

The light breeze blowing in my hair, the slight smell of the salt water, the distant calls of the seagulls. These are moments I remember most. Mono Lake is a life sustaining ecosystem, and the beauty it offers must be protected. Even though Mono Lake has experienced drought and overuse, it prevails as one of the most beautiful lakes many people will ever see.

While sitting on the shoreline of the lake, I have seen the water change colors to match the mood of the sky. The lake complementing the Earth. One day the water is green, while another day the water might be light blue. The lake being so large, one can't see the opposite end. There are times when a person cannot tell where the earth ends and heaven begins

Although the beauty of the lake makes it seem unreal; Mono Lake is important and must be protected for future generations because there are animals depending on the unique ecosystem surrounding the lake. The seagulls feed on the brine shrimp which are unique to our area. Migratory birds fly through every year and feed on the insects surrounding the lake. The wildlife depending on the lake shows us the importance of Mono Lake and not just its beauty.

Mono Lake attracts many different cultures, ethnicities, and interests. Many people come from all over the world to see, study the life, and witness the beauty of Mono Lake, while I get to have math class next to it. Many of the people who come are interested in Mono Lake and its amazing history of water wars, tufa, and diverse animal life, not to mention it has archeological points of interest because of the Paiute Indians that relied on Mono Lake for survival.

When I leave, I will always remember Mono Lake as something to be cherished and protected. I grew up learning about Mono Lake and the unique ecosystem surrounding it. It symbolizes the fight for beauty, the fight for unity, and the fight for sustaining a natural ecosystem. Mono Lake is not just a lake, it is a special place where people can see the true beauty of nature and understand why people fought to save this majestic lake. This lake is important and must be protected forever so that many generations can witness a unique ecosystem called Mono Lake.