooperation with NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program to include: angler access/ parking improvements along the West Walker River; sustainable access trails and natural history tools for interpretation; natural fishery enhancement; connectivity to BLM/HTNF system-trails; naturalization of existing disturbed areas and infrastructure in the Mtn. Gate Park area.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This project provides an opportunity for the Antelope Valley community to develop trails connecting the community of Walker. Challenges include avoidance of private ownership, BMPs for stream alteration, coordination with CalTrans/DOT.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

The Walker Canyon provides many opportunities for sustainable recreation which are underutilized, noncontiguous, and informal. Systemization of connector trails, signage, and parking will invite tourism and sustainability - providing formal access for anglers and cleaning up historic/intrusive infrastructure, and enhancing natural fisheries. Providing a system of sustainable trails will enhance visitors' knowledge of local flora/fauna/geology/cultural resources.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

A "fly-over" community, Walker provides several underutilized opportunities for recreation that could be a boon both for tourism and the health and wellness of its locals. Multi-modal "walk, bike, ride" improvements will allow visitors and locals alike to access these opportunities safely.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Fishing is a primary driver of the Mono County economy. The Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (endemic to the Lahontan watershed) is a sought after species, listed as federally threatened. Improvements to both natural fisheries and angler access will solidify the area's claim as a premier fishing locale.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Deliverables are still being developed through public outreach and coordination with local agencies. Several of the area trails once offered have been abandoned. Coordination with NPS RTCA program will help to develop scope and opportunities - a "Trail System Master Plan" for the Antelope Valley area.

Bike Path - Crowley Lake to Mammoth (ID# 18)

Date Submitted: 7/21/20

Location: Crowley Lake to Mammoth Lakes

Project type: Partnerships

Project short summary: The Eastern Sierra needs more bike paths and a connector from Crowley Lake to Mammoth Lakes would allow community and public members to ride to and from for work and allow access that does not exist.

Project long description: The path could utilize existing pole lines, but is missing a bridge over the river near SNARL.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Installing the bridge over the river and getting permissions and funding.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Once the trail is built and signage installed.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

People would be encouraged to use the trail for recreation and educational signs could be installed to inform the public about their lands.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

The trail would be available to link the communities of Long Valley and Mammoth Lakes allowing biking off highway 395.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

The Eastern Sierra needs more trails for the public.

Composite Score: 20.07

Stewardship: 6.15

Access: 6.88

Benefits: 7.04

Free ESTA For All (ID# 32)

Date Submitted: 8/12/20

Location: Eastern Sierra

Project type: Budgeting

Project short summary: All ESTA routes will be free. Ridership will likely increase dramatically.

Project long description: ESTA's fairbox recovery ratio is already quite low, so it won't take that much more money to just make it completely free. Ridership will increase dramatically.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

It is difficult to convince people to take public transit when it is so expensive.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

When ESTA ridership is booming

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It will allow more people to travel around the Eastern Sierra communities, who otherwise would be scared away by the cost.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It will make it cheaper for individuals without cars to recreate.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Composite Score: 20.07

Stewardship: 7.69

Access: 5.79

Benefits: 6.59

tangle free waters (ID# 42)

Date Submitted: 8/28/20

Location: mammoth lakes

Project type: Planning and Environmental Review

Project short summary: sustainable use of our aquatic resources

Project long description: no fishing line hooks lead sinkers left in water resources with use for fishing that are a risk to humans and wildlife

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

for once in 50 yrs of using water resources for fishing that we will clean up the plastic fishing line, the hooks, lead sinkers to maintain our aquatic resources in their pristine condition.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

our waters are free of fishing litter

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

our resources will be well taken care of for once

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

we all love pristine healthy resources

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Southern Mono Trail System (ID# 19)

Date Submitted: 7/23/20

Location: From Lower Rock Creek trailhead and heading north connecting all our small towns together and Whitmore Sports complex

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Looking to create a 30+ mile soft surface trail system connecting our communities together - including our trailheads, campgrounds, and parks. Non motorized.

Project long description: This is something we've been working on for a year through our CSA1 board meetings. We've identified a huge community need for dirt trails connecting everything together in southern mono county. (a proven need through community survey) Lower Rock Creek is our pride of mountain biking trail but was built around 30 years ago. Currently we are looking at new sections to complete connectivity to Tom's Place then to Crowley Ball fields, then all the way to Whitmore Pool. Along the way we want to have loops and connections to all the campgrounds, trailheads, and parks. That way all small towns have access and any visitors can also enjoy the system and bathrooms, water, parking are already in place. CSA1 brings a healthy amount of funding and desire to make our neighborhoods a better place to live through recreation. We also have a strong maintenance component built into everything new we create, like the Crowley Lake Skatepark.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The biggest challenge and opportunity is to have all the land managers work with us to create the best trail system ever. We also hope to include those who oppose new trails.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

There are many indicators, for example one could be when bike riders are able to park at Whitmore and can pedal a fun flowing dirt trail all the way to Tom's Place for lunch and then continue on to Lower Rock Creek for a pick-up or return on their own power on a different loop. Another is when everyone is out hiking/walking on well designed trails instead of the myriad of user creating trails every neighborhood has. How about this, when you see a big smile on my face.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Our communities have been overly supportive of our recreation goals. The Crowley Skatepark is an amazing value to our community. Trails create value simply by allowing everyone access to the lands, health benefits are huge as well - something I can attest to personally.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

With a system you have signage, loops, facilities already in place. This project ties it all together and the recreation experience is something that can be planned out ahead of time and you know where to park, where to get water, etc. A system we are planning will put southern mono on the map!

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

In our planning process we have identified completing this project within a 1-5 year timeline.

Composite Score: 20.03

Stewardship: 6.56

Access: 6.72

Benefits: 6.75

Fern Creek Bridge (ID# 126)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: About a mile up Fern Creek Trail.

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: The Fern Creek bridge was damaged in the Winter of 18/19. The bridge is hazardous to cross especially in spring.

Project long description: The Fern Creek Bridge connects the Yost/ Fern Trail system. People use the Fern Lake bridge to access Yost Lake, which is the fastest way to Yost and to hike to the Village. In the spring of 19 we had several emergency call related to people trying to cross the damaged bridge and falling.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This project would once again connect the Yost and Fern Lake Trailheads and allow locals to hike from Village to Down Canyon.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Having the forest service remove hazard trees from project work site and approve new bridge to be constructed.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

The Yost/ Fern thru hike is a beloved route in our community and the bridge makes it possible. Fern Creek Trailhead is also the shortest access to Yost Lake. Once the bridge was damaged the community has been pushing for it to be fixed.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Maintaining infrastructure is very important to contributing to a positive user experience and overall effects the economic opportunities of June Lake. We have seen this positive relationship play out in Mammoth Lakes.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Usage fees for dispersed camping (ID# 130)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Eastern Sierra public lands

Project type: Usage fees

Project short summary: Managing agencies would charge a modest fee (annual or one-time permits) for dispersed camping to cover costs of sustainability measures. Would still be significantly less than developed camping.

Project long description: Dispersed camping is reaching levels of popularity where it's becoming unsustainable without some amount of management (described in a separate project proposal). The project idea is to work with managing agencies (FS, BLM) to institute a fee system for dispersed camping to support sustainability measures. This could be either an annual permit or something like a 14-day one-time permit. Permits could be available through ranger stations, FS campground hosts, or possibly "iron rangers" at signage locations near popular dispersed camping areas. The fee could be substantially lower than for developed camping, keeping dispersed camping accessible to low-income people while still providing for some sustainability management. Although I haven't verified this, I've heard that this is being done in some areas of the country.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Help improve the sustainability of dispersed camping by helping to fund sustainability measures.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Dispersed camping sustainability measures are able to be funded on a continuous basis.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It will help reduce the detrimental effects of increasing unmanaged dispersed camping by helping to fund sustainability measures.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It will help educate users to know they are helping with sustainability, but the primary beneficiary are local communities and the public lands themselves.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

PCT Volunteer Project Leaders (ID# 22)

Date Submitted: 7/27/20

Location: Pacific Crest Trail

Project type: Stewardship and Volunteers

Project short summary: Fund two staff positions, a Crew Leader and Assistant Crew Leader, who will co-lead volunteer trail maintenance groups on the section of PCT running through the Eastern Sierra.

Project long description: Fund two staff positions, a Crew Leader and an Assistant Crew Leader, who will be co-managed by PCTA, USFS, and NPS; while they lead volunteers on Trail Maintenance trips along the PCT through the Eastern Sierra. The PCT-JMT is the most iconic trail in the Eastern Sierra, and one of the most used. This high use and high demand requires extra diligence to ensure the trail is adequately maintained.

PCTA can recruit and train these staff members, as well as find and allocate project time on an as-needed basis across multiple unit jurisdictions. PCTA would also use its wide network to recruit volunteers for these projects, as well as partner with established, diverse groups. This project leverages a minimal investment in staff to produce hundreds of hours of volunteer time without a substantial increase in workload for our federal partners.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The challenge of maintaining an iconic, high-demand trail that is emblematic of the area. The opportunity is further engagement with locals and visitors alike, in participating with the required maintenance of this amazing resource.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Streamlined project coordination across multiple land managers to place fully enrolled volunteers on projects where they can help steward their public lands.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

The PCT brings hikers from all over the country and all over the world to communities in the Eastern Sierra. Maintaining this resource ensures users will be able to continue enjoying the PCT and continue to patronize gateway communities for their staging or resupply.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

A better trail for users, and an especially deep connection for those who participate as volunteers in maintaining a world-class trail.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Project details such as direct supervisors, food and other expendables, partner groups, and criteria for project selection would need to be ironed out.

Interpretive and Wayfinding Signs (ID# 156)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Buttermilks, Happies and Sad Boulders

Project type: Signage

Project short summary: Provide signage about LNT and restoration areas; and wayfinding signs to popular boulders found in guidebooks to guide climbers and visitor to prevent trail and restoration areas.

Project long description: Popular climbing areas need better signage to inform those who are seasoned to outdoor recreation and those who are new. A lot of gym climbers are unaware of how to treat the outdoor environment simply from lack experience because rock climbing was their first outlet to the greater outdoors. I think having better signage about LNT that contains more graphics than words would be very helpful. Not only that, the signs should also depict landscape degradation and show before and current pics (ex. solarium and the hulk). Showing before and after pics of habitats is a very effective way to convey and get the message across as to why LNT and staying on trails is important. Also, ppl lay their gear and crashpads all over designated restoration areas. Have better, more durable signs for such areas would be very helpful in determining where these areas exist. Small wayfinding signs would be helpful for those who get lost and end up cutting through the natural landscape.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Addresses LNT, and allows restoration areas to thrive. Informs new and seasoned outdoorsman about LNT and ways to protect and be mindful of how their footprint affects the natural environment.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

See restoration areas actually thrive and less trash that needs to be collected. Others informing other people about what they've learned from signs.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Creates a welcoming atmosphere that shows respect towards the communities of wildlife, flora, fauna and people who share and use the space.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

They'll be able to apply what they learn from these signs towards other forest and public lands.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

I would love to be a part of the design team if this ever comes into fruition!

Composite Score: 19.96

Stewardship: 5.96

Access: 7.19

Benefits: 6.81

Caminata en el los lagos (Hiking at the lake) (ID# 145)

Date Submitted: 10/27/20

Location: Crowley Lake

Project type: Señalización (Signage)

Project short summary: Caminata alrededor del lago (Hiking around the lakes)

Project long description: Se que muchcha gente hispana vive en Crowley lake, pero no saben como llegar al lago por diferentes direcciones. Me gustaria ver una senal de caminata para derejir a la gente a como llegar al lago, por donde puede caminar hace el sur del lago.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

El invierno, el tiempo de la pesca

What will indicate this project has been a success?

tener informacion desponible en espanol

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

promocionar mas, hacer que sea mas facil obtener informacion

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Pues ayuda con la salud fisica

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

no

Grover Hot Springs Waterfall Interpretive Trail (ID# 167)

Date Submitted: 10/31/20

Location: Grover Hot Springs State Park, Markleeville, CA

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: The ATA, in cooperation with H-T NF Carson Ranger District and CA State Parks, wishes to develop a safe and inviting interpretive trail for the waterfalls above Grover Hot Springs in Markleeville, CA.

Project long description: Our new trail design will improve access from Grover Hot Springs to the Grover Waterfalls and create an approximately one-mile interpretive loop trail that is fun, safe, and educational. The trail will guide hikers past unique geological and riparian zones to platforms that provide unobstructed views of the falls while discouraging off trail use which leads to erosion and possible injury. Visitors will experience an easily navigated trail with clear directional signs and detailed interpretive signs giving kids of all ages the opportunity to learn more about the flora, fauna, geology, hydrology, and history of the area.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The current trail system is wandering, with ltd. signage, no erosion control & nothing to provide a safe approach and viewing of the falls. Visitors often get lost or diverted into sensitive/dangerous zones. An interpretive trail would be safer, provide important info., and promote stewardship.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Easier access to the waterfalls in Grover Hot Springs State Park, and therefore more hikers, while at the same time lessening impact to the areas outside of the trail.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It will improve the access trail from Grover Hot Springs and create an approx. one-mile loop trail that is fun, safe, and educational, adding more value to Grover Hot Springs State Park, and therefore the gateway community of Markleeville.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It allows them to experience a unique feature of the northern portion of the Eastern Sierra Corridor without getting lost, confused or frustrated.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

ATA members discussed the new trail concept with representatives from HT and Cal State Parks and received enthusiastic support from both agencies. Direction was given for the ATA to take lead on this project giving us the opportunity to successfully plan and execute our first original trail design and creation.

The ATA and its partners believe building this trail, which will serve thousands of visitors every year, will create an opportunity for people of all ages and abilities to get out and safely enjoy nature in Alpine County while providing economic benefits for the entire Eastern Sierra Corridor.

Composite Score: 19.91

Stewardship: 6.32

Access: 6.9

Benefits: 6.69

Paddle Trail Access for All on Lower Owens River Project (ID# 9)

Date Submitted: 7/3/20

Location: Lower Owens River

Project type: Programming

Project short summary: With a focus on making the Lower Owens River physically accessible. This project recommends three approaches looking at policy revisions, programming, and partnership.

Project long description: Three Parts - Part 1: focused on policies that make sense related to physical accessibility. For example, in Wilderness areas wheelchairs are allowed but they must be ones that are designed for indoor use. Part 2: programs that loan adaptive recreation equipment out to recreationists; not limited to just ADA but supports users like those that might need a cane or a pregnant person. Part 3: Land managers to partner with both paddle sport experts and people with disabilities

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Accessibility

What will indicate this project has been a success?

The outcome reflects input of partners and is functional

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Adds to local experience of recreation and invites tourist to learn from locals. Disperses impact.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

No information provided

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Eastern Sierra Visitor Center Facility and Grounds Inspection, Repair, and Replacement Project (ID# 146)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Lone Pine, Ancient Bristlecone Pines Forest, White Mountain Ranger Station, Mammoth Lakes, and Lee Vining.

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: This project will inspect all Eastern Sierra Visitor Center facilities, including interior and exterior infrastructure and grounds, and repair and replace structures, grounds, or equipment as needed.

Project long description: As an example, the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center is 30 years old, and while a beautiful and sometimes functional facility, its interior and exterior infrastructure now needs repair and upgrading in selected areas. This project will inspect this facility and all other Visitor Center facilities, prepare a plan for infrastructure repair and replacement as necessary, and implement that plan. Examples of items to be covered include HVAC repair/replacement, interior and exterior physical surfaces, lighting, water and sewer systems, solar installations, and landscaping. The dilapidated condition of portions of these visitor centers reflects badly on the US Forest Service, other public lands agencies, and the communities where they are located.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This project addresses the opportunity to ensure all the Eastern Sierra Visitor Centers will continue to provide the best use of the taxpayer funds that built them, and enable visitors the maximum opportunity to learn about the Eastern Sierra and enjoy their time on our public lands.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

This project will be a success if all the facility-related deficiencies in and around the Visitor Centers have been identified, repaired, or addressed appropriately, such that the facility is not hindered in any way in supporting the missions of the public lands agencies involved with the Visitor Centers. Additionally, success may be measured by reductions in ongoing operations, maintenance and repair costs thanks to modernized, more efficient facilities.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This project will add value to Gateway communities by enhancing the experiences of visitors. None of our residents or businesses like to hear about the need for repair of the VC buildings and grounds. This project will create a positive conversation about the well-maintained facilities.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

This project ultimately inspires and informs local residents and visitors about our public lands, through a more pleasant experience in the Visitor Center. It will result in a more positive response from our visitors and motivate them to come back and learn more about the area.

Cont.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

The Eastern Sierra Visitor Centers are a unique set of facilities built with taxpayer funds and used by thousands of tourists, students, and others annually to learn about the Eastern Sierra. It is hard to watch these beautiful buildings and grounds deteriorate over the years due to lack of investment to keep them in good shape. We can and should pursue this project to stop this decline and protect these valuable resources that contribute so directly to preserving and protecting our public lands in the Eastern Sierra.

A challenge may be that this project could cost substantial funds, given the current backlog of work that needs to be done on these facilities. This challenge could be met, however, through a combination of public and private funding, including funds from annual and capital public agency budgets and targeted grants, and individual, corporate, and foundation gifts.

This project could also list in priority order the necessary Visitor Center work with an estimated cost for each item. This would then serve as a funding plan moving forward, assuming funds may be available over several years.

Horseshoe Lake ADA Picnic Area (ID# 49)

Date Submitted: 9/5/20

Location: Horseshoe Lake

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Modifying the existing asphalt auxiliary parking area by the bathrooms and start of Horseshoe Lake Loop Trail to permeable surface, ADA accessible, shaded picnic table pods.

Project long description: When the Horseshoe Lake TH is updated, an ADA picnic area would be beneficial for many. The existing paved parking area adjacent to the bathrooms would provide an ideal location. Creating 4-7 shaded pods in varying size that are wheelchair accessible is the vision. The pods would be independent of each other and offer seating for small and larger group sizes. Ideally TOML would be able to have a reservation system for these pods (especially the larger size) as such for the Shady Rest Picnic Pavillion and other TOML managed facilities.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This will be expensive and should be designed concurrently with the greater TH project design.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Safe, healthy opportunity for handicapped persons to enjoy this beautiful area with their family and friends.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Offers access, health benefits

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Allows for it, current barrier to opportunity exists

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Let's do it!

Composite Score: 19.9

Stewardship: 6.15

Access: 6.84

Benefits: 6.91

Mammoth Loop Trail Repairs (ID# 98)

Date Submitted: 10/19/20

Location: Town of Mammoth Lakes

Project type: Maintenance

Project short summary: The loop trail bike/pedestrian path needs help.

Project long description: The loop trail around the town of Mammoth Lakes is in need of repairs - especially the eastern section. The frost heaves alone make the trail painful to bike on. This trail is a huge tourist draw. Can you work with the town to fix it, or even to expand it? The trail also needs improved signage.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Improve recreational opportunities for both locals and visitors.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Increased trail usage.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Better pedestrian and bike safety comes with an improved loop trail.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Better access to town, more relaxed recreating for all.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Composite Score: 19.88

Stewardship: 8.02

Access: 5.11

Benefits: 6.75

South Fork Bishop Creek fire prevention/ meadow protection (ID# 45)

Date Submitted: 9/4/20

Location: South fork Bishop Creek

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Wonderful, fragile meadow near the Table Mountain Group camping area needs protection. Vehicles have created a path to drive off-road into a small meadow. Fire pits have created.

Project long description: Recently a truck managed to pull a trailer in there and then turn it around for exit...very skillful, but extremely destructive to this small, fragile environ. Two fire pits are evident, an obvious problem, also illegal. If protected, this meadow can quickly recover, but a fire? And the fix is so easy!... two boulders.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The opportunity is to easily provide fire and meadow protection. The challenge is getting through to the Forrest Service. I've tried.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Seeing the meadow recover

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

fire and land protection

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

beauty and safety

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Important, easy

Eastern Grand Bikeway (ID# 170)

Date Submitted: 10/31/20

Location: Paralleling the east side of the Sierra Nevada potentially from Lone Pine to Bridgeport and beyond.

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: A regional bikeway comprised of both paved MUP and dirt single or double track trail connecting east side communities. System to be built in segments aiming for complete connection.

Project long description: The ultimate goal would be a continuous east side bike thruway for both road and mountain bike use, that would allow for day recreation on smaller segments, and car-free visitation and travel in the area.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The opportunity to have one of the finest bike experiences in the world. Carbon free and car free travel and visitation. Repurpose of surplus roads and impacted areas. Direction of impacts away from front country areas hard-hit by auto access.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Completion of any segment of the proposed project—a section of MUP and single track built to modern standards between any two communities on the east side. At that point, more segments can be added as possible.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

By reducing car visitation to the area and making carbon-free/car-free regional travel possible. Dispersing recreation/visitation away from car-access areas. Increased recreation opportunity for locals.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

To be able to travel the east side on a car-free bike trail or path would be a life time experience for many, and the system would be rewarding and accessible to anyone who wants to walk, ride, or roll it. A car-free way to visit and experience the east side—connection to the land, quiet, low-stress.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

There potential in this idea for something truly great. Imagine riding a mountain bike to from mammoth to bishop, getting lunch, and returning on an electric shuttle. Imagine pedaling the whole east side at your own pace, camping along the way, or staying in towns.

Composite Score: 19.75

Stewardship: 6.02

Access: 7.09

Benefits: 6.64

Owens River Gorge for All (ID# 105)

Date Submitted: 10/23/20

Location: Owens River Gorge

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Collaborate with LADWP to improve the unofficial trail in the ORG and make it accessible to all users.

Project long description: The ORG is a true multiuse destination. Though known mostly for climbing, hiking the gorge from the lower gorge to the upper gorge roads is listed in the 50 Classic Dayhikes of the Eastern Sierra guidebook, and the area is also very popular among anglers. The trail running the length of the gorge, however, is unofficial and unmaintained. River crossings can be very difficult and even hazardous without infrastructure like bridges. This project would seek to make the gorge trail something accessible to all users, and not just those comfortable talus hopping or shimmying across rickety tree branches to make it from one point in the gorge to another.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The difficulty of accessing the gorge for those not comfortable with the degree of difficulty and hazard currently necessary for true trans-gorge travel.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

That the gorge becomes a popular and accessible destination for hikers and anglers in addition to climbers, and also improvements for climbing access to hard to reach crags.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It would add a unique trail experience currently otherwise unavailable on the east side.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It would make the experience safer and more consistent.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Noise and light pollution in the wilderness. (ID# 168)

Date Submitted: 10/31/20

Location: Eastern Sierra

Project type: Education

Project short summary: Research and education initiative to include noise and light pollution in Leave No Trace principles. Educate campers and backcountry users of the impacts of noise and light pollution on wildlife.

Project long description: Signage at trailheads and campgrounds, social media education initiatives, mandatory education for permit holders (can combine with other projects educating about fire and other backcountry safety), use of scientific research to educate people. Noise and light pollution should be part of the LNT principles. There should be rules about it in the wilderness. Can also include data collection to measure current noise and light pollution impacts in the Eastern Sierra.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

With ever improving technology, there are more and more people who blast music from speakers while in the wilderness, or use solar-powered projectors and speakers to project a movie onto a rock while camping. This creates a lot of noise and light in areas that are meant to be wild.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Widespread understanding that noise and light are important human impacts to manage in the wilderness. Less noise and light pollution on trails and in campgrounds.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Many locals chose to live here because of the access to nature. Noise in the wilderness not only impacts wildlife, but also impacts those of us who need nature to feel whole. This will unite the community in an organized stewardship and educational initiative to protect our wild spaces.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It helps to preserve the true nature of our wild spaces. It keeps them free from human created noise and light, which enriches recreation experiences. Mountains and wilderness just don't feel wild with a bunch of human noise and light.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

It can be combined with other projects focused on other forms of pollution, like trash and human waste. It also pairs nicely with projects focused on minimizing human impact on the land.

ACTUAL BEAR PROOF DUMPSTERS (ID# 79)

Date Submitted: 10/8/20

Location: Mono County

Project type: wildlife management

Project short summary: upgrade all public trash and recycling facilities to actual bear proof containers. The carabiner is out of date technology. Example: Yosemite National Park

Project long description: The carabiner to lock dumpsters and recycling facilities from Bears getting in is outdated technology. Here in Mammoth Lakes, I have seen a few dumpsters with the new technology but it is not consistent throughout Town - it should be consistent throughout the region. Also, all recycling containers must be bear proof. It is shocking that in locations here in Mammoth there are recycling containers that are not at all bear proof and regularly full of food trash that bears get into.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Human Bear interaction reduction, as well as reduce the amount of trash floating around this town that is pulled out when a dumpster is left open - the wind then picks up or the crows get into it and spread it throughout town.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Reduced trash can incidents for Bears in this town

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

by keep our wildlife wild and also hopefully educating people a bit more that we live on their (wildlife) land.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It allows positive wildlife interaction instead of negative ones

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

All trash cans in the town of mammoth lakes should be secured from bears. It is 2020 and we regularly have bears in our trash cans. there is a large property in town whos trash cans aren't nailed to the ground and the bears just push them over all summer long and eat trash.

Eastern Sierra US 395 Scenic Byway Kiosk Inspection, Repair, and Replacement Project. (ID# 155)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Multiple, developed existing locations along and directly adjacent to US Highway 395 in the Eastern Sierra.

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: This project seeks to repair and enhance the aging US Highway 395 Scenic Byway Kiosks through a program of inventory, prioritized repair, and meaningful enhancement where opportunities are available.

Project long description: The Eastern Sierra Highway 395 Scenic Byway Kiosks were created 25 years ago by the Coalition for Unified Recreation in the Eastern Sierra (CURES) to provide information about the Eastern Sierra for travelers and visitors. All of these kiosks are in dire need of maintenance and repair while others present unique opportunities for development of sustainable and accessible recreation opportunities. This project seeks to inspect all Scenic Byway kiosks, interpretive panels, and related infrastructure, prioritize maintenance and improvement projects, and then begin strategic implementation as partners and resources are identified.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This project is an opportunity to address the deferred maintenance and repair backlog for these kiosks. Revitalization of this kiosk network represents a unique opportunity to highlight the entire Eastern Sierra by investing in existing, permitted and thematically coherent infrastructure.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

This project will be a success if all the improvement projects identified in the inspection are completed, and visitors notice the difference in these kiosks through their comments and feedback.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This project will add value to Gateway communities by revitalizing an existing network of recreational facilities which tie the Eastern Sierra together through cohesive and consistent messaging.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Visitors who come to the Eastern Sierra like to stop along the way to learn about the region and its many wonders. Revitalization and enhancement of these Scenic Byway kiosks will contribute to a more positive recreation experience and increased respect for taking care of our public lands..

Cont

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Efforts to work on these kiosks have been discussed in the past, but not pursued given the perception they are a lower priority compared to other recreation facilities. As the only existing and established network of thematically coherent recreational infrastructure along Highway 395, these aging kiosks can play a critical role in informing travelers about the Eastern Sierra while spreading a meaningful message of sustainable recreation.

An example of the need for this project is a set of kiosks and interpretive panels along Highway 395 between June Lake and Lee Vining. The panels are bleached to unreadability, hazardous in some places, and need to be updated with culturally-relevant and meaningful interpretive messaging. Additionally, this interpretive facility – at the end of a well-paved parking area perched on a glacial moraine bench overlooking the Mono Craters and Mono Lake – presents a unique opportunity to develop a short interpretive trail. A series of short interpretive trails leading from a subset of existing Scenic Byway Kiosks would provide travelers a refreshing and educational respite from the highway while dispersing current use at heavily impacted developed destinations.

New opportunities – such as short interpretive trails – would create new recreation resources away from the currently impacted canyons and developed sites, such as Hot Creek, while introducing people to a range of often overlooked stories and landscapes.

Composite Score: 19.63

Stewardship: 5.69

Access: 6.98

Benefits: 6.96

East Side Community Trails (ID# 12)

Date Submitted: 3/24/20

Location: Eastern Sierra

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Create a signature hardened surface trail in/around each community. The trails would be available for locals, visitors, and events/competitions.

Project long description: Signature events could include: 5k, 10k, 13.1 miles (1/2 marathon), 26.2 miles (marathon), 50k, 100k. Community Partnership (tribes, dwp, cities). Broad spectrum of potential users (age, demographic, local vs non). Develops appreciation for each natural landscape adjacent to trail. Communications by local chamber of commerce.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Provide safe non-motorized trail in/around each six communities: Mammoth Lakes, Bishop, Big Pine, Independence, Lone Pine + Furnace Creek.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

New community trail constructed, designated, marketed and maintained. Visitor use monitoring.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Many locals and visitors want a safe experience on a continuous non-motorized trail. Create a world class network.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Each community is set in a beautiful landscape. This celebrates each unique location.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

1st create system of trails. 2nd encourage events/bike rentals. 3rd maintain trails and signs.

Accessible Entry Points to Water (ID# 173)

Date Submitted: 10/31/20

Location: Mono Lake, Navy Beach

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Establish wheelchair access to the water at Mono Lake for people with disabilities.

Project long description: This is a first step towards building off of existing infrastructure and would significantly increase access using a simple, easy to install material called a Mobi-Mat.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The lack of access to popular recreation destinations for people experiencing disabilities, particularly to water. This project recommends a first step towards making the water recreation based areas more accessible for people with disabilities.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Increased access to water and waterways in the Eastern Sierra for people experiencing disabilities.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Considering the needs of people with disabilities is to consider the needs of the greater public and sends a clear message to the community that this is important to the region.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Creating this type of access gives people that have limited to no access to recreation a life changing opportunity to more independently connect with the benefits of nature.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Fishing docks don't provide accessible access to the water, and this is something that applies to recreation across the region. The suggestion for Mono Lake is a great place to start.

Composite Score: 19.57

Stewardship: 6.68

Access: 6.38

Benefits: 6.51

Sherwins Meadow and Mammoth Creek Trails Restoration Project (ID# 139)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Sherwins Meadow, Mammoth Creek corridor

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Reroute, rehab, restore and designate network of sustainable soft-surface system trails and build new connectors to enhance access and mitigate impacts to soils, vegetation, wildlife and archeology.

Project long description: See SHARP, TSMP etc.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Improve and enhance access to quality sustainable recreation adjacent to Mammoth lakes while mitigating and minimizing impacts to resources.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Significant purpose-built trail mileage brought into system; legacy and pirate trails decommissioned.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Providing right-from-home quality recreation opportunities, access and connectivity for underserved communities, visitors, and Mammoth Lakes as a whole.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Mitigates decades of negative impacts from non-system trails, improves quality trail experience, access and connectivity.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Decades of planning have already gone into this and significant leveraged funding exists from municipal sources to help fund robust environmental review and project implementation.

Science-Based Conservation Conversations (ID# 113)

Date Submitted: 10/27/20

Location: Mammoth Lakes area

Project type: Planning and Environmental Review

Project short summary: This project will provide a facilitated forum to address issues in planning for sustainable recreation with minimal environmental impacts

Project long description: This project will provide a facilitated forum where scientists and agency representatives will present the latest research and findings on topics relevant to planning for sustainable recreation with minimal environmental impacts. Managing conflict through science can help to focus conversations on controversial issues in a rational and productive way. We will host a series of meetings and workshops at the new Page Center at the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Lab (SNARL) where leading scientists will present the latest research and address questions from the public on topics ranging from wildlife migration to forest management. Many of these issues underly smart planning for recreation that is indeed 'sustainable'. Workshops and meetings such as these, where institutions of higher education are partners can help to ensure that stakeholder engagement and credible science are strong components of the planning process.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Science-based planning, stakeholder engagement, environmental impacts

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Evaluation of participants knowledge attitudes and behaviors before and after workshops, as well as production of a sustainable recreation plan that has incorporated the best available scientific information.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This project will bring stakeholders together for productive dialog about how best to enhance recreational opportunities in a way that is sustainable.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

The people that are recreating will benefit from having a place to do so that has been evaluated to ensure that it will be sustainable over time.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

SNARL is part of the University of California and we have access to a large number of UC scientists that are experts in many environmental areas. At SNARL we also have experience hosting meetings, workshops and seminars including a diverse contingent of participants and stakeholders. This project will provide an opportunity for us to use our facilities and personnel to build on these relationships and experience to benefit the communities of the Eastern Sierra.

Composite Score: 19.52

Stewardship: 6.8

Access: 6.32

Benefits: 6.4

Bishop Creek Recreation Area (ID# 69)

Date Submitted: 9/29/20

Location: Bishop Creek drainage

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: A wholesale look at the Bishop Creek drainage as a recreation area

Project long description: Campgrounds, water systems, day use parking, sewage treatment plant upgrade, interpretive trails, climber's campground, etc. all could be address in this project with a long term view of how to manage the increasing use in the Bishop Creek drainage.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This large scale project will improve the visitor experience and manage environmental impacts. It will require partnering with Forest Service, BLM, Inyo County, SCE, DWP, local communities and non-profits. Quite frankly, this project is what I thought ESSRP was all about.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

A vibrant, environmentally friendly Bishop Creek Recreation area.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This project will not only draw new visitors, but also serve the residents and current visitors as well.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Better facilities, more interpretive sites, upgraded infrastructure.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Composite Score: 19.52

Stewardship: 5.98

Access: 6.62

Benefits: 6.92

Eastern Sierra Regional Trail (ID# 125)

Date Submitted: 10/29/20

Location: Highway 395 Communities

Project type: Trail Planning

Project short summary: Revisit the Eastern Sierra Regional Trail Concept proposed from Topaz to Bishop

Project long description: Trail systems within each community, linked to a greater Regional Trail System connecting all Highway 395 communities

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Many challenges - geographical, cultural, historic, environmental. Opportunities include mobility, transportation, disbursement of users, stimulus to local economies - a 3 season regional trail for bikepackers, hikers, equestrian, etc. across jurisdictions and "outside" snow-line/ Wilderness

What will indicate this project has been a success?

A regional trail that reflects regional values and connects communities

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

The regional trail proposed several years ago as a Mono County planning document connects each unique gateway community within the Eastern Sierra. Developing formal recreation in the front country will relieve impacts to sensitive areas along the Sierra Crest and benefit 3-4 season rec.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

World-Class recreation that is iconic to the Eastern Sierra and benefits the natural environment (including its human residents).

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

This concept has been batted around every stakeholder meeting I've been to in some form or another. Much of the infrastructure currently exists informally but requires careful planning and community input. I thought it needed to be shared in this exercise since it has come up so often.

ESSRP Education Programs & Collections (ID# 37)

Date Submitted: 8/25/20

Location: Each public library branch within the region

Project type: Education

Project short summary: An annual grant to create/maintain/promote books, videos, online resources, etc that relate to "sustainable recreation"

Project long description: Each of the 3 county library systems are allotted funds to acquire, maintain and promote small collections that align directly to the ESSRP Values below to educate and inspire local communities about sustainable recreation and how it applies to the Eastern Sierra. Promotion would be in the form of regular partner programming with the likes of ESLT, Friends of the Inyo, ESIA, local chambers (recreation-related businesses), sustainable recreation experts, schools, etc.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

To increase awareness and understanding of, as well as respect for, sustainable recreation as it pertains to Eastern Sierra communities. An outcome would be more community-level support for ESSRP initiatives, more volunteerism for local nonprofits, etc.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Each collection is relevant to its area and its contents and related programs are well used by locals and visitors alike.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It gives each of them a regular, tangible, usable resource to better understand the value of sustainable recreation and their role in it that can be consumed individually or in group discussion/educational programming.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It educates and inspires their recreation of choice and through programs can connect them to other like-minded individuals forming groups that can become 'communities of practice' around local recreation activities.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Composite Score: 19.48

Stewardship: 5.73

Access: 6.84

Benefits: 6.91

Bishop to Laws (ID# 66)

Date Submitted: 9/26/20

Location: Bishop

Project type: Trail Planning

Project short summary: Create a paved pathway from the Visitor Center (with wayfinding) to Laws Railroad Museum.

Project long description: Create a tie from downtown Bishop's most popular gathering place to this wonderful outdoor museum. Give people the excuse to exercise safely on a smooth pathway with a wealth of history and a fantastic family picnic area at the other end.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Challenge: Cross the Owens River and create infrastructure on LADWP land.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Getting our community and guests on the same path to fitness.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Making Bishop the Hub to access historical museums by bike, or on foot.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Safe, paved, ADA accessible recreation path connecting history and heritage with the vibrancy of downtown and amazing views along the way.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

This has been a dream of generations in the past. It sure would be nice to see it realized...someday.

Composite Score: 19.47

Stewardship: 7.46

Access: 5.3

Benefits: 6.71

TANGLE FREE WATERS (ID# 102)

Date Submitted: 10/22/20

Location: MAMMOTH/MONO COUNTY

Project type: Stewardship and Volunteers

Project short summary: TO KEEP OUR AQUATIC RESOURCES CLEAN, PRISTINE, FREE OF FISHING LINE HOOKS LEAD SINKERS THAT BUILDUP YEARLY IN THE WATERS AND SURROUNDING HABITAT CAUSING IMPACTS TO PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE.

Project long description: THERE ARE MANY VOLUNTEERS WILLING TO HELP ON THE LAND AND ON THE WATER IN REMOVAL OF TANGLED FISHING LINE AND HOOKS. FOR DECADES PLASTIC LINE HAS BEEN DEGRADING IN OUR WATERS INTO MICROPLASTIC PARTICLES. WE ALSO NEED TO GET A READING ON OUR WATERS FOR THE VOLUME OF MICROPLASTIC PARTICLES. THE TOURISM VOLUME IS SO LARGE THAT DURING THE SUMMER PEAK MONTHS WE NEED HELP TO GET ACCESS TO THE LAKES AND CREEKS TO PROVIDE THE CLEANUP THAT IS SO NECESSARY FOR HUMAN AND WILDLIFE HEALTH.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

CLEAN DRINKING WATER. SAFE WATER RECREATION. SAFETY FOR SPECIES OF WILD BIRDS NEEDING ACCESS TO THIS RESOURCE TOO FOR THEIR SURVIVAL, WITHOUT BECOMING ENTANGLED IN DECADES OF FISHING LINE HOOK LITTER NOT REMOVED FROM THIS PRECIOUS ESSENTIAL RESOURCE.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

WHEN HIGH VOLUME FISHING LITTER IS REMOVED.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

CLEAN WATER. CLEAN PRISTINE RESOURCES AGAIN.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

DEGRADING LITTER NOT SEEN EVERYWHERE AS WELL AS THE PUBLIC NOT SEEING WILD BIRDS TANGLED AND STRUGGLING FOR SURVIVAL IN BUNDLES OF DISCARDED FISHING LINE AND HOOKS.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Alabama Hills Stewardship Ranger Program (ID# 2)

Date Submitted: 7/3/20

Location: Alabama Hills

Project type: Stewardship and Volunteers

Project short summary: Using restoration destination tourism projects to pay for staff and facilities that can engage with visitors.

Project long description: Who: BLM ESIA, AHSR; What: Paid Personnel who will work to educate the public through social media; interpretive programs (cultural and natural history); Facility - kiosk, picnic area, signage & interpretive space; Self-Funding Programs - restoration destination tourism - use fees, shuttle service

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Challenge: enforcement of good behavior in the Alabama Hills; Opportunity: education and stewardship

What will indicate this project has been a success?

1. Users are more gentle on the land - they understand and comply because they want to; 2. No poop, crushed brush; maintained infrastructure; 3. Doesn't look like a parking lot; 4. Self funding programs

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

1. Tourism money 2. Jobs 3. More trust in the users that they will do the right thing, not "us vs. them"

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

1. Good facilities and guidelines for use. 2. Cultural, historical and natural history resources. 3. Enforcement and education

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Use local artist/tribes for signs

Composite Score: 19.45

Stewardship: 6.21

Access: 6.5

Benefits: 6.74

Bodie Hills Mountain Bike Trails (ID# 141)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Bodie Hills

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Build well-designed network of sustainable soft-surface nonmotorized singletrack trails to provide quality access to wildlands and opportunities for nonmotorized recreation.

Project long description: In the past there has been significant support for this concept from the environmental community as a way to provide more sustainable economic development, quality of life and recreation opportunities for the Bridgeport Valley than the development of gold mining.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Enhance quality sustainable nonmotorized recreation opportunities for North County.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

A quality sustainable trails network gets built and proves a true economic driver for Bridgeport and North County.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Would add greater diversity of quality recreational opportunities to North County communities, where currently motorized and hiking opportunities dominate, as well as building a larger constituency of supporters and defenders of this unique and sensitive landscape.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Quality access to nonmotorized trail experiences in an unparalleled landscape.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Bishop to Tablelands (ID# 57)

Date Submitted: 9/15/20

Location: Pleasant Valley

Project type: Planning and Environmental Review

Project short summary: This project would complete a full bike path from the City of Bishop to the Chalk Bluff Road, giving access to the Tablelands from town.

Project long description: Right now there is a patchwork of dirt roads from the City of Bishop towards Chalk Bluff Road and the tablelands, but it falls short in the full connection due to the lack of a bridge to cross the Owens Valley at Pleasant Valley. Completing such a bridge would encourage sustainable recreation by removing the need to drive to the tablelands for many dirt bikers, fishermen, as well as many people wanting to recreate in the climbing areas off of Chalk Bluff Road.

In particular, there is a route that begins behind the Catholic Church and heads north. It crosses the highway and goes 1 mile on DWP dirt road (over a pedestrian bridge) before it crosses Dixon lane before arriving at Riverside drive; where it goes 3.5 miles before dead-ending at the Owens River in Pleasant Valley -- within a few hundred feet of Chalk Bluff Road and the Happy Boulders. All we need is a bridge to complete this route!!!

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Access to the tablelands that does not require motor vehicles.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

We should see increased usage of the path, but also a decrease in the number of cars that park at the recreation areas along Chalk Bluff Road.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It will allow for your tablelands adventure to start right out of your house; it also has the potential to create new business enterprises with porter services (i.e., hire someone to take a crashpad to the Happy boulder trailhead, and you bike there)

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It vastly improves it. You can begin recreating outside your front door instead of having to drive in order to recreate.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

I understand this is an undertaking, with environmental concerns and working with DWP, but I think it would be beneficial to a variety of user groups.

Kiosk trailhead ohv Information (ID# 53)

Date Submitted: 9/8/20

Location: Winter/summer trailheads mono/Inyo co

Project type: Education

Project short summary: Provide trail map information to winter/summer ohv enthusiasts, include a code of responsibility to protect the area's natural, cultural, social resources and maintain sustainability of the region

Project long description: This project would emulate the information found at most USFS trailheads but focus would be on the winter/summer ohv population that recreates on our public lands . Major areas of use would be targeted and also serve as an educational tool to promote sustainable/responsible use of our eastern Sierra resources.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Educate the public about our resources and their responsible use. Conservation and sustainability for future generations to continue using our resources. Mapping information will help keep users on existing trails/roads to prevent environmental damage due to unnecessary cross country travel.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Users will demonstrate responsible behaviors and less environmental damage

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

A well marked and maintained ohv system will draw new and repeat visitation

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Gives the person an opportunity to recreate in quality environments that have maintained themselves without degradation

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

This project would help promote sustainable responsible Use of public Lands and resources.

Connected Communities (ID# 24)

Date Submitted: 7/31/20

Location: Eastern Sierra

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Every Main Street, school, park, campground, and neighborhood should have free public connections to extensive multi-use trail systems with connections between communities and transit services.

Project long description: There are few miles of public access multi-use trails in the Eastern Sierra that connect to communities and other activity centers. We have parking problems at trailheads and other symptoms of failing infrastructure/services. Connecting communities with trails will offer residents and visitors alternatives to using cars, SUV's, trucks. Connecting people to nature without the costs of fuel, \$ trail access, and time creates better and healthier communities. The Sierra Nevada Conservancy is funding a similar effort in northern California right now and it could be a model for one of the tracts for this effort. Even if we just focused on trail systems next to schools and Main Streets, it would be huge. Right now, many of the only trails were illegally constructed and can't be shared publicly. By providing large systems of well designed trails, we can mitigate impacts to many popular trails that were not designed with sustainability in mind that are in sensitive wilderness areas today.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

There are so many reasons to support free public access, multi-use trails that connect communities and provide outdoor recreation opportunities. Human health, instilling conservation ethics, education, alternative transportation options, etc.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Every person in each community in the Eastern Sierra has free public access to a large system of well designed multi-use trails without having to drive to a staging area. Further, each system is connected by main arteries, creating opportunities to have a trail experience from community to community. Leaving the car behind because we can.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Trail experiences are what many of the residents and visitors to the Eastern Sierra desire. There is huge intrinsic value for well designed public access trail systems and the economic development value is well proven.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Well designed public access, multi-use trail systems provide free access to all people and by connecting systems to community cores, schools, campgrounds, etc., the experience becomes seamless from the front door to the great wide open.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Please, please, please consider this as way to address human health, education, transportation, economic development, equitable access, and to optimize existing antiquated infrastructure.

Providing Access to People of All Abilities (ID# 172)

Date Submitted: 10/31/20

Location: Regionwide

Project type: Planning and Environmental Review

Project short summary: Develop planning tools and a community based advisory committee to standardize the inclusion of accessibility in planning and decision-making for recreation related projects.

Project long description: 58.3% of Americans have mobility issues that limit their access to public lands without accommodations. In 2017 CA had the largest disabled population in the country. In 2030 CA will remain the state with the largest disabled population. Obesity alone has gone from an average of 10% of the population, in 1990, to an average of 28% in 2018 with no change in trajectory in the future. The lakes and other recreational attractions in the Eastern Sierra, on public lands have little or no accommodations for the majority of the population of the country, 58.3%. It is the goal to make agencies aware of the need for accessibility in existing and planned projects and assist where possible. To support this, it is recommended that there be a standard process adopted to consider how each project will support people with disabilities accessing recreation opportunities.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

That people experiencing disabilities do not have equitable access to the recreation experiences of others, particularly when it comes to developed infrastructure.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

If projects that come from members of the ESSRP use a criteria to determine how projects support people with disabilities accessing the outdoors.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It would help ensure that everyone, especially local residents, would have more equitable access to the recreation opportunities in the region.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

At some point, everyone experiences some kind of disability. It might be temporary or it might come with age but it happens. The benefits of time outside is severely cut off or limited when all recreation assets are designed with one type of person in mind.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

It is also the goal to ensure that all devices and means that will assist with better access for Wounded Warriors and others with similar needs are provided for and encouraged.

Markleeville Creek Restoration Project and Heritage Park restrooms, access, and signage (ID# 58)

Date Submitted: 9/17/20

Location: Markleeville, CA

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Construct new public restrooms, parking, accessible trails, viewing platform, and interpretive signage at a 5 acre site along Markleeville Creek as part of a major stream restoration project.

Project long description: The project is to enhance public park type amenities including approximately ten (10) parking spaces, an ADA accessible restroom, 250 ft of ADA accessible trail to a viewing platform at the bank of the restored Markleeville Creek, and interpretive signage.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

High quality public amenities instead of existing portable restrooms for visitors to Markleeville. Improvement of an under utilized site for recreation and visitor services.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Hardscape improvements and restored open space and creek accessible to the public. Use of the hardscape improvements by users of the restoration site

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Markleeville is a vital gateway to the Eastern Sierra. The project creates an accessibility to a restored open space and creek access within the town of Markleeville which doesn't currently exist. The site will act as improved traveler services those recreating on the adjacent public lands.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

The project restores natural stream function to a creek with public access immediately adjacent to the historic town of Markleeville. The project restrooms, parking, and site trail enhancements combine visitor needs of restrooms, local business services, and open space in the same location.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

The project has been two decades in the making with the abandonment of the former USFS Guard Station in 2009, acquisition of the site by Alpine County, and design, environmental, and permitting ongoing. CalTrans will replace the bridge immediately upstream of the project site. More info about the bridge replacement: <http://www.alpinecountycalifornia.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3415>. The bridge project is connected to and enhances the creek restoration with improved pedestrian and bicycle connections.

Access Trail to Mammoth Rock (ID# 35)

Date Submitted: 8/25/20

Location: Mammoth

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: There is now an informal trail to the rock which is a mess. The project will build/restore the trail to the rock.

Project long description: As I recall, the trail has 3 sections: 1) from Old Mammoth Road up a jeep road to a clearing: remove all trash and mining debris at the clearing. 2) From the clearing up to the meadow: this section is a steep eroded/braided mess. Build switchbacks designed to discourage short cutting. 3) From the meadow to the rock: another steep horrible/braided mess. Restore the old/overgrown trail that went through the meadow into the woods and then up to the rock. It's easy to find in the woods. Restore/renaturalize the destroyed slopes and install fallen trees and brush barriers to prevent short-cutting.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Improve access and restore natural landscape

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Trail users do not short cut it and recreate the current mess.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Adds another short easy trail to a major visual feature of the natural landscape in Mammoth.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Provides access to a major visual landscape feature that is not currently accessible to a majority of the recreating public.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

It might also include work to make the summit of the rock more accessible. Not so sure how well that effort might be received.

Rebuilding The Tower of Babel; Solving all the World's Problems (ID# 7)

Date Submitted: 7/3/20

Location: Eastern Sierra

Project type: Outreach and Communications

Project short summary: This project will identify ways to provide information, useful to locals, but targeted to visitors on stewardship and recreating sustainably.

Project long description: This project will create conventional educational kiosks that interface with web and social-media platforms. This information will promote sustainable recreation, encourage stewardship, provide information across all agencies, use inclusive language and tribal naming conventions, improve the visitor experience, and integrate into different stakeholder and land manager websites and visitor centers.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Higher Visitation Silos of information. Lack of capacity/staffing. User-conflict. Multiple different cultures/nationalities accessing the same land (language barriers) Lack of accountability in marketing .

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Success will be measured quantitatively by how many visitors content reaches. This will be measured by website hits, hashtags, number of brochures publicized, etc... Other scientific measures will be used such as forest health, species health, number of illegal trails, parking spots, and fire rings, etc... Empirical evidence. Critical to report out on success stories so that users know that their actions matter and make a difference.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Visitors are introduced to a set of ethics before embarking on other adventures and destinations. By providing better visitor services and consistent regional messaging, we communicate users "have arrived" There is a lack of regionally consistent we are not all reading from the same hymn book.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Users leave with a fuller knowledge of the area and become advocates for the land. User-conflicts are resolved with planning and consistent messaging across the board. All users feel welcomed and gain info before they arrive and along the way. The land is better cared for.

Cont.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Who: Content will be provided by land managers, and subject matter experts (i.e. recreation stakeholders from OHV, OSV, Birding, Angler, Hiking, Biking, Climbing communities, etc.), as well as with input from tribal leaders. It is intended that this information serves all but finds users where they live (i.e. front-load the conversation by providing information to bay-area indoor climbing gyms, interfacing with travel websites and regional marketing teams, All-Trails, MTB Project, etc.)

What: Static and Dynamic regional messaging that resounds with visitors and is shared by individual land managers and communities

When: ASAP - Should incorporate messaging for four-season recreation users

Why: This will improve the visitor experience as well as shared stewardship of the land. By educating the public, you create advocates for the land, and inspire visitors to return. By front-loading the conversation, visitors will better know where

to stay, what to do, and how to do it sustainably. Visitors leave with a sense of responsibility and ownership and become ambassadors for positive change. i. Static kiosks should be considered at public access points and at gateway communities (i.e. Alabama Hills, the Buttermilks, Visitor Centers, Hwy 395 rest areas, Mammoth Lakes, etc...) Staging areas, new/existing pull-outs should be considered for kiosk locations. (i.e. the big pull out in Buttermilks and Alabama Hills). Visitor/Welcome Centers and guiding/outfitting shops should contain brochures, maps, and guides with shared information. ii.

Consistent messaging should be integrated into regional marketing including social media platforms and websites, as well as reaching folks where they live and plan their trips (i.e. indoor rock gyms, etc.)

This project would create a single social media container to share information from different agencies, and best practices.

Composite Score: 19.15

Stewardship: 6.5

Access: 6.15

Benefits: 6.5

Trailhead information kiosks (ID# 77)

Date Submitted: 10/7/20

Location: Inyo National Forest and Bishop BLM management area

Project type: Education

Project short summary: Update all trailhead information kiosks

Project long description: The trailhead kiosks have been in place for decades and are not only showing wear and tear, but also need to be updated with current information (i.e. no drones in wilderness)

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Education of public lands users

What will indicate this project has been a success?

New information kiosks on INF and BLM public lands

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Better user experience and less resource damage due to the information and education offered by the kiosks.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Give the user a better understanding of the public lands they are using

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

This seems like an ideal project for the ESSRP.

Composite Score: 19.15

Stewardship: 7.2

Access: 5.22

Benefits: 6.73

Community Clean Ups (ID# 133)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Lakes Bassin in Mammoth

Project type: Maintenance

Project short summary: We try and get the community to come together and walk around different portions of Mammoth and clean up the trash and litter they see.

Project long description: Different groups would go to different areas of Mammoth and collect and trash and litter they see. We would also have a donation box to try and get more trash cans placed in Mammoth to limit the amount of litter that's thrown on the ground.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The amount of trash I see in Mammoth mainly during Tourist season is very disappointing and im hoping to change that.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Reduced amounts of litter

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It will give a cleaner and healthier environment

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It gets them outside walking and talking to members of the community they might not have before.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

no.

Mono-Yosemite-Conway Trail System (ID# 124)

Date Submitted: 10/29/20

Location: Conway Summit, Mono Basin, Tioga Pass

Project type: Trail Planning

Project short summary: A trail system which links Conway Summit, Virginia Lakes turnoff, Conway Ranch, Matley Ranch, the Mono Basin, Mono Lake, Yosemite NP, and the Community of Lee Vining

Project long description: A 2014 planning document conceived by local community stakeholders, inter-agency staff, multiple user groups and non-profits proposed several trail concepts linking the Yosemite, Lee Vining, Lundy Canyon, and Mono Lake sub-region(s). These trail concepts could be further developed to link the communities of Mono City and Lee Vining along Mono Lake's western shoreline (multi-use pathway).

Opportunities also exist to utilize old Highway 395 as an uphill climber lane to create world class multi-use trails descending down Rattlesnake/Bacon/Rancheria Gulch with connections to Conway Ranch and Wilson Creek - as well as trails descending from Virginia Lake turnoff and Conway Summit along the flanks of Copper Mountain to Matley Ranch.

This area is the geographic nexus of several distinct communities of unincorporated Mono County and has strong ties to the communities of Lee Vining, Mono City, June Lake, Bridgeport, and visitor outflow from Yosemite National Park.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The area offers 4 season recreation opportunities that may benefit surrounding communities and compliment the natural environment. The area also provides habitat for Bi-State Sage-Grouse as well as several other unique species that should be considered.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Safe, fun, and environmentally responsible dispersement of users with connections to rural communities and main street businesses.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Managed recreation will help disperse the outflow of visitors from Yosemite National Park and to provide world-class trails that are linked to rural economies and enjoyed by both locals and visitors of the Eastern Sierra.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Incredible opportunities, particularly for equestrian and mountain bikers in the area of Conway Summit - as well as anglers and Yosemite outflow. The potential recreation benefits of a multi-use pathway along the shores of Mono Lake are world-class and would help tell the story of Mono Basin.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Several aspects of this project have been articulated by local community members. The project requires further conceptual development, community vetting, and environmental analysis but the benefits for both Mono Basin and its implications for a regional system of trails is enormous.

Coldwater Campground/Trailhead Improvement (ID# 47)

Date Submitted: 9/4/20

Location: Mammoth Lakes Basin/Coldwater Campground & Trailhead

Project type: Fixing and improving existing bathrooms, roads, trails, and other infrastructure

Project short summary: Redesign the Coldwater campground and trailhead to re-route the access road so that vehicles don't loop through the campground. Repair roads, install vault toilets, and clean up the mine site.

Project long description: Every weekend in July and August 2020, the Coldwater campground and trailhead area has been a crowded mess--too many people in too many cars traveling over crumbling roadways into parking spaces and campsites that were not designed for the type of use they are getting. Redesign this entire recreation site: re-route the access road to provide two-way trailhead access for cars, bikes, and public transportation; replace failing bathrooms with vault toilets; redesign the campground to move sites away from water and to accomodate today's RVs. Clean up the consolidated mine site and re-think the entire interpretive area: there are many other stories to tell, and much more information that today's visitors and recreationists need in order responsibly and sustainably experience and enjoy this place. Build new and redesign old interpretive trails. Engage partners. This will require extensive environmental and archeological review--this cannot and should not deter addressing serious issues.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Fixing failing infrastructure (roads, bathrooms, parking lot) to improve visitor experience, sustainability and watershed protection. Reduce congestion at a popular recreation site/wilderness (including John Muir Trail) access site.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

An improved campground/trailhead/recreation site, with less congestion, adequate infrastructure, and better, more inclusive information and interpretation.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This will vastly improve the experience at a popular trailhead/campground in Mammoth Lakes for both locals and visitors, and will contribute to watershed protection for Mammoth's water supply.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Recreationists (camping, sight-seeing, hiking and biking) will have a vastly improved experience, one that could be reached with public transportation.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

This project idea was discussed during the LABSS collaborative planning process.

Composite Score: 18.99

Stewardship: 5.3

Access: 6.82

Benefits: 6.87

Eastern Sierra Class 1 Bike Trail (ID# 27)

Date Submitted: 8/10/20

Location: Mono Lake to Olancha (or further)

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Construct a paved class 1 bike trail through Owens Valley and the Eastern Sierra.

Project long description: Portions of the Old Carson and Colorado Railroad could be used.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Increase bicycle tourism, as well as bicycling within communities.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

When a paved bike trail exists from Olancha to Mono Lake.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It would make them more walkable and increase tourism.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Would vastly improve the experience of a cyclist recreating.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Composite Score: 18.93

Stewardship: 7.16

Access: 5.4

Benefits: 6.37

Scheelite Canyon Stewardship (ID# 106)

Date Submitted: 10/23/20

Location: Scheelite Canyon (AKA Pratt's Crack Canyon), Pine Creek

Project type: Maintenance

Project short summary: Staging area improvements for popular climbing areas in Scheelite Canyon, Pine Creek.

Project long description: The popularity of Pine Creek as a climbing destination has exploded in the last few years, especially since the publication of a new climbing guidebook. The most popular crags in the canyon - the Mustache, Ministry, and Gecko walls, in Scheelite Canyon - have seen a dramatic increase in use, and the resultant environmental impact. Braided social trails and unstable slopes are becoming a problem below the Mustache and Ministry walls. Rehabilitating unnecessary social trails and reinforcing low profile, strong staging areas at the base of these walls will prevent longer-term impact and edegradation.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Environmental impact to a popular climbing area.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Singular trail systems to access the Mustache and Ministry walls, and well-defined, solid staging areas at the bases, ultimately leading to healthy, well-vegetated slopes below the crags.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Resource protection - preserving the quality of the visitor experience.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

A sound and healthy recreational environment.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Composite Score: 18.92

Stewardship: 6.08

Access: 6.3

Benefits: 6.54

Recreation Road System (ID# 122)

Date Submitted: 10/29/20

Location: Eastern Sierra

Project type: Road Planning, Maintenance and repair

Project short summary: Recreational roads in our area lack an organized system of planning, repair and maintenance.

Project long description: Some roads have become impassible due to lack of repair.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Demand for recreational roads is increasing while existing roads are becoming unusable.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

A well organized and maintained system of recreational roads.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

There is increasing demand for a well organized system of facilities supported by local communities.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Our area has a vast resource of potential outdoor travel experiences.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Something like this has been needed for years.

Composite Score: 18.91

Stewardship: 7.35

Access: 5.33

Benefits: 6.23

AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS (ID# 33)

Date Submitted: 8/20/20

Location: MAMMOTH LAKES

Project type: Outreach and Communications

Project short summary: RETURN THE MAMMOTH LAKES AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS TO THEIR PRISTINE CONDITION & MAINTAIN THEM WITH OUR COMMERCIAL USE OF THEM.

Project long description: SUSTAINABLE USE OF OUR AQUATIC ECOSYSTEMS THAT WE SHARE WITH MANY OTHER SPECIES OF WILDLIFE.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

RESPONSIBLE USE THE RESOURCES.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

THE RESOURCES WILL BE IN GOOD CONDITION AND SUSTAINED.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

SUSTAINABLE HEALTHY PRISTINE RESOURCES ONCE AGAIN AFTER A LONG TIME OF DEGRADATION.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

EVERYONE LOVES RESOURCES IN GOOD PRISTINE CONDITION.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Alpine County Gateway Project (ID# 177)

Date Submitted: 10/31/20

Location: Alpine County (Markleeville)

Project type: Programming

Project short summary: Create an Alpine County gateway experience that includes an interactive Visitor Center, satellite information booths, and education strategies that attract, educate, and engage visitors.

Project long description: At the northern gateway to the Eastern Sierras lies Alpine County, rich in outdoor recreation opportunity, but lacking the resources to build a comprehensive visitor engagement & education program. The existing Visitor's Center is facing critical funding cuts, affecting staffing and resources for high quality programs. This project would create a year-round interactive visitor experience, providing a taste of the recreation opportunities within the County and into the Eastern Sierras. Combined with satellite information booths placed throughout the County, improved wayfinding, and educational strategies around area history, culture, and environmental stewardship, visitors can stay engaged at multiple touch points. Finally, with sufficient staffing to facilitate interagency collaboration, consistent marketing communications, and enhanced cultural, historical, and environmental education programs, the Visitor's Center will be able to better serve all stakeholders.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

A decline in funding limits our ability to provide information, services & resources for visitors. Also, being isolated from two travel corridors during winter, consistent communications, visitor services, relevant & engaging materials are critical to keep the County a vibrant & viable destination.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Success will be evidenced by programming enhancements, visitor engagement and feedback efforts, collaborative approaches to program development, and ultimately greater usage of the Eastern Sierra communities for recreation and leisure.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This project has the potential to be a gateway of information, cultural education, environmental stewardship, and business integration, ultimately striving to preserve communities while sharing our resources.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

By improving visitor engagement at multiple touchpoints, visitors will be better informed, more prepared for their visit, and ultimately more pleased with their experience than if left to navigate the sparsely populated areas on their own.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

This project is multifaceted, and could easily coincide with some of the others already submitted, particularly regarding wayfinding, trails mapping, facilities, etc.

Defining Sustainable: Where is the tipping point? (ID# 52)

Date Submitted: 9/7/20

Location: Entire Region

Project type: Planning and Environmental Review

Project short summary: As we work together to build additional recreational opportunities in the Eastern Sierra, a first step should be to define sustainable at various scales and locations in the region.

Project long description: Increasing pressure on natural resources has a limit. While significant economic opportunity is here we need to ensure that increasing recreational opportunities can happen without compromising local conservation values. What is the actual carrying capacity of a given trailhead, day use area, community? Do we have the law enforcement/ educators/ community patrols/stewards to ensure we are not compromising the very thing we flock to experience? When is enough enough? This question is a fundamental first step into understanding what our target is, how we intend to manage it and then to select projects that will help achieve those goals/objectives. If this is a sustainable recreation planning effort, are we all clear on what "sustainable" really means? I expect it can mean different things to different people and different places can handle more than others, but what are we striving for beyond economic growth and are we on the same page?

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

To ensure we can protect the valuable experiences and natural resources our home has to offer and be sure that we are capable of preserving those places and experiences long into the future.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Result in an approved plan that provides clear definition of carrying capacity for recreation expansion in the Eastern Sierra

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

We assess that we have the staffing and enforcement to care for and protect our valuable natural resources that are under increasing pressure from a growing population.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

We don't create the same overcrowded experience that urban areas have. This experience needs to be different, it's why we live here and why many people come.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

I know this is a complex ask and will take considerable effort, but taking time to understand what each recreation area can handle will pay dividends in the long run. The population is only going to increase, let's be prepared.

Forest Stewards & Trash Management (ID# 75)

Date Submitted: 10/4/20

Location: Lakes Basin Sites + Dispersed Camping Areas

Project type: Management; Enforcement; Forest Protection

Project short summary: Problem: "Camp Hosts" seem unable to address issues in developed camp grounds plus dispersed camping is destroying our forests as there is no management or oversight for those areas.

Project long description: Developed camp grounds need additional dumpsters and personnel to walk sites from sunup to 10 PM quiet time. Pass out flyers, counsel campers, educate. Hire these folks as a second layer beyond the traditional camp hosts. Model it like Mammoth Mountain hosts who are there to help and educate but also be able to call in assistance when needed. Dispersed camping needs to be reviewed and eliminated if there are not enough resources to patrol and enforce limitations (such as no fire, trash, pooping, etc), then a resource needs to be put in place as part of a new prohibition on dispersed camping. There needs to be "regional overlays" where dispersed is prohibited due to gross overuse and no enforcement ability, with the balance of areas still allowing this use.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Overuse of our regions developed campgrounds; protecting wildlife from becoming dependant on overflowing trash for food; eliminating destruction of forest areas by dispersed camping overuse.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Developed camp ground maintenance; eliminate excess trash access by wildlife; eliminate dispersed camping destruction of forests.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Less concern for a wild fire destroying our community; education in developed camp grounds = better campers; dispersed camping prohibition overlay = healthy local forest areas.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Better experience in developed camp grounds with education and enforcement; better experience on local day hikes with no dispersed camping overlay near developed towns.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

If we don't take control of our regional camp grounds and forests, we might as well be in a high population urban area. Limits to the number of campers and where they can and/or can not go, will improve the experience for visitors, guests, campers and local residents who had to go out and address the issues we saw this summer.

Eastern Sierra Valley Rail Trails Network (ID# 36)

Date Submitted: 8/25/20

Location: Mono/Inyo Counties

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Connect Benton to Owens Lake and all communities inbetween with rail trails designed to encourage activity, learning and escape

Project long description: Create a 100+ mile paved and/or hard-pack trail to accommodate biking and walking/running with regularly spaced locally maintained facilities that offer shade, restrooms, picnic tables, water, wi-fi, interp signage and occasionally open air 'auditorium' style seating (25-50 people) to allow for interpretive events facilitated by ESIA, Friends of the Inyo, ESLT, community org's, etc. Each community along the way would have paved 'connector' allowing for easy use to encourage exercise, activity and exploration and as well encourage trail users to explore communities they usually only drive by (Benton, Chalfant, Laws, Bishop, etc etc etc). This would in turn encourage entrepreneurial growth in smaller areas and support fledgling businesses ("Flo's Diner" in Chalfant, etc). Based on experience with rail trails in other areas of the US users would span all ages and pavement/hard pack would invite inclusive use by people with disabilities.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Encourage outdoor exploration at the valley floor level, get cyclists off the highway, spotlight lesser-known communities in our area.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

The trail is constantly used, virally-promoted and a source of pride for each community.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It gives each of them a voice in the interpretive connection to the land on which the trail crosses, through interp signage, events, and easy connection to explore outside without needing a car. Also invites trail users to explore communities along the way, spending time & money.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It provides a safe, wide open, inclusive opportunity to recreate, exercise and learn either in groups or in solitude, for a quarter mile or for 100 miles. It acknowledges the ecosystem and history of the valleys as well as the panoramas of the surrounding mountains.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

The important key to making this more than just a rail trail is the active involvement of area educational/advocacy nonprofits and local community organizations and businesses. Like campground talks or visitor center auditoriums, this project provides periodic onsite gathering locals for talks, discussions, meet ups, etc. that add purpose to the trail.

Inclusive fishing (ID# 96)

Date Submitted: 10/18/20

Location: Mammoth Creek - TOML

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Add accessible paths and "platforms" that creates accessible means for all individual who desire to experience fishing that opportunity.

Project long description: Adding accessible pathways from current parking areas to Mammoth Creek and to add a few accessible platforms that allow for inclusive access to all individuals who desire to experience fishing has the opportunity. Also serves as a place to simply enjoy the beauty, sound, and other wildlife and fauna within the area of Mammoth Creek.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Provide a close to Town location for accessible fishing opportunities to all who desire the experience.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

The use of the new facilities by those who have had no previous opportunity.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Direct demonstration of support for accessible experience of stream fishing adding a distinction of available opportunity in the Eastern Sierra.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Adds value to a disable or person with other limitations to enjoy an outdoor activity in a safe and natural means that they may not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Added amenities builds on a heritage of Mammoth Lakes and the Eastern Sierra in serving and providing opportunities for disabled individual to experience outdoor recreational activities.

Composite Score: 18.67

Stewardship: 5.63

Access: 6.43

Benefits: 6.61

Community Connection Path (ID# 162)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Crowley to Mammoth

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: This project would involve creating a path that goes in-between Crowley and Mammoth. This path allows people to travel on a bike or by foot between the two towns.

Project long description: It would be used for both recreation and commuting from town to town. The communities are separated by only 15 miles and there is currently no safe way to travel on foot or bike between the two. People could also use this path to cross country ski between the towns during the winter.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This project would improve safety for those commuting between the towns by bike or by foot.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

An indication of its success is people using the trail that goes between Mammoth and Crowley.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It will connect the two communities and it will allow those who do not feel comfortable in the backcountry to still have a safe, healthy outdoor experience. If the trail is paved, it could also be wheelchair accessible.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It gives people a safe space, that is not too far from a community, to enjoy the outdoors.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

If this is successful, it would be wonderful if we could have a trail like this from Bishop to Lee Vining in order to connect more communities. This could possibly positively impact the tourism by providing safe alternatives to bike touring on the highway.

Interpretive campground programming (ID# 78)

Date Submitted: 10/8/20

Location: Developed campgrounds in Mammoth Lakes and June Lake

Project type: Education

Project short summary: Interpretive "rangers" who would visit new campers and walk through the campgrounds at night teaching about bears, food storage, fire extinguishing and other information related to their visit.

Project long description: Between 2-5 (to be determined based on needs - start low and grow) interpretive rangers or ambassadors whose job it would be to interact with campers starting around 3 or 4 in the afternoon and talking to them about bears, food storage, fire extinguishing and other information. They would meet them in their site, preferably on the first day of their stay, and their only job would be giving information so that the visitor can ask as many questions as necessary and there can be a real engagement and conversation. On nights like Saturday where there aren't many new campers, this same team could put on bigger interpretive campfire sessions (this could still occur in covid times especially with four or five employees doing different "campfire" programs throughout the campground)

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

EDUCATION, Bear interactions, fire safety, etc

What will indicate this project has been a success?

well hopefully less damaging bear interactions in the campgrounds specifically. There is absolutely no reason we should have bears in populated campgrounds running amok. Hopefully, these ambassadors could also help point people to different trails and therefore help mitigate parking issues or get people on public transit especially from the Shady Rest campgrounds going into the Lakes Basin. With enough dedication to this more personal information delivery I think we could change a lot.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

With better visitor education, we have a better experience for all.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

With proper information, we can get people more spread out at the various different trailheads. We can also teach them how to interact with wildlife in a positive way. I truly believe that the people that come to the mountains want to preserve it, they just don't know when they are being damaging.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Why do we not already have this! We really must look to our partners in the National Parks especially Yosemite because they have found really good ways to communicate with people about these things already. And we need total cooperation from all parts of the community.

Improve Trailhead Parking (ID# 20)

Date Submitted: 7/23/20

Location: Inyo/Mono County

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Improve parking areas at trailheads by either adding parking spaces, signs that indicate when parking is full, or having staff enforce parking.

Project long description: Almost every weekend I visit one of my local trailhead at around 6am and find the parking areas to already be overflowed (which means many folks are backpacking without a permit). When I exit the trail around 1-4pm I find the parking even worse. Cars crushing plants, parking in front of "no parking signs", and creating hazards for pedestrians/vehicles. More parking needs to exist at trailheads. If not more parking, there needs to be enforcement on parking. I've been to popular trailheads in other states with rangers directing parking, and checking for overnight permits. I've also seen areas that have signs at the bottom of the road stating "Lot Full", which encourages folks to recreate elsewhere. But the reality is, the number of people wanting to recreate in the eastern sierras isn't going to decrease, more parking spaces are needed at Lake Sabrina, South Lake, North Lake, Little Lakes Valley, Big Pine Creek, etc. If not more parking, parking shuttles like that at Reds Meadow.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Overcrowding, destruction of vegetation, hazards for moving pedestrians/vehicles.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Creation of larger parking spaces.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Prevent overcrowding, decrease the stress and increase the solitude when it comes to recreating.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Having to spend 20 minutes parking your car and then another 30minutes walking from your far away parking spot to the actual trailhead isn't enjoyable. Easy parking makes everything more enjoyable.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Recreational Road Repair (ID# 38)

Date Submitted: 8/25/20

Location: Forest and BLM lands in the Eastern Sierra

Project type: Maintenance

Project short summary: Roads used for recreation on National Forest and Bureau of Land Management Land are often damaged by storms. Repair often takes a very long time.

Project long description: Travel Management on the Inyo National Forest established a system of roads that could be used legally for recreational travel. Over the years a number of these roads have become unusable due to lack of maintenance and repair. The reason often given for this is lack of resources.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Restore recreational roads for the enjoyment of all users.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Timely restoration to full use by any road currently on the OHV maps generally distributed to the public.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Currently parts of the road system are being greatly overused (Example: Coyote Flatts). Repairing damaged roads, linked with signing and communication, will provide more opportunities to spread the load.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Road repairs expand diversity and variety of opportunities for recreation on public lands.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Currently resources are tied to a difficult grant system dependent on "green sticker" funds. These funds have not been timely or adequate and depend only on the contribution of non-licensed vehicles.

Trailhead fees/donations to support maintenance (ID# 132)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Eastern Sierra trailheads

Project type: Maintenance

Project short summary: Institute a system of either trailhead fees or donations to support maintenance. Fees via annual pass (free for low-income) or "iron rangers" at trailheads. Donations via iron rangers.

Project long description: Steadily decreasing federal funding is making completely free forest access less sustainable, especially in heavily used forests like the Inyo. The proposal is to implement a system of annual and one-time trailhead fees similar to what is already currently done in some other heavy-use national forests, for example in Washington and Oregon. This would be similar in principle to the sno-park fees which already exist to support winter recreation areas. Annual permits could be free for low-income users. Alternatively, a donation system could be established with trailhead donation drops using "iron rangers".

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Help to bolster increasingly dwindling funds for trail maintenance and improvement.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Consistent and higher quality trail maintenance and improvement has been achieved.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Better maintained trails should have benefits such as cleaner trails with less trash, and better visitor experiences.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Well maintained and signed trails are safer and easier to follow, resulting in a better experience especially for visitors who aren't familiar with the local trail system.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Composite Score: 18.43

Stewardship: 5.66

Access: 6.26

Benefits: 6.51

Bring it back: Eastern Sierra Passenger Rail. (ID# 11)

Date Submitted: 7/3/20

Location: Eastern Sierra

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: From LA to Mammoth, at least, restart passenger rail service..

Project long description: none provided

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Too much vehicle traffic on Highway 395 (Passenger and Freight)

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Too much vehicle traffic on Highway 395 (Passenger and Freight)

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Assuming stops at Lone Pine, Big Pine, and Bishop; users can utilize these communities to break up the trip or as a destination.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Passengers can relax, enjoy scenery, and perhaps read about the area.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Idea from Lone Pine Tribal Resource Officer. Alternative projects- restore narrow gauge rail from Keeler to Laws as tourist attraction. Have freight rail restored to reduce trucks on 395.

buttermilks campground (ID# 15)

Date Submitted: 7/17/20

Location: Greater Buttermilk Area

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Dry campground next to the buttermilk climbing areas

Project long description: Dispersed camping and resulting impacts around the buttermilk area is, and has been for some time, causing serious impacts to the greater buttermilk area. A single campground near the buttermilk area (imo it should be located just west of the main Peabody area) should be created, to the exclusion of dispersed camping within 3 miles of the campsite location.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The campground will preserve the integrity of the surrounding landscape that is currently being degraded by an excessive amount of dispersed campers who do not practice leave no trace principles.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

When visitors camp in the campground instead of creating their own camping spots.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It may be promoted as a place to camp when visiting our communities.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Greatly. Sustainable campground in a highly impacted area.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

This is long overdue.

East Fork Loop Trail (ID# 91)

Date Submitted: 10/17/20

Location: East Fork Rock Creek Canyon

Project type: Trail Planning

Project short summary: Reroute current "locals" trail up the south side of Rock Creek to protect sensitive wetland fens

Project long description: At present, the east fork trail begins at the Rock Creek Snow Park parking area and begins up the East side of Rock Creek before coming to a pedestrian foot bridge across the creek that leads to the East Fork Campground. From the campground the "official" trail continues up the West side of the creek to the Pine Grove Campground. At the bridge a local use trail also continues up the East side of the creek and travels through a series of wet meadows known as fens. Trailing in wetlands from humans or other species in high numbers can lead to damaging meadow degradation and fens are known to support a plethora of rare or sensitive species. The project would identify a new route on more durable surfaces, away from current fens, and would provide a loop for East Fork hikers that passes through Rock Creek Lodge. Locals use this trail to steer clear of high visitor use times yet they are harming the resource unknowingly.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Protection of sensitive wetland fens and potential sensitive species.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Wetland fens are protected from increasing foot travel and unintended harm

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

By protection of rich biodiversity of wetland fens.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Loop trails are more desirable to many

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Composite Score: 18.22

Stewardship: 5.67

Access: 6.44

Benefits: 6.11

Resource Center for DEI Access Programs (ID# 83)

Date Submitted: 10/12/20

Location: Mammoth Lakes or Bishop

Project type: almost all of the above

Project short summary: Resource Center for DEI Access Programs

Project long description: There are a number of excellent programs getting off the ground in the Eastern Sierra to facilitate the connection of historically marginalized groups to the land. These include Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps (multiple programs), Indigenous Women Hike, Inyo-Mono Association for the Handicapped, Friends of the Inyo, and likely others I'm not aware of. A resource center to support these programs would include a library, a gear library, facilities to wash used gear and tools, storage for each programs, small office spaces (cubicles?), a small conference room to promote inter-program communication, a sheltered parking area to load vehicles, showers, and possibly even a group campsite for 5-10 tents, exclusively for programs like these. These programs all struggle for resources, and the resources will go further and the programs will be more sustainable if they are able to share what they have.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

lack of diversity

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Diversity on the trail, longevity of the programs it supports, shared programming

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It will teach locals and visitors participating in these programs how to recreate responsibly and instill stewardship values in a new generation. It empowers programs from these communities and encourages collaboration while allowing them autonomy.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It teaches people to recreate responsibly and connect with the land, it facilitates different communities accessing the outdoors.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

In my answers above, the resources center (not exactly the right name) would directly have an impact on access, diversity, and partnership, but depending on the programs utilizing the center, it could also have a very strong secondary impact on resource protection, communication infrastructure, etc.

Composite Score: 18.21

Stewardship: 6.72

Access: 4.93

Benefits: 6.56

Large recycling /trash container (ID# 72)

Date Submitted: 10/3/20

Location: June Mountain parking lot

Project type: Anti litter /recycling

Project short summary: We need a LARGE recycling and trash container

Project long description: We need a large recycling container placed at June Mountain parking lot for our community. This needs to be done for a long time especially with all the to go aluminum cans, bottles, glass containers etc being found on the sides of the roadways. Our community needs a place to recycle in town... not just the overflowing ones at Gull Lake.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Less litter, more recycling.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

More available recycling and trash containers =less litter

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

The locals will have to pick up less litter.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Makes it easier to find where to dispose of litter and recycling

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

There needs to be larger containers so less checking up and unloading. Make disposal easier for tourists so it doesn't end up on our roads and trails.

Composite Score: 18.18

Stewardship: 6.61

Access: 5.33

Benefits: 6.24

Bear Box Signage (ID# 84)

Date Submitted: 10/13/20

Location: Mammoth Lakes Basin

Project type: Education

Project short summary: Place clear signage on bear boxes at popular trail heads to educate visitors on their proper use (i.e. they are not trash bins).

Project long description: Even though dumpsters are often in sight, bear boxes are continually used for waste disposal which in turn renders them useless for those who need to use them for their rightful purpose. One thought would be signage on the door that says "Stop - this is not a trash bin" and point people to the location of the bins. Another solution would be to install a combination lock on the boxes then paint the combination on the box. This would make people put some effort into placing items in the bear box.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Education and environmental

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Less trash in and around bear boxes

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Educate visitors on proper trash disposal. A cleaner community for all.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Educate visitors and a cleaner experience for all.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Public dumpster at the Twin Lakes Vista (ID# 119)

Date Submitted: 10/28/20

Location: Twin Lakes Vista

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Provide a dumpster for the public to utilize at the Twin Lakes Vista.

Project long description: Twin Lakes Vista is a frequented point of ingress and egress in to the Lakes Basin. Many guests have trash in their possession when entering and exiting the Lakes Basin. A place for people to dispose of their trash gives them an opportunity to get rid of their trash the right way.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Trash buildup in the Lakes Basin and lack of trash disposal sites for guests.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Guests utilizing this trash disposal area. Eventually, less visible trash in the Lakes Basin.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Installing a trash disposal area in the Twin Lakes Vista will directly reduce the amount of trash out in the environment of the Lakes Basin. People will have an opportunity to responsibly rid themselves of their trash when entering or exiting the Lakes Basin.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

People will have a proper place to dispose of trash. This will demonstrate to our guests that we take our land ethic and waste disposal issues seriously.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

This project might only apply to summer since getting a dump truck up to the Vista in the winter is likely unfeasible.

Alpine County Wayfinding Project (ID# 60)

Date Submitted: 9/17/20

Location: Alpine County

Project type: Signage

Project short summary: Implementation of highway monument signs, kiosks, and trailhead signage. Kiosks are intended to better direct the public to recreation opportunities and public services.

Project long description: The wayfinding project creates a integrated and consistent source of public information for visitors while travelling and at recreation destinations. The project focuses on guiding visitors to public land recreation opportunities for Forest, BLM, State, and County facilities and provide relevant high quality signage at appropriate sites.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Inconsistent public signage design and content across local, state, and federal agencies. Opportunity to enhance a tourism marketing and branding along with conservation and stewardship messages.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Visiting public identifying Alpine County as a recreation designation upon entry, efficient state highway wayfinding to destinations, most popular destinations with comprehensive visitor information signage, and facilities with improved signage.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

In locations such as Hope Valley, Woodfords, and Markleeville the project creates authoritative and consistent signage across local and federal agencies in locations where visitors receive services or at popular recreation destinations.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Improves guidance to and information at recreation destinations. Improves the content of existing signage related to safety and stewardship at locations such as trailheads, campgrounds, water trails, and boat ramps.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Alpine County adopted the Wayfinding Project in 2014 and began work to improve existing state highway guide signs. More information about the wayfinding project is available at:
<http://alpinecountycalifornia.gov/documentcenter/view/3554>

Inventory and Description of all Eastern Sierra Fire-Related Resources and Creation of Clearinghouse for Information. (ID# 158)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: All over the Eastern Sierra region.

Project type: Partnerships

Project short summary: This project would review and summarize all Eastern Sierra fire-related resources, including all public government agencies and all volunteer fire districts and fire safe councils in the region.

Project long description: The Eastern Sierra has numerous fire-related agencies, including Federal agencies such as the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, California State agencies such as CalFire, County EMS, and other local government agencies such as several volunteer fire districts and several fire safe councils. In a major wildfire event, these agencies coordinate and work together to maximize their impact. What is needed beyond this cooperative effort is an analysis of each organization's resources and capabilities, so increased coordination, cooperation and collaboration can occur. That is the purpose of this project. A comprehensive inventory of all fire-related agency resources, services, and programs would be completed and organized for citizens and others to use in pursuing fire prevention, fire suppression, and other activities. A clearinghouse of information would be created on a website accessible by the public for information purposes.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The opportunity this project addresses is to have a single source of information in the Eastern Sierra about fire-related resources, and increased potential for more effective fire prevention and fire suppression activities through better collaboration across agency boundaries.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

This project will be a success if the work is completed and a clearinghouse of information is available online, and any recommendations for collaboration are accepted and result in more effective fire prevention and suppression.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Gateway community residents and businesses support all our fire-related agencies, but they also want to know that these agencies are working together better to maximize their impact.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

This project will indirectly contribute to the recreation experience through better and more effective fire prevention and fire suppression activities, thus fewer wildfires that would disrupt recreation in the Eastern Sierra.

Cont.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

For example, the Mono Basin Fire Safe Council is involved with several fire-related projects, but could benefit from more readily-available information about other fire safe councils in the region, and could even potentially collaborate with them on similar projects, thus saving money and increasing impact. Citizens are in a similar situation, wanting information but not always knowing the best place to go for the best guidance and advice.

A challenge to this project is that traditionally these agencies, while practicing some cooperation, have not looked at their roles from a regional point of view. This project would need to emphasize that it is a region-wide effort to enhance the abilities to provide fire-related support and would not in any way detract from current local capabilities.

This project is not that difficult to achieve. Its success would rely on the cooperation of the various fire-related agencies to provide data and information and their willingness to consider any recommendations for greater collaboration.

Composite Score: 18.06

Stewardship: 5.89

Access: 6.04

Benefits: 6.13

Sherwins Trailhead (ID# 180)

Date Submitted: 10/31/20

Location: Sherwins Trailhead (Propane Tanks, Borrow Pit)

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Develop the existing parking area into a functional trailhead.

Project long description: Need to have year round amenities available for users

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Winter plowing, moto cross parking

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Use contained to a defined area, appreciation for area

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Provide legal area for parking and staging with trash and restroom facilities.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

additional unique experience close to TOML

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

necessity

Give a Hoot (ID# 81)

Date Submitted: 10/12/20

Location: Mono & Inyo Counties

Project type: Education

Project short summary: Woodsy Owl & Woolly Mammoth lead program to care for the Great Outdoors, i.e., etiquette, resources, and maintenance. Kids rewarded with badges. Adults rewarded with local gift certs/deals.

Project long description: A quiz with questions like (How close can you camp to water? What are fire restrictions? How do you put out a fire?) available via QR code or taken at visitor centers. Kids rewards are like "junior ranger program." Adults are given discounts at local participating businesses, which build rapport and knowledge of local small businesses. Build on the success and memory of the 1970s Give a Hoot, Woodsy the Owl will reach people fifty and older. Additional civil patrol to aid forest service enforcement for violation of fire safety, pollution, wildland protection, etc.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

New trails are wonderful, but do not address rudeness, entitlement, trash, and overall disrespect caused by recent tourism. In 2013, Anaheim rolled out a bike sharing program without telling the public this resort town had become "bike friendly" overnight. The new system failed. Education is key.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Compatibility between tourism and locals. Percentage of visitors engaged in program

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Education on stewardship

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Higher safety because their education will maintain pristine beauty vs their ignorance and insensitivity adding to the problem

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

I have worked in tourism marketing for decades, incl a Faces of Tourism program with Visit Anaheim. Based on program success, you can submit to Visit California as an initiative for other destinations with land and wildlife to protect.

Composite Score: 17.95

Stewardship: 6.53

Access: 5.49

Benefits: 5.93

Mono Pass/Mono Creek trail maintenance (ID# 89)

Date Submitted: 10/16/20

Location: Mono Pass/Mono Recesses

Project type: Maintenance

Project short summary: This trail is in terrible condition from the pass west down along the front of the Mono Recesses.

Project long description: I heard of the idea to put a new trail through the Sherwins. It seems crazy to put a new trail through a relatively virgin area that will then need future maintenance when so many existing trails are not getting enough maintenance already. What is already out there is not sustainable.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Reduction of erosion.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

A stable, non-eroding trail.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Quality trails draw visitors. Those trails need to be maintained.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

The trail is terrible to walk on. Historically it has been a popular destination and the experience is diminished with the poor state of the trail.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Composite Score: 17.92

Stewardship: 5.6

Access: 6.23

Benefits: 6.09

Doe Ridge Trail System (ID# 94)

Date Submitted: 10/18/20

Location: Do Ridge - extending from Whitmore Park

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Add up to 30 mile of hiking, running, & biking loop trails out of Whitmore Park

Project long description: Project adds 30 miles of multi-use, non motorized trails at Doe Ridge, extending from Whitmore Park to USFS Geological site on Hot Creek. Looped trails serve different skill levels, connection with Park and geological site provides diversification of recreation and local geological information.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Expanded multi-use trails available almost year round. Adds connections between recreational base (Whitmore Park) and natural geological site. Creates new area for hiking, running, and biking and adds value to current Park site.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Expanded year round use of park and new trail system. Use by recreational and professional athletes.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Adds a new multi-use element on public lands with different land managers and creates added sustainable means of seeing other public land features.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Provides multi-level recreational experiences in levels of difficulties and connection to various amenities.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Opportunity to work across public land managers and local governments to provide a unique and diversified recreational experience.

Composite Score: 17.91

Stewardship: 6.62

Access: 5.53

Benefits: 5.76

McLeod Lake Loop Trail (ID# 104)

Date Submitted: 10/23/20

Location: McLeod Lake

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Provide better signage for the loop around McLeod Lake

Project long description: The loop trail around McLeod Lake is well used and not signed at all. Because of this, on the south side of the lake (nearest the crest), meadow areas and wet areas from the lake receding are taking a beating. We should restore the proper trail and sign it to keep people off of these delicate areas, while letting them still explore all the beautiful views McLeod has to offer

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Protection of the delicate areas around McLeod Lake

What will indicate this project has been a success?

When there are not 10 different user trails around the lake

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Adds to the experience at McLeod Lake which is accessible to all. Gives more visitors more things to do at an easy level.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Adds to the experience at McLeod Lake which is accessible to all. Gives more visitors more things to do at an easy level.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

the trails are already there so we should add signage to keep people on trail and from trampling through the forest.

Composite Score: 17.84

Stewardship: 5.48

Access: 6.19

Benefits: 6.17

ESTA Death Valley Line (ID# 29)

Date Submitted: 8/11/20

Location: Death Valley National Park

Project type: New Bus Line

Project short summary: once daily bus line from Lone Pine to Pahrump

Project long description: Add a new bus line on 190 through Death Valley National Park

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

There is currently no public transit to get to our state's largest National Park. This will also better connect the valley to Las Vegas.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

When a full bus operates through DVNP daily.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It will increase tourism to the park and its communities.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It will give more people access to DVNP.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Protect Quiet Vehicle Camping in the Inyo National Forest (ID# 55)

Date Submitted: 9/12/20

Location: All motorized campgrounds in Inyo National Forest

Project type: Regulation for Resource and Visitor Protection

Project short summary: Regulatory actions by the Inyo Forest Supervisor to minimize generator use in motorized campgrounds

Project long description: 1) Recognize that quiet campers have been and will continue to be displaced by generator use, that percussive noise is a health hazard, and that batteries, propane, and solar can meet campers legitimate needs. 2) Establish a significant percentage of "quiet camping" sites in campgrounds (i.e. generator use not allowed), in addition to current tent only sites. 3) Enforce current quiet hours, requiring violators to pay a fee or leave. 4) Reduce the hours when generators can be used (i.e. distinct from current quiet hours). 5) Charge an extra daily fee for generator use. 6) Require generators to be solidly boxed/screened/soundproofed with common materials (heavy plywood, fiber cement siding board, etc). 7) Limit the number of days that generator users can stay in any one campground. 8) Encourage generator users to cook etc. away from the campground, at view overlooks, day use areas with little off-hour use, roadsides, etc..

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

1) Protecting the experience of natural quiet, a valuable natural and public resource; 2) Protecting human health, which is adversely impacted by percussive noise; 3) Raising the awareness of forest visitors to their impacts on resources and other visitors; 4) Improving the visitor experience.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

When the idea spreads to other forests and parks.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It will elevate the environmental stature of the Forest and surrounding communities and will attract a more conscious class of outdoor users to the area.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Reducing campground noise will significantly improve the motorized camping experience and heighten visitors' awareness of their impacts on resources and other visitors.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Note that most people who receive your project solicitation probably live in the area and may not be particularly aware of or focused on improving motorized visitors' camping experience.

Equestrian Camping (ID# 56)

Date Submitted: 9/13/20

Location: Inyo/Mono/Alpine

Project type: Permits and Agreements

Project short summary: Developed Equestrian camping, with corrals and hookups at current permitted facilities

Project long description: There is a desperate need for equine camping that is managed. Currently equestrian users often don't know where to camp with their horses and mules. Developing 2-3 facilities at current Pack Stations or trailhead locations would allow accomodation beyond just the 3 that currently exist along the entire Eastern Sierra.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Managing camping in a contained facility provides better opportunity for stewardship, education and recreation. Similar to developed campgrounds this alleviates the need or attraction for dispersed camping. Currently this idea has been proposed but NEPA and Cost recovery limit opportunities.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

2-3 developed equestrian camping facilities

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Equestrians are conservation minded individuals who frequently spend a great deal on equipment and are eager to support rural economies

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Gives the equestrian safe alternatives to dispersed or backcountry travel involving highlines and potential unsightly impacts

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

There are currently only 2 developed locations for camping with equines in the Eastern Sierra: Cottonwood Horse camp (1 night maximum) & Agnew Meadows. Equestrians are desperate for "horse camps" - semi-private opportunities which include facilities for safe camping and additional amenities

Eastern Sierra Motorized Recreation Improvement Project. (ID# 160)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: All over the Eastern Sierra region.

Project type: Partnerships

Project short summary: This project is a review of Eastern Sierra motorized recreation (from street-legal to ATV/OHV use) designed to maintain diverse recreational experiences while sustaining public lands.

Project long description: In recent years, increasing visitors to the Eastern Sierra are exploring public lands with street-legal and ATV/OHVs. Off-highway vehicle use is allowed in selected areas of the USFS National Forest and BLM lands under established regulations.. Unfortunately, in recent years, especially this past summer, the sheer number of vehicles utilizing open and closed roads and areas has resulted in increasing road damage, unauthorized off-route travel and unsafe conditions. This project would assess the current use and policy while developing ways to ensure continuation of quality motorized recreation experiences on public lands which respect other public lands users, protect local property owners, sustain community character, preserve developed road conditions and enhance natural resources.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

A challenge is the diversity of users and the traditionally inaccurate belief that this is just a motorcycle or UTV problem. Everyone who recreates in the region is, at some point a motorized recreationist. The key is to enlist early diverse groups to collaborate on sustaining quality recreation.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

This project will be a success if developed roads remain passable, complaints about illegal motorized use decline, and a broad array of people can continue to enjoy our public lands.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Many in the Eastern Sierra were aware of the negative impact of poor motorized recreational use this past summer. Correcting these problems will increase security and support from Gateway residents and businesses as they see improvement and prevention of these damaging conditions in the future.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Improving motorized recreational use policies will in the long run sustain the recreation experience for our many visitors. While some may complain about fees or more stringent regulations, most will welcome increased oversight and law enforcement based on ensuring a better experience for all.

Cont

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

This project is a sensitive matter because motorized recreation is increasing and will continue to be an important and visible part of Eastern Sierra recreation. New regulations must be pursued, however, to make sure the poor behavior exhibited by a few of our visitors does not ruin the opportunity for everyone. Our public lands must be carefully protected through responsible recreation.

Besides the concern for damage to the environment from illegal road or trail use of these vehicles, there was also extreme concern about the trash and human waste found along some of the roads in the region.

The opportunity this project provides is to address this problem before it gets more out of hand. This past summer there were numerous examples of illegal street-legal and off-highway vehicle use in places they don't belong (such as local neighborhoods, in meadows and on federal and state highways). Unmanaged overuse presents a significant threat to our local recreation-based economy.

Composite Score: 17.54

Stewardship: 5.5

Access: 6.18

Benefits: 5.86

Monitor Pass mountain bike trail (ID# 46)

Date Submitted: 9/4/20

Location: Monitor pass environs

Project type: Trail Planning

Project short summary: Establish a trail system for mountain biking from monitor pass west and south toward highway 4

Project long description: Model it after the clear creek trail above Carson city. A popular and beautiful trail from spooner summit to Carson city. Allow ebikes to encourage use. Single track, no jeeps or motorcycles. Could be spectacular!

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Opportunity for low impact recreation

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Popularity

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Sustainable low impact tourism

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Could be fantastic!

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Endless opportunities to connect with existing dirt roads and jeep trails. Rapidly growing sport that has revitalized other areas, like Downieville Ca.

Composite Score: 17.48

Stewardship: 5.52

Access: 6.18

Benefits: 5.78

Regional Multi-Use Equestrian Access Development (ID# 13)

Date Submitted: 7/3/20

Location: Regional

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: More hiking and horse trails along the Owens river with adequate trail heads with parking for truck and trailers, and corals and hitch rails

Project long description: Trailheads where there is adequate room available.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Gaining more access to public lands for horse and hiker use

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Success would be shown by user use.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Horse owners spend over 5x as much on gear (truck, trailer, feed, equipment) than any other user group. Local businesses profit.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It gives more access on public lands.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Keep all trails open to saddle and pack stock. Trails need to be wide and tall enough for safe passage.

Composite Score: 17.48

Stewardship: 7.18

Access: 4.56

Benefits: 5.74

Mammoth Lakes Basin (ID# 67)

Date Submitted: 9/29/20

Location: Mammoth

Project type: Improved resource management

Project short summary: Close off the Mammoth Lakes Basin to summer vehicle traffic and offer shuttles.

Project long description: Getting rid of the traffic in the basin would allow for a better visitor experience and decrease adverse effects on the environment, particularly parking issues and traffic flow. Vehicle access for campgrounds and boat launches could be maintained. The Lakes Basin is hammered and we need to managed the area differently before it is totally destroyed.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The basin is hammered with overuse; traffic and parking issues being two issues of concern. Getting rid of vehicles could improve the overall visitor experience, allow more people to walk, hike, bike, fish, boat and picnic in the basin while at the same time decreasing environmental impacts.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Revitalized environmental quality in the Lakes Basin

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Keeping out vehicular traffic will improve the self propelled visitor experience and take better care of the landscape.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It may allow visitors to connect more with nature.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Composite Score: 17.47

Stewardship: 6.58

Access: 4.91

Benefits: 5.98

Online education permitting (ID# 63)

Date Submitted: 9/22/20

Location: Internet

Project type: Education

Project short summary: Mandatory education to acquire fire permits, dispersed camping permits or wilderness permits.

Project long description: To operate a boat I take a class. To fire a gun. I take a class. To be avalanche certified i take a class. To carry concealed. I take a class. If I am coming up to use forest service property to recreate. I believe there should be a mandatory educational class to acquire any of the permits such as wilderness, fire, dispersed camping.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Lack of respect for our natural assets.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Showing the completion rates of people who have been educated and tested for proper and sustainable use of our natural lands and resources.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Maintain and retain as much of our wilderness to be used by future generations.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

To practice safe recreation that helps preserve the beauty and power that drives our tourism.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

More solar power in Mammoth Lakes (ID# 120)

Date Submitted: 10/28/20

Location: TOML

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Install more solar panels in the Town of Mammoth Lakes to power all of the community buildings and street lights. Offer a stipend or rebate to homeowners in Mammoth wanting to go solar.

Project long description: With "300 days of sunshine per year", the Town of Mammoth Lakes should be utilizing more solar power to run community buildings and street lights. Although snow buildup in the winter will have to be considered, that one facet should not stand in the way of us sustainably powering our community. The town should also provide a stipend or rebate to encourage homeowners to go solar.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This project will use have our community utilize sustainably sourced energy in-lieu of creating more greenhouse gasses using typical forms of energy.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

The Town of Mammoth Lakes becoming less dependent on GHG emitting energy sources. More homeowners using solar powers to power their house.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Less GHG emissions from our community. Homeowners eventually save money from using solar power, while also reducing their carbon footprint.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Guests and locals will know that the TOML is doing everything it can to reduce its climate change impacts, hence influencing them to think about their own environmental impact.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

It's the best!

From the Corral to the Trail: Engaging Marginalized Young Adults in Pack Stations (ID# 117)

Date Submitted: 10/28/20

Location: Inyo County, Mono County

Project type: Stewardship and Volunteers

Project short summary: We propose to engage indigenous and young adults of color to work as paid Interns with selected Eastern Sierra pack stations to learn traditional packing skills, on the trail and in the corral.

Project long description: The proposed project would engage young adults from both the Bishop Paiute Tribe and African American riding stables in Oakland, CA as paid Interns with selected pack stations in the Eastern Sierra. The Interns would learn the art and skills of running pack strings of horses and mules and would be provided an educational module on the tradition role of pack stock in public land management and stewardship. The Student Conservation Association will partner with a long-time packer in the Eastern Sierra (Kent Reeves) to develop and implement the project. Initial discussions with selected pack stations have already occurred.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The project would assist selected Eastern Sierra packers in developing a possible future and more diverse workforce, provide young adults of color an introduction to sustainable recreation practices associated with pack stations, as well as future job opportunities.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

We are looking at this project essentially as a pilot project, that could subsequently expand to other regions of the Sierra Nevada. We are starting small, hoping to engage and pay 4-6 young adults in the first year. Achieving that goal would be considered a success.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

The project will assist private pack stations to bring people to the Eastern Sierra to recreate. Those visitors will be provisioned with food and other supplies by Eastern Sierra stores. If successful, the project could provide paid jobs to young adult members of the Bishop Paiute Tribe.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Pack stations provide a popular form of wilderness recreation and enriches and makes possible those very outdoor recreational opportunities.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

There is a lot of enthusiasm for this project as it seeks a solution to a serious contemporary issue.

EASTERN SIERRAS SHOWS CA HOW TO EFFECTIVE REDUCTION OF WASTE (ID# 41)

Date Submitted: 8/26/20

Location: Bishop, a colab with Bishop Area Climbers Coalition and related organizations with conservation programs

Project type: Partnerships

Project short summary: Adding to proj. ID 11 & 37. Promotion through education and new law, of waste reduction (reduce single use plastic). Also a cooperative store for the purchase of goods in bulk and without packaging.

Project long description: Because the Eastern Sierras are so well known for their beauty and magnificence and ancient lakes and trees and clean air, I believe it would be the perfect back drop for a more and larger campaigns against wasteful living focusing on the education of the community in the many aspects of waste reduction such as proper and more specificity in recycling and the reduction in the use of single-use plastic. The program's headquarters could be a new type of supermarket which would be a cooperative offering food products in bulk following the examples of Swedish zero waste markets. People visiting the Sierras would head home not only refreshed and renewed by the outdoor experience but also taking home new knowledge and practices that were learned at all lodging, restaurants, and parks that were participating in waste reduction program and where they would have to follow rules and practice zero waste behaviors.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The reduction in waste and the pollution to the air and waters generated by landfills in the area. Plus the challenge to change the mindset of humanity when seeing the contrast between beauty and trash right there.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

The Eastern Sierras will gain a reputation statewide as a community that has attained the best waste reduction techniques and has reduced the amount of trash that has gone to the landfills. Plus the community will have many more stewards of conservation ready to work with the many tourists.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Cleaner air, cleaner water, healthier communities, sought after communities by people that care for conservation and zero waste ideals that want to live in such a community.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

People recreating will notice the cleaner environments, and also experience the community coming together to care for the outdoors. They will also feel more connected to this planet as they see how connected is wastefulness to the deterioration of the environment.

Cont

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

There are communities all over the world that are leading the change to more sustainable living and we need more of those in California and the Eastern Sierras has the beauty and magnificence that should suffice in inspiration for taking on such projects that not only make it easy for people to recreate but that will also better the conditions of both humans and the environments they live in here at the eastern sierras.

Bike Riding Mentoring (ID# 111)

Date Submitted: 10/27/20

Location: Alpine County

Project type: Education

Project short summary: Experienced cyclists will mentor Project Uplift students to teach bike riding skills, safety, taking care of a bicycle and riding in Alpine County.

Project long description:

Project UPLIFT is a non-profit organization whose goal is to help at-risk youth develop skills, through mentoring and coaching, that will enable them to succeed and contribute to our society. Project UPLIFT seeks to uplift our surrounding community! We motivate young people in elementary, middle, and high school. Mentors/Tutors provide the youth with the structure, feedback and encouragement necessary to help them take responsibility for their own success.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Diverse Use and Experience. Increase participation in outdoor bike riding to students of color and low income.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Students graduate from Project Uplift and ride bikes to work, shopping, and for recreation.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Increase neglected population of outdoor activities.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Builds character, confidence and improved self image.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Long overdue!

Early-spring access to higher elevations (ID# 148)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Eastern Sierra roads leading to high elevations

Project type: Trail Planning

Project short summary: Proposal to work with various road managing agencies (County, Caltrans, Forest Service) to enable earlier spring access to higher elevations for early-spring snow-based recreational activities.

Project long description: For many snow-based activities, such as snowshoeing and backcountry skiing, once the front country has melted out, access to higher elevations is typically blocked by gated and unplowed roads until after the short window of opportunity for those activities has mostly passed. The proposal is to work with road management agencies, such as Caltrans, the County, and the Forest Service to begin opening up higher elevation access several weeks earlier than is currently done. In some areas, such as Rock Creek and Mosquito Flat, it could mean somewhat earlier plowing. In other cases, such as on Highway 120, it could mean phased re-opening with multiple closure points (i.e., allow following the melt-off) rather than leaving the whole road gated all the way at the bottom until the entire road is clear. Currently there are only a small handful of roads that tend to open up fairly early, such as Virginia Lakes. This would help spread out the early-spring usage among more areas.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Better support of early-spring snow-based activities after the front country has melted out.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Early spring snow-based activities will be spread out among more areas and more accessible and enjoyed by more people after the front country has melted out.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Early-spring snow-based activities would be spread out among more areas of the Eastern Sierra. The economies of several Eastern Sierra communities could be improved as recreation would be enhanced during one of the shoulder seasons.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

There will be more opportunities for relatively easily accessible early-spring snow-based activities.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

The Tahoe area already has numerous roads to high elevations that are open in early spring. This could help make such access more available in our part of the Eastern Sierra.

Community Bike Park and multi use facility. (ID# 34)

Date Submitted: 8/22/20

Location: 1st Shady rest/ 2nd Volcom Park/3rd Sherwin Meadows

Project type: Multifaceted - infrastructure, Education, programming

Project short summary: Bike Park MUF see ~ <https://www.truckeebikepark.org/>

Project long description: Recreational facility with Pump Tracks, Dirt Jumps, Flow Lines, Dual Slalom Track, XC Trail, Drop Zone, Slopestyle. Park could have any or all of these features. It could start small and expand over time. This is a sustainable recreation project that will attract diverse user groups. Camps, coaching, clinics and special events will benefit users/community.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This project offers sustainable recreation with a variety of Opportunities for regional volunteerism and Funding from corporate sponsors. The project could financially self support with donations, user fees, fund raiser from special events. State and federal grant funding is likely available.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

User data.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This project will be supported by local residents. It will offer new recreation activities for diverse skill/age levels and make Mammoth Lake attractive as a Bike Park destination. The park will attract new user groups to mammoth and enhance current user (visitor) experiences.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Enhances visitor and local bike enthusiasts experience 100%

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Now is the time to act on this sustainable recreation proposal. I believe ML has local support, available funding and a strong volunteer force to break ground now! Planning and construction aimed to enhance park features and services provided will follow a phased approach as the facility matures. Joel Rathje has experience with design and construction of similar parks and a proven success record. Let's act NOW!

Equestrian Camping (ID# 183)

Date Submitted: 10/31/20

Location: Trailheads on the Inyo National Forest from Lone Pine through to Lee Vining and Tioga Pass. BLM lands also have highly desirable areas that would provide outstanding horse camping opportunities, as well as other public lands on the East Side.

Project type: Stewardship and Volunteers

Project short summary: There should be a network of equestrian campgrounds at trailheads from Lone Pine to Tioga Pass. There are very few equestrian facilities for visitors wanting to take day rides or pack trips.

Project long description: For visitors with their own pack and saddle stock, there are few equestrian facilities where they can camp to take day rides or pack trips into the Inyo National Forest, BLM lands, Owens River, Mono Lake and other public lands. The facilities should include corrals, picnic tables, and ample parking for trucks with trailers at the least. This would provide an excellent opportunity to create sites that are sustainable and would be managed to maintain cleanliness and safety for the user and the resources.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The opportunity to develop and grow partnerships with numerous equestrian groups is untapped and has great potential to assist with providing sustainable sites for this kind of use.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

When there is a complete network of equestrian camping facilities from the southern tip to the northern end of the Eastern Sierra.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Equestrian use is a valuable contributor to the economic network of local tourism. With the amazing history of horses and mules in the Eastern Sierra, clear through to the pack stations that continue to offer trips to the general public, the East Side has much to offer for equestrian enthusiasts.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Not having a safe place to camp with your riding and pack stock makes it very difficult to visit the area. Thus, the experience is hampered by the lack of facilities.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

There are many good examples of horse camps that are successfully operated by volunteer groups, and as such, are well maintained and managed.

Digital stewardship (ID# 65)

Date Submitted: 9/25/20

Location: Eastern Sierra

Project type: Outreach and Communications

Project short summary: Use of 360 degree video on numerous digital platforms and social media to educate visitors and users on ideal camping locations

Project long description: Digital & social media campaigns have been successful (using hashtagging) to redirect users from heavily impacted areas and perhaps even inappropriate areas to camp (whether with RV's, tents, or vans) and towards more appropriate areas with amenities. For instance, businesses and campgrounds. This type of campaign is effective because it directs and impacts users in the same way they learn about unique recreation areas, by hashtagging on social media channels (Instagram, YouTube, etc)

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

dispersed camping and inappropriate impacts

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Success will be achieved when chosen campaigns outweigh views and hits directing users to appropriate places rather than inappropriate places

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Sends users to businesses (such as campground concessionaires, RV parks, private and public campgrounds, businesses and amenities offered near these services). Users would eventually learn better options for recreation camping.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Knowledge of more responsible recreation, fulfillment of recreating for the greater good.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Just as they learned that places like the Owens River or Alabama Hills were cool places to boondock or climb, users can eventually learn better options for such activities - and have the satisfaction of being informed and 'in the know'.

Whitmore Multipurpose Recreation Staging Area (ID# 92)

Date Submitted: 10/18/20

Location: Whitmore Park - Mono County

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Installation of a year round winterized restroom and a paved parking lot to allow for year-round use - limits mud and allows for snow removal.

Project long description: Site needs better parking, restrooms, kids play area to serve as a staging area for bicycling, running, track, soccer, baseball events.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Lack of a year around (or nearly) staging area for multiple recreational activities.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Increased number of year round users and usable infrastructure (toilets & parking)

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Diversification of user experiences and types

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Adds new opportunities during times not previously available.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Site is supported by the Town of Mammoth Lakes, with support from Mono County. Opportunity to leverage local funds and state grants.

Composite Score: 17.1

Stewardship: 5.64

Access: 5.51

Benefits: 5.95

Down Canyon Trail (ID# 127)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Fern Lake Trailhead to Village

Project type: Planning and Environmental Review

Project short summary: The Down Canyon Trail Project has been an on going effort from JLTC and the community to connect the Down Canyon Neighborhoods to the village via existing user trails.

Project long description: The project has gone through mapping and has a project proposal. We are held up by NEPA.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This project would address the issue of walkability within our community. HWY 158 has little to no shoulder and many blind curves. We hope that the Down Canyon Trail can provide a safe way for people to walk between neighborhoods and access the village by foot.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

NEPA

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This project would allow the community to share a beloved trail that already exists and get people out of their cars and on their feet.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

This project would allow visitors to see June Lakes in a unique way.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

JLTC has worked very hard to make this trail happen. We are committed to seeing this project through.

Composite Score: 17.08

Stewardship: 5.35

Access: 5.98

Benefits: 5.75

Outdoor Awareness (ID# 152)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Mammoth Mountain or Other appropriate website

Project type: Education

Project short summary: Getting people outdoors means giving them information on where, why, and how

Project long description: There is no obvious website where you can go to find out where you can walk or hike in the town. Mammoth Mountain only wants you to spend money with them, there is not a peep I can see on their website regarding non-mountain related activities, such as walking or light hiking in the town, or even the wonderful free transportation available. This is the first step in getting people outside. Such a website that is easy to find needs to be developed. You can google whatever you want if you know what to ask for, but there is no single source. A good start could be something as simple as a detailed index of what people might want to know about with appropriate links to what exists. Ideally the website should have everything.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Developing the design and the specifications for the site as well as funding and a developer, preferably a Mammoth resident.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

perhaps feedback from users

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Helps to introduce the availability of outdoor facilities

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Would seem to me to be very helpful

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Enforcement of Laws and regulations. (ID# 64)

Date Submitted: 9/22/20

Location: Fishing habitats

Project type: Staffing

Project short summary: A community or local enforcement agency that helps uphold the rules and regulations of our fisheries.

Project long description: I have been fishing Mono and Inyo county for 30 years. I have been a resident for 13. Every single day I fish I could enforce a regulation or rule that is not being followed. Which I happen to still do often. Wether wading hot creek, bait fishing upper Owens. Barbed hooks in hot creek. Fishing the crooked creek inlet. Or bait fishing Crowley in Oct I have seen it all. We need to help empower our local guides and residents to help uphold our regulations. This will help preserve our resources that drive our summer tourism. Having MLPD on the lake or in the rivers, having the Sheriff in Crowley more than 5 times a summer. (Opinion). Community outreach programming to help alert local agents opposed to using caltips that has no follow up or response rate.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Preservation of natural resources

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Year over year comparisons of fines given and trends defined in problem locations or demographics to then push better education platforms.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Prolonged life in our tourism based summer market.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

More fish, better fishing, less stocking.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Eastern Sierra Equestrian Opportunity Expansion - We're not horsin' around (ID# 8)

Date Submitted: 7/3/20

Location: Eastern Sierra

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Identify areas and opportunities for responsible equestrian use, including educational materials and multi-use etiquette information.

Project long description: Identify areas for responsible equestrian use

More trail opportunities – identify exiting and making loops that people can use – create a system

More camping opportunities – develop more equestrian camps with amenities geared towards horsemen

More educational materials for multi-use with equestrian use and for ethical trail riding LNT and communication of opportunities

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Lack of equestrian camping and destination opportunities

What will indicate this project has been a success?

"1. Increased visitation of equestrian users

2. Actual building of the additional infrastructure and products to educate and communicate information

3. Increase in external marketing"

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

1. Equestrians tend to spend a lot of money - increase of tourism \$\$, economic boost (agri-tourism)

2. Provide a sense of identity - branding 3. More peaceful coexistence of types of users

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

1. Increased safety for current equestrian users 2. Actual building of the additional infrastructure and products to educate and communicate information 3. Increase in external marketing

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Probably needs a reservation system - could also be an indicator of success.

Composite Score: 16.98

Stewardship: 5.23

Access: 5.7

Benefits: 6.05

Recreational Road Coordination (ID# 62)

Date Submitted: 9/17/20

Location: Regionwide

Project type: Signage

Project short summary: Funds for helping public agencies and user groups coordinate, plan and sign recreational road systems.

Project long description: Example: Forest and BLM roads are not always well co-ordinated. Forest roads are often numbered, BLM roads are usually not.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Well planned and marked road systems help users plan and enjoy their trips.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Comments from users.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Lots of folks are coming here for motorized recreation. This proposal would improve their safety and enjoyment.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Very Much.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Could be very cost effective. Compliments proposal #38.

Banking on Biking (ID# 16)

Date Submitted: 7/20/20

Location: All of the Eastern Sierra, especially Mammoth Lakes

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Build more trails open to mountain bikes.

Project long description: Partner with local groups interested in doing trail work to develop trails and bike features that attract mountain bikers. Most trails are closed to mountain bikes, and understandably so as passing users on foot and horseback can be disruptive. Luckily, the best bike trails loop and undulate in ways are not attractive to other users, allowing us to minimize conflicts. By designating small, otherwise unattractive areas for bike trail development and by partnering with local trail-building groups, we can engage a community that brings tourism dollars while making the trails better for all users.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Lack of mountain biking trails. Conflicting use on trails that are open to mountain bikers.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

All types of trail users report an enjoyable experience while recreating sustainably.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Trail users support local businesses, while the trails provide a new amenity to local residents.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

The trails provide a recreation opportunity in our public lands.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Ride, Stay, and Explore Markleeville (ID# 71)

Date Submitted: 10/3/20

Location: Markleeville

Project type: Outreach and Communications

Project short summary: Destination-based bike travel is so-named because it requires a basecamp location that is a destination in and of itself. The style of riding can be road or mountain bike or, increasingly, gravel.

Project long description: Cycle the Central Coast and Bike Lodi are cycling destinations because of its online social media marketing. The same cycling destination marketing will benefit the Eastern Sierra Region. The key is that Markleeville has name recognition and lots to offer.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This project will allow tourists to select from online resources cycling roads and routes, local accommodations, eating establishments and testimonials.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Increase in cycling tourism and increase in local businesses revenue.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Cycling Tourism is part of the appeal to recreate in Eastern Sierras.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

A cyclist feels their recreational experience encouraged and supported by local communities.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

I have bike vacationed in Europe and the Eastern Sierras have same appeal. It's time to build on success of Death Ride and Alta Alpina Challenge.

Zero-Waste Grocery Store (ID# 164)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Mammoth Lakes

Project type: Hard infrastructure

Project short summary: A zero-waste grocery store would focus on waste prevention that encourages the redesign of resource life cycles so that all products are reused. This store would send no trash to landfills.

Project long description: The idea of a zero-waste grocery store is that individuals would bring empty bottles purchase one at the store, or take a free donated container and refill it with quality products such as food, wellness, and household items.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This project hopes to send no trash to landfills, incinerators or oceans. When products are used, they are dumped in landfills, which release toxins, leachate, and greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. This project will guide people to change their lifestyles and emulate sustainable natural cycles.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

This project will be indicated as successful when it appears in Mammoth Lakes and when individuals decide to change their lifestyles to protect the environment.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This project might add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands because it would inspire more towns and cities to open zero-waste grocery stores in order to send less trash to landfill.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

This project would allow individuals to change their lifestyles that would benefit the planet as well as think twice about what they can do to help the environment.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Composite Score: 16.81

Stewardship: 5.07

Access: 5.96

Benefits: 5.78

Water to Water Train Trail (ID# 10)

Date Submitted: 7/3/20

Location: Eastern Sierra

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Rails to trails along Southern Pacific Carson Colorado from Keller, for cyclists and other users.

Project long description: Trail would go through Inyo Co., to Benton, and Mono County. Also, this keeps the right of way for future train transportation viable.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Alleviate highway traffic. Alternative Transportation.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Owens Dry Bed Lake to Benton Hot Springs

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

No information provided.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

No information provided

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Map of "Carson & Colorado RY" provided. See back of house info.

Off Road vehicle rules (ID# 86)

Date Submitted: 10/13/20

Location: All public lands

Project type: Planning and Environmental Review

Project short summary: Introduce speed limit for ATV's and other motorized off-road vehicles and limit their use to dedicated roadways.

Project long description: ATV's and motorcycles have become a major disturbance for all users of public lands. Many drive far too fast, they are noisy, generate a lot of dust and pollution and damage the roadways and may become a fire hazard. Many users are under age.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Get most of nature back to a peaceful place.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Dedicated off-road motor vehicle parks

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Peaceful separation of different interests in using public lands.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Users of motorized off-road vehicles have their protected places and all others may stay away from them and enjoy the unmotorized nature.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Probably not easy or impossible to realize, since commercial interest and professional tourism will most probably be strongly opposed to this idea.

Modernize Town Bus Bike Racks (ID# 182)

Date Submitted: 10/31/20

Location: Town buses and trolleys

Project type: Public Transportation

Project short summary: Modernize bike racks on the town buses to accommodate changing bicycle trend of larger wheels on mountain bikes.

Project long description: All of the town buses have different bike racks on the front. The racks located on the front of the buses do not accommodate for current bicycle trends with larger wheels @ 27.5" and 29". I would have utilized the shuttle system to the village more often had my bicycle fit on the rack.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Accommodating a wider range of riders with bicycles. Providing consistent and reliable service to commuters.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Existing bike racks are retrofitted or replaced in whole.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Offering public transportation for a wider range of riders. Providing consistent and reliable service to commuters.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Providing consistent and reliable service to commuters.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

This summer 2020, there were several times where I walked across the street to the bus stop only to have waited and then the bike rack doesn't fit. Let's avoid further disappointment for locals and visitors alike! :)

Geothermal Spa Network (ID# 175)

Date Submitted: 10/31/20

Location: Regional

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Develop a modern network of geothermal spas across the region. Make them architecturally pleasing so that they're a desirable amenity. Provide a release mechanism for the over run natural hot springs.

Project long description: Counties could work together to manage the network. Provides jobs. Access should not be financially prohibitive. There are models for this in Iceland and other geothermally active regions.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Spreads an infrastructure out across the region to help disperse visitation and drive visitation to less frequented communities. Helps protect natural springs. Takes advantage of a unique geologic circumstance. Builds identity for the region as forward thinking.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

When the Eastern Sierra has

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It would be a great health and wellness amenity.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It would be a great health and wellness amenity.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Padooa Park - Turning golf courses into green space (ID# 174)

Date Submitted: 10/31/20

Location: Mammoth Lakes

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Turn Sierra Star golf course into the crown jewel of public green space, with walking trails, dog area, some grass areas and minimal amenities.

Project long description: As Sierra Star golf course is not profitable, use the land in a way to benefit the entire community, providing a high accessibility level to outdoor green space and its various health benefits. It could be accessed quickly by working people during the day, accommodate all ability levels, provide an outdoor venue space for plays and music, and be used to connect various parts of town via a trail or path network.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

TOML is surrounded by nature, but its infrastructure is seriously lacking non-urban public outdoor space. Many outdoor pursuits the region is known for come with a high barrier to entry. Repurposing an antiquated land use for maximum community benefit could profoundly improve the town's character.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Seeing the hardworking people of the town eating their lunch in a pretty setting in the sun.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

The town needs a face lift and this would contribute in a huge way to that. It would be an immediate quality-of-life asset for the locals though it would be great for tourists and visitors as well.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It could provide a wide variety of accessibility options and augment the town's internal recreation infrastructure, something it has virtually none of especially compared to other ski and destination communities.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

There is a movement of communities around the country undertaking the golf-course-to-green-space transition, so there are models out there for how a move like this could happen via partnerships and/or financing. It is a forward looking solution to the backwards infrastructure many places are saddled with. Although the most amazing place to undertake this kind of project would be at the Snow Creek golf course, the condos there are guaranteed access to golf. Sierra Star does not have this hangup. Padooa is Paiute for bear.

Composite Score: 16.27

Stewardship: 5.62

Access: 4.98

Benefits: 5.67

Fun bins (ID# 163)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: All Eastern Sierra

Project type: Stewardship and Volunteers

Project short summary: My project is for Eastern Sierra residents and. tourist decorate a trash can that can be put around town, trails, and lakes to keep the trash in the trash cans and not all over town.

Project long description: This is a fun family project that can help us with trash around town, lakes, and trails.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Littering

What will indicate this project has been a success?

How many people show up.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Help it be cleaner and more fun to everyone around.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Teaches them about littering.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Community Snow Skills and Terrain Park (ID# 121)

Date Submitted: 10/28/20

Location: TOML

Project type: New winter recreation opportunities

Project short summary: Create a town-run or nonprofit run snow skills and terrain park in the Town of Mammoth Lakes.

Project long description: There are no after hour opportunities for learning snowboard or ski skills after MMSA closes for the day. Not only will this park be a low cost alternative to a \$200 lift ticket for a new skier/ snowboarder to try out the sport, but it gives youth and citizens of Mono County another positive activity to do after hours. This park will have 2 separate rope tows, one with a terrain park, and one with a mild slope for first timers. This park will increase in town rentals and will provide community jobs. It will address cost accessibility to low-income families wanting to get on the snow. It will also be a great place for Mammoth snow teams, including youth, to train after hours. There will be rope attendants for safety during operating hours. Park is not accessible outside of business hours for safety reasons.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Daytime and evening activities for youth, great first try opportunity for first time skiers/ snowboarders, addresses cost accessibility to low-income families that want to try a new sport.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

More youth involved in this park as an after hours recreation experience, more first time skiers and snowboarders coming to town since the activity is now more approachable from an access and price perspective.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

New recreation opportunity for TOML and creates more skiers and snowboarders by eliminating the barriers of entry. Could create a better Mammoth Freestyle team.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

People will have a new recreation opportunity, skiing and snowboarding will seem more approachable by removing barriers of entry. Locals and guests will be able to ski and snowboard at night!

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

This is the third ski town I have lived in and the only place that hasn't had any night skiing at all. In my opinion, the only thing that prevents Mammoth Lakes from being a ski destination mecca is the absence of night skiing, a fun, easy, low cost for maintenance and low cost for entry form of snow riding. As a local that works for MMSA, I always wish there was a place to safely ride with the community after my work shift during the day.

Just Cause It's Easy Doesn't Mean It's Easy (ID# 107)

Date Submitted: 10/23/20

Location: Key trailheads (North Lake, Meysan Lake, etc.)

Project type: Education

Project short summary: Certain popular, "entry level" alpine climbs get a disproportionate SAR response. This project would install preventative signage at the trailheads for those climbs.

Project long description: The east side has some incredible moderate, accessible alpine routes. Locals often will run up these low fifth class climbs in a few hours after work. But for visitors seeking to experience their first true mountaineering experience, these climbs can be an attractive nuisance. A few particular climbs get a disproportionate amount of attention from SAR due to their "entry level" status - despite being relatively easy, these climbs are still very serious alpine missions that require a high level of skill, physical fitness, and mountain sense. Specifically, the Waterfall Route on Mt. Emerson, the North Ridge of Lone Pine Peak, and several other classic alpine climbs routinely see several SAR call outs a season due to underprepared visitors who don't understand the seriousness/difficulty of the climb. This project would install signage at the trailheads for these climbs with specific, detailed information on the difficulties of these climbs and recommendations for a successful ascent.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Visitor safety, and less strain on SAR resources during our very busy summer season.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

A reduction in SAR calls for the handful of routes where signage is installed.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It will reduce strain on local SAR resources and hopefully save a few lives, injuries, or at least long nights out stranded on a mountain.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It will keep them safer!

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Composite Score: 15.88

Stewardship: 6.16

Access: 4.02

Benefits: 5.7

Businesses pick up your trash! (ID# 39)

Date Submitted: 8/26/20

Location: Corporate Starbucks

Project type: Maintenance

Project short summary: Town Code Enforcement person needs to make more businesses responsible for securing and picking up trash generated by themselves and/or their customers.

Project long description: Starbucks Corporate location needs attention for their trash across the street near the Courthouse. Town needs to place more trash/recycle bins at heavily used bike/walk path intersections and make sure they are emptied on a more regular basis. Also, signage should be placed on the bear-resistant bins/dumpsters for visitors that have no clue how to open them!

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Eliminate needless blowing trash.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Far less trash

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

A cleaner community leaves a better impression for all.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

A cleaner community leaves a better impression for all.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Trash elimination is more important than ever during COVID-19.

EV Charge Station (ID# 82)

Date Submitted: 10/12/20

Location: Markleeville

Project type: Enhancing the statewide goal of encouraging zero emission vehicles

Project short summary: Markleeville is the hub of Alpine County with lodging, restaurants, government buildings and short term rentals. Yet there is not an electric vehicle (EV) charge station in Markleeville.

Project long description: The number of electric vehicles is projected to increase dramatically in the coming years. Markleeville survives on tourism especially during the summer months. Yet there are no (EV)charge stations. This limits the number of visitors driving electric vehicles who can visit the area. Alpine County should encourage no emission electric vehicles and thereby do it's part to limit global warming.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This is an opportunity to assist the very fragile economy of Markleeville by providing an EV Charge Station for tourists and help to reduce the production of greenhouse gases.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Increase in the number of low/no emission vehicles to the area.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Visitors will be able to charge their electric vehicles during an overnight stay or while dining in town. Markleeville is the recreational hub in the area, surrounded by national forest, great stream and lake fishing, many hiking trails, and Grover Hot Springs State Park.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It will allow visitors who are concerned about the effects of pollution to charge their electric vehicles and recreate in beautiful Alpine county

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

The plan for an EV Charge station has been reviewed by a local electrician and by a representative from Liberty Utilities and the consensus was that the project was very feasible. An excellent site was located in central Markleeville adjacent to a 240 volt power source.

OHV Singletrack (ID# 140)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Mammoth to June area

Project type: Trail Planning

Project short summary: Link existing short segments of OHV singletrack into a signed trail network to support legal trail usage and enhanced recreation experiences for dirt bike users (and e-bikes and mtn bikes).

Project long description: INF has <20 miles of OHV singletrack with no 1 trail longer than 3 miles and with pieces scattered in the forest. As with hiking/biking, singletrack OHV trails provide increased recreational experience and are more in demand. The lack of trails with high demand increases the risk of illegal trails being used. Increased popularity of UTVs has also decreased the safety for dirt bike users as the UTVs take up more space and are capable of very high speeds on roads. Moving dirt bikes to single track trails will increase safety, reduce dirt bike speeds, and enhance the experience. An example trail could link Shady Rest to Upper Dry Creek to Minaret Vista providing a legal OHV path for a high value experience. Other trails could, on both the west/east sides of 395, link Mammoth to June to take advantage of existing trails, repurpose 2-track road to singletrack, create new connectors, and add signage. Access via Shady Rest/Sherwin Creek campgrounds would also reduce local vehicle traffic.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Enhanced recreational experience for OHV users. Trying to help satisfy a demand for OHV singletrack to reduce illegal trail development and usage, disburse dirt bikes and UTVs for safety and higher recreational value.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Establishment of a planned and signed OHV singletrack network

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Expansion of the network to connect the communities and allow visitors staying in one location to more readily access neighboring communities to expose them to the value of those communities. Spread the wealth.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Singletrack trails are much more in demand and of higher value to the user. They also provide a safer environment for adults and kids by reducing speeds and separating small OHVs from large UTVs and cars operating on the roads.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

East Side Community Boulders (ID# 171)

Date Submitted: 10/31/20

Location: Potentially any community on the east side, in parks, next to trails, or any appropriate public land.

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Placement of natural or artificial bouldering features in parks, near trails, picnic spots, other public recreation spots.

Project long description: Rock climbing and bouldering are a huge part of modern east side culture. Let's install natural or artificial bouldering features in parks etc—low height rocks or simulacra designed to be challenging and interesting to climb with no more risk than playground features. The most popular playground feature for children in mammoth creek park is not a swing or a slide, but a granite boulder next to the parking lot.

Climbing is a huge part of our culture—let's celebrate our own identity by giving our parks bouldering. Features could even pay tribute to internationally-known boulders or crags like the Happy Boulder or Iron Man Traverse in the Buttermilks.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The opportunity to have more healthy and fun recreation at community facilities for locals and visitors. The opportunity to express our own regional identity. The opportunity for less-advantaged local kids to participate in something people travel here for from all over the world.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

The completion of a public boulder installation anywhere on the east side.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Easy access recreation for locals and visitors. Celebration of local culture and regional identity. Fitness. Increased competence on mountain terrain for users. Fun for all ages. Potential for artistic implementation of rocks or artificial climbing structures. Reduction of impact on natural areas.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Easy access fun and challenge without driving or impacting natural areas.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

This idea has implemented in other communities, successfully. Costs are in line with any other type of playground infrastructure, but with potential value for all ages.

Composite Score: 15.76

Stewardship: 6.23

Access: 4.45

Benefits: 5.08

Trailhead Road Car Bans (ID# 28)

Date Submitted: 8/11/20

Location: Whitney Portal, Onion Valley, Bishop Creek, Big Pine Creek, June Lake Loop

Project type: Change in regulations

Project short summary: Ban private automobiles during the summer on most parts of 5 roads, similar to Reds Meadow, and replace with shuttles.

Project long description: Recreation presents a good use case for public transit. Many people are going to a similar places. In order to reduce carbon emissions, cars should be mostly banned (exceptions for camping etc) on 5 additional east side access roads. (Whitney Portal, Onion Valley, Big Pine Creek, 168 (South Lake, Lake Sabrina and North Lake) as well as the summer only section of June Lake Loop). This will have a compounding effect of increasing car free tourism as people will be able to , for example, take a bus to Lone Pine, stay in a hotel there, and then take a bus up to Whitney Portal the next day to hike Whitney.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This project would reduce CO2 emissions, and increase tourism

What will indicate this project has been a success?

When bus ridership is high, and an increase in non motorized tourism is seen.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

People will have to stop and board a bus in the gateway communities, they can no longer just drive through them.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It will make them feel less guilty about their carbon footprint.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Composite Score: 15.68

Stewardship: 5.73

Access: 4.45

Benefits: 5.5

Lakes Basin Parking Permit (ID# 103)

Date Submitted: 10/23/20

Location: Mammoth Lakes Basin

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Require and sell for a nominal fee a parking pass for the lakes basin area.

Project long description: Currently visitor's for Southern California are very used to purchasing a parking pass for their local hiking and parks area. As a front line employee I am regularly asked by visitors if they need a parking pass for our Lakes area. A Parking pass would be a great way to monitor the amount of cars in the Basin and could be a good revenue source for improvements and restoration in the Lakes Basin area.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Rogue parking and over crowding in the Lakes Basin

What will indicate this project has been a success?

more orderly parking but also restoration to areas that have been destroyed by people parking where ever they want in the Lakes Basin

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Requiring the permit allows us to minimize impacts to a heavily impacted area and also a revenue source to continue projects and education. Also, require visitors to interact and get information about the area when they purchase their pass.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Better experience due to restricted access

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Access Apartments (ID# 131)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: 238 Sierra Manor Road, Mammoth Lakes, CA

Project type: Housing

Project short summary: Access Apartments is a 100% affordable multifamily apartment project currently in pre-development stages. The project will have 11 one-bedroom apartments and 5 garages for local households.

Project long description: Regional communities need 1,083 homes. Due to this deficit, community members commute long distances, live in their cars, overcrowd, or otherwise make unhealthy choices about where to live. A high percentage of local employees work in recreation and tourism industries. These 11 affordable apartments will serve households earning below 80% of the area median income. This redevelopment is located within 1 mile of free public transit, health facilities, schools, libraries, shopping, and bike paths. The total project development cost is about \$6M; MLH has contributed about \$1M to date on acquisition, architecture and engineering, fees, etc. Other partners have pledged funding including a partial land donation, the Town of Mammoth Lakes, IMACA through the Continuum of Care, and Mono County. MLH has applied for State/Federal funding grants amounting to \$4.5M. In order for this project to succeed it will require additional funding sources which this initiative could potentially provide.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Access to affordable housing is a challenge for residents of Eastern Sierra communities. This is a result of those communities being desirable gateways to incredible natural resources.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Increased long-term housing options in the region are available for those who desire to be part of our communities and live, work, and play with us!

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This redevelopment project will provide affordable, safe housing for local residents and employees, thereby reducing commutes and creating a more sustainable, regional recreation/tourism based economy. Residents of the project could be employed in these industries and be users.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Residents are likely to work in recreation and tourism industries, serving recreation-based users. Employees are less stressed because they have an affordable home and customer service is improved. Employees have more time to recreate because they can work less to afford their home.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Housing is a key component to a comprehensive sustainable tourism/recreation vision. MLH is excited to collaborate with recreational initiatives to achieve our regional housing goals and help our communities thrive.

Skate June (ID# 123)

Date Submitted: 10/29/20

Location: Gull Lake Park or June Lake Ball Field

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Skate June is the construction of a well built, medium sized, cement skate park with progressive flow and a variety of features suitable for all ages and all abilities in a recreational zoned area.

Project long description: A skate park in June Lake would add a great value to our town. June Lake is a tourist destination with a growing local population. Many young people are moving here and starting families or relocating their families here from larger suburban areas. Cities all over the country have installed skate parks to attract young professionals and creative types. Skate tourism has put many small towns on the map and draws visitors who either don't have a skate park of their own or just want to explore new terrain. A skate park would add to the recent and continuing "revitalization" of June Lake. The prime location for this skate park is the land located behind and adjacent to the community center building. This area is an established recreational hub that includes a playground, picnic areas, fishing, tennis, basketball, hiking, and lake activities. Parking and bathroom facilities are already in place.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

A proper skate park would provide free, socially distant, recreation in a safe place for all ages and all skill levels. This would be an opportunity to divert skaters away from our very narrow and congested roads as well as keeping them off of public features (ex: handrails, curbs, sidewalks, etc.).

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Our project will be a success when we see reduced numbers of skaters on our roads and public features. Another indicator of success will be seeing the skatepark filled with families and kids. Family time creates strong and safe communities.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This project will add an healthy, athletic outlet for todays youth and generate local tourism. Merging together a popular sport like skating and wilderness exploration will attract more of todays families to appreciate the forest, mountains and public lands in the Eastern Sierra.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Skate June will be a creative environment that provides a place where kids can build skills, character, confidence, and self worth. It is a positive way to divert kids from drugs, crime, and illicit behavior. Centrally located recreation facilities help create positive connection to the community.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Skate June has been adopted by Little Loopers, a non profit in June Lake. We have already secured \$13,000 in donations for this project. Skate June is in the process of becoming a 501C3. A 501C3 can fundraise in various ways including corporate sponsorships, community giving, estate foundation donations, crowdfunding, and grants. We have proven that the community supports this project with their dollars and actions. A typical skate park will cost around \$500,000. With a grant from Mono County/ Prop 68, we will be one step closer to enhancing family friendly outdoor recreation in our community.

Develop Winter Camping Options in Northern Counties (ID# 149)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Higher elevation counties like Mono County

Project type: Partnerships

Project short summary: Winter camping is becoming very popular, but is very limited in northern counties. Proposal is to create a task force to investigate and implement winter camping options, particularly near ski areas.

Project long description: With the popularity of vans and smaller RVs, winter camping is beginning to become much more popular. In many years, northern counties such as Mono have widespread snow cover and many closed, gated, and snow-covered roads, severely limiting options for winter camping, even dispersed camping. The proposal is to start a task force to look at various ways to create options for winter camping, even if it's dry camping, that can be easily worked into existing snow removal operations and won't incur high costs. A good focus to start with would be proximity to ski areas, perhaps by negotiating to legitimize the use of some ski area parking facilities. There are already dozens of ski areas across the country that are beginning to accommodate the winter camping trend.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Providing winter camping options to the increasing number of people seeking this option.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Winter campers who have a legitimate place to camp.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

There may be a slight increase in ski area usage by enabling and welcoming winter camping, but having a more diverse clientele would also be a benefit.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

People who can't afford expensive winter hotel rates but would like to be able to legitimately camp would benefit quite a bit.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

I believe this trend is real. Over the years I get asked more and more about winter camping in June Lake by people from other areas.

Composite Score: 15.5

Stewardship: 4.7

Access: 5.12

Benefits: 5.68

National Scenic Byway designation of SR 89 - Monitor Pass (ID# 61)

Date Submitted: 9/17/20

Location: Antelope Valley to Tahoe Basin

Project type: Outreach and Communications

Project short summary: Exploration of a new National Scenic Byway designation for State Route 89 from US 395 at Topaz Junction to the Lake Tahoe Basin.

Project long description: The proposed byway designation could create an exceptional and continuous scenic byway system by connection of the existing Ebbett's Pass National Scenic Byway (SR 4 from Arnold to Markleeville), the existing and future Eastern Sierra Scenic Byway (US 395), and the Lake Tahoe Basin via SR 89.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

All of the state routes in Alpine County are designated state scenic highways with the highlight of the Ebbett's Pass Scenic Byway. Additional National Scenic Byway designation elevates the profile to visitors of existing routes as well as provides regional connections via Monitor Pass.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Travelling a hundred miles of continuous scenic byway with supporting

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Existing state highways transect the Sierra Nevada range and connect the diverse environments and communities. Each town in Alpine County is a visitor services destination that relies on tourism. Scenic byway designation and protection benefit the communities along designated routes.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Travel along state scenic highways is a primary recreation activity. The quality of the experience for all visitors begins on the state highway system across the Sierra region. The additional National Scenic Byway designation will create a new opportunities along an interconnected byway.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Whitewater boating take-out at Mt. Gate Park (ID# 128)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Mountain Gate Park

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: The W. Walker River is swift at Mt. Gate Park when the river is at boatable levels, with no really safe take-out spot. Project idea is to create an eddy which can be used for safe and easy exit.

Project long description: To encourage/facilitate more recreational whitewater boating on the West Walker River between the 395 bridge and Walker, the project idea is to build an eddy in the river at Mt. Gate Park. Currently, public put-in access along the river is good, but good take-out access is limited at best. The river is swift in the Mt. Gate area when flows are at boatable levels and taking out can be challenging. Creating an eddy in the river would provide a safe and convenient take out at a location with good, convenient public access.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Increase/improve recreational whitewater boating opportunities in the Eastern Sierra.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

The West Walker becomes a more desirable destination for whitewater boating in Mono County

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It would improve/provide additional diversity of recreational uses. Currently opportunities for whitewater boating in the Eastern Sierra are very limited south of the Carson River. This would help improve one of the few existing opportunities.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It improves an additional type of recreation opportunity that is limited in the Eastern Sierra

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

I have boated this river several times in the past, but the challenging take-out conditions always add extra concern and planning.

Composite Score: 15.36

Stewardship: 5.75

Access: 4.18

Benefits: 5.43

Law work (ID# 135)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Eastern Sierras

Project type: Legal

Project short summary: I would like to petition the state and/or local government to make harsher laws when regarding the protection of our area.

Project long description: I would like to harsher laws against littering, any damages to the natural area. This could include larger fines, possible jail time for larger offences.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Tourists and locals not following the law.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

A drop in illegal activity

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It will help fund local law enforcement.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It will help insure that those around them follow the law.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

N/A

Gondola to Reds Meadow (ID# 26)

Date Submitted: 8/4/20

Location: Mammoth Mountain to Reds Meadow

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Install gondola as primary access to the Devil's Postpile Area.

Project long description: Instead of spending 40?? Million dollars to rebuild the road to Reds Meadow, construct a gondola to bring people from the parking area at Mammoth Mountain into Devils Postpile National Monument. Busses could provide transportation between the different areas within the Devil's Postpile National Monument. The existing road could be allowed to return to a low maintenance dirt surface to allow campers, Staff and busses access. Consider phasing out campground camping (high impact both to the environment and road situation). The gondola could be installed outside of wilderness areas by connecting from the entry point at Minaret Vista to Soda Springs Campground.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Access into Reds Meadow is compromised by the state of the existing road. Changing access to a non motorized form of transport will be less expensive in the long run, reduce environmental impact of emissions and road and increase visitor enjoyment and could provide more year round jobs

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Elimination of vehicular traffic in and out of Devil's Postpile

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Better access to wilderness trailheads, level loading of visitation to Devil's Postpile, Partnership with Mammoth Mountain, year round opportunities for more mountain employees (lift ops, maintenance?)

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Provides a world class scenic gondola ride to the Monument and reduces or eliminates the intrusion of vehicular traffic to the outdoor experience.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

If Europe can do it, so can we.

Composite Score: 15.13

Stewardship: 5.65

Access: 3.74

Benefits: 5.74

Recycling (ID# 70)

Date Submitted: 10/2/20

Location: The industrial Park

Project type: Planning and Environmental Review

Project short summary: I would like to see a redemption center.

Project long description: Our recycling center doesn't take enough of our trash to recycle. We pay a nickel a can to Vons and don't get that amount back.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

To reduce litter

What will indicate this project has been a success?

When there is less trash around town.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Less litter..

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Cleaner forest..

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

The recycling center should take EVERYTHING that can be recycled.

Whitmore Sports Field Complex (ID# 95)

Date Submitted: 10/18/20

Location: Whitmore Park

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Add multiple sports fields to allow TOML & Mono County to become a destination for field sports tournaments and training (Soccer, baseball, other).

Project long description: TOML is working with LADPW to add 50+/- acres to Whitmore Park. This provides the opportunity to add a number of sports fields and supporting facilities that not only serves the local community but establishes the ability to diversify the primary recreational attractions to the Eastern Sierra. Playing and training at altitude creates a unique opportunity for athletes.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Provides new recreational amenities set in a spectacular setting with the potential of drawing a new group of recreationalists to the area. Providing recreational and professional sporting opportunities that do not require federal lands adds needed diversity for exposing people to natural landscapes

What will indicate this project has been a success?

The growth of field based sporting opportunities - training, recreational, competitive tournaments attracting a new diversified group of visitors to the Eastern Sierra.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Creates recreational opportunities without reliance on traditional federal public lands. Opens up these lands to new visitors to explore and experience.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Brings them to a wonderful place to experience the sport(s) they love.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Opportunity for multiple local governments participation and alignment for State based grants focused on more traditional recreational amenities such as sports fields.

The Easter Sierra Permit (ID# 116)

Date Submitted: 10/28/20

Location: Mammoth Lakes

Project type: Permits and Agreements

Project short summary: Similar to a fishing license or permit, people would have to take an online course, adaptable to COVID times, in order to receive an Eastern Sierra Permit.

Project long description: They must renew every year and agree to terms of recreating responsibility, and a permit for the use of recreational areas (similar to backpacking permit). This will make sure that people know what rules to follow and will be responsible for their actions that affect out environment and community.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This project hopes to address the lack of respect that tourists give out home when they disobey laws, litter, and more recently, do not follow the precautions of COVID-19.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Hopefully the town will become a better place in terms of health and when tourism starts to peak again, there will be minimal consequences on the town of Mammoth Lakes.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This project will give higher value to the community in terms of who can do certain things.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

They will have a good experience, but without the experience of littering and getting people sick.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Composite Score: 14.77

Stewardship: 4.56

Access: 5.21

Benefits: 5

Doe Ridge Trails (ID# 179)

Date Submitted: 10/31/20

Location: Doe Ridge

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Develop trails in the area known as Doe Ridge.

Project long description: Use existing infrastructure in at the Whitmore Complex to facilitate a trailhead for experiences into the Doe Ridge area.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Support from multiple agencies (ESSRP!)

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Collaboration

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Increased opportunity

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Dispersal of use, integrity of experience

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Footprint for hardscape and parking exists.

End of the one economic base. (ID# 109)

Date Submitted: 10/24/20

Location: Eastern Sierra, Ridgecrest to Walker, Kernville

Project type: Planning and Environmental Review

Project short summary: Address the traditional 3 elements ,The Community,the Environment and the Economy when any of the sectors falter the others will follow. We are in the straits of this relationship currently.

Project long description: The Eastern Sierra communities have focused on a very limited economic base,If at all , a divided population made up of older second home owners or generations of families that maintain the the core economic foundation is mining and Ag. Built on another foundation by many others is Tourism and that leads to recreation, the Fishing , Hiking, Biking and Skying , Climbing and the long list of user groups that come and go . Many in the recreation community fail to see that as other industries that are extractive, Tourism/Recreation activity is also extractive.A quick reading of the project list suggest that to solve some of the past short comings, Add bathrooms, roads, trails, signs, parking lots, campgrounds mapping to get to the secret special places the cycle continues , a very unstable economic base , more damage to the resources and the Community is overrun by visitors , as Mammoth sees on Sunday night as the dumpsters are overflowing and the lids open.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The opportunity is now that the Virus has shut down the economy and the fires are the final nail for some . As we rebuild this is the time to regroup as a region not as silos , create a forum of open minded individuals that are willing to look towards the future , Outside Tourism and Recreation.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

When the economy is robust 12 months a year , people can afford a house, No layoffs at the end of the seasons and don't talk about doing something for the shoulder season . Focus is not on Recreation it is on the experience of being outdoors.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Gateways are taking you somewhere else! That is fine but transferring the problems to another area is why we are at this juncture. This project focus is the Community as the core value , Extracting from the Public land by recreation is no different than logging or mining.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Skying, Climbing, OHV, Hiking and many of the other uses are examples of resource damage. The recreating public needs education about the damage each activity has on the area. Also they need to be part of the process that adds value to the area.

Cont.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

After many years in the area and seeing many great ideas , I think the time now is critical to revisit many of the old projects, IE: SBC 2020, Planning for Prosperity, Eastern Sierra Wealth Index (?) refresh the younger generation of the work done by Andrea Lawrence and many others. Adding /rebuilding /building/signing/can be just repeating the problems of the past just on a larger scale.

I think many fail to see we have No Baker, Butcher or candle stix makers, let me explain the products that we need come from outside the area, Bread, Meat, Dairy Produce, to support the Tourist industry, added that the service workforce is now seasonal and are paid at a very low hourly rate , they most often are not able to afford home ownership or find housing. Attracting additional tourism , means additional resource damage , impacts on the local communities and , land fill problems, traffic congestion during the busy periods. And how is the shopping experience in Mammoth on those weekend? Are those products not trucked in and the retail dollars trucked out? Again the products that are needed to serve a larger tourist base , those dollar leave they area. I use the example how many checks do you write as a business owner that stays in the Community? As the beef leaves the area , as the dairy closed, which baker can supply 10,000 buns a week if ask, Poultry need a couple of Chickens , call a Taxi, rent a car on Sunday . Again I focus on the not just recreation , but the supporting process needed to sustain tourism and I see the local areas on the losing end of the spectrum, and the resources being exploited , when they become degraded the user groups will move on.As did the miners of past.

Mammoth Lakes Dog Park (ID# 76)

Date Submitted: 10/4/20

Location: Mammoth Lakes

Project type: Dog park.

Project short summary: A gated place for dog owners to take their dog(s) off leash that is legal within the town of Mammoth Lakes.

Project long description: Mammoth Lakes does not have a legal place for dog owners to allow their dog's to be off leash. There is Shady Rest in the summer months, but owners are required to keep them on leash. Most do not, so either change this to be off leash or do not ticket-or, have a separate official dog park. Bishop has a nice dog park. Two separate areas: one for small dogs and the other for larger dogs.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

To provide the community as well as visitors a place to safely let their dog(s) socialize and exercise off leash.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Once a community dog park is built and open.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It will add value to dog owners to be able to safely have their dog play off leash outside in a controlled place that is legal.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

This project would contribute to all who recreate by helping them to legally exercise their dog off leash. Then the pup will take a long nap, and owners can recreate where dogs are not allowed or have to be on leash.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

My husband and I do road trips and we always take our dog. We now go to communities that have a free dog park. As an example, check out Ashland, OR. dog park. We park a few miles away, ride our bikes on the bike trail with our dog on a leash, and ride to the dog park where our dog can be off leash. It is also a great way for the dog owners to socialize with other dog owners.

MMBP = Mammoth Mountain Biking Project (ID# 100)**Date Submitted: 10/19/20****Location: Mammoth Lakes, CA****Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"**

Project short summary: My idea is to create a new set of trail systems made for advance riders who are looking for a challenge and to create an area where riders can work on skills to take to the trails.

Project long description: This would be somewhere in Mammoth Lakes and have easy accessibility. The trails would take up only a small portion of land and would be built in the best way to protect the environment whilst creating a challenge to advanced riders. The skills park would be a dirt area with different technical features. This would be at the bottom of the trail systems.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

It provides the opportunity for riders to progress fast and have a safe space to do so, and gives riders trails to challenge themselves on.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Seeing the progression of riders and the increase in skill.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It will add an option for riders who are not looking to be in a large crowded area.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It will improve their experience by bettering them.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

No.

Drive By Information (ID# 80)

Date Submitted: 10/8/20

Location: Lone Pine

Project type: Outreach and Communications

Project short summary: Utilizing the free wifi in Lone Pine, ping phones coming through asking their final destination and then providing them with the website for that location

Project long description: This is maybe a bit pie in the sky but the idea would be that cell phones coming through would get a text or a ping notification on their phone welcoming them to the Eastern Sierra and asking the final destination, with options throughout the region. Based on the selection they would then be sent a link to the proper visitor bureau (i.e if Bishop was selected, they would be directed to visit Bishop website)

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

information distribution

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Through these types of programs you can track data on click throughs and then measure how many more people got in front of the right information in some way.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

helping to keep visitors informed of current conditions.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Helping to keep them informed and educated on the places they are going.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

This would enable us to get the eyes of the people who are physically coming here in front of the digital information assets we already have invested in and in place.

Whitmore Dog Park - Picnic/Playground (ID# 93)

Date Submitted: 10/18/20

Location: Whitmore Park - Mono County

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Expand/share space used by dog agility for a fenced dog park. Add shelter area for picnic area. Add playground amenity. Integrated items add value to a family centric recreational experience.

Project long description: Added amenities allows family based activities to support both active and passive recreation. Integrates with other activities at the park. Shade area, play ground and dog park address lack of facilities at Whitmore Park and within the Town and greater County area.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Creates opportunity for expanded use of existing park. Provides amenities that currently do not exist.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

The increased use by families with diversity in ages, activities, and greater use of designated areas for dog use and training.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Expanded opportunities for visitors add value to their experiences, provides new opportunities, is family focused and brings together visitors and locals.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Integration of the proposed amenities currently does not exist within Mono County. Giving visitors and locals these opportunities adds diversity of experience.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

The concept has potential for local matching funds and design support as well as leveraging Prop. 68 grant funds.

Composite Score: 14.42

Stewardship: 5.3

Access: 3.85

Benefits: 5.27

Public dumpster at Mammoth Lakes Post office (ID# 44)

Date Submitted: 8/29/20

Location: Post office , Mammoth Lakes main st

Project type: Trash disposal.

Project short summary: Public dumpster unlocked located at 3330 main st Mammoth Lakes.

Project long description: I think with all the packages that are ordered online, it would benefit locals to have a dumpster located in the parking lot of Post office. Particularly on the side close to Hwy 203 so visitors can also see that there is a public dumpster available in the middle of town that is not locked instead of garbage on the streets or next to locked dumpsters like at the Shell station etc . Most bins are over filled and not emptied frequently enough.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The issue of dumpsters not being available to the public in a central location within mammoth Lakes.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Less litter on the streets.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

This gives a place for trash, which in term keeps litter off the streets, trails, piled next to locked dumpsters and protects wildlife.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Makes life simpler when dumpsters are Convenient for tourists. Less litter.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

We need central location within Mammoth Lakes for tourists to easily access and dispose of trash.

Shady Rest Winter Staging Area (ID# 97)

Date Submitted: 10/18/20

Location: Shady Rest Park - TOML

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Expanded parking along current park road with "bulb out" at end to allow for truck and trailer turning movements to exit the staging area. Add set of winterized restrooms.

Project long description: Expanded parking along current park road with "bulb out" at end to allow for truck and trailer turning movements to exit the staging area. Add set of winterized restrooms. Providing additional parking, ease of ingress and egress and basic facilities provided safer and better guest experiences. Improving the functionality of the existing site is a simple step to add value to all users.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Reduces congested staging area and provides for safe movement of vehicles and adds basic facilities.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Safer movement of traffic using Shady Rest as staging area for OHV/OVS activities.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Safe access to OHV/OSV staging areas opens up and diversifies expanded areas available for a mix of experiences.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Increases access to potential snow play. Adds safer access to OHV/OSV improving the overall experience of the user. Ease of use and safety are high priorities.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Allows for multiple use effort with support from user groups, TOML and cooperation federal partners. Project may be able to leverage OHV/OSV green sticker grant funds.

Composite Score: 14.09

Stewardship: 3.3

Access: 5.18

Benefits: 5.61

Eastern Sierra Outdoor Event Center - Big Benefits and Economic Drivers (ID# 85)

Date Submitted: 10/13/20

Location: Mammoth Lakes

Project type: Programming

Project short summary: Build a natural outdoor venue such as Red Rocks Amphitheatre (CO), Gorge Amphitheatre (WA), Harveys Arena (CA) For concerts and other community events.

Project long description: The Eastern Sierra offers some of the most scenic surrounding in N America. Mammoth Lakes is a ideal location for a outdoor concert venue offering families experiences of a lifetime.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

None

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Programming and attendance.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Project will attract visitors which stimulates the growth of tourism and other businesses in a town and region. Besides being fun and unifying the community, there are many other social benefits for the region.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Unforgettable experiences only possible in the High Sierra.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

It is project long overdue. The eastern Sierra needs a world class Outdoor sustainable events center.

Pump Track Project (ID# 23)

Date Submitted: 7/27/20

Location: Mammoth Lakes

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: I would like to propose the construction of a skateboard/bicycle/scooter pump track in Mammoth Lakes a la the Pacific Highlands Ranch Pump Track in San Diego or Woodward Park City.

Project long description: A year ago, I had the pleasure of visiting the Pacific Highlands Ranch Pump Track in San Diego. It consisted of an enclosed, 1/2 acre area in the corner of a park where there were two concrete tracks which consisted of a series of rollers and banked turns that made a series of loops which you could ride seemingly infinitely. The pump tracks are arranged in such a manner where it was possible for children on bikes, skateboards, and scooters to share the tracks with teens and adults who were much more skilled. There are signs at these pump tracks that indicate that the user must only enter the track when it is safe to do so, which also facilitated a sense of community amongst the users.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

The Pump Track Project would hope to address the need for a more progressive multi-use skate/bike park that isn't so basic as the Shady Rest Skate Park or so extreme as the Volcom Brothers Skate Park. It will create a recreational facility that users of all ages and equipment can enjoy.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

The project will be deemed a success through the positive experiences that will inevitably be created through it.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It will add value by providing infrastructure that enables a truly multi-use experience where the entire family can recreate.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Pump tracks enable the user to enter a state of flow, a balance between skill and challenge, that truly enables a person to be able to push boundaries and develop even more skills. Being in an environment with people of all ages, abilities, and disciplines allow for further creativity and growth.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

There really ought to be more mountain bike trails and skill parks in town. Appreciate the opportunity to be heard!

Public Access Trail to USFS Sherwin Meadows Area from Tamarack Street (ID# 136)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Southeasterly terminus of Tamarack Street

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Refer to the Informational Board (in the immediately following related email) about public access at the end of Tamarack St across the private Plum Family properties to the Sherwin Meadows.

Project long description: Refer to the Plum Family Informational Board (in the immediately following related email) about: handicap parking at the end of Tamarack St with a public road to the private Plum Family properties and the 2 Gibbs father/son headstones.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Public access for pedestrians, runners, their pets on leashes, bicyclists and equestrians (but specifically excluding "motorized" vehicles of any type) from the southeasterly terminus of Tamarack Street in Mammoth Lakes across the private Plum Family properties to the USFS Sherwin Meadows area.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

The public (both residents of this "Old Mammoth" neighborhood & visiting tourists) accesses the Sherwin Meadows area from Tamarack St in perpetuity.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

The public safely & easily accesses the Sherwin Meadows area in the Sierra Nevada mountains from Tamarack St for generations to come.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Easy public access from the end of Tamarack St in "Old Mammoth" to the Sherwin Meadows area.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

As many Mammoth Lakes residents have witnessed over the years, the Plum family has continually supported several local organizations & their causes that benefit those living in or visiting God's magnificent Sierra Nevada mountains.

Open Monitor Pass Year-Round (ID# 166)

Date Submitted: 10/31/20

Location: Highway 89 from the Highway 4/89 junction in Alpine County to the Highway 89/395 junction in Mono County.

Project type: Permits and Agreements

Project short summary: Keep Monitor Pass open year-round by providing funding to any agencies that may need it, including, if necessary, funding to study the feasibility of the project.

Project long description: Typically Monitor Pass closes when the first major snow of the season arrives and doesn't re-open until the snow melts in the spring. Because of this, access from 395 near Coleville, to Markleeville, and Tahoe/Kirkwood, is not possible. We would like to see funding directed in such a way that the Pass can be plowed and remain open during the winter months. Since Monitor Pass is mostly exposed, with limited tree cover, we believe it would take less effort to plow and clear than Ebbetts Pass, which is the other major corridor that closes Markleeville off during the winter months.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

When Monitor Pass is closed, Markleeville becomes a cul-de-sac, thereby limiting traffic and income for local businesses. Additionally, in the winter the Eastern Sierra corridor would effectively end in Mono Co. instead of Alpine Co. the actual northern terminus for the ESSRP.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Increased tourism and traffic to northern Mono and northwestern Alpine Co. during winter months.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Having access to these areas of Mono & Alpine Co. during the winter months would not only increase traffic there but also to the gateway communities of Walker, Coleville and Topaz. Easier access generates more traffic and therefore additional travel/tourism spending.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It allows them to experience an amazing portion of the Eastern Sierra corridor that they would not otherwise be able to access in the winter. Moreover, for those not familiar with the Eastern Sierra, it could minimize confusion regarding travel routes on existing maps.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Roads and trails on Monitor Pass would then be accessible for skiing, snowshoeing and other winter sports adding yet another layer of activities and therefore potential stewardship and engagement activities in the northern portion of the Eastern Sierra Corridor.

Additionally, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will be transitioning to a year-round fishing season in 2021. If the recreation season for certain activities is extended it is reasonable (you could even say necessary) to consider extending the access to and between those recreation areas as well.

Composite Score: 13.45

Stewardship: 3.95

Access: 5

Benefits: 4.5

Trail Difficulty Signage (ID# 101)

Date Submitted: 10/20/20

Location: Inyo/Mono County

Project type: Signage

Project short summary: Construct signs at trailheads providing info on the trail's difficulty to follow and complete.

Project long description: Build signs at trailheads in the area providing info on the trail's difficulty—including a simple symbol or rating similar to those at ski resorts, the trail's length, and possibly an estimated time to complete

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Could address many issues at once, it may stop people from overexerting themselves, more difficult trails may see littering, and generally help people have a better time outdoors.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Not easily measurable, but there might be increased hiking activity

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

May create a better understanding of trails in local communities

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

As I said before, I think a person will generally have a better time hiking when they have a good understanding of what they're getting into

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

No

Single track revival (reclaiming our eastside trails) (ID# 87)

Date Submitted: 10/13/20

Location: all of Mono county open to motorized recreational use

Project type: New Bathrooms, Buildings, Roads, Trails or other "Hard Infrastructure"

Project short summary: Single track revival is all about reclaiming forest routes on the Inyo for responsible motorcycle use. Local multi-use trails have become blown out by UTV visitors, over use, and are hazardous.

Project long description: For many years we've had a fragmented single track network connecting our communities together. This idea proposes to re-work the motorized single track trail system for the entire county (Mono). Utilizing a OHV staging area out of Mammoth we suggest multiple single track loops connecting our different towns. We'd like to see a 30 mile loop, 60 mile loop, and a 120 mile loop with connections to Bishop and north county (Bridgeport to Coleville)

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This is an opportunity to create a well managed trail system. Currently no trails on the forest (except for our minimal single tracks) are being maintained and managed. The end result is an eroded dusty mess.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

When we have a sustainable single track system throughout the eastern sierra.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Right now OHV use isn't being managed very well, if at all. The end result is the degradation of all trails. In some places it is hard to drive through the ruts just to get to a prime camping or wooding spot. We have welcomed more OHV use while narrowing everyone down to the same trails.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Well designed trail systems = high quality recreation experiences.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Motorized single track is also multi use, we welcome e-bikes, mountain bikes, hikers, and equestrian. Thanks for your consideration of this project.

Composite Score: 13.41

Stewardship: 3.58

Access: 4.9

Benefits: 4.93

Heated Skate Park & Pool (ID# 110)

Date Submitted: 10/27/20

Location: Shady Rest Park

Project type: Partnerships

Project short summary: Work with Ormat, USGS and USFS to build a Geothermal heated pool and skate park near the test well along Saw Mill road. I have talked to USGS and they seem to think it is feasible.

Project long description: I talked to a USGS Scientist who worked at the test well drill site and he said we "should at least have a heated pool or something" ...

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Provide Year Round Recreation

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Ormat agreeing to help bring at least some form of use for geothermal power into the Town of Mammoth Lakes. They already have production wells in Shady Rest.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Ingenious Ideas

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Keeps them warm and healthy

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

The idea is to give Ormat the opportunity to give back to the area.

The Sierra Encounter (ID# 88)

Date Submitted: 10/16/20

Location: Eastern Sierra Territory

Project type: Education

Project short summary: Online Scavenger-Hunt type Challenge guiding tourists to unique locations in the Sierras. Earn points, track visits on a virtual passport. Interesting visitor information for each location.

Project long description: This could be comparable to the Geo-Caching Adventures. Online passport to various and unique locations. Points can be earned based on difficulty and uniqueness of locations.

Visits logged on a virtual Passport Program.

Participants must post selfie photo in that location in order to get credit. Information such as history, unique facts, geo-coordinates, things to look for, things to be aware of could be included for each location. Also to have an opportunity to report major concerns (i.e. traffic hazards, nearby bear sightings, etc).

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Facilitate where tourists are going, bring tourism to newer areas, provide education about the area, encourage a little bit of fun, safe and accessible recreational competition.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Participants creating profiles for passports, earning points or badges, visiting 5 or more sites.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Highlighting unique places to visit, controlling where tourists go, education about the area, enhance tourism traffic to community.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Fun challenges that increase education about the area.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

wôkNnature - Slow mindful walks in nature (ID# 74)

Date Submitted: 10/3/20

Location: Mammoth Lakes

Project type: Programming

Project short summary: Slow, guided, mindful walks in nature. Allowing you to slow down and connect with nature and your self in a unique way!

Project long description: This guided Forest Bathing walk, “wôkNnature” will boost your mental and physical being by reducing your stress levels, lowering your pulse and blood pressure, lifting you into a more positive you. Your mind, body and spirit will thank you!

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Mental and physical health. De-stress and Relax in a slower way outside.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Participant(s) will come away from the walk with a deeper appreciation for our surroundings as well as boosting the mental and physical self. Participants want to go again on another walk.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It's a slower recreational activity to explore a deeper connection to the beauty here.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Participant(s) will come away from the walk with a deeper appreciation for our surroundings as well as boosting the mental and physical self. Truly different experience than some of the other activities in our area.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

wôkNnature - provides a slower recreational alternative for those visiting and locals alike. As I welcome the group, I the guide, provide some factual information about the area we will walk, as well as "leave no trace". I am a certified California Naturalist; Certified Nature and Forest Therapy Guide; Special Use Permitted Guide for Inyo National Forest; Certified in Wilderness First Aid; C-19 Health and Safety Certified Compliant Business, County of Mono. I love our Eastern Sierra and enjoy sharing that whenever and however I can! Thank you.

Grading (ID# 178)

Date Submitted: 10/31/20

Location: Mammoth to June Lake parallel to 395

Project type: Maintenance

Project short summary: Level out some of the whoops.

Project long description: There is a trail on the west side of Highway 395 from Route 203 to Route 158 (the June Lake junction) that is used by mostly off-highway vehicles. When I last traveled that route, it had really large "hoop de does" (moguls to a skier), particularly in the sandy areas. It would be nice to level those things out once in a while. I am not sure if a normal road grader would do it, but it would be interesting to try.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

A better experience for those exploring the area. This is just one obvious example. There are other trails where this could help.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

Increased use while staying on an established route.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Communities would be more reachable with more enjoyable travel.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

A pleasant drive versus a torturous experience.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Whoops, washboard, corrugations, and the like, are caused by the rolling actions of wheels on a fluid like surface (loose dirt, sandy or soft ground), just as wind builds swells on water. Typically, a road grader is used to level out the undulations on dirt roads. I have seen some smaller all wheel drive graders.

Mammoth Creek Park Manzanita Maze (ID# 165)

Date Submitted: 10/31/20

Location: Mammoth Creek Park

Project type: Trail Planning

Project short summary: On the a MUF LAND cut a maze in the manzanita. The land is so overgrown with bushes it is unusable. If people start to play there, the neighbors will get used to the activity. BINGO

Project long description: The larger piece of land in Mammoth Creek Park to be used as parking and the MUF is not being used for anything. Even I, a veteran bush walker, would't cut through that area. You could easily clear and make a maze with only two entrances or exits. This would be easy for parents to keep track of their kids. "They are in the Maze."

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Creates use in that area. It is a park after all. The activity will help soothe the neighbors and get them used to noise for whatever goes there someday.
The challenge, town staff not "thinking out of the box."

What will indicate this project has been a success?

More Kids Playing in Mammoth Creek Park

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

Another unique experience

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

Health

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

Just do something with the land mentioned.

Snowmobiling expansion (ID# 134)

Date Submitted: 10/30/20

Location: Mammoth lakes

Project type: Trail Planning

Project short summary: Here in the Mammoth area we have huge snowmobiling potential. We have miles of groomed trail and many unique places to explore. I believe that this potential is highly under utilized.

Project long description: I believe that with a few changes and additions that we could turn Mammoth into a world class snowmobiling resort. Starting with adding infrastructure. Including more trail map for people new to the area. More accessibility such as increased parking and launching areas. Along with more groomed trail. The next step would be letting people know about it. One way the town could do this is through advertising. Both with signs around the community and in other locations. Next the town could invite Snowmobilers with many follower such as Chris Burandt. Finally the town could host snowmobile events like community rides or commotions. Possibly partnering with the mountain or other organizations. However most importantly the town needs to protect the sport. Many groups such as the Sierra club are seeking to shut down much of the area for snowmobilers in as well as confining people to the groomed trails. So the town needs to ensure that there isn't huge restriction place on the sport.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

It provides another fun sport for locals as well as tourist. It creates jobs and brings in more money to the town. Further more it further increase Mammoths publicity making it even more of a word class destination.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

An increase in the number of people snowmobiling in the Mammoth area.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It will allow people to explore and enjoy the public land in new ways.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

It opens the door for many people to the amazing sport of snowmobiling

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Find Your Own Adventure (ID# 40)

Date Submitted: 8/26/20

Location: Mono County

Project type: enforcement

Project short summary: Force people to be responsible for themselves in planning for and engaging in their particular form of adventure by defunding the offices of tourism and/or converting their mission.

Project long description: Stop advertising!!! Develop collaboration between various government and other agencies to patrol and enforce what should be common sense. License or permits for dispersed camping which would attest to the users knowledge of the rules - much like a wilderness permit. ENFORCEMENT ENFORCEMENT ENFORCEMENT!!!

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

garbage, illegal camping and campfires, discouraging the type of self-entitled visitors who respond to advertising and have unreasonable expectations based on that advertising

What will indicate this project has been a success?

residents of this county won't have to spend hours cleaning up after visitors, we won't have incidents of illegal camping and campfires, residents will be able to find a place to park in order to recreate near their home

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

reduced fire danger, reduced amounts of trash, residents will be able to find a place to recreate near home

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

if the person is a self entitled slob they won't like it, if the person values the land their experience will be tremendously enhanced

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

The "feelings" of visitors and the profits of private businesses need to be secondary to protecting the land base and the humans and other creatures who live here. The fact that taxpaying residents are being forced to suffer abusive crowds, the increased fire danger, harassment and threats from "locals" who insist we are not "local" (yeah - I've got a story) AND clean up after visitors is like a real big middle finger to those of us who live here and take care of the place because we have values that many visitors lack.

Composite Score: 8.41

Stewardship: 2.75

Access: 2.98

Benefits: 2.68

Hitchhiking Promotional Campaign (ID# 30)

Date Submitted: 8/11/20

Location: Eastern Sierra

Project type: Signage

Project short summary: Campaign (billboards, signage etc.) to encourage hitchhiking and picking up hitchhikers.

Project long description: hitchhiking is a great way to reduce transportation emissions, and should be encouraged. This proposal proposes to construct signage and pull out spots on 395 and other highways to encourage hitchhiking. It would be similar to the "casual carpool program" in the bay area.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

Gives people more options to travel sustainably.

What will indicate this project has been a success?

When hitchhiking becomes common place in the eastern sierra. Average wait times for a ride fall below 10 minutes.

How might this project add value to the communities that are gateways to public lands?

It will attract a more diverse array of travelers who may not necessarily own a car.

Overall, how does this project contribute to the experience of the person recreating?

it will allow them to recreate more cheaply and meet more people.

Is there anything else you want to share about this project idea?

[No response provided.]

Composite Score: 8.26

Stewardship: 3.04

Access: 2.16

Benefits: 3.06

Toll 395, 55mph speed limit, carpool lane conversion (ID# 31)

Date Submitted: 8/11/20

Location: 395

Project type: Signage

Project short summary: Place toll booths along 395, and reduce the speed limit to 55mph to discourage driving, make center lane carpool only.

Project long description: In order to encourage more sustainable transportation, some disincentives need to be place on driving. Money raised can be put back into local communities, and help fund other green transportation projects. Waivers on the toll should be given to low income residents in the owens valley.

What challenge or opportunity does this project hope to address?

This project will reduce driving on 395, and thus reduce emissions.

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