

Summer

1995

MONO



LAKE

N E W S L E T T E R



Mono Lake Newsletter

Summer 1995

Volume 18, Number 1

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IN THIS ISSUE

This issue's cover photograph was taken last fall on the north shore of Mono Lake. Since then, the lake has risen a foot and a half, moving the log farther up the shore and eroding the steep bank that existed last autumn. The photo below shows the same location in May, 1995.

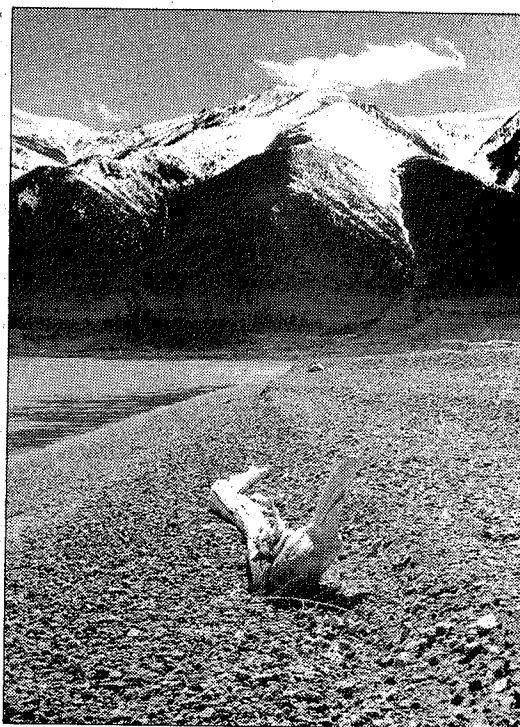
This issue of the newsletter features an expanded section covering summer activities at the lake and includes several helpful maps and phone number lists for visitors. If you're planning a trip to the lake, pages 12-17 will help.

And this is the year to plan a Mono Lake trip. Aim to be here over the Labor Day weekend and join us for the Committee's big reunion and celebration of the Water Board decision. You'll find more information on page 17.

Restoration continues to be the primary activity at the Committee—see articles on pages 4-7 for the details. Litigation isn't out of the picture, though. The last-minute news (see facing page) is that we'll be back in court in July.

Winter snows are finally over, and water is flowing to Mono Lake from every stream in the Mono Basin. Come up and visit; join us in watching the birds return, the flowers bloom, and the sun colorfully set over the rising waters of Mono Lake.

— Geoff McQuilkin



The Mono Lake Committee is a non-profit citizens' group dedicated to saving Mono Lake from the excessive diversion of water from its tributary streams. We seek a solution that will meet the real water needs of Los Angeles and leave our children a living, healthy, and beautiful lake.

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the Water Board decision takes hold!

Changing shorelines

by Geoffrey McQuilkin

I walked along Mono's north shore not too many weeks ago, looking for the location of this issue's cover photograph. The day was warm and clear, a few spring flowers were pushing their way into the sunlight, and mountain snowfields stretched away to the west promising plentiful water for Mono Lake.

I finally found the spot, but it wasn't at all what I'd expected. I thought the log shown in the cover photograph, taken last fall, would now be in the water due to the lake's foot-and-a-half winter rise. Instead, the log rested a similar distance from the lake, perhaps moved by waves, but the entire shoreline had changed. The steep bank shown in the photograph was gone; a whole section of shore was now underwater. I went to take a photograph, for comparison (see facing page), and found even if I waded out into the lake, I couldn't get the same angle along the

shoreline to the mountains.


There is a significance to the unexpected changes I found, for these new shorelines are the first signs in the landscape of last year's State Water Board decision.

Last fall, the State Water Resources Control Board, after listening to hundreds of hours of testimony and examining thousands of pages of legal and scientific documents, voted to amend the rights of the City of Los Angeles to divert water from the Mono Basin. After fifty years of water diversions, and over forty feet of decline in the lake level, Mono Lake received a reprieve. The Board ordered DWP to allow the lake to rise seventeen feet, and it set minimum flows for the four Mono Lake tributaries that had once been diverted entirely into the Los Angeles aqueduct.

The Water Board validated sixteen years of lobbying and litigation by the Mono Lake Committee and it confirmed a crucial

fact: The water Los Angeles must return to Mono Lake can be replaced by local, environmentally friendly sources, particularly water recycling (see page 10).

Now, here in the Mono Basin, our job is to do what we can to help the lake and its tributaries recover. Mono's streams suffered extreme damage from diversions, and once-abundant waterfowl are now scarce at the lake due to habitat loss. The Water Board ordered restoration of these resources, and the Mono Lake Committee is committed to seeing the work done.

My picture captured, and the day growing old, I walked back toward the car. Mill Creek flowed past, in the opposite direction, delivering the year's first snowmelt to the lake. The lesson of the day was a happy one: an influx of water is changing Mono Lake, filling it, and wiping away (at least along the current shore) the painful marks of fifty years of decline. 

Litigation déjà vu: Back to court for Mono Lake

Many days have been spent in courtroom fights over Mono Lake and now more appear to be on the way, beginning July 10. And, unexpectedly, the upcoming round of court hearings has been instigated by the State Water Resources Control Board.

The Water Board, which amended Los Angeles' rights to divert water from the Mono Basin last fall, is seeking to close out lawsuits originally brought by the Mono Lake Committee, National Audubon Society, and California Trout relating to the protection of Mono's streams (CalTrout II).

The Committee and others oppose the move. In a brief written for the court, the Committee's attorneys point out that "while [the Water Board

decision] set a lake level (6392') and specific flows in tributary streams, it only established a process for stream restoration and waterfowl habitat restoration." The MLC believes that the court must retain jurisdiction (by keeping the lawsuits open) until final restoration plans are approved for Mono Lake.

The California Department of Fish and Game concurs in their brief, noting that "the Court should retain jurisdiction at least until the City of Los Angeles prepares the required restoration plans pursuant to [the Water Board order], the State Board approves the plans, and any judicial reviews of such approval are exhausted."

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, traditionally the Committee's courtroom opponent, filed a brief joining

with the Water Board's motion to dismiss the case.

"The timing of the motion is unfortunate," observes MLC Executive Director Martha Davis. "It jeopardizes the fragile cooperative relationship so carefully constructed among the parties over the last six months. The Committee's goal is to complete restoration plans as quickly as possible so that we can all join together in ending the litigation."

In the end, the lesson for the Committee is that watching over the interests of Mono Lake requires continual vigilance—legally, politically, and scientifically. Watch for a report from the courtroom in the fall issue of this newsletter.



Outdoor Experiences Program

1,522 trees planted along Lee Vining Creek

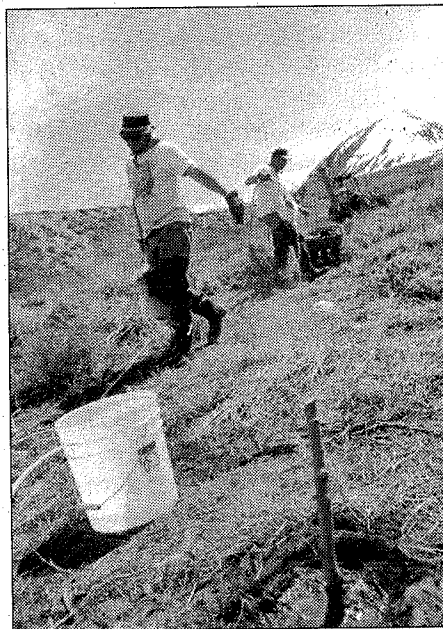
Under a cloudy sky the auger spins its way into the cobble floodplain of Lee Vining Creek. The ground shakes, the auger backs out, leaving a hole four feet deep. Two fertilizer tablets are tossed in, a shovelful of topsoil, and a dose of water from a plastic bucket. In goes what could be mistaken for a dead tree branch but is really a dormant cutting of cottonwood or willow, soon to send out roots, branches, and leaves under the warm summer sun.

This is the tree-by-tree routine of the 1995 tree planting program on lower Lee Vining Creek. Carried out by crews of young adults from Los Angeles, directed by restoration experts, the program is intended to accelerate the recovery of forest vegetation like that which existed before water diversions dried the stream in the 1940s.

The planting program, now in its third year, is part of the interim restoration program begun by the El Dorado Superior Court. The planting is focusing on several of the many portions of the historical floodplain where conditions are no longer suitable for the natural



recovery of vegetation. Generally, these areas are elevated above the creekbed and no longer receive seed or soil deposits during springtime floods. Cottonwoods, willows, and Jeffrey Pines are being planted this year.



Work crew breaks records

A four-member crew from the Los Angeles Conservation Corps and California Environmental Project did the work of planting over 1,500 trees, breaking the daily tree-planting record for Lee Vining Creek twice. In fact, they topped the original record of 134 trees by planting 142 cuttings in one day—with two fewer people than the previous recordholding crew.

Lead by 25-year-old Frank Aguilar, the crew, whose other three members were Araceli DeLaRosa, Erika Ortiz, and Tai Swede, was hired by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) as a cost-effective way of accomplishing the work while investing in educational and skill development opportunities for Los Angeles youth. Coordination for their involvement was handled by the Committee's Outdoor Experiences Program (OEP) and DWP put the crew up in their Mono Basin housing facility

at Cain Ranch.

"I had never heard of Mono Lake before coming here," said Erika, who lives in the Los Angeles area. "It taught me a lot. We've been taking and taking and now we're giving something back." None of the crew had been to Mono Lake previously, and they all described their experience on the creek as an exciting and rewarding one.

In the end, the crew gave more trees than expected to Lee Vining Creek. A U.S. Forest Service nursery made an extra 500 Jeffrey Pine seedlings available at the last minute and, with the assistance of a second LACC crew in the area as part of the Outdoor Experiences Program, they were all successfully planted.

Now that summer is here, the planting



season is over. But the Committee, through the OEP and with other volunteers, will water and weed the plantings until the fall to assure the trees get off to a strong start. Next year, the crew members hope to make it back to see how their trees are doing. And Frank resolved to return to the creek again in forty years, with his children, to see the forest he helped to rebuild. 🌲



STREAMS

RESTORING MONO LAKE'S TRIBUTARIES

Project: Creek Restoration Plan.

Water Board order: DWP must prepare a stream channel restoration plan to "restore, preserve, and protect the streams and fisheries" in Rush, Lee Vining, Walker, and Parker creeks.

Deadline: Due to the Water Board in November, 1995.

Draft Goals

To restore the historic creek conditions or their equivalent.

Restoration measures will be identified for the following historical components of the creek systems:

- 1) Main channel length, width, and gradient
- 2) Secondary channel length
- 3) Riparian vegetation
- 4) Aquatic vegetation
- 5) Mature floodplain vegetation
- 6) Wet meadow area

- 7) Pools
 - 8) Spawning gravel
 - 9) Flow pattern
 - 10) Spring accretion (flow from springs)
 - 11) Cover (includes boulders, large woody debris, undercut banks, aquatic vegetation)
 - 12) Water temperature
- Habitat complexity was also identified as a component.

Goals abridged for space reasons

Work by the creek restoration scientific panel and meetings of the creek restoration Technical Advisory Group (TAG) have produced several results: a set of draft goals, implementation of interim restoration, and a proposal to delay delivery of the final restoration plan to the Water Board.

Draft goals

The scientific panel and TAG have proposed an overall goal for creek restoration: to restore the historical conditions, or their equivalent, on the streams. This is consistent with past goals set by the courts. A specific list of stream system components which benefited the historic fisheries has also been identified (see list above). For some historic conditions, such as channel length, quantitative data exists that provides a specific target for restoration. For others, such as spawning gravels, no actual numerical information is available regarding pre-diversion conditions, so professional judgement must be used to set restoration goals.

Interim restoration

While the Water Board-required

restoration plan for the four creeks is under development, on-the-ground restoration is also occurring in Rush and Lee Vining creeks. The interim program is a continuation of the restoration work begun in 1991 under the order of the El Dorado Superior Court; it is directed by the same three scientists who are writing the long-term restoration plan.

In May, revegetation work took place on Lee Vining Creek. 550 cottonwoods, 250 willows, and 722 Jeffrey Pines were planted in sections of the historical floodplain that are not recovering through natural regeneration. Planting was done by a crew of young adults from Los Angeles (see page 4).

Interim plans also call for the rewatering of two abandoned channels on Rush Creek this fall. Located in the bottomlands area of the creek, the channels once carried water which supported a broad swath of vegetation.

Planning process delayed

Pending before the Water Board is a request from DWP to extend the scheduled plan deadline by two to three months. The planning process got off to


a late start, in large part due to delays in finalizing contracts with the scientists; as a result, the scientific panel feels the current November deadline leaves too little time to draft planning documents. Water Board approval of the request is likely. 



Photo by Ilene Mandelbaum

Creek restoration directors.

The three scientific panel members overseeing interim creek restoration. Left to right: Dr. William Trush, Dr. Richard Ridenhour, and Chris Hunter.



WATERFOWL HABITAT

RESTORING ONE OF MONO LAKE'S LOST RESOURCES

Project: Waterfowl Habitat Restoration Plan.

Water Board order: The Department of Water and Power, in cooperation with other parties, must prepare a plan to restore the waterfowl habitat lost at Mono Lake due to diversions.

Deadline: Due to the Water Board in November, 1995.

A set of goals for the restoration of lost waterfowl habitat at Mono Lake have been developed by the waterfowl habitat restoration Technical Advisory Group (TAG). The goals, which were agreed upon at a March 14 meeting and are highlighted at the right, mark the first solid steps towards eventual on-the-ground work.

While the Department of Water and Power (DWP) is singly charged with producing a waterfowl habitat restoration plan for the Water Board by this fall, the TAG is designed as a way for the Mono Lake Committee and other parties to the Water Board process to provide technical and other input to the waterfowl experts and to help guide the development of the plan.

The Mono Lake Committee's work on waterfowl habitat restoration is being partially funded by a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (see article, page 21).

Experts chosen

At its March meeting, the TAG chose two scientific experts to advise the

Waterfowl Habitat Restoration Goals

- 1) Restore pre-1941 waterfowl habitat conditions and ecological processes where feasible.
- 2) Focus on lake-fringing habitats, but due to [the Water Board's] lake management target of 6,392 feet and variation around that target (below pre-1941 conditions), some restoration of pre-1941 lake-fringing waterfowl habitat may not be possible; therefore mitigation options on the tributary streams and elsewhere in the Mono Basin should be examined, and may be required.
- 3) Restoration preference is for natural processes and conditions as opposed to heavily engineered habitats.
- 4) Preference shall be on recreating or restoring natural occurring ecosystems or functions as opposed to "creating" new habitat.
- 5) Single species management shall be avoided. Emphasis on the ecosystem approach.
- 6) Restoration preference shall be on self-sustaining habitats without the need for long-term maintenance activities.
- 7) Keep options and opportunities open as to lands where restoration treatment may occur.
- 8) The focus of lake-fringing habitats shall be on long-term restoration associated with the 6,392-foot target level rather than short-term restoration.
- 9) There shall be monitoring of the restoration treatments which should consider: the duration for restoration to occur; the goals and objectives of the particular project; the level of effort necessary to collect data for adequate monitoring program; a baseline assessment of pre-1941 and existing condition; waterfowl use; aquatic invertebrates; vegetative succession; and water chemistry
- 10) Elements of the waterfowl habitat restoration plan unrelated to lake level shall be implemented as soon as is practicable. The timing of the implementation of elements of the plan related to lake level shall be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

Wording of goals slightly altered for space reasons


group and prepare technical analysis and recommendations. The scientists chosen are Dr. Fritz Reid, of Ducks Unlimited, and Dr. Roderick Drewien, from the University of Idaho. A third expert will be chosen in May.

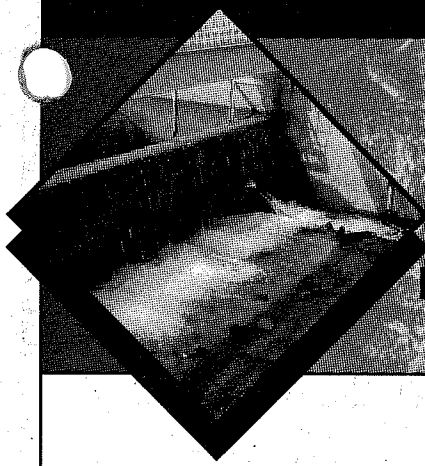
Habitat report

At a more recent meeting on May 2-3, Dr. Scott Stine presented a report entitled "Historic and Future Waterfowl Habitat at Mono Lake," which evaluates the condition of historical and present-day waterfowl habitat and predicts conditions at the lake after it has risen to 6,392 feet, as ordered by the Water Board.

Stine believes that some of the lost habitat can be restored by rewatering Mill Creek (on Mono's northwest shore), restoring the Rush Creek bottomlands, and by work at other possible locations in the Mono Basin.

Interestingly, Stine concluded that it was the lake, rather than the adjacent wetlands, which supported the largest numbers of waterfowl. Lake-adjacent wetlands, he argued, were vital as refuge habitat, not primary habitat.

The TAG will next meet in mid-June for a field visit to several potential restoration sites. 



WATER MANAGEMENT

PLANNING AQUEDUCT AND GRANT RESERVOIR MANAGEMENT

Project:

Grant Lake Management Plan.

Water Board order: Identify a specific plan for the operation of Grant Lake reservoir and diversion facilities in the Mono Basin in a way to efficiently distribute the water of the Mono Basin while meeting the needs of stream and waterfowl habitat restoration programs and addressing local concerns.

Deadline: Due to the Water Board in November, 1995.

With meetings, modeling, and a good dose of community input, the development of a plan for management of aqueduct operations in the Mono Basin is moving forward.

At March 16 meeting, Department of Water and Power (DWP) staff, Mono Lake Committee representatives, and local land and business owners looked at issues connected to the plan. And an April 30 meeting of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) discussed management of this year's anticipated heavy runoff, including the possibility of accelerating the Water Board order to allow for a small export of water this year.

Local issues examined

The March meeting offered Mono County citizens the chance to discuss management options with the technical group writing the plan. Local attendees included the District Attorney, property owners on the Upper Owens River, a Mono County Supervisor, Grant Lake Marina representatives, and representa-

tives from the Lee Vining and June Lake Chambers of Commerce. Also present were a number of parties to the Water Board proceedings including the Mono Lake Committee, DWP, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Forest Service. A representative from the El Dorado County Superior Court, which retains concurrent jurisdiction with the Water Board over the Mono Lake case, was also present.

The level at which Grant Lake reservoir, on Rush Creek (see map page 13) will be managed was one topic of discussion. In the past, low levels have impeded operation of the marina and successful fishing and boating at the reservoir. Also, low reservoir levels cause a rise in the temperature of lower Rush Creek water, negatively impacting fish populations. Plans call for keeping Grant high this year and next, but no final proposal has been made for long-term management.


Upper Owens River issues were also discussed. Water diverted from the Mono Basin is routed through the Upper Owens River, augmenting natural flows. The timing of delivery of Mono Basin water is important for maintenance of a high-quality fishery in the Upper Owens river.

Accelerated export schedule

With this winter's heavy snowfalls, computer models project high

runoff from the Rush Creek drainage—188% of normal. At the TAG meeting in May, an agreement was reached by all parties to request that the Water Board accelerate its export schedule to allow 4,500 acre-feet of water to flow down the aqueduct this year. Under the current order, no export would be allowed because Mono Lake stood below 6,377 feet elevation on April 1.

High flow planning

Due to outflow limitations, projections indicate that high runoff flows may fill Grant Lake reservoir and spill over the dam in the early summer. The structure is designed to accommodate a spill of this kind, but concerns exist about possible damage to the dam as a result. The TAG will be examining ways to avoid spills in future years, possibly by creating a larger dam outlet. 



Discussing aqueduct management. Left to right: Bill Hasencamp, DWP; Alan Pickard and Gary Smith, Department of Fish and Game; Howard Arcularius and Tim Alpers, both Upper Owens landowners.

Mono Basin Journal

A roundup of less-political events at Mono Lake

by Geoffrey McQuilkin


Spring snowshowers swept through the Mono Basin this year, leaving light snow to slowly drip away in the morning sun. One day, early, a solid layer of clouds overhead made for gray weather—except a few moments when the rising sun snuck under the cloud sheet, across town, through the morning's misty rain, and dropped a rainbow into the quarter mile of sage separating Lee Vining from the Sierra escarpment.

Near the mouth of Lee Vining Canyon, a little drainage called Log Cabin Creek has been flowing of late. Locals say it hasn't carried water since 1986;



this year it brought down a muddy set of gravels and pinecones and arranged them, inches thick, across the road as a reminder of its existence.

And on the lake's north shore, water is everywhere. Ephemeral creeks flow continuously from the Bodie Hills; vernal pools spread to take in a few sagebrush; ducks dabble among the rabbitbrush.

When dusk falls, noises rise: the spadefoot toads are out, creating a croaking chorus of low, hoarse notes which carry across the water, through the sage, and off to the stars on the evening wind. 

Benchmarks

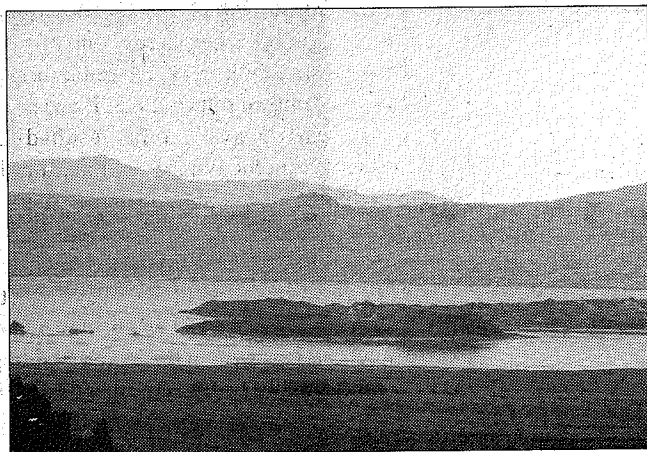


Photo by Betty Shannon

1964: Negit and Paoha Islands at a lake elevation of 6,392 feet. California Gull nesting grounds, separated from the mainland by almost a mile of water, are safe from mainland predators.

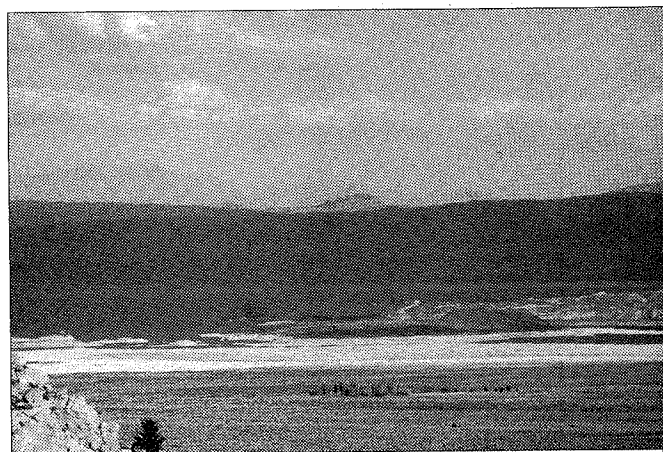


Photo by Jim Stimson

1993: The same view at a lake elevation of 6,375 feet. Note the extensive landbridge extending to Negit Island from the mainland. Gulls can no longer use Negit for nesting. A rise in lake level this summer will put a small portion of the landbridge under water.

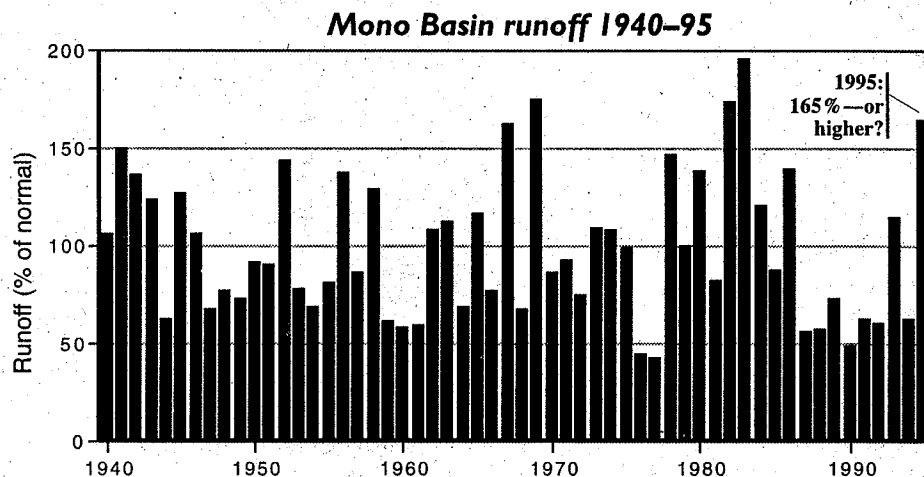


Lake to rise dramatically! Heavy runoff year forecast

In the previous issue of this newsletter, Committee consulting hydrologist Peter Vorster went out on a limb. Mono Lake, he forecast in January, had a "fair chance" of hitting a 1995 high of 6,377 feet above sea level. He's no longer out on a limb; that assertion—now as strong as a tree trunk—is guaranteed, and the lake is likely to go much higher.

Vorster sums up the current situation by saying: "A wet and relatively warm winter delivered a snowpack with high water content to the Sierra and a cool April has kept it from melting. In fact, storms in April and May added to the snowpack. It all has to melt sometime, and the later summer arrives, the higher peak flows will be in the Mono Basin creeks."

Snowfall accounts for most of the water that eventually reaches Mono Lake, and this year has been among the best. The forecast for spring and summer runoff from Mono's two major drainages



calls for 188% of normal runoff in Rush Creek and 151% of normal in Lee Vining Creek.


In fact, the Rush Creek drainage is showing an all-time high for water content in the snowpack. That doesn't guarantee that runoff will also be the all-time highest (winds and dry soils steal

away some of the moisture), but Vorster, looking for another limb, is willing to say "there's a possibility" of a record high runoff on Rush Creek.

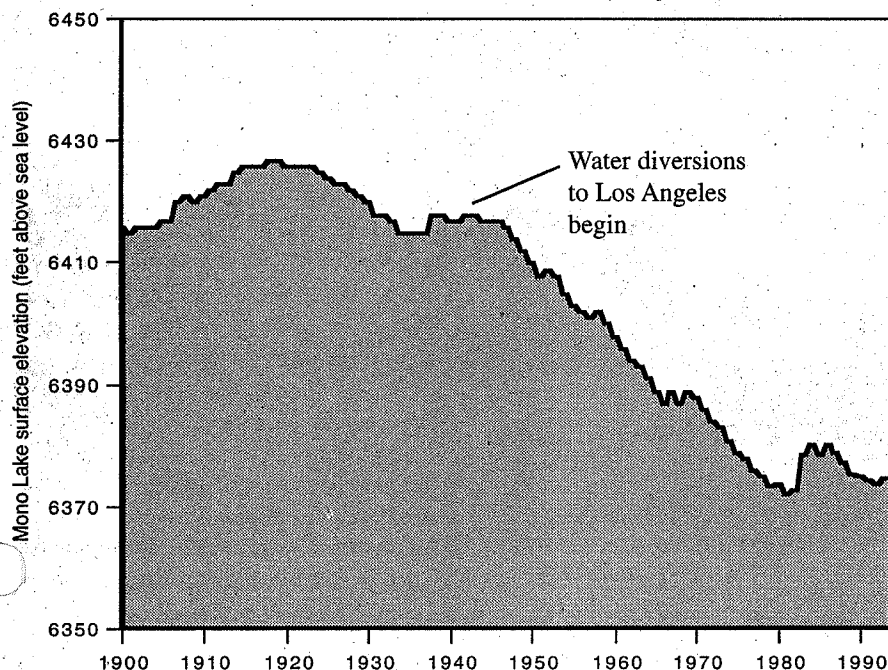
And the current lake level forecast? As of this writing, the lake stands at 6,376.2 feet above sea level, up from a winter low of 6,374.4. The good news is this: the lake is anticipated to rise about *three feet* by next April, to around 6,379 feet.

Melting snow has already shown its power. South Parker Creek, one of Mono's smaller creeks, carved a three to four foot chasm out of a DWP access road in early May. And that resulted from snowmelt and heavy rain in the immediate vicinity; significant runoff had not yet begun.

High country runoff typically begins in May as warm sun and longer days melt the Sierra snowpack. This year, however, the snowpack was still on the increase through mid-May as storms added several feet of snow to the high country.

All of which is good news for Mono Lake and bad news for those of you who like to drive over Tioga Pass. With twenty feet of snow at the pass, and drifts to *seventy* feet, the road isn't expected to open until late June. Even then, summer skiing will last a while! 

Mono Lake level over the years



Money flowing for reclaimed water

As a wet winter promises abundant water for Mono Lake, the recent delivery of \$12.8 million to the City of Los Angeles promises more water for the desert metropolis. The money, part of a grant from the Bureau of Reclamation obtained with the aid and support of the Mono Lake Committee, is the first support payment received by the city and will help fund the construction of a major water reclamation project.

Water reclamation facilities are part of a plan advocated by the Mono Lake Committee to replace the water needed to protect Mono Lake. Reclaimed water is an untapped, local source of water for Los Angeles. Development of this water supply will help drought-proof the Los Angeles area at the same time it creates

local jobs and reduces L.A.'s need to draw on distant areas like Mono Lake.

Ultimately, 35,000 acre-feet of recycled water will result annually from the recently funded project, representing almost half of the water L.A. must return to Mono Lake. The project—called the East Valley Water Reclamation Project—is scheduled to come on-line by 1998. The water will be used for groundwater recharge, industrial cooling towers, and outdoor irrigation.

"We've reached a point in water management where, if it's not water reuse, it's water abuse," commented Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Dan Beard at the press conference where the funds were presented. Department of Water and Power Board President Dennis Tito echoed Beard's support for the

project: "Besides making sense economically, the East Valley Project will drought-proof the city's emergency and back-up water supplies by providing a constant and reliable water source ..."

Tito pointed out that water for the East Valley project is estimated to cost \$347 per acre-foot, in contrast to the higher imported water cost of \$412 an acre-foot.

"This is a great deal for the people of Los Angeles," observed Ruth Galanter, who chairs the City Council committee that oversees DWP. "We are preserving one of America's most significant ecological treasures, while at the same time receiving federal funds to build a steadier, more reliable, and sustainable source of water for our business community."

And the business community, represented by Ray Remy of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, turned out for the press conference, showing their support for reclamation and Mono Lake.

The funds, intended to help L.A. protect Mono Lake, are the first in a series of promised developmental grants from both the federal and state governments. The federal monies will provide up to 25% of funding for reclamation projects in southern California. Another 50% of the funding will come from the state.

In addition to the East Valley Project, several other plants are on the drawing board which will benefit Mono Lake and other areas. The West Basin Water Recycling Plant will ultimately produce 100,000 acre-feet of recycled water; the Sepulveda water recycling project will create 1,000 acre-feet; and conservation measures will create 3,750 acre-feet.


As a result of these projects, the protection of Mono Lake will not create pressures on other water resources—such as the San Francisco Bay Delta—in the state. Recycled and conserved water will replace water once diverted from Mono Lake by Los Angeles, allowing both places to prosper in the future. 



Photo courtesy of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

A big check for water reclamation. From left to right: Ray Remy, President, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce; Richard Katz, Assemblyman, California Legislature; Ruth Galanter, Councilwoman and Chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, L.A. City Council; William McCarley, General Manager, DWP; Dennis Tito, President, DWP Board of Commissioners; Dan Beard, Commissioner, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; Martha Davis, Executive Director, Mono Lake Committee.

Martha Davis announces departure from Mono Lake Committee

Mono Lake Committee Executive Director Martha Davis has announced her intention to leave the MLC at year's end, and the upcoming Labor Day reunion (see page 17) offers the perfect opportunity to recount the stories and legends of her twelve years with the Committee.

Martha came to the Committee in 1983 as the MLC Legislative Representative, based in Sacramento; she became Executive Director within a few months. In her first report (Newsletter 6, #3) she noted that she had paid a "courtesy call" to the Department of Water Resources. She's been making courtesy calls ever since, adding the Department of Water and Power, State Water Board, and various offices around Washington to her list of frequent stops. Her tireless political work has brought an extraordinary group of agencies and organizations to the support of Mono Lake.

"I'm no less interested in the work of

protecting Mono Lake today than I was when I started," says Martha. "But political campaigns are like relay races: the time comes to hand off the baton to the next runner." After leaving the Committee, Martha plans to take some time off (finally!) and then explore her options in the world of public policy.

Martha plans to spend several months with the new Executive Director to create a smooth transfer of power, and she expects to actually leave in early winter. We're sad to see her go but hear the frequent promise of continuing involvement with the Committee. So when the time comes for a few more "courtesy calls" on difficult issues, we'll know who to turn to.

The search for a new Executive Director begins in mid-June. If you, or someone you know, are interested in applying, please contact the Committee for a job description. ✍



Photo by Bob Schlichting

15 years ago in the Mono Lake Newsletter

What was being said in the Mono Lake Newsletter fifteen years ago? Here's a sampling from the Summer 1980 issue:

A few weeks ago David Heine, a bike-riding L.A. Monomaniac, pedaled into the Lee Vining Information Center with an idea that caught our imagination: a Los Angeles to Mono Lake bikeathon. The plan is to fight gravity and politics by bicycling water from L.A. back to Mono Lake...

— A page 10 notice announcing the first Bike-A-Thon (see the back cover of this issue for news of this year's ride).

Despite the third wet year in a row, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power continues to divert near record quantities of water from the Sierran streams which feed Mono. As a result, the lake is now six inches lower than it was at this time last year, and is continuing to shrink and die. Can we still change the conscience of California and save this ancient lake?

— From the cover, most likely written by David Gaines.

The committee is run by volunteers and six 'employees' who each earn less than \$300 per month to lecture, lobby, answer phones, write letters, give Mono Lake slideshows and gather scientific information about the lake. Gaines receives \$125 a month, plus food and travel expenses. "The Committee is really run on love and concern for the lake," Gaines said.

— From a page 6 profile of the Mono Lake Committee by Jennifer Cook, reprinted and condensed from the Davis Enterprise.

Summer at Mono Lake

Summer activities abound at Mono Lake and throughout the Mono Basin. For information on everything that's happening, stop in at the Mono Lake Committee's Information Center and Bookstore in the center of Lee Vining. Our staff can provide you with activity schedules, suggested hikes, maps, and even a PowerBar or two.

Here's a sampling of places and programs you may want to enjoy this summer. If times, locations, or directions aren't indicated, just ask at the Information Center.

Canoe tours

Experience Mono Lake from a different perspective! Canoe tours depart every Saturday and Sunday morning at 8:00, 9:30, and 11:00. Reservations are required through the Mono Lake Committee Information Center (619-647-6595).

South Tufa tours

Conducted three times daily throughout the summer, these walking tours are an excellent introduction to Mono Lake. Tours last about an hour and meet at the South Tufa parking lot.

Guided creek walk

Join a Mono Lake Committee naturalist for a walk along Lee Vining Creek.

Learn about the restoration work being done on the creek as well as the plants and animals of the area. Inquire at the Information Center for times.

Photo tour

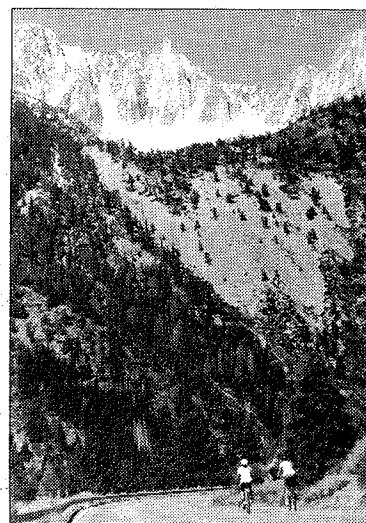
Join professional photographer Richard Knepp for this sunrise exploration of the South Tufa area. Learn about the lake's natural history while photographing from some of the most dramatic spots on the lakeshore.

Stargazing

Join State Reserve Rangers Dave and Janet Carle for an evening of stargazing at Navy Beach.

Panum Crater

Come face to face with recent volcanic activity! Formed only 640



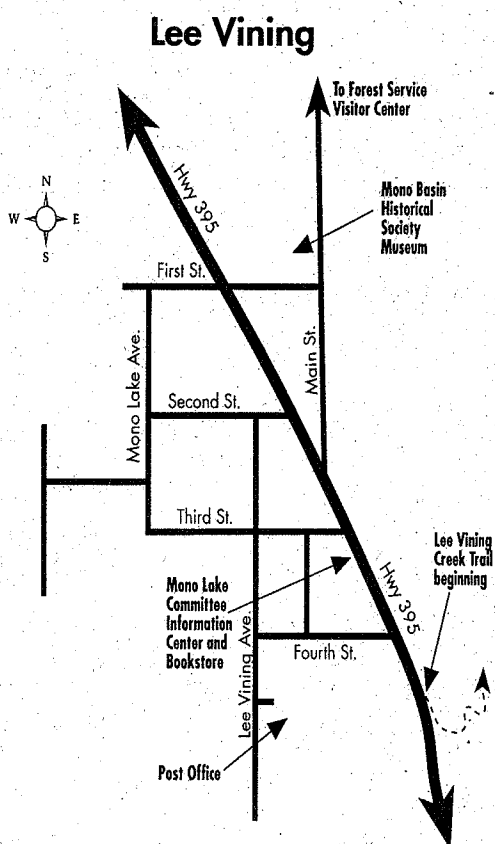
years ago, Panum Crater offers lots of interesting terrain to explore on your own. Guided tours, led by the Forest Service, are also available.

Lee Vining Creek trail

Connecting the town of Lee Vining with the U.S. Forest Service Visitor Center, the creek trail takes you down close to one of Mono's recovering tributaries. Be sure to pick up a copy of the self-guided Creek Trail Brochure at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center for profiles of the plants and animals you may see, as well as the history of the water diversions and restoration work which have shaped the creek.

County park

A great spot for picnicking, bird-watching, and visiting the lake. A



boardwalk to the lake departs from the bottom of a large grassy area. Restrooms available.

South Tufa

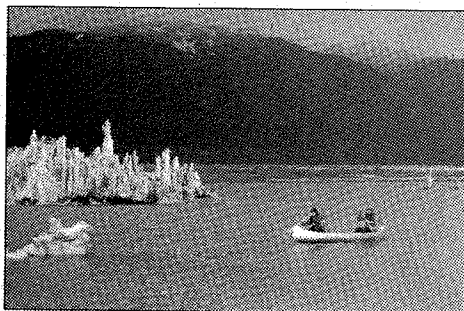
The best spot to visit the lake! A self-guided nature trail takes you among the tufa towers and along the lakeshore. Guided walking tours are also available.

Birdwatching

Mono Lake hosts over 95 species of water birds and has been designated an International Shorebird Reserve. The diversity of habitats in the Mono Basin create a wide range of birding opportunities.

Fishing

Try your luck along Lee Vining, Rush, or Mill creeks, or at Ellery, Tioga, Saddlebag, and Lundy lakes. Wherever you go, you'll find scores of lakes and streams stocked with trout. Lee Vining stores provide bait, tackle, and information on where the fish are biting!



Exploring

The Mono Basin is yours to discover. Walk the lakeshore, hike through the sagebrush flats, or explore the stream corridors. All kinds of discoveries await your curiosity.

Photography

The varied and vast scenic beauty of the Mono Basin offers endless opportunities for photographers of all skill levels. Visit glacier-clad mountains, aspen-lined meadows, ghost towns, and tufa towers.

And other programs!

Watch for other Basin activities. The Mono Lake Committee has occasional

evening seminars and the Forest Service leads a variety of hikes in the Basin, offers evening programs on special topics, and hosts campfire programs at campgrounds on the June Lake loop and in the Tioga Pass area.

Mono Lake Committee Information Center and Bookstore

Stop in for all the information you need about summer activities. Educational exhibits and a free slideshow discuss the natural and political history of Mono Lake, and an excellent selection of regional books, T-shirts, maps, and other merchandise is offered. In the center of Lee Vining, next to Nicely's.

Mono Basin Historical Society Museum

Located in Lee Vining at Hess Park, the Historical Society Museum houses a fascinating collection of artifacts from the Mono Basin's past. See Native American artifacts, gold mining implements, and even the old Bodie bar, all kept within the former Mono Lake schoolhouse.

Forest Service Visitor Center

The Visitor Center, just north of town, features an excellent view of Mono Lake, educational exhibits, an art gallery, and selections from the "At Mono Lake" photo exhibit. Also featured are special patio talks, evening programs, and a movie about Mono Lake.



Local Resources

Lee Vining and Mono Lake

Mono Lake Committee Information Center:
(619) 647-6595
Lee Vining Chamber of Commerce:
recorded information (619) 647-6629
U.S. Forest Service Visitor Center:
(619) 647-3044

Yosemite Information

Campground Reservations: (800) 365-2267
Hotel and Motel Reservations: (209) 252-4848
Recorded Information about roads, conditions:
(209) 372-0200
Wilderness Permit information:
(209) 372-0310
Backcountry conditions: (209) 372-0307
Regarding existing wilderness permit reservations: (209) 372-0740
Other inquiries (live person 9A.M. - 5P.M.):
(209) 372-0265

Southbound on Hwy 395

Mammoth Lakes Forest Service Visitor Center:
(619) 924-5500; recorded info: (619) 934-1094
Devil's Postpile: (619) 934-2289
White Mountain Ranger District (Bishop)
(619) 873-2500
Lone Pine Interagency Visitor Center
(619) 876-4252

Northbound on Hwy 395

Bridgeport Ranger Station—Toiyabe National Forest: (619) 932-7070

General

California Road Conditions: (800) 427-7623

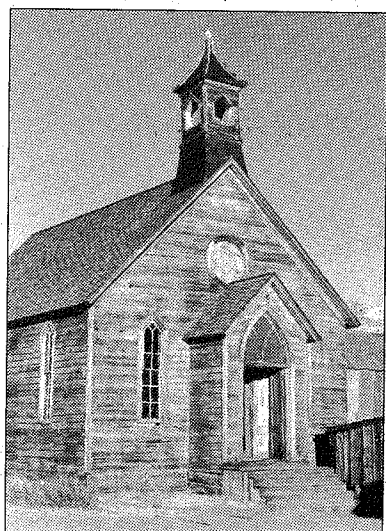


Photo by Don Jackson

Bodie ghost town

Bodie, located about 30 miles from Lee Vining, offers a glimpse into California's past. The gold mining town is preserved in a state of "arrested decay" and was once one of the largest towns in the state. Today, you can roam the streets, looking through windows into preserved homes and businesses. Rangers lead tours and offer special programs. \$5 admission per car, open 9 A.M. to 7 P.M. during the summer.

June Lake loop

The loop is a terrific drive through a glacier-carved canyon with views of

towering peaks and quiet lakes. Popular for fishing and camping, the loop makes for an enjoyable scenic drive as well.

Yosemite

Ever-popular with visitors, Yosemite is one of the crown jewels of the nation's National Park System. A visit to the valley offers the chance to see towering waterfalls, sheer cliffs, and many famous landmarks. But be sure to visit the rest of the park as well—easily accessible from Mono Lake in the summertime is Tuolumne Meadows, which offers an excellent sampling of High Sierra wildflowers and hiking.

Devil's Postpile

Located beyond the town of Mammoth Lakes, Devil's Postpile is an unusual geologic formation of columnar basalt. And the surrounding area offers spec-

Special events

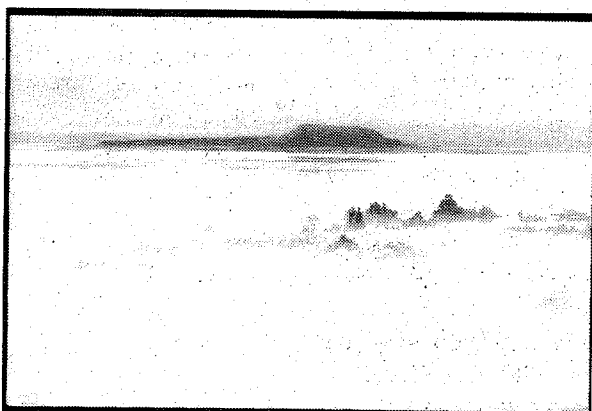
Photo Exhibition

Beginning June 10, the Mono Lake Committee Information Center will be hosting a special exhibition of photographs by local photographer Richard Knepp. The exhibition is free and open to the public, so be sure to look for it on your summer travels. And if you are in town on the 10th, stop by for the opening reception, beginning at 6:30 P.M.

Knepp is displaying 12 images of the Mono Basin made using infrared film. The special sensitivity of the film creates unusual highlights and contrasts, revealing a different view of the Mono Basin. Knepp feels that the special film enhances the basin's appearance: "The Mono Basin has always presented a surreal land and skyscape. Infrared film literally sees light beyond the visible spectrum, highlighting that sense of surrealism."

According to Knepp, the images encompass a combination of broad vistas and detail studies—a very personal view, as opposed to traditional scenic photography. Featured landmarks include Black Point, the islands, and the alkali flats of the east shore.

The exhibition, titled "Land and Sky Unseen: An Infrared Portrait of the Mono Basin," is partially funded by a grant from the Mono County Arts Council. It will be available for viewing through September.



Photograph by Richard Knepp

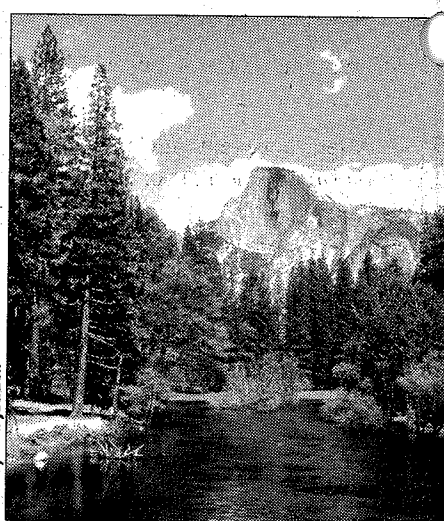



Photo by Don Jackson

tacular scenery. 101-foot Rainbow Falls, located nearby, is a popular hike.

High Sierra hiking

Find a trail and head off in search of wildflowers, lakes, and solitude. Numerous trails are available for day and overnight hiking in the Sierra. Stop by the Mono Lake Committee Information Center for maps and advice. 

Mono Lake Reunion!

Join us for a Labor Day reunion and celebration

Reunion and celebration!

Join us to get back in touch with those Mono Lake supporters you haven't seen for years, celebrate the Water Board decision, and bid farewell to MLC Executive Director Martha Davis.

Date

Saturday, September 2, 1995.

Location

Mono Lake, California.

- Morning events start at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center.
- Rehydration Ceremony at Old Marina at 12:30P.M.
- Afternoon events at County Park, on Mono's north shore.

Pass the word

We've been searching for old Committee friends and staffers to invite them to the event but can't find them all. If you are in touch with other Mono Lake friends, be sure to mention the Labor Day gathering to them; we're looking forward to seeing all our old friends and co-workers.

Notes

Camping available Saturday night only at County Park.

Contact the Mono Lake Committee for a schedule of the day's events: (619) 647-6595.

To celebrate Mono Lake's rising future, the Committee is making plans for the biggest and best Annual Meeting ever—so be sure your schedule includes a visit to the lake this upcoming Labor Day. The Annual Meeting will combine the traditional update on Committee activities with a full-fledged celebration of last fall's Water Board decision and reunion of Monophiles. We hope all friends of Mono Lake—and the Committee—will come out for the activities.

There will be plenty to do throughout the day on Saturday, September 2. Here's a sampling of confirmed events; more are in the works.

- Reunion of old friends, MLC co-workers, and Mono Lake supporters. Don't miss out!
- Farewell to Committee Executive Director Martha Davis (see page 11 for the news). Bring your favorite stories about Martha to share with the group!
- Morning nature walks (last year's included birding and restoration tours).
- Morning canoe tours of Mono Lake.
- Bike-A-Thon arrival and rehydration ceremony.
- Lunch at County Park—bring your own, or purchase food at the park.
- Mono Lake scrapbook—bring your collected mementos of the fight to save Mono Lake. We'll make a giant scrapbook of articles, letters, photos, stickers, and whatever else you might have. Ultimately, we'll preserve the scrapbook in the new Mono Lake Committee archive at the Bancroft Library.
- Mono Lake Victory Quilt—Do you remember the 1981 Mono Lake Quilt? We're planning to create

another one to celebrate the victory. Bring that old Bike-A-Thon clothing and those old Mono Lake T-shirts, bandannas, patches, and hats for incorporation into the patchwork quilt project.

- Music and dancing with a traditional country band in the afternoon.
- Evening music by jazz, guitar, and percussion band The Bartron Tyler Group.
- An update on the Mono Lake Committee's work since the Water Board decision. All your questions will be answered about the future of the restoration program—and the Mono Lake Committee.
- Impromptu Mono music: bring your favorite musical instrument with you to help create a musical celebration.
- Dinner and evening entertainment at the County Park.
- Tent camping available on the grass at County Park for Saturday night.

A final agenda of the day's activities, with times and meeting places, will be available mid-summer. Look for a copy in the upcoming Bike-A-Thon fundraiser mailing, stop by the Information Center, or call (619) 647-6595 to request a copy.

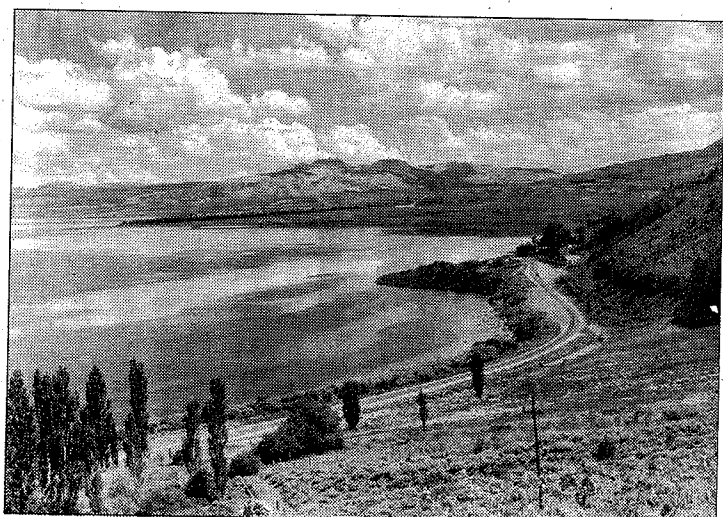


Photo by Burton Frasher, used courtesy of Frasher estate
1938: lake level 6,418 feet. View to the south from near the Mono Inn, looking over Highway 395 to the Mono Craters.

Mono Lake benchmarks

50 years of water diversions by the Department of Water and Power changed Mono Lake dramatically, and today's landscape looks quite different than that of fifty—and even thirty—years ago.

Take a tour of Mono's past to see the changes that have occurred. Each of the photos printed here shows what the lake was once like. Compare these views to your own as you travel the Mono Basin today.

For comparison, the current lake level is 6,376 feet above sea level. The State Water Board order of last fall requires that the lake rise to 6,392 feet, which is expected to take about twenty years.

As you visit these spots, consider keeping a personal record of lake at today's elevation. If you revisit the same spots over the years, you'll have a valuable chronicle of Mono's return to healthy levels!

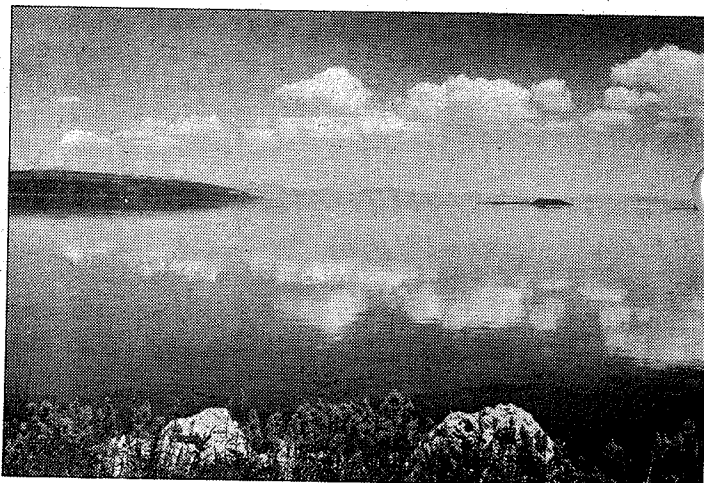


Photo by Hubert Lowman
1962: lake level 6,394 feet. View to the east toward Negit Island and Black Point from near Highway 395.

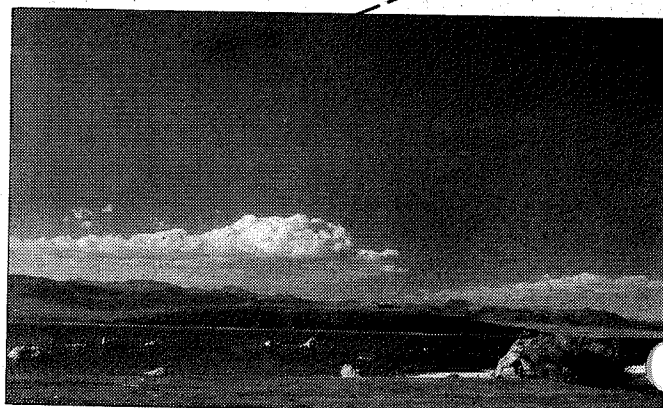


Photo by Betty Shannon
1964: lake level 6,392 feet. A view to the northeast of Black Point from the Old Marina area.

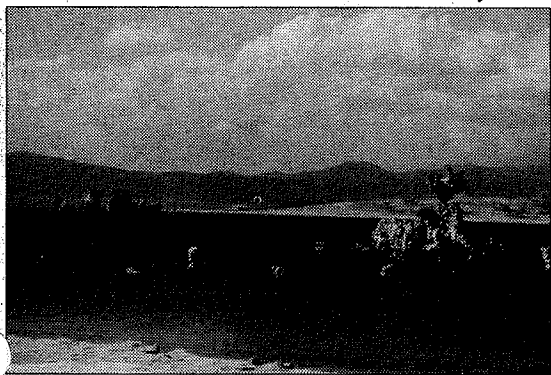
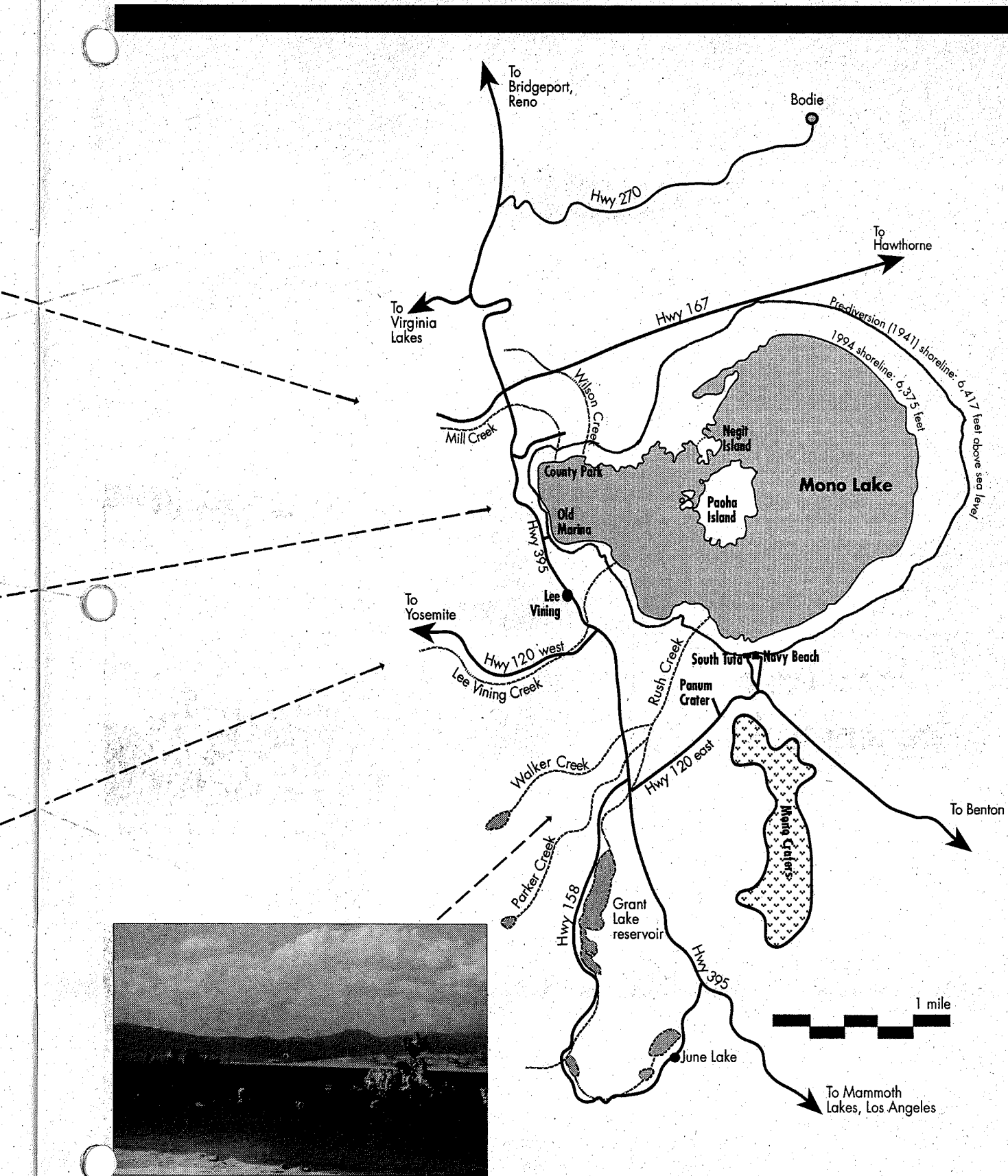
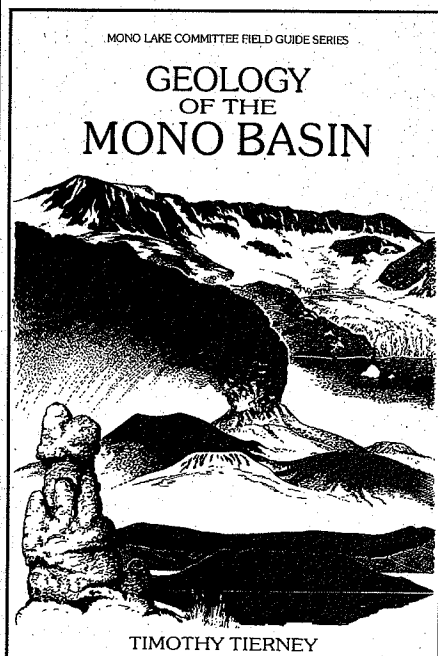


Photo by Betty Shannon

1966: lake level 6,389 feet. View to the north from the South Tufa area. The cluster of tufa on the left now sits just offshore.



Field Guide Series expands with new geology title

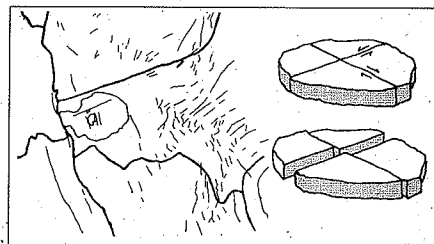


Geology of the Mono Basin

The Mono Lake Committee is pleased to offer a new volume in the Mono Basin Field Guide series. The new title, *Geology of the Mono Basin*, addresses all of the major geologic phenomena of the area: volcanoes, glaciers, faulting, tufa, and gold deposits. A self-guided driving tour begins the book, providing an easy way to become acquainted with the Basin's diversity of geologic features.

Clearly written and thoroughly illustrated, the book was created by our 1994-95 intern Tim Tierney, who is

Geology of the Mono Basin; illustrated; staplebound; approx. 50 pages: \$3.95



From Chapter 4: Mono Basin faulting and Black Point fissure formation.

presently on hiatus from his career as a geologist.

Geology is in the final stages of production as of this writing; copies are expected to be available in mid-June. Order now to reserve yours!

Plant Communities of the Mono Basin

An increasingly popular part of the Field Guide Series, *Plant Communities* describes all the major plant communities of the Mono Basin and examines individual members in detail. Over 80 plants are beautifully illustrated and carefully described with both field identification tips and natural history lore.

The book is organized around a self-guided tour of the Basin which

takes the reader to each of the major plant communities.

Plant Communities was written in 1993 by MLC intern Helen Constantine, who is now studying botany at Humboldt State University.

Plant Communities of the Mono Basin; illustrated; staplebound; approx. 50 pages: \$3.95





NEW! ▲

Restoration license plate holder

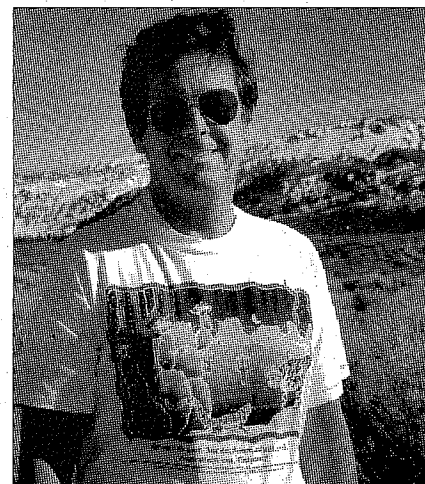
With the favorable Water Board decision last fall, much of our activity now focuses on efforts toward restoration of habitat at the lake and in the Mono Basin. Our new battle cry: "Restore Mono Lake!" Be among the first to show your support with this sturdy metal license plate frame.

"Restore Mono Lake" license plate frame; metal, top bolting: \$5.95

"Save Mono" holder ▼

We still have a few dozen of the time-honored "Save Mono Lake" frames . . . soon to obtain collectible status!

"Save Mono Lake" frame; metal, top bolting: \$4.95



▲ NEW! Bob meets Liz T-shirt

Local deputy sheriff and Monophile Randy DesBaillets is shown in another colorful and timely design from our friends at Jim Morris Environmental T-Shirts.

Bob(cat) and Liz(ard) become acquainted against a Southwestern palette of dramatic buttes and cacti of the desert, with a call to save our arid lands from overdevelopment.

Short sleeve; 100% preshrunk cotton; white only;

Men's sizes S-XXL: \$15.00

SPECIAL: License Plate Holder Combination Offer!

Buy one "save" and one "restore" (for front and back plates) and save \$2.00!

License plate combo: \$8.95

Use our **postage-paid envelope** to send in your order!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County (for sales tax) _____

Daytime phone _____

SHIPPING RATES

Up to \$10	\$4.00
\$10 - \$25	\$5.00
\$25 - \$50	\$5.50
Over \$50	\$6.00

☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Check (to Mono Lake Committee)

Signature _____ Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

\$4.00 charge for additional mailing addresses

Quantity	Item	Price	Total
	Bob meets Liz T-shirt size:	\$15.00	
	"Restore" license plate holder	\$5.95	
	"Save" license plate holder	\$4.95	
	License plate holder combo (pair)	\$8.95	
	Geology of the Mono Basin	\$3.95	
	Plant Communities of the Mono Basin	\$3.95	
	Shipping (see left):		
	Subtotal:		
	CA residents—add sales tax based on subtotal:		
	Total		

Phone orders: (619) 647-6595

Fax orders: (619) 647-6377

The Mono Lake Committee

P.O. Box 29, Lee Vining, CA 93541

1994 was an exciting year for the Mono Lake Committee. Not only did we anxiously await the Water Board's lake level decision, we were also anxious to see if our limited cash reserves would carry us through to the end of the year! The story has a happy ending, although it was a "white-knuckler" for a while.

The good news is that the Committee ended the year with approximately \$600,000 of income in excess of expenses. The bad news is that we would have had a substantial deficit due to litigation expenses if we had not received a court-ordered fee recovery award.

The fee recovery award enabled us to retire a large debt, primarily litigation bills. We are investing the majority of the remaining funds to provide a safety net for the MLC's future. Our goal is to operate off of current income; only a small amount of the fee recovery is designated for 1995 use.

Staff continue to be creative and innovative in finding ways to reduce expenses. MLC's 1994 financial position looks very good. Even with fee recovery awards factored out, the remaining revenue shows a 15% increase, while expenses decreased 14%.

We're excited about the Committee's focus on restoration. We hope you will share the excitement with us as restoration plans are developed and are translated into a re-birth for Mono Lake. Visit the lake this year and see what your support and encouragement has accomplished.

Stacy Brown is the MLC's Business Manager and chief number cruncher.

1994 financial highlights

by Stacy Brown

Mono Lake Committee Fiscal Year 1994 Revenue and Expense

Public support and revenue

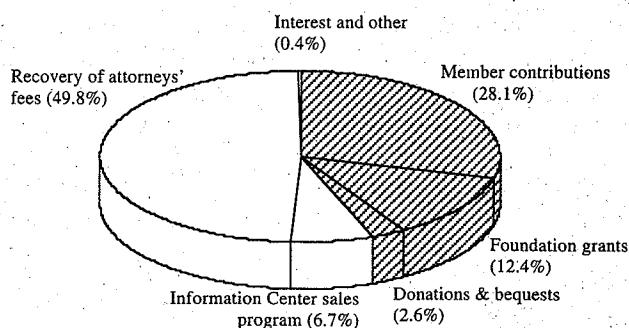
Public support	Amount	Percent
Member contributions	\$ 453,361	28.1
Foundation grants	\$ 198,973	12.4
Donations and bequests	\$ 41,443	2.6
Total public support	\$ 693,777	43.1
Revenue		
Information Center sales program	\$ 108,344	6.7
Recovery of attorneys' fees	\$ 802,356	49.8
Interest and other	\$ 6,160	0.4
Total revenue	\$ 916,860	56.9
Total public support and revenue	\$1,610,637	100.0

Expenses by program

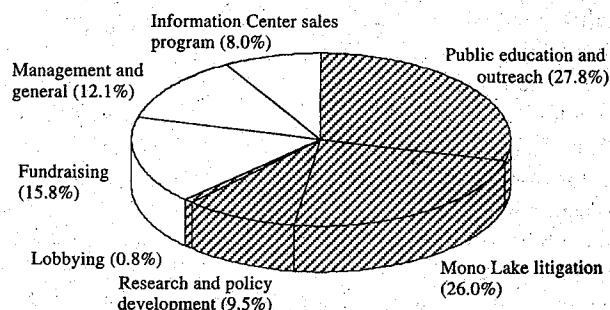
Program services		
Public education and outreach	\$ 272,261	27.8
Mono Lake litigation	\$ 255,021	26.0
Research and policy development	\$ 92,611	9.5
Lobbying	\$ 7,648	0.8
Total program services	\$ 627,541	64.1
Supporting services		
Fundraising	\$ 154,750	15.8
Management and general	\$ 118,802	12.1
Information Center sales program	\$ 78,411	8.0
Total supporting services	\$ 351,963	35.9
Total expenses	\$979,504	100.0

Audited financial statements will be available June 15

Public Support and Revenue



Expenses



National Fish and Wildlife Foundation approves challenge grant for restoration

The Mono Lake Committee is pleased to be the recipient of a challenge grant awarded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The grant will help fund the Campaign to Restore Mono Lake (CRML), a Committee-based initiative which will focus on the restoration of streams and waterfowl habitat at Mono Lake. Federal matching funds of \$25,000 will be made available to the MLC if the Committee raises \$40,000 in new, non-federal donations.


Waterfowl habitat, a critical part of the Mono Lake ecosystem, was severely damaged by the water diversions of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Prior to the diversions, Mono Lake was home to hundreds of thousands of nesting and migratory waterfowl. Today, Mono Lake hosts about 10,000 waterfowl, a mere 1% of the historical numbers.

Restoration of waterfowl habitat in the Mono Basin will re-create conditions favorable to the return of large numbers of waterfowl. By awarding the Challenge Grant, NFWF recognized the critical importance of the MLC's continuing

involvement in this issue.

The goal of the CRML will be to provide Mono Lake Committee technical and policy expertise to the ongoing process of planning stream and waterfowl habitat restoration. Money raised through the challenge grant will allow MLC staff to continue to participate in the Technical Advisory Group process. The funds will also allow the Committee to hire expert advisors to provide technical advice and analysis on issues related to stream and waterfowl habitat restoration.

The MLC has already been involved in the important first steps of restoration: developing goals and objectives, and choosing the scientific experts who will prepare technical analysis and recommendations. Further MLC involvement assures that Mono Lake continues to have an advocate in the restoration process.

In order to receive the \$25,000 in matching grant money, the Committee has to raise \$40,000 in new funds. Look for your chance to help us meet this challenge in an upcoming fundraising letter—or send in a donation directly! 

MATCH GRANT DETAILS

Grant provider:

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Purpose:

To support the MLC's Restore Mono Lake Campaign, which will focus on waterfowl habitat restoration.

How does it work?

Each new donation to the MLC will be worth 60% more. For example, a gift of \$30 from you will be worth \$48 to the Committee.

How can you participate?

Watch your mail for an upcoming match grant fundraising mailing, or send in a contribution specifically identified as being for the Campaign to Restore Mono Lake. Be sure to take advantage of your employer's matching program if one exists!

DWP promises long-delayed Manzanar land transfer

During World War II, a presidential order established internment camps for Americans of Japanese ancestry living in the Western states and forced their relocation. Today, so that this event is never forgotten, a National Historic Site is being established at the Eastern Sierra War Relocation Center known as Manzanar.

Mono Lake Committee Executive Director Martha Davis serves on the eleven-member Manzanar National Historic Site Advisory Commission and reports that, at an April 28 meeting, the Commission discussed a solution to the

site's largest obstacle: a long-delayed, intricate land transfer with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP), which owns most of the property.

Good news was announced on the following day at a formal ceremony held at Manzanar. Led by Bill McCarley, General Manager for DWP, and Ruth Galanter, a Los Angeles City Councilwoman, DWP announced it would turn over the Manzanar property to the National Park Service while retaining water rights in the area. The actual logistics of the transfer are expected to take several months. However, interpre-

tive development of the site will begin immediately.

The Mono Lake Committee became involved with the Manzanar issue in 1992 when legislation designating the Historic Site was before Congress. Los Angeles had proposed to hand over the land in exchange for a blanket exemption from the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts throughout the Eastern Sierra—including Mono Lake. The move failed, but the Committee, in order to prevent subsequent moves of a similar nature, has continued its involvement with the creation of this important historic site.

Staff migrations

We're happy to welcome Kathi Richards, our former bookkeeper, back to the Committee staff as, well, our bookkeeper! Kathi's precision and thoroughness are important assets to the usually hectic accounting work of the Committee. And her raucous sense of humor keeps us guessing.

Pete Bischoff has long been on the road as a Mono Lake Bike-A-Thon rider. This year, however, he will be staying in the basin and channeling his energy into a new job as MLC Canoe Program Coordinator. With Pete at the helm, we look forward to our best-ever summer of canoeing.

Summer is here and we bid farewell to our two spring interns, Michelle Cox and Tim Tierney. Michelle, our resident telemark ski expert, is departing for a summer of backcountry patrol and frontcountry permit writing in Sequoia-King's Canyon National Park. Michelle spent a great deal of time revising and improving the educational exhibits in the Committee's Information Center and Bookstore—stop by and see them.

Tim wraps up a year of internship with

the Committee with the publication of his *magnum opus*, *Geology of the Mono Basin* (see page 18). In addition to long hours of hard work on the geology guide, Tim has spent many a day introducing visitors to Mono Lake, both in the store and on summer tours. We wish him luck and excitement on his forthcoming cross-country motorcycle adventure.

This year the Committee's summer internship program is expanding. We'll have six new interns, who will now have the opportunity to lead canoe tours as well as the traditional South Tufa walks.

Coming to us from Walla Walla, Washington—and Walla Walla College—is Kurt Foster. Having just graduated this spring, Kurt writes that his passion for the outdoors makes him particularly excited about working on behalf of Mono Lake.


Our interpretation expert for the summer will be Michelle Hofmann, who will graduate from Humboldt State University next year with a degree in Natural Resource Planning and Interpretation. Michelle is excited about introducing visitors to the wonders and

mysteries of Mono Lake.

Matt Moule comes to us from Claremont McKenna College in Southern California. A Science and Management major, Matt has had experience with outdoor education and has been active in the effort to protect Opal Creek, in Oregon.

Greg Reis will be rushing from his Cal Poly San Luis Obispo graduation to the Mono Basin for his summer internship. A longtime Mono Lake advocate, he has experience with planning issues and looks forward to learning the workings of a non-profit organization.

A recent graduate of Ohio State University, Amy Uher is heading west for her summer internship. With a background in zoology and natural resource management, Amy is looking forward to some on-the-ground experience with the successes, and difficulties, of resource management in the Mono Basin.

Also joining us from Claremont McKenna College is James Uwins. As a frequent Eastern Sierra visitor, James is familiar with the Mono Lake area and hopes to advance his interests in environmental policy and ethics. 

Forest Service updating Scenic Area mailing list

The U.S. Forest Service is updating its mailing list for the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. If you would like to be informed by the Forest Service of proposed projects within the Scenic Area, write to: Roger Porter, Scenic Area Manager, P.O. Box 429, Lee Vining, California 93541; or call (619) 647-3000 and ask to be placed on the Scenic Area mailing list.

Join the gull research program!

Have you ever camped on Mono Lake's famed Krakatoa Islet? Seen the islands which support 80% of the state's California Gull population? Listened to the non-stop cacophony of nesting gulls? Participated in a scientific field study?

If these experiences—and more—interest you, then join us this summer and help support the ongoing California Gull nesting study at Mono Lake. Led by biologists from the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, the study monitors the

long-term health of the gull population at Mono Lake.

Participants help count nests and tally chicks in rugged field conditions. Boat transportation, fresh water, and food is provided, but be prepared for overnight camping, minimal facilities, and a hot hike across the landbridge. The fee, which underwrites the program, is \$100 per person, per day; July 3–4 or 4–5.

To sign up, or for more information contact Shannon Nelson at the Mono Lake Committee (619) 647-6595.

Accolades

Special gifts

Carroll Evans, of Ridgecrest, enlisted design help from **Jan and Anne Thompson** and built a stylish and well-planned lectern for use in the slideshow room at the Information Center and Bookstore. Complete with reading light and Committee logo on the front (thanks to his friend **Bill Casarll** at **Sign-Tific**), its everything we could have hoped for. Thanks, Carroll.

Marjorie B. Sorich, of Mt. Shasta, made a generous donation dedicated to her brother **Eldon Hall Vestal**. Before diversions began, Eldon worked in the Mono Basin for the Department of Fish and Game. His notes, photographs, and recollections provided important

ence for the recent Water Board meetings (see Newsletter 17, #2A).

A. A. and Sandra Beach, of Angel's Camp, sent in a donation in honor of the marriage of **Susan Harrell** and **Peter Lawsky**, of Redway.

Painters Outlet, in Mammoth Lakes, helped out with a special price on paint needed for spring cleaning in the Information Center.

Randy and Susan DesBaillets also helped out with spring cleaning by taking the work crew out to a much-appreciated lunch.

Color Media, in Burbank, kindly donated their slide duplication services to provide us with a nice set of canoe slides taken by **Althea Edwards** and **Frank Magellanes**.

Patagonia continued their support of the Committee, this time inviting two staff members to participate in their Global Retail Managers Meeting, in Ventura. Valuable strategies for management and training in the MLC's sales program resulted.

Plano Press Books kindly donated a copy of their recent book *California Land Use and Planning Law* for the MLC's reference library.

Alexa Williams and **Technical Glass** donated their services to design a special Mono Lake wine label and silkscreen a terrific summer events poster.

And **Carl Dennis Buell** once again lent his artistic abilities to the Committee, this time by creating a striking cover for the forthcoming *Geology of the Mono Basin* book. Thanks Carl!

In memoriam

Virginia Barber remembered her late husband **Don H. Barber** with a donation and recalled fondly her years of Mono Lake support.

Gladys Daskam was remembered by **Robert E. Daskam**, of Oakland, with a gift to the Committee.

Art Baat was remembered with a gift from his daughter **Sue Higman**. She writes that "he knew all the creeks in the Lee Vining area."

Sandy and Bruce Taylor, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, made a donation in memory of **Forrest Nelson**, who recently passed away. He was head of the Oklahoma State Water Board.

And a gift and note came in from **Charlotte Waldman**, of Santa Cruz, in memory of her husband **Joel Waldman**.

Matched Gifts

Libby Ellis, of Ventura, made a donation which was matched by **Patagonia**, a subsidiary of the Lost Arrow Corporation.

Joel and Marion Farber, of San Jose, made a donation which will be matched by **IBM**, Mr. Farber's employer.

Ed Miller, from Ann Arbor, Michigan, made a donation which will be matched by the **Charles Stewart Mott Foundation**.

Curtis and Pamela Reis, residents of Rancho Palos Verdes, made a donation which will be matched by Mrs. Reis' employer, **First Interstate Bank of California**.

R. Edwin Streit, of Fresno, made a donation which also will be matched by **First Interstate Bank of California**.

Your employer may sponsor a matching gift program; check with your company's human resources office. If so, your gifts to the Mono Lake Foundation will go even farther for Mono Lake.

Thanks for the letters, flowers . . . and support

When the good news of the Water Board decision to raise Mono Lake came in last fall, we were overjoyed. Subsequent months have proved that many MLC members were too, and they generously shared their excitement with us by sending in congratulatory cards and notes, flowers, fresh fruit, and even a few balloons.

The Committee thanks everyone for the kind words and gifts. The Water Board victory would never have happened without the long-term support

and confidence of the Committee's 17,000 members and even larger circle of friends; truly, it was your support which made it happen.

Here's an excerpt from one note we received, written by a gentleman who visited the lake in the pre-diversion days of 1932: "It was a beautiful place and we never dreamed what would happen to it many years later. But you folks have reclaimed it. Hooray for you and all fellow supporters who have accomplished this good work!"



The 16th Annual Los Angeles to
Mono Lake Bike-A-Thon

SPACES
GOING FAST!

JOIN US FOR THE V I C T O R Y R I D E

August 28 – September 2

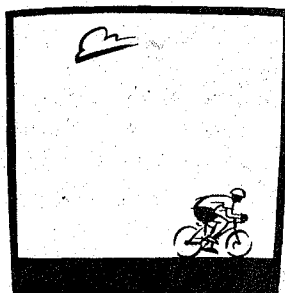


Participate in a challenging and inspirational 350-mile, six-day journey. Show a commitment to protecting and restoring Mono Lake — one of California's finest natural resources. Cycle through diverse landscapes while making lasting friendships with fellow riders.



To participate, register and submit your sponsorships by August 19, 1995. The more you raise for Mono Lake, the more prizes you are eligible to win!

And if you can't make the whole ride, consider joining us for a day or two with the day-ride option!



Volunteers are also needed to:

- organize
- advertise
- provide on-route support for riders

For more information about the Bike-A-Thon, contact Jill Richards at (818) 972-2025.



MONO LAKE
C O M M I T T E E
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