

THE MONO LAKE NEWSLETTER

Vol. 8, No. 1

Summer 1985



Rush Creek Lawsuit Holds Water
Gulls Return to Negit Island
What's Ahead for the Scenic Area?

THE MONO LAKE NEWSLETTER

The *Mono Lake Newsletter*, published quarterly, is the official newsletter of the Mono Lake Committee, a California Non-Profit Corporation, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541. Copyright ©1985 by the Mono Lake Committee. Material contained in this newsletter may be quoted and/or reproduced for review, news reporting, educational purposes or related non-profit uses without prior written permission. Reproduction or quotation for other purposes may be approved upon written application.

IN THIS ISSUE

ON THE COVER: Logo of the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area adorns new signs on highways 395, 120 and 167. In this issue, we interview scenic area manager Nancy Upham, and get a glimpse of what's in store (see p. 10).

Rush Creek Lawsuit Holds Water.....	4
Public Trust Case to Water Board?.....	6
Gulls Return to Negit Island.....	7
Negit: How Important?.....	8
A New Water Balance Model.....	9
What's Ahead for Scenic Area.....	10
Mono Lake Bikeathon, Bus Tours.....	14

*Now I see the secret of making the best persons. It is to grow in the open air
and to eat and sleep with the earth.*

... Walt Whitman

*Join us at Mono Lake on Sat., Aug. 31, for our
Bucket Walk, Picnic, Meeting*

The Mono Lake Committee

OFFICERS

Martha Davis Executive Director
David Phillips Treasurer
Genny Smith Secretary

LOS ANGELES OFFICE

1355 Westwood Blvd., Suite 6, Los Angeles, CA 90024
(213) 477-8229

Martha Davis Executive Director
Kim Kovacs Development Director
Stephen Osgood Southern California Coordinator
Dina Tosini Intern

SACRAMENTO OFFICE

909 12th Street, #207, Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 448-1045

Marna Ikenberry Business Manager

BAY AREA OFFICE

1045 Sansome St., Room 402, San Francisco, CA 94111
(415) 956-7532

David Wimpfheimer Northern California Coordinator

MONO LAKE OFFICE

P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541; (619) 647-6386
David Gaines Chairman and Editor
Jim Parker Mail Clerk
Debby Jewett Office Manager
Ilene Mandelbaum Information Coordinator
Robert Berwyn, Kurt Delfino, Renee Dyke,
Takashi Fuji Interns
Barbara Stark Intern Coordinator

CORPORATE COUNSEL

John Paul Hollinrake, Attorney-at-Law
145 South Washington St., Suite F
P.O. Box 743, Sonoma, CA 95370; (209) 533-2356

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Todd Berens, Santa Ana
Ed Grosswiler, Portland
Grace de Laet, San Francisco
David Gaines, Lee Vining
Ellen Hardebeck, Bishop
David Phillips, San Francisco
Genny Smith, Mammoth Lakes
Timothy Such, San Francisco

Mono Lake Watch

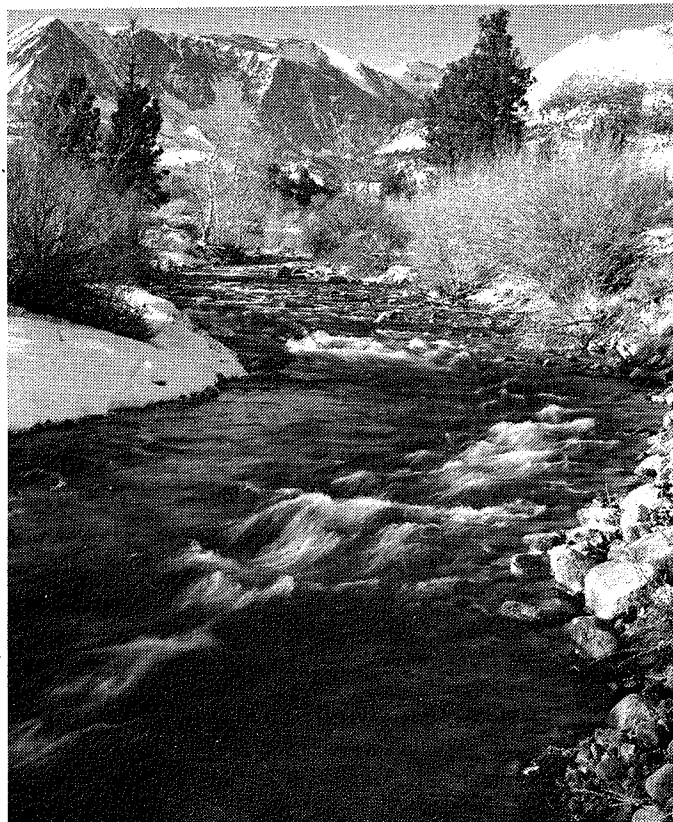
Trout have accomplished what birds and brine shrimp could not. For the first time in history, water is flowing into Mono Lake that the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power could have diverted into the aqueduct. But not enough.

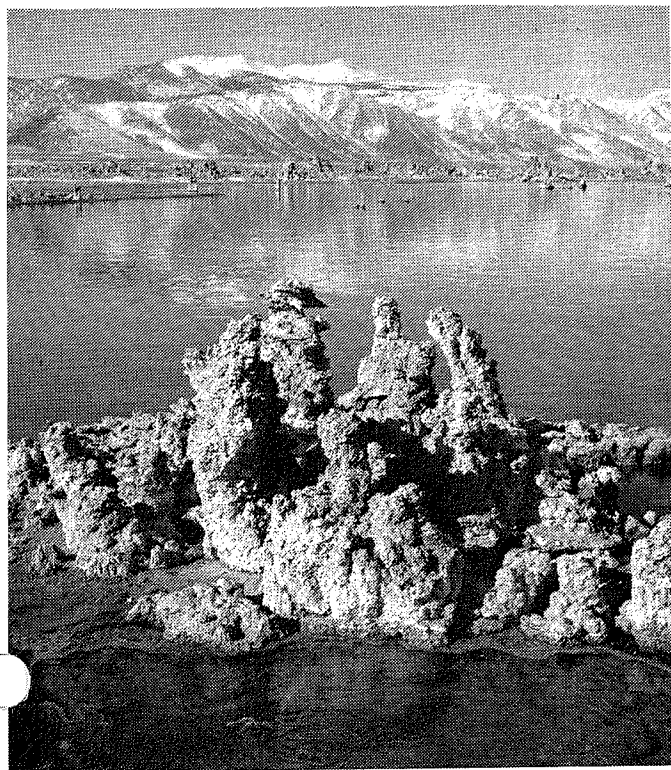
For every acre-foot of water DWP reluctantly yields Rush Creek and Mono Lake, it sends another nine and one-half racing to Los Angeles. Diversions are currently averaging 360 acre-feet per day and approximately 11,000 acre-feet per month.

As a consequence, Mono Lake is dropping. It is 12 inches below its April 1984 highstand of 6,380.9 feet.* Assuming normal precipitation for the remainder of 1985, it will fall below 6,378.5 feet by the end of 1985—unless DWP releases more water.

That's where trout come in. They are growing and breeding happily in Rush Creek, Mono Lake's largest tributary stream. A Mono County Superior Court judge has stopped DWP from drying up the stream and killing the fish, at least temporarily. DWP must release 19 cubic feet per second, or 38 acre-feet per day, to keep the trout alive.

That's not enough for Mono Lake, not enough for healthy trout, not enough for a healthy stream. But it's the first real crack in the dam, and widening.





Along Rush Creek, halfway between the highway and Mono Lake, is a place called "the narrows," for the stream has cut through low granite outcrops. On a shirt-sleeve day in May, we stood atop the narrows listening to the water singing through the gorge. It's a good, hopeful sound, of hope for the land, hope for ourselves. Of life returning.

The cottonwoods and willows have fresh, healthy foliage. Seedlings are taking root in the moist banks. Warblers are singing in the greenery for the first time in decades. Below us, every few minutes, a dipper flies into its nest with a fat, aquatic insect for its hungry young. Just downstream, a male osprey scoops a 12-inch trout out of the stream and carries it, twisting and squirming, to its mate on a tufa nest in nearby Mono Lake.

Looking west, we see Rush Creek descending from the snowfields of the mother Sierra. Looking east, we see it become Mono Lake.

Streams are the arteries of this land, nurturing trout, dippers and ospreys, willows and cottonwoods, brine shrimp and birds—and the human spirit.

*Elevations are USGS figures, which are 0.37 foot higher than those used by DWP.

Rush Creek Lawsuit Still Holds Water

Court Asked to Stabilize Mono Lake



was, in his own words, "dismayed to find that no flow, whatsoever, was occurring in the stream." Immediately he dispatched letters of protest to DWP and his superiors in Sacramento. In reply he received a thinly veiled warning to stop his investigations and keep quiet.

Vestal knew the California Legislature had unanimously passed a law three years before that required all dam owners to "allow sufficient water to pass over, around or through the dam to keep in good condition any fish that may be planted or exist below the dam." He didn't know his superiors had no intention of enforcing Fish and Game Code 5937 on Rush Creek. DWP had just given the Fish and Game Commission \$25,000 and land for the Hot Creek Fish Hatchery. In return the state had agreed not to impose additional conditions on the operation of Grant Lake and Long Valley (Crowley Lake) dams.

Despite and in violation of Fish and Game Code 5937 and other laws, DWP turned Rush Creek—a premier trout stream—into a dry wash. Until last autumn, it managed to avoid scrutiny.

In the summer and fall of 1982, the vagaries of climate set in motion events that may topple this legal house of cards. Heavy snowmelt and tropical rains deluged the Eastern Sierra. Water poured over Grant Lake dam, washing trout into Rush Creek. A wet winter followed, and the stream continued to flow. Trout thrived and bred in the food-rich water. By October 1984, there were at least 30,000 brown and rainbow trout, with over 7,500 fish per mile in the upper reaches.

When DWP threatened to dry up Rush Creek last fall, a scrappy local fisherman came to the rescue. When all else failed, Dick Dahlgren convinced California Trout to file suit. Three days later, on Nov. 19, 1984, Mono County Superior Court issued a temporary restraining order forcing DWP to leave 19 cubic feet per second in Rush Creek. On March 7, this became a preliminary injunction.

Rush Creek's defenders base their case on three principal grounds: (1) Fish and Game codes, (2) the California Environmental Quality Act, and (3) the public trust doctrine. They have assembled a brilliant legal team consisting of Cal Trout attorney and Vice President Barrett W. McNerney, CEQA authority Antonio Rossmann, and Audubon/Mono Lake Committee public trust experts Bruce Dodge and Palmer Madden.

Fish and Game Codes

DWP would seem in blatant violation of Fish and Game Code 5937, which requires dam owners to release enough water to keep "in good condition" downstream fisheries. In the Eastern Sierra, two other statutes give this code added authority. Fish and Game Code 5946 requires state water licenses issued in Mono or Inyo counties after Sept. 9, 1953, be conditioned on full compliance with 5937. Fish and Game Code 5947 makes it a crime for the owner of a dam in Mono or Inyo counties to release water in varying flows in a manner that destroys fish life.

Rush Creek lives! On March 7, a Superior Court judge granted a preliminary injunction temporarily preventing the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power from drying up Mono Lake's largest tributary stream.

The fight, however, is only beginning. At a May 3 hearing, Judge David E. Otis listened attentively to over five hours of testimony from lawyers representing DWP, California Trout, the Mammoth Fly Rodders, the Mono Lake Committee, the National Audubon Society and the California Attorney General. Both DWP and Rush Creek's defenders pleaded for summary judgment, i.e., a decision in their favor without an evidentiary trial.

Mono Lake itself, a prime beneficiary of Rush Creek's flow, was drawn into the fray. DWP, argued Cal Trout, must prepare a comprehensive environmental impact report, not only on Rush Creek, but on Mono Lake itself—something it has never done. Until an EIR is completed, DWP should be prevented "from permitting the level of Mono Lake to fall below its present elevation of 6,380 feet."

The Mono Lake Committee and the National Audubon Society asked to intervene, i.e., to join the fishing groups as plaintiffs.

Judge Otis did not rule May 3, but asked for additional briefing on the relationship of Rush Creek to the Mono Lake public trust litigation. Considering the case's escalating complexity, this was hardly surprising. In the meantime, Rush Creek continues to flow.

Background

On March 10, 1941, California Department of Fish and Game biologist Eldon Vestal conducted a routine inspection on Rush Creek below the newly completed Grant Lake dam. He

Armed with these laws, Cal Trout attorney Barrett McInerney has fashioned an effective case for keeping Rush Creek alive and flowing. DWP, argues McInerney, "is simply attempting to find a criminal defense that would justify its planned theft of water to which it has no right under the law. The fact it has been stealing successfully for 45 years, the fact that it has convinced several state agencies . . . to condone its violation of law, or even the fact that the criminal conduct has been incredibly lucrative is quite irrelevant . . . No state agency or official may waive the requirements of Fish and Game Codes sections 5937, 5946 or 5947."

DWP, however, claims the 1940 agreement with Fish and Game exempts it from compliance with these codes. It also asserts the Fish and Game codes can be enforced only by the state, not by private parties. Finally it argues that Fish and Game Code 5937 does not impose an absolute duty on dam owners to release water for fish. This, DWP says, "wholly ignores the legislative development of an integrated and comprehensive water resource allocation system . . . , raises serious questions concerning the statute's compatibility with two constitutional mandates, and is directly contrary to its longstanding administrative interpretation."

The State Attorney General's office, in an amicus brief filed May 3, differed with both Cal Trout and Los Angeles. Fish and Game Code 5937, it argued, "has to be interpreted to harmonize with other water allocation statutes, the Constitution . . . and the Audubon [Mono Lake public trust] decision." It gives "special weight" to fish below dams, but does not absolutely require their protection. There has to be a "balancing process" that considers the constitutionally mandated priority of water for municipal and agricultural uses, the "reasonableness" of leaving water for fish.

At the May 3 hearing, Judge Otis seemed sympathetic to Cal Trout's interpretation. If, he asked the state, the flow of a stream "is going to be determined by constitutional provisions and by the provisions of the water code, what meaning then does 5937 have?"

The California Environmental Quality Act

Should DWP be required to prepare an environmental impact report on Rush Creek and Mono Lake? That, opined Judge Otis May 3, is "a very close question."

When the California Legislature passed the California Environmental Quality Act in 1970, it intended to require environmental impact reports for new projects. Does DWP's annual decision to divert a certain amount of water from Rush Creek and other streams constitute a "new" project? Or was the project completed when the mortar dried in 1940?

On May 3, Antonio Rossmann presented cogent, eloquent arguments for requiring an EIR under CEQA, not only for Rush Creek, but for Mono Lake as well. "Human hands turn the valve that opens that gate," he told the court, "and human minds in Los Angeles decide each year whether and when that gate shall be opened or closed . . . If the court requires an EIR . . . it is merely requiring Los Angeles to do its homework, and, frankly, to get started on that reassessment that the Supreme Court ordered two years ago in the Audubon [Mono Lake] case."

DWP, in response, belittled Rossmann's arguments as "a disservice to CEQA . . . Like the scientist in a windswept castle of movie lore, he [Rossmann] takes a torso from a case that has nothing to do with an EIR, legs from a case involving Inyo County ground-water pumping, a head from the normal operating procedures of a 44-year-old project, charges these

component parts with a magneto of his own law review article, and voila!—a misshapen creature called EIR shambles into the courtroom!"

Judge Otis was not swayed by DWP's rhetoric. He is carefully considering the application of CEQA to Rush Creek and Mono Lake.

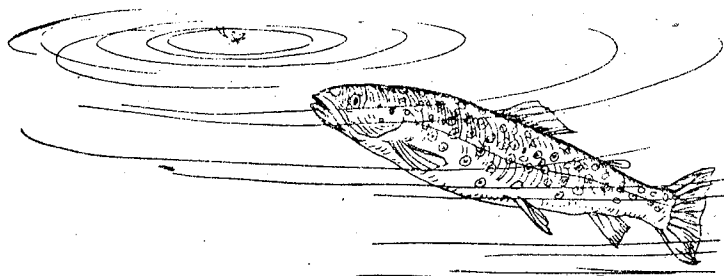
The Public Trust and the Mono Lake Case

In 1983, the California Supreme Court ruled that Mono Lake's public trust values must be protected "as far as feasible," even if this meant reconsidering past water allocations. Does this apply to Rush Creek's wildlife, aesthetic, scientific and economic values as well?

At the May 3 hearing, Judge Otis seemed to say "yes." "Audubon," he told DWP, "says that not only the navigable body of Mono Lake, but also the tributaries to Mono Lake are subject to that trust."

What this might ultimately mean is still unclear. Cal Trout's McInerney maintains the Fish and Game codes require water for fish protection independent of public trust consideration. The State Attorney General, in contrast, views the Fish and Game codes as a "legislative expression of the public trust obligation" that gives water for fish "special weight in the balancing process." Adding another wrinkle, the state wants the court to avail itself of "the expertise and experience of the State Water Resources Control Board," the same tack it has taken in the Mono Lake lawsuit (see p. 6).

Likewise unclear is the relationship of Rush Creek to the Mono Lake public trust litigation. The Supreme Court's 1983 decision mandates a balancing that protects public trust values whenever feasible. On May 3 Judge Otis asked for "everyone's opinion" on whether such a balancing should focus on Rush Creek alone, or consider the "beneficial effect that Rush Creek might have . . . on Mono Lake."



Outlook

What began as a last-ditch effort to save some trout has opened new legal doors for Mono Lake. It has galvanized a coalition of fishing groups, environmentalists and monophiles. It has caught the attention of the media, focusing national attention, to quote Sports Illustrated, on "the dreaded DWP."

Rush Creek's defenders, having won the first skirmishes, believe they can win the war. But a long legal battle looms ahead. Its course is uncertain. "If," Judge Otis speculated May 3, "the case goes any further . . . if there must be a balancing . . . I would . . . shape and fashion, with the assistance of counsel, all the elements of an evidentiary nature that would be taken into consideration by the court in that balancing process; and that would, of necessity, require a further hearing after all those materials were assembled."

The months ahead promise to be interesting!

Public Trust Case State Wants Mono Lake Before Water Board

The California Attorney General is seeking to have key issues in the Mono Lake public trust lawsuit referred from Alpine County Superior Court to the State Water Resources Control Board.

This is no surprise. In 1983, the California Supreme Court rejected the state's contention that the water board should be the sole arbiter of public trust values. That landmark decision directed the lower court to find a "better balance" between Los Angeles' water-gathering activities and the public interest in preserving Mono Lake. It did allow referral of all or part of the case to the water board, however, if "the nature or complexity of the issues indicate that an initial determination is appropriate."

Surprising is the state's haste. The National Audubon Society and the Mono Lake Committee, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the state itself have all separately appealed Federal District Court Judge Lawrence Karlton's Nov. 8, 1984, decision, which sent the public trust heart of the suit to Alpine County, but kept the federal common law nuisance claims in federal court. As these appeals are pending, the state's action seems premature.

The state, in essence, wants the water board to decide Mono Lake's fate. It would have the board determine "the nature and extent of the public trust values of Mono Lake" affected by diversions, "the nature and extent of the beneficial uses" of the diverted water, and the degree, if any, diversions should be curtailed. While the board's findings would not be binding, they would carry substantial weight.

A detour to the water board could delay the litigation up to several years.

Alpine County Superior Court Judge Hillary Cook is expected to deny or defer the state's motion until the dust settles over Karlton's decision. Involved are complex procedural issues and the relationship between federal and state law. In brief, Audubon and the Mono Lake Committee are asking the Court of Appeals to consider whether Karlton acted properly in dividing the case between state and federal courts, and whether we can invoke the federal common law of nuisance to reduce DWP's water diversions. The state is arguing that federal law cannot be invoked to limit water diversions authorized under California water rights laws.

Feds Win Lakeshore; State Appeals

On April 4, U.S. District Magistrate Lawrence Karlton ruled that the federal government, not the state of California, owns approximately 15,000 acres of land exposed by the declining level of Mono Lake. The decision pertains to land lying below areas already in federal ownership; lands below private or Los Angeles property remain state-owned.

The ruling transfers approximately 60 percent of the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve from the state to Inyo National Forest, where it will be administered as part of the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. This encompasses most of the lake's southern, eastern and northeastern shores, including the South Tufa area.

The state, however, has not given up. In early May, it appealed Karlton's decision. Court watchers believe it could go either way. In the meantime, the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area and the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve are cooperatively managing the disputed lands and providing interpretive services.

Lehman: Enforce Bird Treaty

California Congressman Richard Lehman, D-Sanger, has asked the Department of Interior to "strictly enforce the Migratory Bird Treaty Act" to protect Mono Lake's wildlife.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act, adapted by the United States in 1918, Canada in 1917 and Mexico in 1936, requires the protection of migratory bird populations. It has been invoked in the past to support a wide range of regulations, including banning sale of Indian artifacts that contain feathers or other parts of rare migratory birds.

Based on this law, Interior Secretary Donald Hodel has decided to terminate irrigation water to 42,000 acres of San Joaquin Valley farmland. Toxic, selenium-laced runoff was polluting Kesterson National Wildlife Refuge, causing birth deformities in migratory waterfowl and shorebirds.

Lehman believes strict application of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to Mono Lake could result in a violation if a "coyote walks out [to a nesting island] and eats a bird." Lehman authored the Mono Basin National Scenic Area legislation, and is a strong supporter of protecting Mono's wildlife.

Interior Department officials say they will not be responding to Lehman quickly. They are too busy with Kesterson.

Sheep Grazing

Despite the efforts of the California Department of Parks and Recreation and State Sen. John Garamendi, sheep continue to threaten marsh and meadow habitats within the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve.

Last October, in a controversial ruling, Mono County Superior Court Judge Harry Roberts allowed grazing in the reserve on the grounds "it is not incompatible with any of the uses or purposes for which the reserve is established." This surprised and shocked the state, since grazing is prohibited in every reserve and most state parks in California, and is clearly incompatible with preserving "geologic features and scenic qualities in a state of undisturbed integrity" (Public Resources Code). Moreover, livestock grazers have never obtained a lease to use state lands, and are therefore, despite Roberts' ruling, grazing illegally.

The California Department of Parks and Recreation has appealed Roberts' ruling, and a hearing is scheduled for July. Meanwhile sheep continue to graze.

The threat is of major concern to Sen. Garamendi, who authored the legislation creating the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve. In March, Garamendi introduced S.B. 1120 to prevent grazing and other activities that cause ecological damage. On April 9, the bill passed the Senate Natural Resource and Wildlife Committee by a 5-0 vote.

Garamendi has deferred further legislative action in hopes of negotiating a solution with the woolgrowers. One possibility is a gradual phase-out of grazing and transfer of livestock to other allotments. The Mono Lake Committee, however, continues to support the immediate elimination of all grazing from the reserve.

Gulls Return to Negit Island

For the first time in six years, California gulls are nesting on Negit Island in Mono Lake.

While most of Mono's nesting gulls are still crowded onto islets northeast of Negit and west of Paoha, several hundred have recolonized their ancestral haunts. In late May, Point Reyes Bird Observatory biologist David Shuford counted 92 nests with eggs and 262 additional nest scrapes on Negit Island. Additional nests were probably overlooked.

Until 1979, Negit Island supported approximately 33,000 nesting California gulls, the largest colony in California. In that year, however, the lowering lake level exposed a land bridge between Negit Island and the mainland. Coyotes crossed the land bridge, routing nesting gulls and preying on their eggs and chicks.

Since 1979, the nesting gulls have crowded onto small islets in Mono Lake, and lower reproductive success has led biologists to question whether they can maintain their population without nesting on Negit. In 1976, with 65 percent nesting on Negit, the gulls fledged approximately 26,800 chicks. Since 1979, they have fledged an average of only 9,400 per year. In 1984, they fledged between 4,500 and 6,300.

Since 1982, the lake has risen nine feet and restored Negit to island status. Until this year, however, the continued presence of coyotes on the island prevented the return of nesting gulls.

"We are encouraged the gulls have returned at the first opportunity," comments biologist Shuford. "The small islets near Negit are packed with nesting gulls to near maximum densities, so it is not surprising some of the birds are nesting on the island. They are getting a late start, however, so we may not see great reproductive success this year."

"This affords the opportunity to study important scientific questions," explains Shuford. "Are Mono's islet-nesting gulls raising enough chicks to sustain the population? Will the availability of Negit Island enhance reproductive success?"

To lure gulls back to Negit and answer these questions, Shuford placed gull decoys and dummy nests on the island in March. It appears the birds were not strongly attracted by the decoys but scattered nests and scrapes throughout much of the island's greasewood scrub and white rock habitats.

Several hundred nesting pairs is a far cry from the thousands that once animated Negit's shores. But, if given the chance, their numbers are likely to increase rapidly. The colonizers are almost certainly young pioneers who have been crowded off other islets.

If the colony flourishes, Shuford plans to compare reproductive success with that on the other islets. Some biologists suspect Negit Island's shade-providing shrubs afford more favorable habitat conditions. Others disagree, and this has become a matter of intense dispute (see article, *Negit Island: How Important to Gulls*, p. 8).

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has criticized efforts to restore the Negit Island colony. "The gulls use the open areas of the new islets," comments DWP engineer Bruce Kuebler. "Why artificially draw them to Negit Island? Years down the road it may be advisable for DWP to draw the lake down. The island would be accessible again. It is an unnatural thing to bring about a situation not in the best interests of the gulls."

Mono Lake Foundation, REI, Golden Gate Audubon Fund Gull Research

Grants from the Mono Lake Foundation, Recreation Equipment Inc. and the Golden Gate Audubon Society are enabling the Point Reyes Bird Observatory to continue its gull research at Mono Lake this summer. This crucial research, which focuses on reproductive success, had been jeopardized by lack of funds. We are deeply grateful to MLF, REI and Golden Gate Audubon for their support.

State Funds Elude Researchers

The California Department of Fish and Game, which was given \$250,000 by the Legislature last May for a three-year "scientific study of the effects of water diversions on the Mono Lake ecosystem," has passed the buck to the Community and Organization Research Institute, a non-profit organization associated with the University of California at Santa Barbara. "We could not take administrative costs from the bill," commented Fish and Game spokesman Dwayne Maxwell, "but that did not preclude someone else from taking those costs."

CORI will be using the money, not to fund new research, but to critically review and analyze existing data and identify areas that require more study. There will be no support for needy, ongoing, independent projects, such as the Point Reyes Bird Observatory's gull research or David Herbst's brine fly work.

CORI, in turn, will delegate the actual work to a team of scientists. The team will be chosen by a "blue-ribbon panel" of independent experts who are "above the political controversy." How long this might take and how much it will cost are still uncertain.

In sum, this is meta-research—a critical assessment of what's already been done. According to Fish and Game and CORI, that's the best they can do with limited funds.



PRBO biologist David Shuford (left) and Takashi Fuji place gull decoys and dummy nests on Negit Island. Small numbers of nesting gulls returned to the island this spring.

NEGIT ISLAND: How Important to Gulls?

One of the Mono Lake Committee's sacred cows—the importance of Negit Island to nesting gulls—has been challenged. In a recent paper, Joseph R. Jehl Jr., David E. Babb and Dennis M. Power conclude that the increase in Mono Lake's gull population from several thousand early in the century to approximately 50,000 by 1976 “seems largely attributable to the formation of new nesting islands, exposed by the decline of the lake since 1941, and to immigration from other colonies . . . The topography of these newly exposed and barren islands is more typical of California gull nesting habitat than are the rugged and heavily vegetated parts of Negit Island, and the gulls occupied them rapidly” (*Colonial Waterbirds* 7: 94-104). In other words, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power indirectly facilitated the growth of Mono's gull population by causing the lake level to fall, exposing new nesting habitat. Negit Island, Jehl maintains, was only used as a last resort.

Other biologists flatly reject this analysis. A critique of Jehl's paper is being prepared by David Winkler, who conducted doctoral research on Mono's gulls between 1976 and 1981, and David Shuford, who has been studying the colonies since 1982.

The dispute has reached the courts. The request to stabilize Mono Lake pending an environmental impact report is predicated, in part, on the importance of keeping Negit an island.

Biologist and Mono Lake Committee Chairman David Gaines submitted a declaration in support. At DWP's request, Joseph Jehl filed an opposing declaration, and appended his paper. Following are the heart of these two declarations.

NEGIT ISLAND: Too Important to Lose

David Gaines

It is my professional opinion that maintaining at least the present water barrier around Negit Island is crucial to preserving the ecological status quo at Mono Lake, and to clarifying Negit Island's importance to nesting California gulls.

Large numbers of California gulls have been nesting on islands in Mono Lake at least since the first white men visited the area in the 1850s, and probably for hundreds and possibly thousands of years. J. Ross Browne's account in an 1865 issue of Harper's magazine suggests there may have been tens of thousands: “Immense swarms of gulls visit these islands during the spring of the year and deposit their eggs on every available spot. Myriads upon myriads of them hover over the rocks from morning till night, deafening the ear with their wild screams, and the water is literally covered with them for a circle of many miles . . . The open spaces between the rocks are so thickly covered with eggs that the pedestrian is at a loss to find a vacant spot for his foot.”

By the 1880s, commercial harvesting of gull eggs for sale in nearby mining towns had decimated the Mono Lake nesting population. On June 3, 1882, the local newspaper, the Homer Mining Index, reported that “the crops of gull eggs on the island [Negit] in Mono Lake is small this season. The

degradations on the birds' nests have probably caused them to seek some safer spot to rear their young.” Egging continued on a limited basis for the next 20-30 years, and may have further reduced the size of the nesting gull population.

Between 1916 and 1976, the Mono Lake gulls evidently increased from a few thousand to approximately 50,000. Although the proliferation of agriculture may have contributed to repopulation, the evidence suggests that this increase largely represents a gradual recovery from the decimations of commercial egg harvesting. Most of this increase took place on elevated portions of Negit Island, and had little if anything to do with the emergence of islets northeast of Negit and west of Paoha islands.

With one probable exception, Mono Lake's principal California gull colony has always been reported on Negit Island. In 1857, surveyor A.W. von Schmidt called Negit “Bird Island” on the first official survey maps. Nineteenth century newspaper and first-hand accounts locate the main colony on Negit. Egging probably drove the birds from the island, for the ornithologist Joseph Dixon found Negit abandoned in 1916. Three years later, however, the ornithologist William L. Dawson found the “most populous” colony back on Negit. Subsequent published and first-hand accounts indicate the principal colony remained on the island until 1979.

On July 4, 1976, I assisted Dr. David Winkler in conducting the first systematic census of the Mono Lake gull colony. We counted chicks along transect lines on Negit Island, and from boats on the Negit islets. Extrapolating from these data, we derived estimates of approximately 33,000 nesting gulls on Negit Island and 18,000 on the Negit islets. There were no gulls nesting on Paoha Island or on the islets west of Paoha at this time.

In my opinion the evidence clearly indicates that the gulls' abandonment of Negit Island in 1979 was ultimately caused by the declining water level of Mono Lake and the formation of a land bridge between the island and the mainland.

Since 1979, Mono Lake's nesting California gulls have crowded onto small, barren islets northeast of Negit Island and west of Paoha Island. Most of these islets emerged since 1941 as the lake level declined. Gulls evidently began nesting on the Negit islets in the 1960s, but did not colonize the Paoha islets until they were driven off Negit Island in 1979. Until 1979, the principal colony was on Negit Island.

The evidence suggests the abandonment of Negit Island has had a deleterious effect on the gulls' nesting success. While the total number of nesting adults has remained relatively stable, chick production has declined by almost 65 percent.

Despite this evidence, Negit Island's importance to nesting gulls has been disputed by Dr. Joseph R. Jehl Jr., who maintains that Mono's nesting gulls prefer the unvegetated islets to Negit Island's scrub.

Other ornithologists reject Jehl's theories as groundless, and have suggested that Negit Island in fact provides more favorable nesting conditions than the islets. This point is emphasized in a 1984 paper by Mark A. Chappell, David L. Goldstein and David W. Winkler that is worth quoting: “Chicks can usually avoid severe heat stress if shade is available . . . Gull chicks on Negit could find shady refugia even if their parents were absent . . . Although the islets provide protection from predators, they support almost no

vegetation or other natural cover . . . If chicks are left unshaded for more than 20-30 minutes on a wind-free sunny day, they are likely to experience dangerous hyperthermia . . . Gull mortality [in 1981, when over 90 percent of the 50,000 [chicklings died] probably would have been much smaller had the gulls been using the Negit colony site with its abundant shade."

The weight of the evidence suggests that Negit Island is crucial to maintaining the nesting productivity of California gulls at Mono Lake. This can only be proved, however, if a water barrier is maintained around Negit Island, predators are removed, the gull colony is re-established, and the gulls' nesting success is monitored and compared with that on the islets.

NEGIT ISLAND: Not Essential for Healthy Gull Colony

Joseph R. Jehl Jr.

In a recent and lengthy declaration, David Gaines has reviewed some aspects of the [Mono Lake] colony's history and has argued that Negit Island is crucial to the survival of that colony. Based upon my knowledge, investigation and review of the published literature, such a conclusion cannot be supported.

Historically, gulls have nested on virtually all of the islands and islets in Mono Lake, and at times the main colony was not on Negit Island but on Paoha (1916) or on the islets (1965, and since 1979). Since Negit is a very large island and purportedly contains the best nesting habitat for the species, it is strange that birds would occupy other areas when Negit was not fully occupied. One must conclude that from the gulls' viewpoint other areas have been more desirable, at least in some years.

Gulls have not nested on Negit Island since 1979, when they left for undetermined reasons. The colony moved to the nearby islets. Within limits of censusing error, there has been no detectable change in the size of the population in the interim.

Although it has been claimed that the productivity of the gulls on the islets is poorer than on Negit, there are no adequate comparative data from which to draw any firm conclusions.

Since the 1920s, the U.S. population of the species has nearly trebled. The species is expanding into new nesting areas and is thriving. Since 1981, a colony on San Francisco Bay has formed and is now said to have reached 6,000 birds.

Since 1916, the earliest date for which quantitative data are available, the Mono Lake population has grown from 3,000 to 50,000 birds. The most dramatic increase occurred after 1953 to perhaps mostly in the 1970s where the increases were from 3,000 to 40,000 and 50,000 breeding gulls.

I state the evidence does not support the contention that Negit Island is essential for the survival of a healthy gull colony at Mono Lake.

Apology

I apologize to Joseph R. Jehl and his colleagues. In our 1984 newsletter, David Winkler suggests they invoke their research as a "rationale to plead for the continued lowering of Mono Lake." Not true. They are engaged in gathering scientific information about a complex ecosystem, not in passing value judgments.

Projecting the Size and Salinity of Mono Lake: A New Water Balance Model

A Hayward State University graduate student has completed a detailed, comprehensive water balance model that will help project the future size and salinity of Mono Lake under different diversion scenarios. Peter Vorster spent over five years developing the model, which independently quantifies 19 components and uses a computer model for analysis. The result, to quote hydrologist David Todd's recent report for the federal court, is "the most complete and most accurate representation of the hydrologic cycle of the Mono Basin."

Over a dozen other water models have been developed over the years, including a 1984 study by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. While Vorster's model does not drastically alter previous projections, it is substantially better documented and more precise.

Based on Vorster's model, what can we expect? If DWP continues to divert an average of 100,000 acre-feet of water from Mono's tributary streams each year, the lake—assuming a continuation of 1937-1983 climatic conditions—will plummet approximately 45 vertical feet and more than double in salinity before it stabilizes. "Stabilize" is misleading, for the lake would continue to fluctuate between surface elevations of approximately 6,330 and 6,346 feet (compared to 6,380 feet at present), and salinities of 17 percent to 24 percent (compared to approximately 9 percent at present).

The Mono Lake Committee has previously relied on a 1977 study that projected a stabilization level of 6,323 feet and a stabilization salinity of 27 percent.

Were it not for DWP's diversions, Vorster calculates, the lake would presently stand at 6,426 feet, 46 feet above its current level and approximately half its present salinity.

Anything over 20 percent salinity is virtually certain to doom Mono's brine shrimp and brine flies. At salinities of only 13 percent, growth rates, brood size and reproductive success of shrimp decline dramatically. According to Vorster's model, salinity will probably pass 13 percent soon after the turn of the century—unless diversions are curtailed. If invertebrates disappear, birds will necessarily follow.

The real-life situation is actually more complex. Salinity projections, for instance, assume the lake remains uniformly mixed from top to bottom. Yet for the past three years, Mono has remained stratified into a relatively fresh surface layer and a saltier deep layer (meromixis). Vorster believes this was caused by the artificially large freshwater flows released into the lake from upstream reservoirs during the wet falls and winters of 1982 and 1983. This inflow may have formed a persistent, cold fresh layer above the lake's denser, warmer and saltier water. The biological ramifications are under investigation.

Moreover future climatic patterns defy prediction. If the next 50 years are as cold and wet as the "little ice age" of 300 years ago, Mono might not shrink at all. If they are as dry as the "medieval maxima" of a millenia ago, the lake might drop below 6,300 feet and equal the Dead Sea's saturation salinity.

Despite these limitations, which affect all water balance models, Vorster's work is an exceptionally competent and important study. It will be the basis for projecting the probable future size and salinity of Mono Lake.

WHAT'S AHEAD FOR THE MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA?

A Conversation with Scenic Area Manager Nancy Upham

Nancy Upham became the first manager of the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area this March after 11 years experience on the Mendocino, Shasta-Trinity and Los Padres national forests. Most recently she co-chaired an interdisciplinary team on oil and gas leases in the Santa Barbara area.



Nancy Upham, Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area manager, leads a tour at South Tufa. The scenic area has initiated an ambitious program of interpretive activities that includes volcanic features as well as the lake.

MLC: Nancy, you've been here about three months. What has impressed you most about the Mono Lake landscape?

Upham: A very dynamic environment. The contrasts between the craters, the lake, the tufa. It's a strange and mysterious place. I am especially thrilled that spring is emerging, that the basin is coming alive—the birds coming back, the wildflowers, the desert peach. I love to spend time down at the lake.

MLC: Who, besides yourself, does the Scenic Area have on staff?

Upham: We have two interpretive naturalists who were hired this June and will be working at least through Labor Day. Larry Ford and Ivan Olsen will be conducting interpretive walks at South Tufa as well as Panum Crater and Black Point. They will be giving programs in local campgrounds and will be helping with the development of brochures and displays. I also coordinate closely with other district staff in such areas as wildlife, range management and archaeology.

MLC: Will you be working with the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve?

Upham: We are working very closely. The Forest Service has taken the lead role at South Tufa, but we are both continuing to offer naturalist walks and other interpretive services.

Between us, I feel the public will have expanded opportunities to get to know Mono Lake more intimately.

MLC: Let's focus on management, and some of the problems and challenges that involves. Unlike a national park or a state reserve, a national scenic area has no specific legislative or administrative definition. In the management of the Mono Lake area, then, you have to rely on the bare bones language of the California Wilderness Act. What problems has this caused, and how are you dealing with them?

Upham: One of the things we have found is that there are aspects of the legislation that were left up to our interpretation. That's caused some problems as we try to define the intent of Congress. We've gotten, as you've said, the "bare bones" minimum. We know basically what our task is and what we here to protect—geologic, ecological and cultural values.

Other aspects of the legislation are more difficult to deal with, and number one is the effect on private parcels of land within the scenic area. The legislation addressed further development of commercial and residential areas, gave us some very basic guidelines, and said we had six months to develop further guidelines. We, unfortunately, didn't make the deadline, but our priority now is to get those guidelines developed and finalized so the people who do own land within the scenic area will have a much better idea what they can do on their property [see facing page].

MLC: There is, it seems, a tension between permitting private development and protecting "geologic, ecological and cultural values." There is another area where this tension could become even more pronounced: water. The legislation says protect natural values, but also warns the scenic area "shall not be construed to reserve any water . . . and does not affirm, deny or otherwise affect water rights." In light of this, what action, if any, might the Forest Service contemplate to carry out the mandate of preserving values that are threatened by water diversions?

Upham: I have had a difficult time with this issue. I have been working for the forest Service for 11 years, however, so it's not the first time I've faced the situation of carrying out federal legislation and enforcing federal regulations that at times appear to be in conflict.

The legislation does call for a National Academy of Sciences study of the effect of the lowering lake level on wildlife populations and ecological values. Through the study the NAS will compile objective data and information whereby they could make a recommendation that could affect the amount of drawdown of Mono Lake.

We are, however, having a problem funding the study. NAS had put a price tag of \$370,000 on it. Federal budgets have been significantly reduced, and the Forest Service does not have money earmarked for this study. Congressman Richard L. Can has told us funding this study is his number-one priority for the scenic area.

I do feel we have a number of tools and methods available to protect ecological values and wildlife populations. We have range specialists and wildlife biologists with knowledge and skills to help us maximize these values even with a lowering lake level.

MLC: So you would look into means of mitigating for the impact of a lowering lake level as part of carrying out your mandate to the extent possible?

Upham: Yes, mitigation is a good word to describe some of the efforts we might make to protect ecological, cultural and wildlife values. We are restricted from entering into the water rights situation, but we are not restricted from taking active measures to try to maintain wildlife populations. That's part of our mission.

MLC: Another area of tension arises in the area of grazing. It is well known that grazing has a deleterious impact on native ecosystems, yet the scenic area legislation allows it to continue, at least under current permittees.

Upham: Grazing on national forest lands is not unusual. I was not surprised that grazing rights were protected, and both cattle and sheep may continue to graze the scenic area. I believe that grazing is an appropriate long-term use that is compatible, if properly managed, in many parts of the area. In some places of higher sensitivity we will have to monitor the impacts and carefully manage to protect resources such as tufa, wildlife habitat and nesting areas. We have many mitigation measures through range management that we can utilize to lessen the effects of grazing. We see areas where a more frequent rotation schedule may be called for, or where fencing may be necessary.

MLC: Will you be considering the reintroduction of pronghorn antelope, sage grouse and other native wildlife that once flourished in the scenic area, but are rarely found today? Grazing is a problem for sage grouse, as it depletes the tender grasses and herbaceous vegetation the laying hens and chicks depend on.

Upham: This is the first I've heard this mentioned. Our primary purpose now is to get a handle on the wildlife populations that are there and see what needs to be done. When we have a stable situation, I wouldn't see a problem with looking at introduction of species that used to be in the area. This is something the Forest Service has done in other areas.

MLC: We're getting into specifics that, I imagine, will be addressed in the management plan. I understand this will be a detailed, comprehensive plan that will address location and design of a visitor center, roads, trails and campgrounds, grazing, hunting, boating and ORV use, and numerous other issues that will, in sum, determine what the scenic area will be like. Can you tell us a little about this process and how our members may contribute?

Upham: A couple of weeks ago we developed interim direction for the scenic area. We called on the expertise of Forest Service personnel who are directly involved with the management of national recreation areas, such as the Sawtooth in Idaho. They help us develop interim guidelines, which are now being finalized.

The legislation calls for a comprehensive management plan, and gives the Forest Service three years to complete it. The Forest Service is in the process of hiring a planner to actually

write the plan. I will be heavily involved with that person, and the public will also have opportunities for input. In terms of campgrounds, trails, the visitor center and things of that nature, we are going to be very interested in hearing what the public wants.

Our public is very diverse. There are local residents. There is the general California public that has become very aware of the Mono Basin as a controversial issue. Then there is the national public who has an interest by virtue of it being a "national scenic area," and want to have a say in the future of a nationally designated area.

Within the next two years, we will be holding public meetings and asking for written input. There definitely will be opportunity for people to have input into a draft management plan, and then comment on the draft once it comes out.

MLC: Can people get on a mailing list to receive notice of these meetings?

Upham: Yes, we already have over 150 names and it is growing daily. Anyone who wants to be added should contact me at the Lee Vining Ranger Station, P.O. Box 10, Lee Vining, CA 93541. I'm a strong believer in getting the public involved with decisions that involve national forest lands. These are public lands; they belong to the people, and who better to listen to than the public?

MLC: Is there anything you would like to add?

Upham: I would like to extend an invitation to all who read your newsletter to visit me at the ranger station, participate in our walks or campfire programs, and let us know their thoughts about the scenic area.

MLC: We're very fortunate to have such a capable and enthusiastic manager for the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. We wish you the best of luck!

Scenic Area Private Development Guidelines

Many Mono Basin residents are deeply concerned over the impact of the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area on "private property rights." Fear and resentment surfaced in a T-shirt design that portrays the Mono Lake Committee holding the strings on two puppets who are dancing on a "local" who has been stabbed in the back. The puppets are the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area and the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve.

On May 22, the Forest Service released draft guidelines for private property development within the scenic area. The guidelines assuaged some but not all of the fears.

The Forest Service faces the challenge of interpreting legislative language that almost contradicts itself. The legislation states that "development . . . significantly different from, or a significant expansion of, development existing as of June 1, 1984, shall be considered . . . as detrimental to the integrity of the scenic area." But the legislation also spells out specific activities, including doubling the size of existing buildings, which it does not consider detrimental.

At a public meeting April 20, the Mono Lake Committee urged "concern and sensitivity toward the rights of private property owners." We believe it was the intent of Congress, not to hobble property owners, but to prevent unsightly commercial developments, such as motels, trailer parks and gas stations, that could capitalize on the scenic area designation. On the developed northwest shore of the lake,

PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT, continued

between Tioga Lodge and Danburg Beach, we do not object to further, similar, non-commercial development. The remainder of the scenic area, however, we want to remain in a pristine, wild state.

The draft Forest Service guidelines do in fact distinguish between the northwest shore "developed" lands, "relicted" lands exposed by the lake's decline, and "natural" lands comprising the remaining, undeveloped portions of the scenic area. On developed lands the guidelines allow one new single-story residence of up to 2,000 square feet on each separately owned parcel; "management emphasis will be to

maintain the rural and natural appearing landscape." On relicted and natural lands, no new developments or uses are permitted; "management emphasis will be to protect the natural geologic, ecological and cultural values." There are many additional regulations relating to waste disposal, land disturbance, building size and other specifics.

The Forest Service will be considering the input of the public and the advisory board before adopting final guidelines. If you would like to comment, contact: Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, P.O. Box 10, Lee Vining, CA 93541.

MLC News and Activities

Mono Lake Interpretive Activities

For the eighth summer, the Mono Lake Committee is conducting free summer interpretive programs at Mono Lake.

Join us any day in July or August or any weekend in September at 11 a.m. at the South Tufa grove off Hwy. 120 east. We will spend an hour exploring the lake's natural history and discussing its endangered future.

This summer, we are trying something new: Sunday morning bird walks. They meet at 9 a.m. at the Mono Lake County Park five miles north of Lee Vining. Call our Lee Vining office to confirm. We are also presenting slide shows and campfire programs at nearby resorts and campgrounds several times a week, plus guided tours to groups of 10 or more by prior arrangement.

For the past two years, the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve has joined us in offering naturalist walks at South Tufa. This year the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area is inaugurating an ambitious interpretive program as well. There will be Panum Crater hikes, star walks and a wide range of other activities. For details, contact our Lee Vining office.

Visitor Center Open Daily

The Mono Lake Committee's Visitor Center in downtown Lee Vining will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. through Labor Day weekend. Stop by and say hello when you are at the lake! We have revitalized our brine shrimp, upgraded our exhibits and added new books and merchandise. We also have a stunning new slide program that we show upon request.

Merchandising Advice Sought

Over the years, sales of merchandise through our Mono Lake Visitor Center and our mail-order catalog have become a substantial and important part of our income. We suspect we could, with some expert guidance, increase merchandise sales and raise even more toward saving the lake. Is there anyone out there with extensive experience retailing books, posters, T-shirts, etc. who would have the time and inclination to review our sales program and proffer some free advice? If so, please contact Debbie Jewett or David Gaines at our Lee Vining office.

Sacramento Office Migration

On April 1 our Sacramento office migrated to 909 12th St., #207 (no foolin'!). It's amazing what space, fresh paint and friendly new neighbors does for our spirits! Stop by when you are in the capitol city.

Welcome, New Interns

Helping us staff the center, lead tours, present talks and up on office work is a fine flock of hardworking, dedicated interns and volunteers: Robert Berwyn, Kurt Delfino, Renee Dyke, Takashi Fuji and Barbara Stark.

Former intern Jim Parker has assumed Sally Gaines' duties as mail clerk while Sally cares for new baby Sage.

Mono Lake Internships

Interested in interning at Mono Lake this fall or winter? Requirements include inveterate monomania and a fine disdain for monetary reward. If interested, contact Debbie Jewett at our Lee Vining office.



Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley presents an Esquire magazine award to MLC Chairman and founder David Gaines for his work on Mono Lake's behalf. Flanking Dave are wife Sally and daughter Vireo.

Mono in the Media



In early June, San Francisco's KRON broadcast a live satellite interview with MLC's David Gaines on the return of gulls to Negit Island.

Rush Creek's embattled trout have been big news throughout California. Several Los Angeles television stations journeyed to Bridgeport for the May 3 hearing, and the story made papers and stations throughout the state.

"World of Audubon," a cable television program with a viewership of 9 million, will be featuring Mono Lake in August. A dedicated crew spent a week filming the lake from dawn to dusk, including an on-the-spot interview with actor Cliff Robertson.

One of the finest feature articles we've seen highlighted the magazine section of Germany's *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*. This is one of Europe's most respected and widely read newspapers. The Mono Lake cover story included stunning color photographs by Anselm Spring, whose moonrise graces our newest color poster.

A film crew spent days at Mono Lake filming a TV commercial for Sony video cameras—for distribution only in Japan!

Accolades

We are deeply grateful to the many monophiles who continue to donate time and energy toward saving Mono Lake. Please forgive us if we neglect to say THANK YOU loudly enough. Only with your continued help and energy can we save our lake.

In March biology teacher Bob Christopherson, his students and the environmental action club sponsored "Mono Lake month" at American River College. Displays, information tables and slide shows spread the word and raised over \$500.

On March 23, 35 volunteer monophiles, including Christopherson, many of his students and former MLC'ers David and Barbara Takemoto-Weerts, represented the committee on KVIE, Sacramento Valley's public television station. In return for assisting on their pledge drive, we got to wear Mono Lake T-shirts, mug for the camera and make a pitch for saving the lake.

In May, MLC had information booths at the Davis Whole Earth Festival and the American River College Community Day. Between the two, we netted over \$600.

In the Los Angeles area, the following volunteers helped with slide shows, action alerts and bikeathon preparations: Connie Bradley, Byron Buck, Dan Burdick, Fred Dunn, Jack Farmer, Edith Gaines, Brian Hammer, Ken Horner, Ardeth Huntington, Michael Longacre, Dick Myers and Linda Umbdenstock.

Helping to beautify our Lee Vining Mono Lake Visitor Center are redwood planter boxes beautifully crafted and donated by Alan Bade, and colorful wildflowers donated by Mary Lou Judy.

Donations of used books help our Mono Lake Visitor Center raise funds. Special thanks to Riley and Ann Yoki, Anne and Riley Gilkey, Genny Smith and the American River College Environmental Action Club for stocking our used book nook with seductive volumes. More used books are always welcome!

Finally, we thank Pomegranate for merchandise discounts, Ansel Adams Gallery in Yosemite for donations and peddling bumper stickers, and Mort and Edith Gaines for carpeting our intern house—what luxury!

MONO LAKE WORKSHOPS

Islands * Ecology * Insects * Watercolors

It's not too late to enroll in one of the Mono Lake Foundation's superb workshops. Taught by knowledgeable, enthusiastic instructors, each workshop offers a memorable, exciting learning experience.

On July 20-21, Jim Vanko, Lily Mathieu and David Gaines lead a MAMMOTH-MONO HISTORICAL TOUR that will bring Mono's rough-and-tumble past vividly to life (fee: \$50).

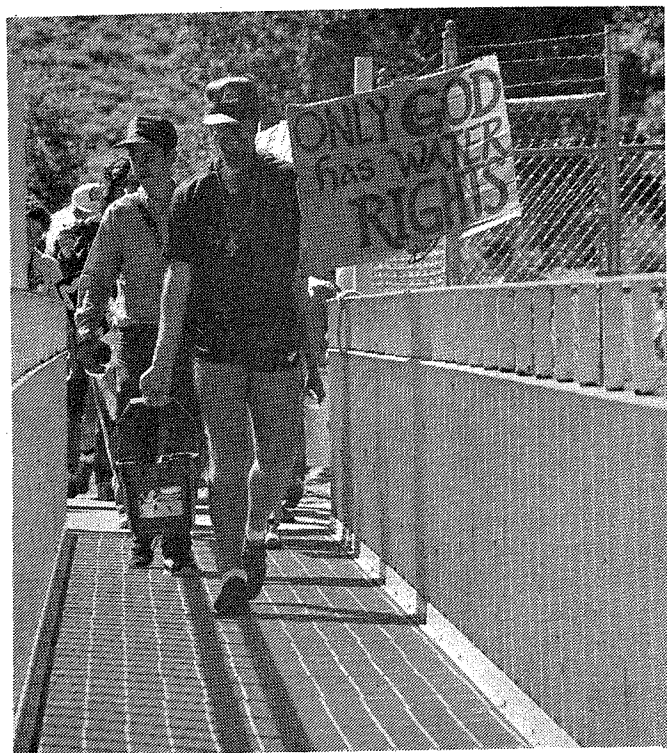
On July 27-28, renowned Sierran artist Peggy Gray teaches a SUMMER WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP that will improve your techniques and increase your painting enjoyment. On Oct. 5-6, Lady Jill Mueller leads an AUTUMN WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP when aspens and cottonwoods are at the height of fiery brilliance (fee: \$50/workshop).

On Aug. 3-4, biologist David Herbst teaches MONO LAKE ECOLOGY, and on Aug. 10-11, DISCOVERING MONO'S INSECTS. Herbst is an exceptional instructor who will open your eyes to Mono's strange but marvelous natural history (fee: \$50/workshop).

On Aug. 9-11, Scott Stine explores MONO LAKE'S ISLANDS on a workshop that includes camping on Paoha Island, one of the youngest volcanoes in North America (fee: \$100, includes boat transportation).

To enroll, please send a check or money order payable to THE MONO LAKE FOUNDATION to: P.O. Box 153, Lee Vining, CA 93541. Or call the Mono Lake Committee at (619) 647-6386. Proceeds further the Mono Lake Foundation's educational and research programs.

Join Our Bucket Walk!



Father Christopher Kelly leads the bucket walkers across DWP's Lee Vining Creek diversion dam en route to Mono Lake.

Join Mono Lake's friends Saturday, Aug. 31, for our seventh annual bucket walk, meeting and picnic. We will each fill a container of water above the Lee Vining Creek diversion dam, and tote the water to Mono Lake.

On the same day the L.A.-to-Mono Lake Bikeathoners will arrive with water from downtown Los Angeles. Let's welcome them with hundreds of people!

After watering the lake, we will gather at the Mono Lake County Park on the northwest shore for a picnic and the Mono Lake Committee's annual meeting. This is your opportunity to meet us and to discuss our strategy and progress.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Old Marina (parking area just east of U.S. 395 one mile north of Lee Vining). We will provide shuttles to the beginning of the walk. Bring snacks, signs with appropriate slogans, and a small container for carrying water.

The picnic begins at the Mono Lake County Park at 1 p.m. Our annual meeting follows at 2:30, and will feature reports on our legal, legislative and educational activities. Afterward there will be music and storytelling. Bring your own food and libations. See you there!

Photography Workshops

There is still space in the photography workshops at Bodie (Aug. 22-23, Sept. 26-27) and Mono Lake (July 25-27, Aug. 16-18, Oct. 3-5 and Jan. 24-26) being sponsored by the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve and Bodie State Historical Park. The Bodie workshops cost \$60, the Mono Lake workshops, \$50. To enroll or for more information, contact: Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve, P.O. Box 99, Lee Vining, CA 93541. Please make checks payable to: TAHOE SIERRA STATE PARKS ASSOCIATION.

Cycle With Us to Mono Lake

On Aug. 26, for the sixth year, a band of dedicated, enthusiastic cyclists will depart from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's downtown skyscraper to carry water 350 miles to Mono Lake. You are invited to participate by cycling along, or in spirit by pledging support.

The cyclists fill small vials with water from DWP's reflecting pool, strap them to their bikes and begin a six-day journey across deserts and mountains. Braving August heat, the volunteer bikeathoners focus public attention on Mono Lake's plight while raising funds to save it.

Join us this year! You needn't be a seasoned cyclist. People as young as 10 and as old as 70 have completed the ride. Although the terrain is taxing on two of the six days, the pace is relaxed. We cover approximately 65 miles on a typical day, and SAG (support and gear) wagons carry all our supplies.

The bikeathon engenders an exhilarating camaraderie and commitment. "I can't express how great a time I had," said 1984 veteran Bruce Lundquist, "good company, better scenery and all for a great cause." "Exceeded my greatest expectations," remarks David Wimpfheimer, "I'll be back."

Bikeathoners raise funds by seeking pledges for each mile they cycle. A pledge of 10 cents per mile, for example, translates into a \$35 donation—if the cyclist makes it! To show our appreciation, we will award a complete bicycle touring outfit, featuring Kangaroo Baggs panniers and Plumline clothing to the cyclist who raises the most money.

If you are unable to join the courageous crew, you can participate in other ways. Sponsor a cyclist by completing the pledge form and returning it to our Lee Vining office. Join as a SAG wagon driver; we desperately need drivers with vans or trucks to carry gear, refreshments and other amenities. Or loan us your van or truck to use as a SAG vehicle. We also need help distributing leaflets and organizing other details, as well as a place in Los Angeles for a pre-ride briefing on the evening of Aug. 25.

Last year 44 cyclists raised \$20,000 for Mono Lake. This year, to help finance the Rush Creek lawsuit as well as crucial ongoing programs, our goal is \$25,000. Please join us or pledge whatever you can. For more information, please contact Steve Osgood at our Los Angeles office: 1355 Westwood Blvd., Suite 6, Los Angeles, CA 90024; (213) 477-5754 or 477-8229.



Triumphant bikeathoners at Deadman Summit, the high point of the 350-mile ride. Join us this year by bicycling along, or in spirit by pledging your support!

Back by Popular Demand!

MONO LAKE AND YOSEMITE BUS TRIPS

The Mono Lake Committee is once again sponsoring combined Mono Lake/Yosemite National Park bus trips in conjunction with California Parlor Car Tours. All proceeds from the trips will benefit efforts to protect Mono Lake. Dates of the three-day trips leaving from San Francisco are: Aug. 2-4, Aug. 24-25, Sept. 6-8,

Sept. 20-22 and Oct. 4-6. Cost of the trip includes transportation, two nights lodging at the Yosemite Lodge and a guided tour and catered lunch at Mono Lake. Trip fee is \$185 per person for a double room and \$250 per person for a single room. Trip participants will have lots of free time for hiking, birding and relaxing.

For additional information and reservations, call or write: David Wimpfheimer at the Mono Lake Committee: 1045 Sansome St., Room 402, San Francisco, CA 94111.

The Third Annual

LONG LIVE MONO LAKE BENEFIT RUN

Join us Sunday, Aug. 18, for a scenic, enjoyable 10K benefit run on Mono Lake's spectacular north shore. The run will begin at the Mono Lake County Park five miles north of Lee Vining at 10 a.m. sharp. Times will be given at one, three and five miles, and water provided at three and five miles. We'll have awards for the top three runners in each division, random door prizes, and T-shirts and bumper stickers for everyone. Refreshments will include beer, cookies, soft drinks, oranges and more!

To enter, please send \$8 (\$10 the day of race) to the Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541. For more information, contact race coordinators Dennis J. Yamnitsky or James Rodrigues at P.O. Box 699, Yosemite, CA 95389, (209) 379-2338, or the Mono Lake Committee.

August is a perfect time to visit Mono Lake. Its warm waters dance with brine shrimp and birds, and conditions should be clear and lovely for running. After the run, enjoy a refreshing dip among the tufa. So bring family and friends, and help us raise funds for saving our lake!

Still Time to Enter Save Mono Drawing

It's not too late to win an eight-day trip on the Dordogne River in France (including airfare) and other exciting prizes while helping us raise funds for Mono Lake. Just contact any Mono Lake office by mail, phone or in persons, and request drawing tickets. We would appreciate a donation of \$2 per

ticket, \$20 for a book of 10. The drawing will be held at our annual meeting on Labor Day weekend.

The response to the drawing has been overwhelming and deeply gratifying. We have already netted approximately \$20,000!



BIKEATHON PLEDGE FORM

I pledge _____ cents/mile to help save Mono Lake for every mile bicycled by Steve Osgood or proxy on the 1985 L.A.-Mono Lake Bikeathon.

name _____

address _____

city _____

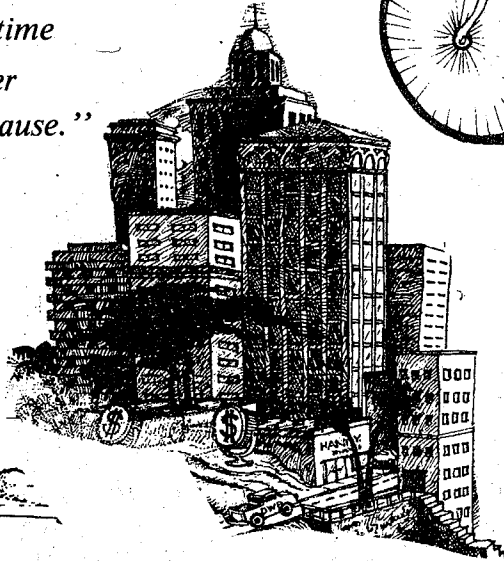
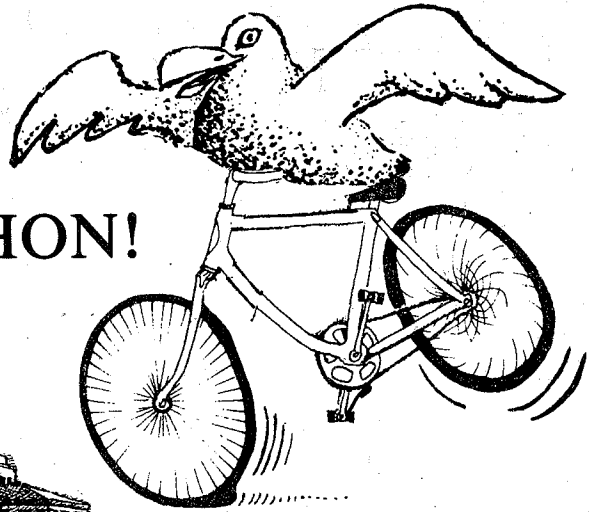
state _____

zip _____

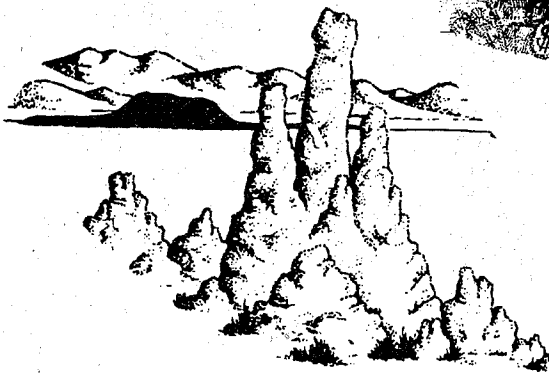
JOIN THE 1985 LOS ANGELES TO MONO LAKE BIKEATHON!

*"I can't express how great a time
I had—good company, better
scenery and all for a great cause."*

*... Bruce Lundquist
'84 Bikeathoner*



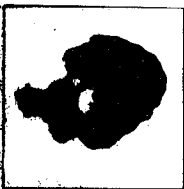
**Fun!
Thrills!
Camaraderie!**



For information on our classic Aug. 26-31 bicycle tour, please turn to page 14.

JOIN US!

Still not a Mono Lake Committee member? Join us, and increase our strength and effectiveness. We will keep you informed, through our quarterly newsletter and action alerts, of what's happening and how you can help. Regular membership is \$15/year (\$25 Sponsor, \$50 Supporting Member, \$100 Monophile, \$500 Monomaniac, \$8 "I Can't Afford More"). Checks should be payable to the Mono Lake Committee, and are not tax deductible.



**The
Mono Lake
Committee**

Post Office Box 29
Lee Vining, California 93541

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
San Francisco, CA
Permit No 6340

Postmaster: Address Correction Requested