The Mono Lake Committee uses sound science to work toward cooperative solutions. Both at Mono Lake and throughout California, the Committee stays vigilant, ready to respond to any threats to the health of Mono Lake, its tributary streams, and the lands that surround them.

A STORY OF HOPE

Nestled between the arid Great Basin and the snowy Sierra Nevada mountains, Mono Lake is an ancient saline lake that covers over 70 square miles and supports a unique and productive ecosystem. The lake has no fish; instead it is home to trillions of brine shrimp and alkali flies. Freshwater streams feed Mono Lake, supporting lush riparian forests of cottonwood and willow along their banks. Along the lakeshore, scenic limestone formations known as tufa towers rise from the water’s surface.

In 1941 the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) began excessive water diversions from Mono Basin streams. Mono Lake dropped 45 vertical feet, lost half its volume, and doubled in salinity.

The Mono Lake Committee was founded in 1978 in response to the threat of inevitable collapse of the Mono Basin ecosystem. In 1994, after over a decade of litigation, the California Water Resources Control Board ordered DWP to allow Mono Lake to rise to a healthy level of 6392 feet above sea level—twenty feet above Mono Lake’s historic low. DWP has reduced its Mono Basin water exports by over 80%, and Mono Lake is on the rise!

Mono Lake’s recovery depends upon water conservation in Los Angeles, so the Committee works statewide to promote wise water use for people and the environment. Over the last 15 years, LA has become one of the most water-conscious cities in the United States, conserving more than enough water to share with Mono Lake.

MONO LAKE

Protection

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Restoration work at Mono Lake focuses on re-establishing natural processes along damaged streams. As water flows down the creeks and into the lake, vegetation and wildlife return and the lake rises, helping to bring back a healthy ecosystem. Although the Mono Basin will never completely recover to its pre-diversion condition because water continues to flow to Los Angeles, restoring natural processes is the most promising way to rebuild stream channels and re-grow riparian forests.

A STORY OF HOPE

protecting Mono Lake for future generations

The Mono Lake Committee is a 16,000 member non-profit citizens’ group dedicated to protecting and restoring the Mono Basin ecosystem, educating the public about Mono Lake and the impacts on the environment of excessive water use, and promoting cooperative solutions that protect Mono Lake and meet real water needs without transferring environmental problems to other areas.
**EDUCATION**

Mono Lake Committee education programs reach thousands of people each year, making the connection between urban water policies and the protection of natural areas.

JOIN TODAY

You can play a role in Mono Lake’s future too. Add your voice to the 16,000 people who are committed to the protection and restoration of Mono Lake. Your support will help keep water flowing down the creeks and into Mono Lake!

VISIT THE LAKE

Mono Lake is a wild and wonderful place. Find your own spot along the shore and immerse yourself in the quiet peace of the Mono Basin.

GET INVOLVED

Check out Mono Lake on the web (www.monolake.org) for action alerts, live webcams, volunteer opportunities, fun events, and to learn about our many programs. By staying connected to Mono Lake, you ensure its protection for generations to come.

Outdoor Experiences Program

Each year the Committee partners with Los Angeles community and school groups, bringing inner-city youth to the Mono Basin to learn about the source of their water. For kids who may have never left LA, these are life-changing trips filled with hiking, canoeing, helping with restoration work, and learning to be at home outdoors.

**LONG LIVE MONO LAKE!**

**PROTECTION RESTORATION EDUCATION**

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