

Spring 1986

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# MONO the LAKE

N E W S L E T T E R



Scenic Area Management

Mono Lake Workshops

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*Let us view the world not as something we have inherited from our parents, but as something we have borrowed from our children.*

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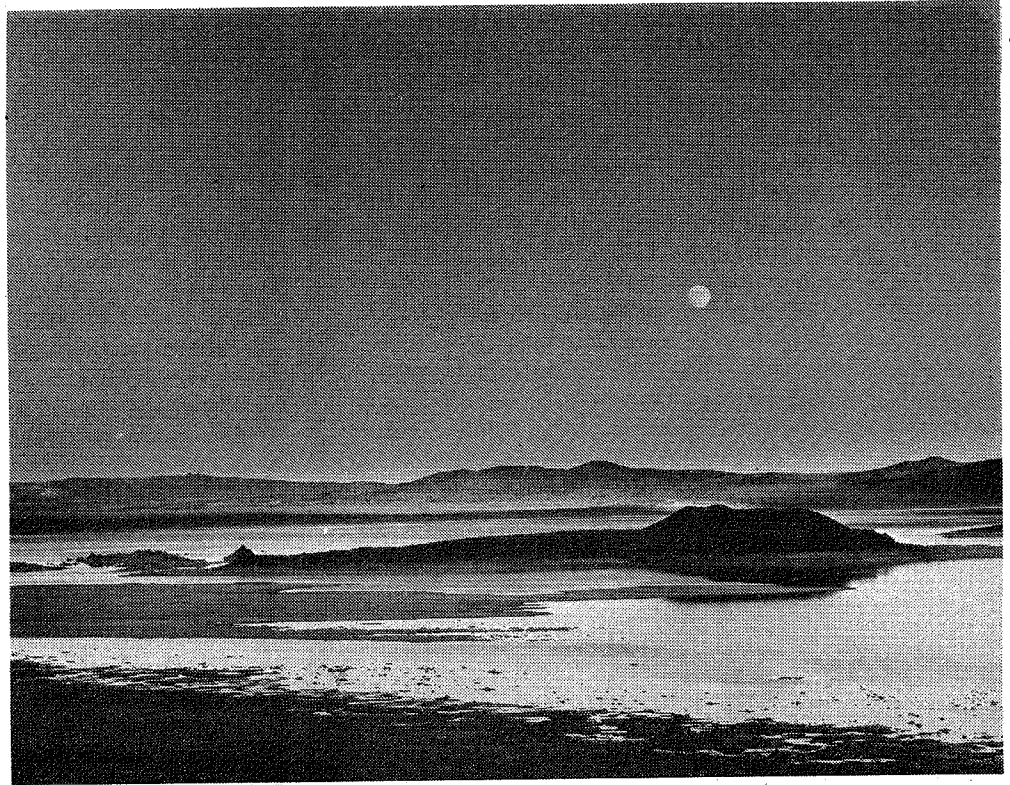
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**ON THE COVER:** A summer thunderstorm broods over Mono Lake's pumice-strewn north shore east of Black Point. The Forest Service is encouraging public involvement in the development of a "comprehensive management plan" for these and other lands in the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area (see p. 8).

**ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHER:** Jim Stimson's artistry graces our cover, the opposite page (Negit Island) and page 7 (south shore). Jim is a local freelance photographer who has given permission to reproduce his work at no charge. Matted, 11-by-14-inch prints of these photographs are available from Jim at \$60 apiece. Each photograph was shot with a large-format camera, hand printed, archivally processed and numbered as part of a limited edition series. To order a print, or for more information, contact Jim at: P.O. Box 7938, Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546; (619) 934-3292.

*Newsletter logo design by InHouse, Fisher and Day, San Francisco.*

# Mono Lake Watch



Jim Simpson

## Long Fight Ahead

Three years have passed since the California Supreme Court mandated a "better balance" between the needs of Mono Lake and those of Los Angeles. Yet the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has done nothing to comply. On the contrary, it continues, in its own words, "to aggressively defend its historically reliable sources in the Owens Valley and Mono Basin."

In fact, DWP seeks to thwart the courts in the State Legislature. At its behest the Los Angeles City Council has opted to support legislation to exempt DWP's diversions from fish and game codes protecting downstream fisheries, and to prohibit reconsideration of water rights under the public trust doctrine. This could pull the scaffolding from under our lawsuits, toppling legal efforts to save Mono Lake and its tributary streams.

Meanwhile DWP is diverting as much water as it legally can. In the past 12 months, Mono Lake has plummeted 18 vertical inches. Only a court order is keeping a minimal flow in Rush Creek.

The reprieve is over. Between 1982 and 1984, wet winters and high runoff forced DWP to let water reach the lake, raising its level nine feet. We rejoiced to see streams flowing, Negit an island, brine shrimp thriving and waters covering thousands of acres of alkali. Now it threatens to go down the aqueduct once again.

That's why Mono Lake needs us more than ever. There is still a long fight ahead, but with your help, we can win.

*As Mono Lake drops, fingers of alkali reach closer and closer to Negit Island. At present diversion rates, the mainland could engulf the island next year. Not only would this rob gulls of nesting area, it would maim the lakescape and diminish its power to touch our souls.*

## Mono Weather Watch

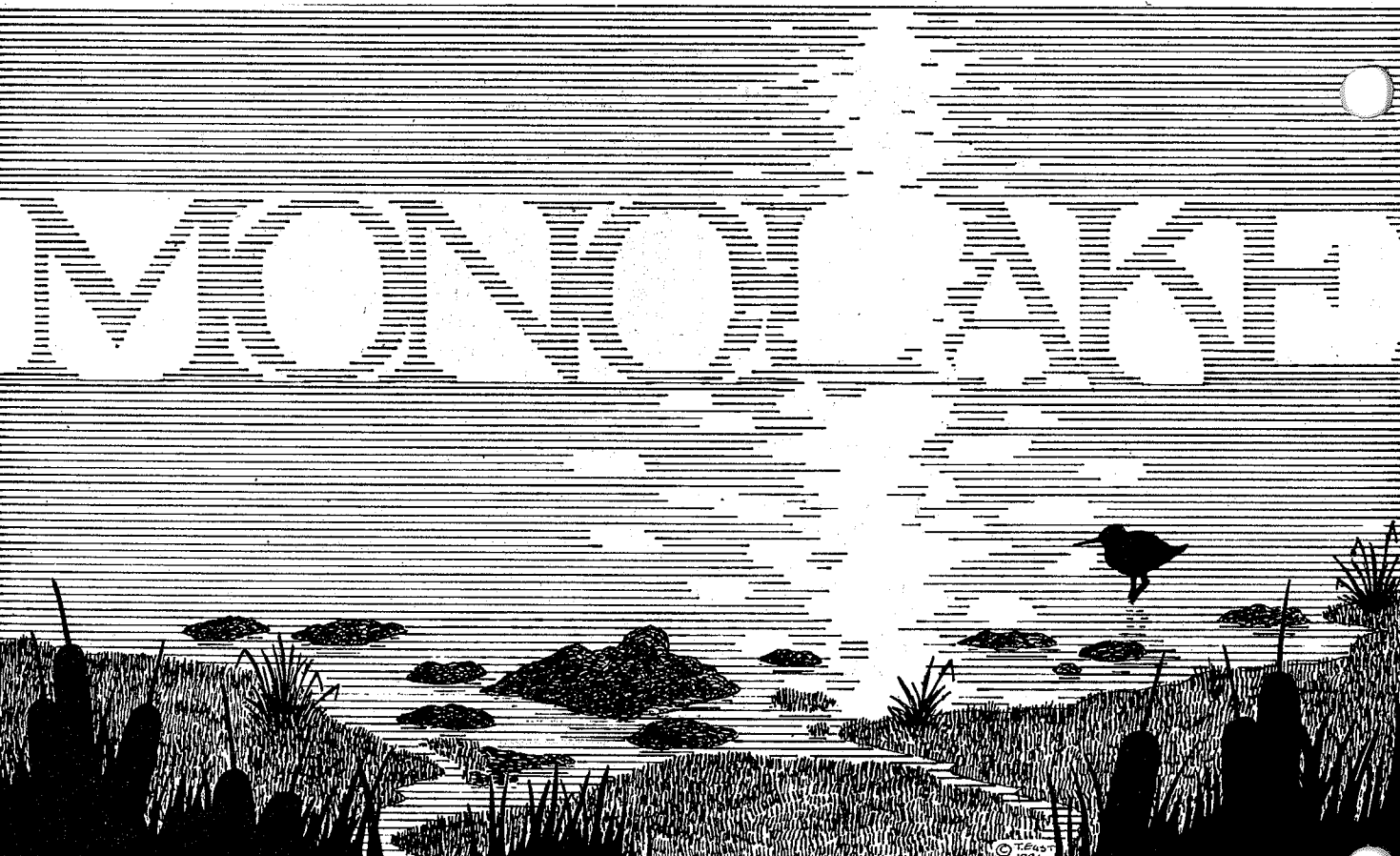
Long-range weather forecasting continues to elude modern science. Last autumn the forecasters predicted a cold, wet winter. After a dry December, they decided it was probably going to be warm and dry.

That one blew out the window in February, when a series of moist Hawaiian storms swamped the Mono Basin and the rest of California. Almost overnight it turned from a dry into a wet winter.

The heavy snowpack assures plenty of water for Los Angeles without any Mono Basin diversions at all. If only DWP would water Mono instead of the aqueduct, the lake would rise and Negit would remain an island.

## NEWS FLASH: Scenic Area Workshops

The Forest Service has scheduled public workshops on the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area management plan in Sacramento April 1, Oakland April 2, and Glendora April 9. There is a May 1 deadline for written comments. For details, see p. 8.



*This drawing by Thaddeus East is now available as a note card (10 for \$7.95). See back cover for ordering information.*

## Let the Planet Change Us

by David Gaines

Lower Rush Creek was my census area on the Mono Lake Christmas Bird Count. Dawn found the stream cloaked in fog. Crystals of ice clung to bare boughs of willow and cottonwood. Beautiful, but you couldn't see a damn bird.

Poconip, as locals call the fog, is a fanciful fellow. Sometimes he'll huddle in the basin for weeks on end, clothing shrubs, trees and even fences with icy white crystals of extraordinary delicacy. At other times he'll tease with glimpses of snowy mountains, or dissolve away into blue. Then it's like entering paradise.

On that frosty morning, however, it seemed like the sun would never shine again. Nothing seemed real. Shrubs and trees were gray apparitions. I felt like a disembodied spirit condemned by the Audubon Society to wander a nether world of shadows and mist.

When the fog finally slunk away, revealing a pair of bald eagles perched on a cottonwood, I felt like I had rejoined the living. I was enveloped in light and joy. The world was dancing, and I with it.

A great blue heron rose from the stream bank. A dipper tried a snatch of song. Eagles soared in blue sky.

As Rush Creek and I rambled to Mono Lake, I was struck with how quickly Mother Nature, given the chance, heals the

wounds we inflict upon her. Only four years ago this was a dry wash lined with dead and dying trees. Now it has resurrected into a living stream where eagles prey on trout that fatten on aquatic insects.

At Mono's receding shore, I recalled William Ophul's observation that "the ugliness and destruction outside in our environment mirrors the spiritual sickness within." The destruction of Mono Lake and even the ugliness of our cities does seem to mirror the spiritual malaise that has brought us star wars and spooky nuclear confrontations.

Yet that morning's epiphany left me hopeful. If nature can heal an injured land, it can heal our blighted souls as well.

That's why saving Mono Lake is a matter of saving, and healing, ourselves.

Let's not change the planet. Let the planet change us.

## MLC Year-End Appeal Successful

Many thanks to all of you who responded to our year-end funds appeal this winter. You helped us raise over \$11,000 to prosecute the Rush Creek litigation, lobby in Sacramento and continue to fight for Mono Lake.

## OWP Dam-Raising Could Mean More Diversions

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power is studying the feasibility of raising Long Valley Dam 10-20 feet increasing storage capacity in Crowley Lake Reservoir by 60,000 to 130,000 acre-feet of water. This could enable DWP to increase its diversions from Mono Lake's tributary streams.

Crowley Lake, situated about 40 miles south of Mono Lake, is the largest reservoir on the Los Angeles aqueduct system. It dams the upper Owens River above the steep-walled Owens Gorge. Approximately 60 percent of its inflow comes from the natural upper Owens drainage, which includes Mammoth Lakes. The remainder is imported from the Mono Basin via a 13-mile tunnel under the Mono Craters. From Crowley Lake, DWP shunts the river through penstocks into three hydropower facilities, leaving the gorge—once a premier trout stream—a cobbled wash.

DWP claims the higher dam will prevent "wasting" water into Owens Lake, but is mum about Mono. Yet in wet years, it is only the lack of storage that forces DWP to release water into Mono Lake. With a larger Crowley Lake to fill, DWP could divert more from the Mono Basin—and increase hydroelectric generation as well.

Once the feasibility study is completed later this winter, DWP will decide whether to proceed with a full Environmental Impact Report. We'll be watching this project closely.

## L.A. Sewage Overwhelms System

Los Angeles' massive sewage problem, which is earning the city a reputation as a major ocean polluter, has sparked calls for a moratorium on new hookups.

At a January press conference, a broad coalition of groups spearheaded by *Heal the Bay* called for "a moratorium on new projects of any considerable size . . . until . . . the city demonstrates that it has adequate plans, financing and a timetable for expanding its system to meet current and projected loads."

Los Angeles' failure to deal with its sewage crisis has generated front-page news and political headaches for Mayor Tom Bradley, whose gubernatorial campaign is emphasizing environmental issues. Los Angeles residents may have to pay most of the \$2 billion needed to comply with federal Clean Water Act laws. The city has already been slapped with fines for illegally spilling raw sewage in Ballona Creek and Santa Monica Bay, and has been ordered to build new sewage treatment facilities at a cost of over \$500 million.

Yet throwing a couple of billion dollars at the problem may not solve it. Dorothy Green of *Heal the Bay* maintains that "even when all the sewage treatment facilities now planned for the year 2000 are built and operating, Los Angeles will still not have enough capacity to meet today's average peak loads, let alone accommodate the anticipated growth."

## Water License Challenge to Superior Court

The legality of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's state-granted licenses to divert water from Mono Lake's tributary streams will be heard in Sacramento Superior Court rather than the Court of Appeals.

The water license challenge was brought before the California Third Appellate Court Oct. 16 by the Mono Lake Committee, National Audubon Society and California Trout. But the appeals court declined to speed up the legal process, ruling that the case must be filed first in Superior Court. Regardless how the lower court rules, it is certain to be appealed back to the third district.

The plaintiffs allege that the water licenses were granted in violation of fish and game codes protecting downstream fisheries. For the past four decades DWP has diverted most of the water from Mono Lake's four major tributaries—Rush, Lee Vining, Parker and Walker creeks—and turned trout streams into washes.

A victory would mean water, not only for fish, but for Mono Lake as well. The amount could be substantial, perhaps half of that needed to stabilize the lake near its present level of 6,378 feet.

## Public Trust Update

The Mono Lake public trust lawsuit remains bottlenecked in the California Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which is reviewing a decision made by Federal District Court Judge Lawrence Karlton in November 1984. The decision sent the public trust heart of the suit to the California Superior Court in Alpine County, but retained the federal common law nuisance claims (interstate alkali dust air pollution) in federal court in Sacramento.

The Mono Lake Committee and the National Audubon Society maintain that the Federal District Court, not the state court, should retain jurisdiction over the public trust as well as the nuisance claims. The state of California and the U.S. Attorney General's office have joined the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power in arguing that state clean air and water acts govern the nuisance claims, and that federal courts should relinquish jurisdiction to the state.

## State Supreme Court Refuses to Hear EIR Case

The California Supreme Court has upheld a lower court ruling exempting the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power from the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report on its Mono Basin diversions.

The Mono Lake Committee, National Audubon Society and California Trout had turned to the high court after the California Third District Appellate Court rejected an appeal Dec. 5. The plaintiffs had urged the court not only to order an EIR, but also to impose an injunction maintaining Mono Lake's level until an EIR was completed.

"The ruling," comments MLC attorney Antonio Rossmann,



"is a missed opportunity to accelerate a decision on Mono Lake. It's not a ruling on the merits of the case, but just a decision that at this time they do not want to step in."

DWP has never prepared an EIR on its diversions from Mono Lake's tributary streams. It claims its project was "approved and completed . . . before [the California Environmental Quality Act] and its EIR requirements became law." But Rossmann counters that "construction . . . must be separated from the ecologically more momentous activity of how that aqueduct and dam are operated; that latter, annual discretion must be made subject to CEQA."

In a Jan. 21 brief, Rossmann, who is donating his services, argued forcefully for application of CEQA and an injunction: "Mono's status quo must be preserved . . . , the Interagency Task Force goal of a lake level of 6,388 feet must be met at least part way, and DWP must face the compulsion of judicial decrees to underwrite the impartial assessment of its diversions."

## DWP's Toxic Turnaround

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, which has been slow to tell its customers about chemical contamination of drinking water, has been quick to use the problem against its opponents in the Mono Lake litigation.

Last April, during a breakdown in the aqueduct, DWP delivered water with elevated levels of trichloroethylene, a suspected carcinogen, to at least 100,000 Los Angeles residents. On seven days TCE readings exceeded five parts per billion. Although the state Department of Health and Safety requires public notification whenever this happens, DWP said nothing. Its excuse: it "misunderstood" the rules.

The contamination came from the San Fernando Ground-water Basin, which supplies the city with approximately 15 percent of its water. Since 1980 the 75 valley wells have shown a steady rise in toxic chemicals. Most serious are TCE and perchloroethylene, solvents used heavily in the aircraft industry and paint-stripping operations.

The problem was exposed by L.A. Weekly journalist Michael Balter last fall. Since that time DWP has been scrambling to allay public fears. Yet at the same time it has told a Sacramento court that TCE contamination is "persistent and increasing," and that reducing diversions from the Mono Basin might lead to increased pumping of valley wells and "TCE concentrations above state guidelines in the blend delivered to consumers." DWP even made the L.A. Weekly article an exhibit in the case.

"If we don't clean up the contamination at its source, the problem is only going to get worse—and no amount of aqueduct water will help," said MLC Executive Director Martha Davis. "No one will be able to use the San Fernando Ground-water Basin, not for storage of water in wet years, emergency use in drought years or for daily water supply. If DWP is seriously concerned about water supply, it better clean up the basin."

DWP claims to be making concerted efforts to begin a cleanup. DWP Water Division Chief Duane Georgeson says that rather than going after individual polluters, however, DWP will emphasize the use of air-stripping towers to remove contaminants from the water. Georgeson told the Weekly "we're not going to get sidetracked to discern what the source of contamination is."

## Southern California May Buy Farmland, Reap Water

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is investigating the purchase of thousands of acres of farmland from financially strapped San Joaquin Valley agribusiness. This acreage would be taken out of production and the water shipped to MWD's Southern California customers, including the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The farms, mostly owned by corporate giants like Tenneco West, Mobil Corp., Chevron, Southern Pacific Railroad and the Tejon Ranch, are losing money and threatening to default on California Water Project bond repayments.

"We are very interested in this [land purchase] idea," MWD General Manager Carl Boronkay told the Los Angeles Times. "Engineers estimate as much as 200,000 acre-feet may be available."

Sacramento Bee political columnist Dan Walters perceives "the opportunity for dealing with California's statewide water situation while at the same time improving the environment . . . by shifting a substantial part of the state's water supply from agriculture, which can't use it today, to urban uses and environmental enhancement." A Dec. 24 Bee editorial urges that "part of the freed-up water . . . be used to help restore Mono Lake, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and San Francisco Bay."

MWD already has excellent prospects of stretching its dependable Colorado River water supply to as much or more than it had before Arizona grew thirsty (see Mono Lake Newsletter, Vol. 7, No. 4, p. 7). Now the San Joaquin land purchase offers the prospect of another substantial supply for Southern California. The cries of impending water famine are sounding less and less credible.

That's good news for Mono Lake. In all but the driest years, MWD water will probably remain available to Los Angeles. The city has a preferential right to 650,000 acre-feet per year of MWD water, yet is presently using less than 50,000 from this source.

Los Angeles and Southern California need not quench their thirst by destroying Mono Lake, San Francisco Bay or north coast rivers, if only they use existing supplies efficiently and wisely.

## Tucson Sips Wisely, Sets Water Example

*excerpted from an article by Bill Stall in the Sept. 29, 1985, Los Angeles Times*

A water revolution is underway in south central Arizona, and the good guys are winning. As a result, said Tucson lawyer Hugh A. Holub, "We are drought-proof here."

Tucson has faced the reality of never having as much water as everyone would want and of making the difficult political decisions for a remarkable conservation program.

Since 1977, per-capita water use in Tucson has declined from 205 gallons a day to 150 (the Los Angeles average is 178 and Phoenix is 280). "It's just truly amazing, the public acceptance of the water realities in this town," Holub said. Desert shrubbery is the residential vogue rather than a lawn of green

grass that needs watering. Desert landscaping is required in new divisions. Local residents have developed fierce pride in their demonstrated ability to get along with less water per capita than any other major western city.

"It's changed the appearance of the town completely," Holub said. "You're going to know you're not in Iowa."

Looking to the future, the city is moving aggressively toward the reclamation and reuse of sewage and other waste water. Within 15 years, city officials expect that reclaimed waste water will total 132,000 acre-feet annually, the second largest source of municipal supplies [enough to meet approximately 25 percent of Tucson's anticipated demand; the Los Angeles Urban Water Management Plan, in contrast, figures that reclaimed water can meet only 1.5 percent of L.A.'s demand, even by the year 2010].

## How to Make a Badlands Researchers Discuss Mono's Future

The National Academy of Science's Mono Basin Ecosystem Study Committee spent two balmy January days in Los Angeles listening and talking to researchers about the lake and its future.

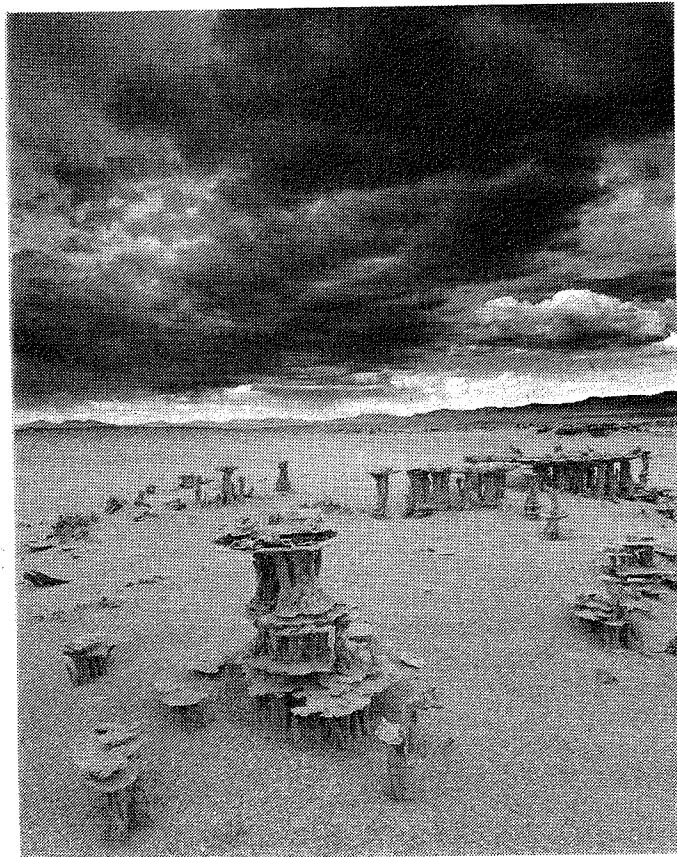
The NAS Committee, which consists of nine eminent scientists, is reviewing existing research and assessing the effects of water diversions on the Mono Lake ecosystem. A final report will be submitted to Congress by September 1987.

The January meeting focused not only on the aquatic ecosystem, but on the Mono shore lands as well. UC/Berkeley geographer Scott Stine, for example, directed attention to a gently sloping terrace that encircles the lake at 6,368 feet (approximately 10 feet below today's lake surface). Below the "nickpoint" of this terrace, the lake floor drops off steeply. If the lake were to fall below this point, streams and rills would incise the terrace, creating a "badlands" topography on large portions of the shore lands.

Stine also pointed out that the great bulk of the tufa towers and tufa-encrusted boulders found along Mono's shores lie above the terrace nickpoint. A drop in lake level below 6,368 feet would strand these features; instead of an extensive area of shallows studded with tufa and rocky prominences, the near-shore zone would drop off abruptly into relatively deep water.

Oregon State University biologist Dave Herbst speculated that the loss of this shallow tufa habitat could dramatically reduce alkali (brine) fly habitat. Larvae of the flies feed largely on algae that grow on tufa and other rocky substrates in shallow water, and attach themselves to these hard surfaces to pupate. A drop in lake level below 6,368 feet will also reduce the relatively warm shallow lake bottom where most overwintering brine shrimp cysts probably hatch.

As the meeting progressed, it became evident that increasing salinity and land-bridged nesting islands are not the only factors affecting a shrinking Mono Lake's ecological future. By bringing together researchers from diverse disciplines, the NAS Committee was able to probe the complex relationships between the lake's physical environment and its living inhabitants. Too much transpired to detail in a newsletter article, but here are highlights:



Jim Stinson

\* Cal Tech geologist Kerry Sieh characterized the Mono Basin as a region of "rapid, even catastrophic geologic change" where the chance of a volcanic eruption in our lifetimes is "pretty good."

\* Scott Stine explained that Paoha Island was uplifted by volcanic activity only 150-200 years ago.

\* Stine also noted that recent fluctuations in Mono's level have undercut and toppled tufa towers. If the lake continues to fluctuate about the base of these towers, many more will be downed.

\* USGS geologist Ron Oremland discussed the large, methane springs he has discovered in Mono Lake. These springs are flammable; canoeists who smoke, take heed!

\* David Herbst addressed the effect of increasing salinity on alkali flies, and UCSB biologist Gayle Dana and DWP biologist Chris Foley addressed its effect on brine shrimp. Under present diversions salinity levels are virtually certain to drastically reduce both organisms.

\* Hubbs Sea World biologist Joseph Jehl Jr. discussed research on grebes, phalaropes and gulls, which, among other things, prove that Mono Lake "is fattening." Grebes must starve to get back in flying condition, and Wilson's phalaropes "can hardly fly" before departing on 3,000-mile nonstop flights to South America. Jehl has found that Mono's birds are not salt-stressed at current lake levels.

\* Cornell University biologist David Winkler linked declines in gull productivity to the loss of Negit Island in 1979 and Twain and Java islets in 1982. He felt that other factors affecting nesting success, such as food supply, temperature, disease, parasites and crowding, require further study.

# Scenic Area Seeks Management Advice

## Workshops to be Held in April

### BACKGROUND

The Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area has embarked on a "comprehensive management plan" that will greatly affect what the land around the lake will be like in years to come. It is crucial that people who care about this area participate in the planning process.

The Forest Service is encouraging public involvement by convening workshops in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Sacramento and Lee Vining (see box on opposite page for details). If you cannot attend in person, you can still submit written comments by May 1.

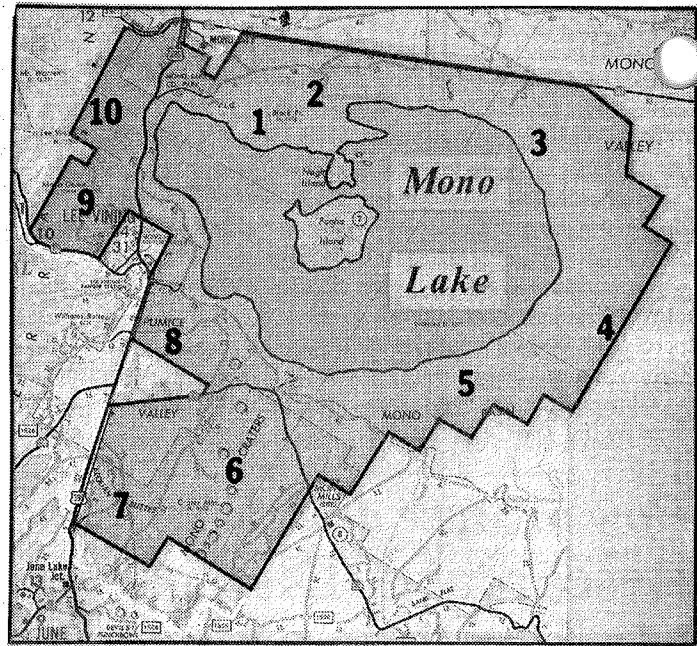
The Forest Service plan will double as an Environmental Impact Statement for the development and management of the Scenic Area. Utilizing public comments, the Forest Service will complete a draft by November 1986. The public will be invited to review the draft before the plan is finalized and sent to Congress in September 1987.

We presume that many of our readers will participate in this planning process. It is not our purpose to tell you what to think or say, but rather to sketch the options. The Mono Lake Committee's draft positions are outlined in the box on page 9.

### WHAT'S IN THE SCENIC AREA?

When drafting your comments, don't forget that the Scenic Area includes more than Mono Lake, tufa groves and islands. Let us briefly call your attention to some lesser known areas with outstanding natural values (refer to map):

1. **BLACK POINT** is a unique volcano which rises like a dark-colored groundswell from Mono Lake's north shore. Among its outstanding features are deep tufa-encrusted fissures. Its southwestern face is mined for cinders.
2. **DECHAMBEAU PONDS** attract many species of nesting and migratory water birds, raptors and other wildlife.
3. **THE SAND DUNES and SULFUR PONDS AREA** is one of the few places in California known to support the dark-footed kangaroo mouse (*Microdipidops megacephalus*). The area has a rich rodent fauna, spadefoot toads and other wildlife.
4. **THE WARM SPRINGS TUFA HILLS** are an extensive area of weathered ice-age tufa mounds.
5. **SIMON'S SPRING** is Mono's most extensive wetlands, and attracts many nesting and migratory birds.
6. **THE MONO CRATERS**, including Panum Crater, are a young chain of symmetrical cones and jagged lava flows that are considered "the classic exposure of rhyolitic volcanism in the United States." Pumice is mined from the south end just outside the Scenic Area, and there are claims throughout the chain.
7. **THE AEOLIAN BUTTES** are weathered, potholed deposits of pink volcanic rock much older than the nearby Mono Craters. They were formed when ash from one of the



*Boundaries of the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. The numbers refer to areas discussed in the text.*

largest eruptions known swept over the Mono Basin 720,000 years ago.

8. **LOWER RUSH CREEK'S** riparian (streamside) habitats have been rejuvenated by the return of water. Extensive willow cottonwood woodlands and wet meadows support high wildlife diversity, including nesting dippers, ospreys and wintering bald eagles. The stream is a paradise for trout and anglers.

9. **BURGER'S RETREAT WATERSHED** extends from the large glacial moraine on the north side of Lee Vining Canyon to the slopes of Mono Dome and Lee Vining Peak. Its heart is a 160-acre private refuge where vegetation and wildlife have been protected from grazing and hunting since the 1940s. No other eastern slope watershed of comparable size supports such a diversity of habitats: meadows, aspens, chaparral, rock outcroppings and forests of old-growth Jeffrey pine, western white pine, fir and other trees. This deer-fawning area also harbors bear, mountain lion, ring-tailed cat and many other species.

10. **THE SIERRA ESCARPMENT AND WARREN BENCH** afford breathtaking views of Mono Lake and the entire Scenic Area, and support diverse vegetation and wildlife. DeChambeau and Post Office creeks are small, wooded streams that descend from the bench down steep canyons to the lake. A graded private road leads from Lee Vining Canyon to the Log Cabin mine, an active gold mine that was excised from the Scenic Area's boundaries.

### THE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND THE LAKE LEVEL ISSUE

The Scenic Area legislation calls for "a detailed and comprehensive management plan" to include but not be limited to (1) an inventory of natural and cultural resources, (2) general development plans for public use facilities, and (3) measures for the preservation of natural and cultural resources. This plan will address grazing, mining, roads, parking areas, campgrounds, trails, interpretive activities, ORV use, hunting,



boating and many other issues that will influence the sort of our children inherit. But will it address the paramount of the shrinking lake and its toll on Mono's beauty and wildlife?

The legislation explicitly states that the Scenic Area shall be managed "in a manner consistent with the protection of the water rights of the state of California or any political subdivision thereof (including the city of Los Angeles)." For this reason, the Forest Service has put discussion of water rights "outside the scope of the management plan." It will consider mitigation, but would like to skirt the lake level issue as much as possible.

Clearly the Forest Service is precluded from invoking the Scenic Area as a reason for supporting litigation or legislation that would abrogate Los Angeles' water rights and *force* the city to release more water into Mono Lake. It is not, however, precluded from encouraging *voluntary* solutions that would keep the area "scenic." Nor is it precluded from acknowledging, based on studies like that being conducted by the National Academy of Science, that a minimum lake elevation may be the only means of protecting Mono Lake's ecological and aesthetic values.

The Forest Service should play, as it has in the past, an advisory and facilitative role in seeking creative solutions to the Mono Lake issue. In 1979, for instance, then Inyo Forest Supervisor Bob Rice served with other agency representatives on the Mono Lake Task Force, and helped develop the recommended plan which would have returned the lake to its 1970 elevation of 6,388 feet.

Moreover the Forest Service must consider lake levels to draft a meaningful management plan. Even prosaic details, like the location of roads, parking areas and trails, will depend on where the lake level lies in years to come.

## SCENIC AREA WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, MARCH 25. Legion Hall, Lee Vining (7 p.m. only).

TUESDAY, APRIL 1. Sacramento Convention Center, 1100 14th St., Sacramento

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2. Oakland Convention Center, 11th and Broadway, Oakland.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9. Glendora Public Library, 140 S. Glendora Ave., Glendora

Workshops will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. and from 7 to 10 p.m. Written comments may be submitted before May 1 to: MBNFSA, P.O. Box 10, Lee Vining, CA 93541. For information, contact any MLC office, or the Forest Service at (619) 647-6525.

## PROTECTING ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES AND THE GRAZING ISSUE

The Scenic Area legislation requires the protection of "ecologic . . . resources . . . in a manner consistent with the protection of water rights." This mandates the protection of *native* vegetation, wildlife and habitats short of challenging DWP's water diversions. Protection should take precedence over conflicting uses, which could include grazing and such recreational activities as ORV use, hunting or even birdwatching.

Most of the Scenic Area is currently grazed by sheep, and some areas are grazed by cattle or horses. Grazing can degrade

## Draft MLC Positions on Scenic Area Management

The Mono Lake Committee believes the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area should be managed to preserve ecological, geological and aesthetic values in a condition of natural integrity for the enjoyment of present and future generations. We have drafted the following positions on specific management issues. If you disagree, please tell us why; we welcome and encourage your feedback. Our positions will be reviewed before being submitted to the Forest Service.

1. **LAKE LEVEL.** The future of Mono Lake needs to be considered in the management plan. The Forest Service should play an advisory and facilitative role in seeking a solution that keeps the area "scenic."

2. **VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE.** The protection of native plants and animals and their habitats should take precedence over conflicting uses, including recreation; sage grouse, antelope, bighorn sheep and other native species should be re-established.

3. **GRAZING.** Grazing should be prohibited on the relict d, meadows, marshes, stream banks and other sensitive tats; elsewhere it should be managed to improve range conditions, restore native grasses and forbs, and not compete with native wildlife; if not possible, it should be phased out

entirely from public lands.

4. **GEOLOGICAL FEATURES.** Protection of tufa, volcanoes and other geologic features should take precedence over conflicting uses.

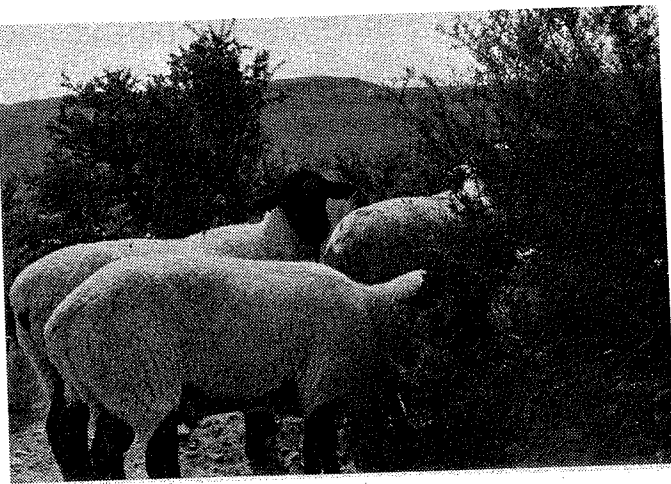
5. **MINING.** Current mining operations should continue, but should not be allowed to inflict conspicuous new scars on the landscape.

6. **HUNTING AND TRAPPING.** Legal hunting of waterfowl, doves and deer should be allowed to continue in areas that do not endanger public safety; other species, especially predators, should be protected.

7. **ROADS AND ORV USE.** Vehicular travel should be restricted to existing, designated roads. No new roads or parking areas should be constructed around the lake, and jeep trails should not be improved.

8. **CAMPING AND CAMPGROUNDS.** Campgrounds should be inconspicuous and primitive.

9. **TRAILS, HIKING, BACKPACKING AND SKIING.** Mono Lake's undeveloped shores should be left undisturbed by trails, signs or other development. Backpackers should be allowed to camp in most of the Scenic Area, including eastern shore relict lands.



native vegetation and harm wildlife. Meadows, marshes and stream-side (riparian) habitats are particularly sensitive, but even sagebrush scrub can suffer the virtual extirpation of palatable grasses and forbs.

Over a century of grazing in the Scenic Area has almost certainly had a devastating impact on herbaceous vegetation. As early as 1888 Israel Russell observed that "the natural pastures [around Mono Lake] are now nearly ruined." In all probability the mostly bare earth between sagebrush and other shrubs once was thick with grasses and other palatable plants.

Suppression of fire may have contributed to the deterioration of the Scenic Area's sagebrush scrub habitat as well. Before the white man, lightning strikes and probably Native Americans torched the sagebrush regularly, favoring the growth of herbaceous plants. At present most of this habitat is old and decadent. Even areas that have burned, as near Panum Crater, have little new herbaceous growth, probably because seeds were long ago depleted by overgrazing.

The Scenic Area legislation "permits those persons having valid grazing permits to continue to exercise such permits." There are no valid permits on the relicted lands. Possible options include the following:

1. Allow grazing to continue at historical levels with no new management or restrictions.
2. Modify grazing practices and consider controlled burns, seeding of native herbaceous plants and other means of improving range conditions and restoring native grasses and forbs (range conditions on most of the Scenic Area are currently considered "fair to poor").
3. Close the relicted lands, meadows, marshes, stream banks and other sensitive habitats to grazing.
4. Establish one or more large study areas closed to grazing where vegetation and wildlife can be monitored.
5. Phase out grazing throughout the Scenic Area.

## ECOLOGICAL STUDY AREAS

As the Scenic Area legislation encourages research, it would be reasonable to establish "ecological study areas" specifically for that purpose. Such areas would be managed to preserve native plant-animal communities in as natural a condition as possible, i.e., without competition from livestock, hunters and other consumptive activities. Public access would also be restricted.

To our knowledge, no such study area has ever been established in sagebrush habitat, so creating one, say, in the

southwestern part of the Scenic Area would fill a real need. Other candidates include the sulfur ponds/sand dunes area, lake-shore wetland, and especially the biologically rich Burger's Retreat watershed.

## EXTIRPATED WILDLIFE

Sage grouse, pronghorn antelope and bighorn sheep have been virtually or completely extirpated from the Scenic Area by human activities. Should the Forest Service plan their re-establishment?

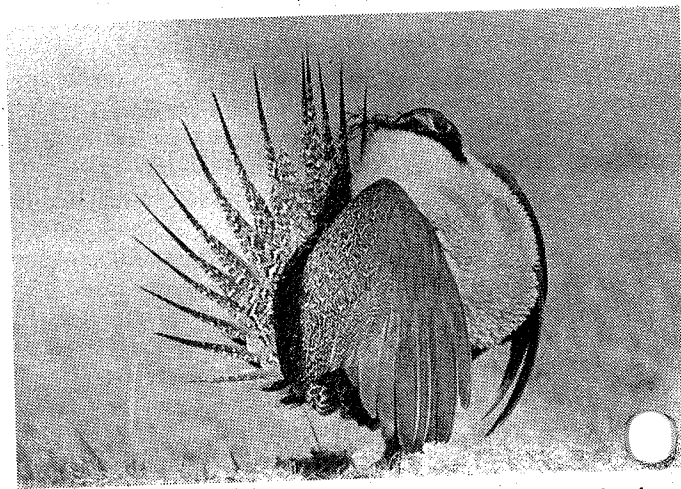
Bighorn sheep are being introduced this February in Lee Vining Canyon, and may winter in the Burger's Retreat watershed and on Warren Bench. A small herd of antelope, which were once more numerous than deer, have summered in the northern part of the Scenic Area for the past several years. Sage grouse once were fairly common, but have been found only twice in the past decade.

Lower Rush Creek, with its extensive meadows, could provide outstanding habitat conditions for sage grouse and summering antelope, but grazing would have to be phased out or restricted. Livestock deplete the herbaceous vegetation on which both species depend.

## GEOLOGIC RESOURCES AND THE MINING ISSUE

The Scenic Area legislation requires the protection of "geologic . . . and cultural resources," which include tufa, volcanic formations and Native American sites and artifacts. This protection should take precedence over conflicting uses, which could include mining, rockhounding, ORV use, grazing and even excessive foot travel.

The legislation subjects "mining claims . . . to reasonable regulation . . . to assure that mining will to the maximum extent practicable be consistent with protection of the scenic, scientific, cultural and other resources of the area," but does not explain what "practicable" means. Mining has been part of the local economy for decades. Sizable operations quarry cinders in the Scenic Area at Black Point, and pumice just outside the Scenic Area at the south end of the Mono Craters.



Sage grouse once were numerous in parts of the Scenic Area, but have virtually disappeared. With reduced grazing and suitable habitat management, they might flourish again along lower Rush Creek, near Simon's Spring and other areas.

Mining has left roads and scars in the craters, Black Point and the Warren Bench.

## VISITATION AND RECREATIONAL USE

The Scenic Area legislation calls for "recreational and interpretive facilities (including trails and campgrounds)," and states that "existing community recreational uses . . . shall be permitted at the levels and locations customarily exercised." Such community uses include the July 4 fireworks and the skeet range at Old Marina. No use, however, should conflict with the "protection of geologic, ecologic and cultural resources," or endanger public safety. Recreational development should also not degrade the aesthetic values which make the area "scenic." The visitor center, parking areas, campground, interpretive displays and other developments, for example, should blend with the natural environment and not be eyesores, especially as viewed from the lake shore or viewpoints.

Not all recreational uses are compatible. Most hikers do not want ORVs—with their noise and pollution—in areas where they hike. Cross-country skiers are similarly intolerant of snowmobilers. At present these conflicting uses are minimal. But as visitation grows, it may be necessary to restrict some uses to designated areas.

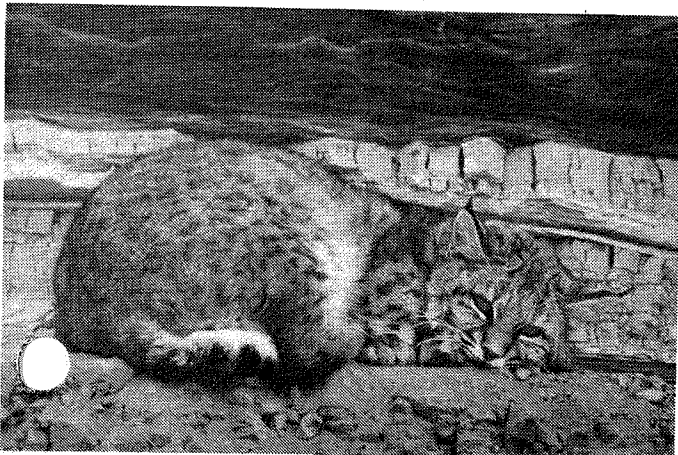
A record 180,000 people visited the Scenic Area in 1985, and that number is expected to grow in the years ahead. The Scenic Area provides the opportunity to accommodate these visitors without sacrificing the qualities that lured them. These qualities include not only the pristine natural landscape with its abundant wildlife, but also the quiet and solitude of remote lakes and tufa groves, volcanoes and ridge tops.

Recreational development," said Aldo Leopold, "is a job, not of building roads into lovely country, but of building receptivity into the still-unlovely human mind."

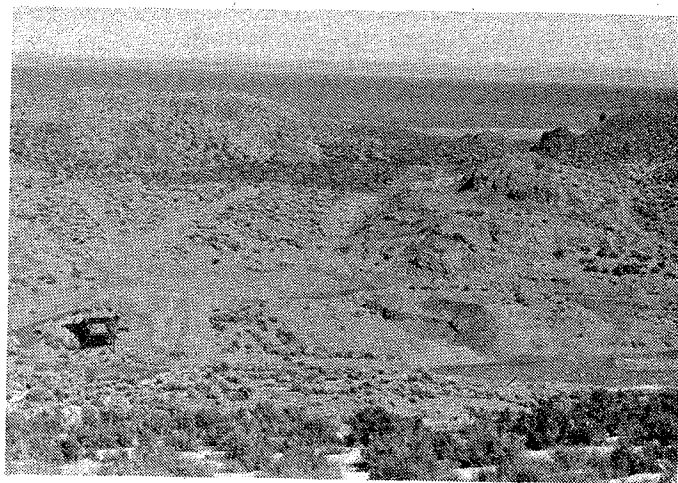
In the following sections we discuss (1) displays and interpretive activities, (2) hunting and trapping, (3) roads and ORV use, (4) camping and campgrounds, (5) trails, hiking, backpacking and skiing, and (6) boating and swimming.

## DISPLAYS AND INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

Displays and interpretive activities can do more than educate. They can enlist the help of visitors in protecting and conserving Mono's wonders and wildlife. In Yosemite National Park, for



Bobcats, an important predator in the Scenic Area, are currently subject to trapping and shooting.



Pumice quarry near Panum Crater, Mono Lake in the background.

example, someone picking wildflowers will be rebuked by a visitor who "knows better" and cares about the park. A like ethic in the Scenic Area could be the best—and perhaps only effective—means of preventing tons of tufa and obsidian from walking off to tourists' mantels. It could be the best means of keeping visitors from disturbing wildlife, climbing on tufa and boating to the islands while gulls are nesting. Caring comes from understanding.

On the other hand, an excess of signs and displays could create a "museum atmosphere" that would detract from Mono's pristine grandeur and diminish the visitor's sense of discovery.

## HUNTING AND TRAPPING

The Scenic Area management plan "shall provide for hunting and fishing . . . except to the extent otherwise necessary for reasons of public health and safety, the protection of resources, scientific research activities, or public use and enjoyment." The Forest Service's interim management plan opens the entire Scenic Area to "the legal taking of game," with the exception of heavy visitor use areas at South Tufa, Panum Crater and Black Point. In addition to waterfowl and doves, this permits the taking of deer, rabbits, coyotes, bobcats and other animals in season. At present most hunting is done by a small number of local residents, and is limited primarily to deer, geese and ducks. The increasing value of furs, however, has led to some shooting and trapping of coyotes, bobcats and other furbearers.

Current hunting pressure is unlikely to have a significant effect on waterfowl, dove or deer populations. Shooting and trapping of furbearers, however, could have ecological consequences. These large predators occur in relatively small numbers, and are nature's check on rodent and rabbit populations.

The threat to public safety is unclear. A north shore landowner has said that shotgun hunting of doves and waterfowl poses little risk, but that high-powered rifles are a danger near areas where people live or engage in recreational activities.

Among the management options are the following:

1. Continue to allow legal hunting and trapping except in areas of high visitor concentration.

2. Continue to allow hunting for waterfowl, doves and deer, but protect coyotes, bobcats and other animals.
3. Close relicted lands below human habitations (west shore from Old Marina to Danburg Beach) to all hunting.
4. Close at least one wetland area to hunting for scientific study and monitoring.
5. Close most or all of the area to protect public safety.

## ROADS AND ORV USE

At present roads in the Scenic Area range from major highways to tracks through the sagebrush. The interim management plan restricts ORV use to existing roads. Cross-country ORV travel would harm vegetation and cause erosion. Snowmobile use occurs around the lake, in the Mono Craters and in the Burger's Retreat watershed. Among the management options are the following:

1. Leave things as they area, i.e., do not improve or close any roads or jeep trails.
2. Pave frequently used dirt roads, such as road to South Tufa.
3. Upgrade jeep trail around lake for use by passenger cars.
4. Close infrequently used roads and jeep trails to all vehicles.
5. Close all roads east of South Tufa and Hwy. 120 to restore "wilderness" quality to southeastern portion of Scenic Area.
6. Open Log Cabin Mine road to public and establish parking area, overlook and trail head on ridge west of Lee Vining.
7. Limit Mono Lake parking areas to those already established at South Tufa, Mono Lake County Park and the Old Marina.
8. Establish new parking areas, as at Lee Vining Tufa Grove and east end of Navy Beach.
9. Limit ORVs to designated roads? Allow off-road use in some areas?
10. Allow snowmobiles anywhere? Monitor to protect tufa and wildlife? Restrict to avoid conflict with skiers?



To what extent should interpretive displays, trails and activities be developed?



Snowmobilers east of the Mono Craters.

## CAMPING AND CAMPGROUNDS

The interim management plan allows dispersed camping (no facilities) outside the lake shore relicted lands. Some options are:

1. Continue to allow dispersed camping? Close certain areas? Permit camping in designated areas only?
2. Develop one or more fee campgrounds with full facilities, i.e., water, flush toilets, garbage pickup, etc.
3. Develop one or more primitive campgrounds (like the Forest Service's Grandview Campground in the White Mountains) with no water, pit toilets, no garbage pickup and minimal or no fee.
4. Situate campground(s) in sagebrush near lake? In forest area, such as Jeffrey pines east of Mono Craters?

## TRAILS, HIKING, BACKPACKING AND SKIING

Trails are presently limited to short interpretive walks at Panum Crater and South Tufa. Hikers regularly trek or backpack around Mono Lake, to the Black Point fissures, into the Mono Craters or along the canyons and ridges of the Sierra escarpment. The interim management plan does not allow backpackers to camp on the relicted lands, but they frequently do, especially in the Simon's Spring area. Cross country skiing occurs around the lake, in the Mono Craters and in the Burger's Retreat watershed. Management options include:

1. Leave as is, i.e., do not develop trails and encourage hikers to explore on their own.
2. Develop trails in the Mono Craters and the Sierra escarpment, but not around Mono Lake.
3. Develop trails to Simon's Spring and other points of interest around Mono Lake.
4. Allow backpackers to camp on the relicted lands east of Navy Beach and Black Point.

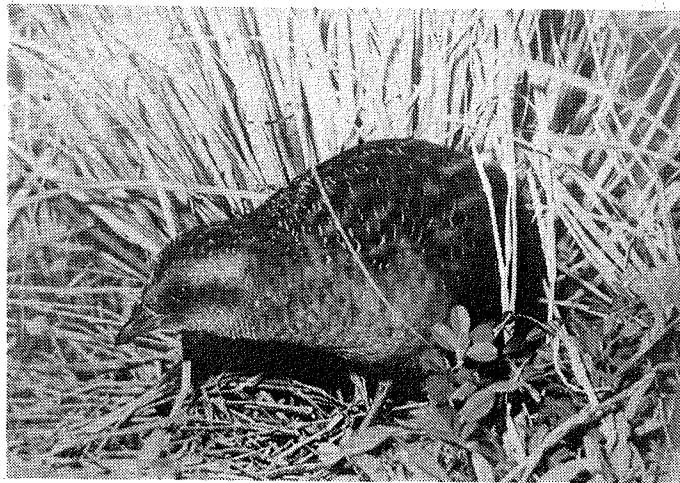
## BOATING AND SWIMMING

At present boating and swimming are permitted in the Scenic Area. Options include the following:

1. Leave as is.
2. Develop a swimming area on Navy Beach.
3. Develop designated site(s) to launch canoes or small boats.
4. Permit commercial boat tours around the islands (as in the 1930s and 1940s).
5. Permit or restrict motorboat use.



## THE MONO NATURALIST: The Mysterious Yellow Rail



Of all California's nesting birds the most elusive is probably the yellow rail. Over 60 years ago, William Leon Dawson chanced on a nest south of Mono Lake near what is now Crowley Lake Reservoir. It was the first ever found east of the Rocky Mountains.

The following decades added little to our knowledge of this furtive marsh-dweller. In "Rare Birds of the West Coast," Don Peterson concludes that breeding yellow rails had "been wiped by 1940," and that "land-clearing and cattle grazing are most responsible for [their] demise."

Then, in summer 1980, Michael Ross flushed a yellow rail in, of all places, Yosemite's Tuolumne Meadows. A small breeding population was discovered east of the Cascades in southern Oregon. Might they persist around Mono Lake as well?

On July 15, 1985, Dave Gaines was slogging through a wet meadow at the Mono Lake County Park when a dark, dumpy little bird flew up at his feet. He enjoyed a perfect view of its stubby bill and white wing patches before it vanished forever in the thick grass. It had to be a yellow rail.

Do these mysterious birds nest on Mono's shores, or are they only errant wanderers? We'll be searching for answers this spring.

## MLC News

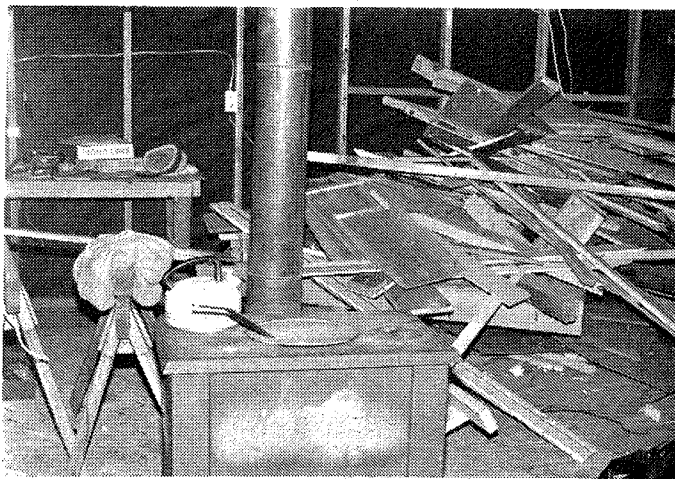
### 1986 Mono Lake Drawing

This spring we are holding another drawing to raise funds to save Mono Lake. You can help by entering the drawing, and encouraging friends and neighbors to do the same. This is a "free" drawing—we request, but do not require, a contribution to participate. Most prizes have been donated (see box), so all the funds go toward Mono's defense.

Winners will be selected at our annual meeting Aug. 30. For more tickets or information, please contact: The Mono Lake Committee, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541; (619) 647-6386.

## San Francisco Office Closes

Our Sansome Street office, home to the Bay Area branch of the Mono Lake Committee since 1982, was forced to close this year due to the departure of Friends of the Earth (our landlords) from their California headquarters. For the time being, all MLC Northern California activities will be coordinated out of our Sacramento office: 909-12th St., Suite 207, Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 448-1045.



*Our Lee Vining office, late February, in the midst of our budget remodeling project.*

## THANK YOU, DRAWING PRIZE DONORS!

We are deeply grateful to the following businesses for donating prizes to our 1986 drawing. They are eminently worthy of your patronage:

**BIOLOGICAL JOURNEYS** conducts intimate whale-watching tours to Baja California, the Sea of Cortez and the inner passages of southeast Alaska. The trips "combine a celebration of the earth's wonders with natural history education." For further information, contact: Biological Journeys, 1876 Ocean Dr., McKinleyville, CA 95521; (707) 839-0178.

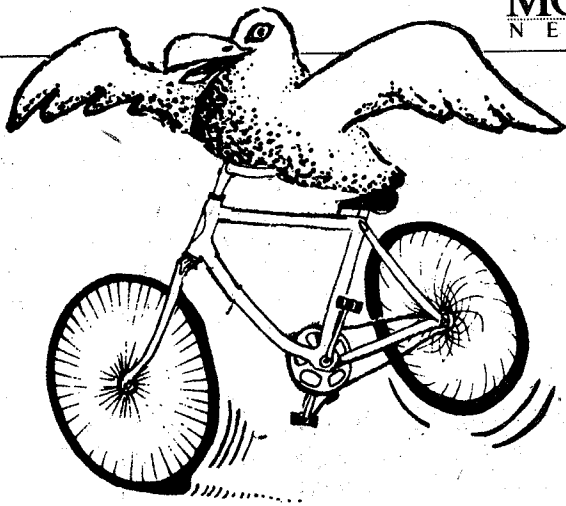
**THE ANSEL ADAMS GALLERY** in Yosemite Valley offers a selection of the famous photographer's works as well as those of other artists. It also stocks books, cards, film, and houses a renowned school of photography. For further information, contact Ansel Adams Gallery, P.O. Box 455, Yosemite National Park, CA 95389.

**AMERICAN HAWAII CRUISES** offers luxurious inter-island travel aboard an ocean liner. Tours go from Honolulu to the ports of Maui, Kauai, Hilo and Kona. For further information, contact: American Hawaii Cruises, 550 Kearney St., San Francisco, CA 94108; 1-800-227-3666.

**THE YOSEMITE PARK AND CURRY CO.** provides complete visitor services in the park, and has been a staunch supporter of saving Mono Lake.

Other fine prizes were donated by Tamarack Lodge (Mammoth Lakes), Vista Motel (June Lake), Mono Inn (Lee Vining), Recreational Equipment, Inc. (Berkeley), Caribou Mountaineering (Chico), Earth Institute (San Francisco) and Stephen Johnson (San Francisco).





## Join the Bikeathon, Aug. 25-30

Our annual Los Angeles-to-Mono Lake bikeathon offers cyclists of all abilities an exciting, enjoyable six-day tour—and the satisfaction of helping to save Mono Lake. Even if you have never toured before, we encourage you to join us this year. Sag (support and gear) wagons carry all our supplies, and we cycle at our own pace.

So keep on cyclin', and set aside the last week in August for this year's bikeathon. For more information, please contact Steve Osgood in Los Angeles at (213) 477-5754, or any Mono Lake Committee office.

## Plumline Bicycle Events

Plumline/Kangaroo Bags, which donated the prize for our 1985 bikeathon, is sponsoring a 50-mile fun ride between Ventura and Santa Barbara June 8, and a "steep and mean" outback rally June 21-22. For information on these and other events, contact Don Douglass at (805) 653-0431.

## Outboard Motor Donated

We were "blown out of the water" by the generous donation of a new outboard motor by Cole and Priscilla Hawkins of Porterville. John Frederickson of June Lake Marina provided the motor at cost, and has vowed to keep it running for years to come. The gull researchers will rely on the motor this summer, and we will use it to give reporters, VIPs and friends grand tours of the ol' lake.

## Accolades

Since we are a small organization with a very large task, we need plenty of help to save Mono Lake. We are deeply grateful to the many monophiles around the state who continue to donate their time, energy and resources.

Thanks once again to Jean Dale and friends for providing a Mono Lake booth at the Ventura Street Faire last fall; to Booky Joint of Mammoth Lakes and Come Together of Coarsegold for distributing bumper stickers and collecting donations; and to Wilderness Press of Berkeley for donating books for sale in our visitor center.

Finally, we would be lost without the help of the Audubon Society. We are especially grateful for generous donations from Fresno Audubon, Buena Vista Audubon, Conejo Valley Audubon and from Jan Tarble of Los Angeles Audubon.

# 1986 MONO LAKE WORKSHOPS

Geology \* Birds \* Wildflowers  
Watercolors \* Basketry \* History

The 1986 MONO LAKE WORKSHOPS offer something for every interest. Taught by knowledgeable, enthusiastic instructors, each workshop offers an exciting learning experience for novice and expert alike. The workshops are sponsored by the non-profit Mono Lake Foundation. Proceeds help preserve the Mono Lake environment.

The workshops take place on Saturdays and Sundays, and most cost \$50. Space is limited, so register early. Upon request or receipt of registration, we will send a workshop outline, itinerary and full information on what to bring and where to stay (camping or motels are options on most workshops).

For more information, please contact: The Mono Lake Foundation, P.O. Box 153, Lee Vining, CA 93541; (619) 647-6349 or 647-6360.

## BIRDS OF THE MONO BASIN

June 21-22 David Gaines Fee: \$50

Beginners as well as experts will enjoy this intimate introduction to Mono's bird life. We will learn to identify approximately 100 species by plumage and song, and to understand the roles they play in the Mono Basin environment. David Gaines is a master birder, inspirational teacher and founder of the Mono Lake Committee.

## ACROSS-THE-CREST BACKPACK

June 28-29 Ginger Burley Fee: \$50

Join veteran backpacker and naturalist Ginger Burley on a one-night expedition from the Tioga Road over Mono Pass to the vicinity of Mono Lake. This is one of the most exciting hikes in the Yosemite Sierra, and affords breathtaking views of Mono Lake as it descends the steep, wild gorge of Bloody Canyon. This is a moderate, 10-mile trip, and participants must be in sound physical condition. Beginning backpackers are welcome.

## MAMMOTH-MONO HISTORICAL TOUR

July 12-13 Fee: \$50

Jim Vanko, Lily Mathieu & David Gaines

Journey with living history actor Jim Vanko, author Lily Mathieu and David Gaines back to the days of Paiutes and pioneers. We will walk from Mammoth to Mono Lake and Bodie, exploring Indian cave-shelters, grinding sites and obsidian chipping grounds, mining camps, stamp mills, homesteads and graveyards. This popular workshop brings Mono's rough-and-tumble past vividly to life.

Larry Ford



o Lake Committee founder David Gaines will be leading workshops on wildflowers, birds, natural history and local history. Gaines is an expert naturalist and inspirational teacher.

### PAIUTE BASKETRY

July 26-27 Julia Parker Fee: \$70

In a flowery meadow near Mono Lake, Julia Parker, a native American basket-maker from Yosemite, will start a small group of novice basket-makers on an authentic Paiute basket. Julia will provide materials (cured willow strips, redbud, bracken fern root), share her basket collection, and pass on the basketry lore she has learned from tribal elders. This workshop is limited to 10 people, so enroll early. The fee includes \$20 for materials.

### GEOLOGY OF THE MONO BASIN

July 19-20 Raymond Gray Fee: \$50

Climb a volcano! Track a glacier! Learn how mountains are born! This introductory workshop, which requires no previous knowledge of geology, will explore the evolution of Mono's dynamic landscape. Raymond Gray is a keen scientist and extraordinary teacher who excels at making complex subjects exciting and understandable.

### JULY WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

July 19-20 Peggy Gray Fee: \$50

Pack up your watercolors and join renowned Sierran artist Peggy Gray for two days of painting near Mono Lake. For the novice or expert, this hop will improve techniques and increase painting enjoyment. hop is an outstanding instructor as well as artist, and will cover selecting your subject, preliminary sketches, design considerations, one-color wash painting, mixing colors, layered glazes and many other aspects of watercolor art.

### MONO BASIN NATURAL HISTORY

July 26-27 David Gaines Fee: \$50

Wander from Mono Lake to Tioga Pass with expert naturalist and Mono Lake Committee founder David Gaines. Birds will have fledged their young and wildflowers will be in peak bloom. We will talk about geology, climate, plants, animals and ecological relationships, and come to appreciate the diverse, intricate fabric of this unspoiled natural landscape. The workshop includes a boat trip across Saddlebag Lake and a hike down breathtaking Lundy Canyon. Participants must be able to hike five miles, part of it down a steep trail.

### MONO BASIN WILDFLOWERS

Aug. 9-10 David Gaines Fee: \$50

Few places on earth rival the colorful magnificence of Mono's summer wildflower bloom. We will range from Mono Lake to high above tree line, befriending over a hundred spectacular species. Naturalist and Mono Lake Committee founder David Gaines will teach not only how to identify flowers, but also how to understand their relationships with insects, hummingbirds, soil, climate, herbivores and other plants. This workshop includes a boat trip across Saddlebag Lake and a hike down breathtaking Lundy Canyon. Participants must be able to hike five miles, part of it down a steep trail.

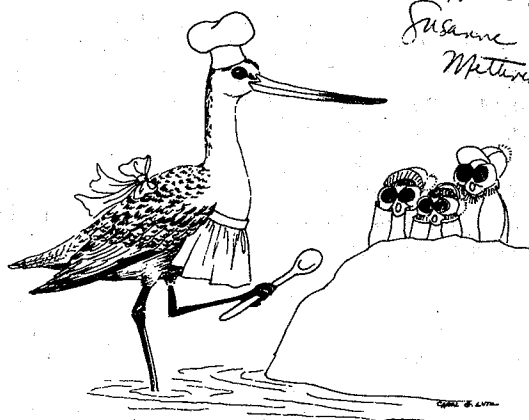
### AUGUST WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP

Aug. 23-24 Lady Jill Mueller Fee: \$50

No budding or expert artist should miss this workshop with one of the West's finest landscape painters. Lady Jill Mueller will share the secrets of capturing Mono's haunting beauty in watercolors. Some previous painting experience is recommended.

### The Gourmet Godwit

*Ben Appetit!*  
Susanne  
Methvin



*An exceptional collection of recipes*

*Compiled by Susanne A. Methvin  
Illustrated by Carol G. Lutz*

**THE GOURMET GODWIT.** You'll savor the recipes in this new cookbook compiled by "gourmet birder" and monophile Susanne Methvin and illustrated by Carol Lutz. Dedicated to saving Mono Lake! \$8.50.

# SPRING MAIL ORDER SALE

Prices good on mail or phone orders through  
May 15, 1986!

## **MONO LAKE CORDUROY**

**CAP.** 100% cotton, sturdy  
corduroy adorned with  
colorful Mono Lake patch.  
Adjustable sizes in dark blue,  
light blue, gray, brown, lilac  
or sand. Reg. \$8.00, **SALE  
PRICE \$6.96.**

## **MONO LAKE CANVAS**

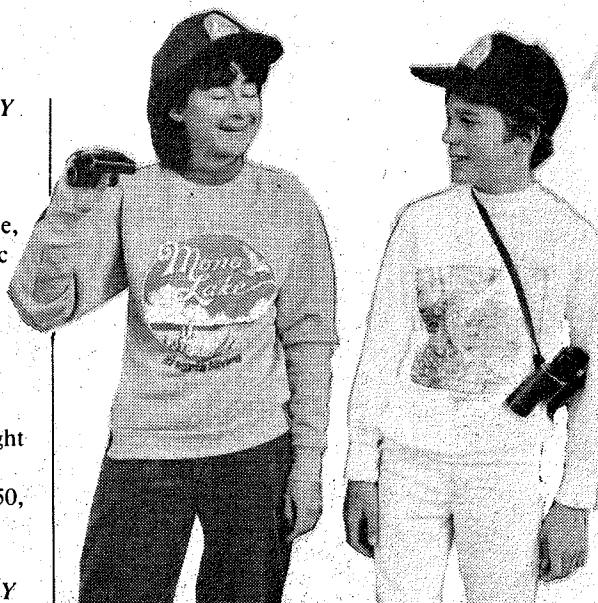
**CAP.** 100% cotton with  
colorful patch. Adjustable  
sizes in black, dark blue, light  
blue, purple, forest green,  
red, gray or sand. Reg. \$7.50,  
**SALE PRICE \$5.95.**

## **MONO LAKE CORDUROY**

**VISOR.** 100% cotton with  
colorful patch. Dark blue or  
light blue. Reg. \$5.95, **SALE  
PRICE \$4.95.**

## **MONO LAKE COTTON**

**VISOR.** 100% cotton  
emblazoned with words  
"Mono Lake." White, pastel  
lilac, peach, blue or yellow,  
or deep blue or red. Reg.  
\$4.25, **SALE PRICE \$3.75.**



**MONO LAKE "IT'S WORTH SAVING"  
AND TOPO MAP SWEATSHIRTS.** Both are  
high quality 50/50. Small size fits larger  
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snowy white (m), creamy white (s, m, l, xl),  
periwinkle blue (s, m, l, xl), lilac (s), jade (s, m,  
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second choice of color. Reg. \$16.00, **SALE  
PRICE \$13.95.**



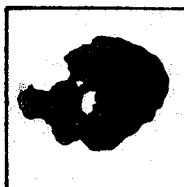
**MONO LAKE BASEBALL JERSEY.** Sleeves in  
dark blue, light blue or red. All sizes. Reg.  
\$9.00, **SALE PRICE \$6.95.**

**TUOLUMNE MEADOWS TOPO T-SHIRT.**  
100% cotton. Light gray (m, l, xl) only. Reg.  
\$9.95, **SALE PRICE \$7.95.**

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and MasterCard welcome). Please enclose  
\$2.50 shipping (California residents add  
6% sales tax), and send to: Mono Lake  
Committee, P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA  
93541.

## 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 \$20/year (\$30 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**

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