

# South Tufa trail moves uphill

*Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve staff instrumental in keeping trail open*

by Greg Reis

**M**ono Lake's rapidly rising waters caused some last-minute trail changes at the South Tufa Area this past summer. Mono Lake rose over two feet between April 1 and August 1, 2006, inundating parts of the former trail through the South Tufa grove. At times the lake rose ¼ foot per week, setting a challenging pace for the trail movers.

Dave Marquart, Park Interpretive Specialist, and Jim Pence, Ranger with the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, rerouted portions of the trail four separate times. Each time, they uncovered the overgrown remnants of the trail used in 1999—the last time the lake was this high. Cutting greasewood, moving



*The rerouted walking trail at South Tufa.*

signs, and relocating pieces of boardwalk were all necessary to keep the loop trail open.

At times the State received assistance from the Forest Service, Mono Lake Committee, and volunteers, but many times Jim or Dave were out there alone keeping the trail open for visitors. This is another reminder of how essential the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve and its excellent staff are for maintaining a high quality visitor experience in the Mono Basin.

Be sure to take a walk down at South Tufa during your next visit to the Mono Basin to try out the new trail and to see how far the lake has risen this year! ❖

## Education from page 10

but significant steps such as helping to prepare more meals or taking shorter showers. Or perhaps these students will challenge their indoor lifestyle and surprise themselves with what they can accomplish. ❖

*Molly Hucklebridge is one of two Outdoor Experiences Coordinators this summer and fall for the Mono Lake Committee's Outdoor Experiences program. In her spare time, she attempts to photograph every square inch of the Mono Basin with her new digital camera.*

## Outdoor Experiences wish list

**T**he Outdoor Experiences program needs some help. Do you have any of these items to donate?

- Cast iron frying pans
- Warm clothes in young adult sizes
- Binoculars
- Books on nature and natural history

If you can donate any of the above—either in new or good used condition, please contact Santiago Escruceria ([santiago@monolake.org](mailto:santiago@monolake.org)) at (760) 647-6595. Many thanks to Stephanie Ann Blythe, Barb Cragan, Terry Farmer, Mary Hartman, Kathy Ritter, and Emilie Strauss for donating items on the wish list—we're putting them to good use!

## Forest Service launches local lecture series

by Greg Reis

**E**very Saturday in July and August, the doors to the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Visitor Center were open late. The building was empty except for the auditorium, which was filled with people interested in learning about a variety of topics: climate change, volcanism, Mono Lake's wetlands, Mono Lake's tributaries, vertebrate surveys in Yosemite, birds of the High Sierra, mountain meadow bugs, the California water situation, and the status of water worldwide.

Lecturers shared expertise on these topics during one-hour presentations in the Forest Service's auditorium facility. The final Saturday was a showing of the film, "Running Dry," a documentary that makes an urgent and compelling call for water conservation.

The Mono Lake Committee appreciates the Forest Service's efforts at making this first annual lecture series a success. Having this series in the research-rich Mono Basin complements lectures already ongoing at the White Mountain Research Station, Parson's Lodge, and the Sierra Nevada Aquatic Research Laboratory. The lectures provide residents and visitors a look at research occurring in the area, and a better understanding of natural ecosystems.