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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kim Stravers, MLTPA Communications Manager, at (760) 934-3154 or kimstravers@mltpa.org

MLTPA FOUNDATION AWARDED \$120,099 GRANT FROM THE SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY TO FURTHER “CAMP: CONCEPT AND MASTER PLANNING” PROJECT

Mammoth Lakes, CA—The Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA) is proud to announce that it has been awarded a \$120,099 grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) in its first-ever round of funding. The award—the first of its kind received by the local nonprofit organization—is part of the SNC’s Strategic Opportunity Grant program, and carries the distinction of being one of the first to be awarded in the State of California.

MLTPA would like to thank its CAMP partners—the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, and the United States Forest Service—who supplied generous letters of support on behalf of MLTPA and the Concept and Master Planning (CAMP) process, and whose recommendations to the SNC for this funding were a critical element of MLTPA’s application.

“The Board, the Staff, and all the supporters of MLTPA are thrilled with this, absolutely thrilled,” says MLTPA Foundation President and Acting Executive Director John Wentworth. “We look forward to working closely with the SNC on this trails planning effort. We’d like to thank the SNC for their support of this project, and we welcome them to the East Side. I can only believe this is a portent of things to come.”

CAMP, the Concept and Master Planning process, is the partnered effort by which the Town of Mammoth Lakes, Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, the USFS, the Developers’ Forum, the community of Mammoth Lakes, and MLTPA all work together to plan a comprehensive trails and public access system. CAMP: SUMMER, a multi-day, free public event held at Canyon Lodge November 1–4, 2007, kicked off the public participation in this process and focused on summertime recreation and feet-first mobility in Mammoth Lakes; CAMP: WINTER, also free and open to the public, will be held at the Mountainside Conference Center in Main Lodge February 7–12, 2008, and will focus on winter recreation and feet-first mobility.

Funding for the Conservancy is appropriated through the State budget process on an annual basis. Proposition 84, passed by California voters in 2006, allocates \$54 million to the SNC, although these funds still need to be appropriated in the State budget. The Governor’s 2007–08 budget proposes a total of \$21 million for the SNC, including \$17.5 million from the Proposition 84 funds, \$17 million of which are proposed for grants. Applications must seek funding for projects that incorporate one or more of seven identified program areas. Grant funding is equitably distributed over time across these seven areas and over six identified Sub-Regions. Mono County falls under the East Sierra Sub-Region.

The Mammoth Lakes Trails and Public Access Foundation (MLTPA) is a 501(c)(3) public benefit corporation dedicated to trails and public access issues in Mammoth Lakes, CA, and the immediate Eastern Sierra region. MLTPA partners with local jurisdictions and agencies, businesses, nonprofits, and individuals to connect people to nature and to provide a forum for all trail users to be involved.

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