



# 2012 MONO LAKE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT



FROM THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND THE BOARD CHAIR

Summer 2012

Thank you for your support of Mono Lake and the Mono Lake Committee. Together we stand 16,000 members strong, ready to speak on Mono Lake's behalf whenever and wherever necessary.

The standout achievement of the past year was our success together in getting Mono Lake's state park removed from the state's closure list. It took thousands of us working together in an energetic public grassroots effort, and it is a pleasure to see visitors enjoying Mono Lake this year rather than closed trails and locked facilities.

We had a full roster of programs and projects lined up, even before we tackled the state park situation. One standout is our focused collaborative effort to determine how the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power can best implement the new science-based stream restoration program set forth in 2010. It's an intensive effort that involves Committee staff, plus outside hydrologists, attorneys, and engineers.



We have to tackle these key Mono Lake issues as they arise, and as a result our enclosed financial numbers for 2011 show us running a deficit for the year. Our revenues are strong, but our expenses were even bigger. We're prepared for these situations but are managing current projects closely to bring 2012 back into balance.

As important as financial reports are, they do not cast much light on our success in achieving our real purpose as an organization: making positive change for Mono Lake and its surrounding lands. Are we succeeding? The answer is clearly yes, and resources like the *Mono Lake Newsletter* and Mono Lake Website ([monolake.org](http://monolake.org)) chronicle our projects both small and large.

The greatest measure of our work together for Mono Lake can only be illustrated here in the Eastern Sierra: the rising waters of Mono Lake, the rejuvenated streams, the phalaropes skimming over lakeshore tufa, the Los Angeles youth learning why water conservation matters, the scientists studying the issues that will be our future work.

We're all part of the Mono Lake family. Come visit the lake anytime; we'll be here at the Committee headquarters in Lee Vining waiting to share the excitement of our environmental successes. Long Live Mono Lake!

  
Geoffrey McQuilkin

  
Sally Gaines

## MONO LAKE COMMITTEE



### 2011 Staff

Geoffrey McQuilkin, Executive Director  
Lisa Cutting, Eastern Sierra Policy Director  
Bartshé Miller, Education Director  
Arya Degenhardt, Communications Director  
Erika Obedzinski, Office Director  
Rosanne Catron, Office Manager  
Ellen King, Membership Coordinator  
Greg Reis, Information & Restoration Specialist  
Betsy Reifsnider, Sacramento Policy Associate  
Santiago Escruceria, Outdoor Experiences Manager  
Herley Jim Bowling, Los Angeles Education Coordinator  
Jennifer Odum, Los Angeles Outreach Education Coordinator  
Elin Ljung, Communications Coordinator  
Morgan Lindsay, Policy Coordinator  
Jessica Horn, Information Center & Bookstore Manager  
Laura Walker, Book & Map Buyer  
Donnette Huselton, Bookkeeper  
Julia Runcie, Project Specialist  
Russ Reese, Carolyn Weddle, Retail Assistants  
Chelle DeLong, Will Jevne, Outdoor Education Instructors  
Gary Nelson, Canoe Tour Supervisor  
Russ Taylor, Canoe Coordinator  
Oliver James, Birding Intern  
Erik Lyon, Sarah Melcher, Mila Re, Abby Rivin, Mono Lake Interns

### Board of Directors

Sally Gaines, Chair—Mammoth Lakes  
Tom Soto, Secretary—Santa Monica  
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Doug Virtue—San Pedro  
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### Directors Emeriti

Helen Green—Berkeley  
Ed Grosswiler—Portland, Oregon  
Genny Smith—Cupertino

Since 1978 the Mono Lake Committee has been inspired by our love for this beautiful place, where a remarkable salt lake

lies at the center of a landscape and ecosystem unmatched elsewhere on earth. Our vision, shared among 16,000 members over 34 years, is of a healthy, protected, and wild Mono Basin and of an organization that seeks positive, principled, proactive solutions to problems. As our founder David Gaines often said, the lake speaks for itself and it touches people's hearts.

To make sure the right thing happens for Mono Lake, the Committee works in diverse arenas including public policy, ecological restoration, public education, water conservation, scientific research, and hands-on stewardship.

We are an optimistic community of people who strive for thoughtful solutions to problems—an approach that has been consistently successful for Mono Lake. With a base in science, we seek out principled solutions to watershed-wide problems and advocate for them strongly.

The Committee's landmark success—saving Mono Lake from destruction due to the excessive diversion of water to Los Angeles—is internationally known. We revitalized California's Public Trust doctrine through a precedent-setting state Supreme Court decision, launched programs to meet Los Angeles' real water needs through water conservation and reclamation, and achieved an extraordinary revision of water rights in the Mono Basin that assures Mono

Lake will thrive and its tributary streams prosper.

Along the way hundreds of thousands of citizens united in support of Mono Lake, and we realized that protecting this place requires us to do even more. Today the Committee tackles new political challenges, advances the restoration of the lake and its deeply damaged tributaries, shares this special place through innovative education programs, and broadens Mono Lake knowledge through scientific research. In addition, we provide constant vigilance to protect our hard-won victories.

The pages that follow illuminate our programs, their achievements, the challenges ahead, and the dedicated team of staff, volunteers, and members who are working on behalf of this most remarkable place.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Mono Lake Committee is a 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.



Top: Outdoor Experiences participants from Hearststone School write in their journals.  
Middle: Elin Ljung takes in a view of downtown Los Angeles from the Griffith Observatory.  
Bottom: Outdoor Experiences Girl Scouts cool off in Mono Lake during a warm summer day.

# PROTECTION



## Mono Lake needs ongoing citizen involvement to assure that protection remains in place

and strong. Protecting Mono Lake, its streams, and its surrounding lands requires thoughtful planning, nimble advocacy, and continuing vigilance.

Mono Lake faces many challenges familiar to natural areas across the state: increasing demand for water, unplanned land development, increasing recreational use, changeable politics, underfunded management agencies, and climate change, to name some big ones. Other challenges are unique to this place, such as maintaining the lake's balanced water plan within the extended watershed of Los Angeles.

At times our protection work requires us to speak strongly on behalf of Mono Lake's interests. California's budget woes, for example, lead to the 2011 proposal to close the state park at Mono Lake, despite the low savings that would result and the high economic and resource value of Mono Lake remaining a protected water body and special visitor designation. We worked with the local community, policymakers in Sacramento, our attorneys, state park officials, and thousands of letter-writing members to help craft a parking fee solution that is now keeping the park open and operating for years to come.

In other situations, our long history of engagement with Mono Lake water issues provides the critical expertise needed to assure that promised protections are put into place. The Mono Lake Committee is in

the midst of an intensive, multi-year analysis and discussion about the Los Angeles Aqueduct system in the Mono Basin. The outcome, the Committee expects, will be a plan for 21<sup>st</sup> century aqueduct facilities. The amount of water flowing to Los Angeles will remain unchanged, but Mono Basin streams will finally get the amount of water they need in the seasons when they need it most. This will meet State Water Board mandates to maximize the recovery of stream health—and minimize the impacts of the continuing diversion of water to Los Angeles.

The Committee also seeks to respond rapidly to developing situations, such as an upgrade to the



small, local Lee Vining Airport begun in 2010. As the project developed, an unplanned component of extensive earth movement built a visually obtrusive 12-foot-high earth stockpile across ten acres of habitat.

In response, Committee staff quickly formed a working group consisting of Mono County, the US Forest Service, and the Mono Basin Regional Planning Advisory Committee that was able to reduce the height of the stockpile by half and develop a much improved

*Top: Greg Reis discusses Grant Lake Reservoir management with Committee staff.*

*Middle: Visitors enjoy the David Gaines Memorial Boardwalk at Old Marina.*

*Bottom: A restoration meeting in Sacramento underway.*

*Right: Committee and California Trout staff and consultants in Sacramento to work with State Water Board staff.*

revegetation plan.

The Committee is politically active to ensure that the Mono Lake protections we have already won are not eroded. We are engaged with policymakers at the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (DWP), the Mayor's office, and the City Council, and we speak for Mono Lake in the Green Los Angeles coalition. The Committee works to assure that water conservation solutions are implemented in Los Angeles and continues to serve on DWP's Recycled Water Advisory Group. In Sacramento we work with legislators, agencies, and conservation leaders, and we continue to advance Mono Lake as a model solution for other California water conflicts.

Protecting Mono Lake requires many a meeting and phone call, but sometimes it's a hands-on business. The Committee's program to nurture native trees along Mono's tributaries continued with many enthusiastic volunteers taking part. Plus, youth education program participants and weekly summertime volunteer events advanced the ongoing effort to control invasive plants in the Mono Basin in over a dozen intensive project work days.



## JULIA RUNCIE PROJECT SPECIALIST



"I loved the variety of my job at the Mono Lake Committee," Julia Runcie says. "Each day led me down multiple paths—from helping visitors in the bookstore to writing at my desk to wading around Rush Creek in rubber boots."

That variety gave Julia a holistic view of the Committee's intertwined mission: "Outstanding education programs help to generate support for efforts to protect and restore the Mono Basin. As progress is made in protection and restoration, new developments are continually communicated through education and outreach," she summarizes. She adds, "Committee members have the unique opportunity to play an active role in the preservation of a place that is special to them."

Originally from Vermont, Julia says, "from my first days in the Mono Basin, I was struck by the great pull this landscape exerts on all its visitors. I have a profound attachment to the land and people of the Eastern Sierra, a bond that grew from my very first glimpse of Mono Lake."



Top: Overwhelming public support helped keep Mono Lake's state park open.  
Middle: The busy Committee office scene on the day the park came off the closure list!  
Bottom: Committee staff celebrate the open Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve.  
Left: The Committee's 2011 seasonal staff get an overview of lower Mill Creek.

# STREAM RESTORATION

Our success in winning the return of water to Mono Lake and its streams gives us reason to

hope that the damage from fifty years of excessive water diversions to Los Angeles can be healed. Tributary streams were entirely dewatered, eliminating fish and destroying delta bottomlands full of meandering stream channels, cottonwood forests, and wet meadows rich with wildlife. The diversions lowered Mono Lake by 45 vertical feet, doubled the lake's salinity, drained shoreline lagoons, and ravaged delta marshes.

The goal of ecological restoration in the Mono Basin is to rejuvenate the dynamic natural processes of Mono Lake and its tributary streams. In turn, these processes—such as springtime flooding, natural reseeding, and ponding of lakeshore lagoons—will reestablish natural conditions. The goal isn't to recreate an exact replica of what existed a century ago; instead we seek to achieve healthy, self-supporting lake

and stream systems that will thrive into the future.

The Committee plays a critical role in transforming the restoration actions required by the State Water Board into on-the-ground rejuvenation. In this ongoing work we use our hydrological, legal, engineering, and restoration science expertise to ensure that goals are achieved and DWP restoration projects are the best they can be. We are also the “eyes and ears” of restoration, using our local presence to verify required streamflows and monitor critical restoration indicators.

Mono Lake is on the rise, and in recent years significant restoration projects have been completed. The Lee Vining Creek diversion dam, for example, has been reconstructed to allow stream sediment to pass downstream and to better deliver mandated streamflows. Recovering stream floodplains have been protected from vehicles, and large woody debris has been placed in the streams to provide aquatic habitat complexity.

In 2010 the Committee began a facilitated process with DWP, CalTrout, and the Department of Fish & Game designed to find feasible ways of implementing the science-based restoration flows that have been prescribed for Rush, Lee Vining, Walker, and Parker creeks. The process, under direction from the State Water Board, follows a decade of intensive scientific study. It should result in Mono's tributaries receiving the amount of water they need in the seasons when they need it most to assure their return to health.

The long-running Committee effort to restore Mill Creek, Mono Lake's third-largest tributary, continues



Top: Geomorphologist Scott Stine discusses Mono Lake's western shore geology.  
Middle: Two Patagonia employees vanquish an invasive white sweet clover plant!  
Bottom: Bartshé Miller leads a birding tour east of South Tufa.

Right: Mila Re helps volunteers tackle an invasive white sweet clover plant.

as we work with agencies and water rights holders to advance a win-win solution that will restore the downstream complex of riparian forests, wet meadows, and delta marshes. Southern California Edison will soon be making critical improvements to their hydropower facilities that will result in Mill Creek getting its fair share of water.



A key component of tracking Mono's recovery is monitoring the lake's chemistry and ecological productivity. The program came under attack in 2011 when DWP sought to discontinue the annual monitoring, despite a legal settlement agreement and state order requiring it. The Committee stood strong for continuing the program as a matter of science and a matter of legal history.

Restoration is the work of experts and volunteers both, and the Committee leads numerous hands-on projects that enhance the restoration effort, such as planting trees with both local elementary school students and Los Angeles youth. Over the past two decades the Committee has led the planting of over 5,000 trees on Mono's tributaries.

## ERIKA OBEDZINSKI OFFICE DIRECTOR



Erika Obiedzinski first saw Mono lake on a family camping trip when the rabbitbrush was in peak bloom. "I have always loved that time of year here with the sea of yellow rabbitbrush against a blue Mono Lake," she says. When she came to work at the Committee she was hooked by the "positive, proactive approach—it was and continues to be inspiring."

Erika's passion for Mono Lake is reflected in her favorite aspects of her job: "the people, volunteers, and community I get to work with. People are here because of their love for and dedication to Mono Lake." That extends to the Committee's membership as well. "You can't open all those envelopes with donations small and big and not be reminded of what people can do by caring for a place."

Erika's favorite part of living in the Mono Basin? "I love seeing Mono Lake every day—this wide open landscape. Plus, brine shrimp are just so fun."



Top: Mono Lake Committee staff visit the dry Mill Creek return ditch.  
Middle: State Water Board staff get a dawn start to their Mono Basin tour.  
Bottom: Morgan Lindsay and volunteers water Jeffrey pine trees along Rush Creek.  
Left: Greg Reis leads a tour of DWP's Mono Basin aqueduct facilities.

# EDUCATION



The Mono Basin is a remarkable place rich with diverse natural history, offering much to discover.

To share the sense of wonder and connection that Mono Lake and the Mono Basin evoke, the Committee's education program offers an array of popular experiential opportunities.

For students and youth, we use science-based learning to build awareness of the natural world and foster a sense of stewardship. For dedicated Mono Lake enthusiasts, we provide specialized, expert-led opportunities. And for the general visitor, our goal is to increase understanding and appreciation of the Mono Basin ecosystem, the Mono Lake water issue, and the Mono Lake Committee's values.



In 2011, the Committee successfully provided education programs for tens of thousands of people. Some highlights: canoe tours and South Tufa walks introduced over 2,100 people to Mono Lake. Forty-one Field

Seminar program days immersed enthusiasts in topics from kayaking to painting. The tenth annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua event sold out with 237 participants. The Mono Lake Volunteer Program placed 44 volunteers in the field for daily visitor interaction throughout the summer. Thirty-one more volunteers tackled special projects ranging from membership support to web server administration.

At the Information Center & Bookstore we helped 72,700 people enjoy their Mono Basin visits. On the internet, an impressive half million individuals accessed our Mono Lake Website (*monolake.org*). And the *Mono Lake Newsletter*, our flagship publication, continued to provide news of substance to our 16,000 members and the visiting public.

In our focused environmental education program, Committee staff worked with 29 groups and 703 students to enhance their Mono Lake visits. Among these were specially-crafted programs that involved local schools in hands-on field science and Mono Lake exploration.



Top: Employees from Reno's Patagonia headquarters take to Mono Lake by canoe.  
Middle: Casa Esperanza Outdoor Experiences students visit the ghost town of Bodie.  
Bottom: Chautauqua participants focus in unison on an interesting bird.  
Right: An Outdoor Experiences participant inspects brine shrimp at South Tufa.  
Far right: Lucy Parker assists a weaver in the annual basketry seminar.



2011 marked the 18<sup>th</sup> year of our exciting Outdoor Experiences program for Los Angeles youth. Through week-long visits, we provided 1,121 student days of education, connecting the following 19 groups with the source of their water at Mono Lake.

- Cabrillo High School, Long Beach
- Generation Water, Los Angeles
- Roosevelt High School, Pasadena
- South El Monte High School, South El Monte
- Port of Los Angeles High School, San Pedro
- Los Angeles Conservation Corps, Eco-Academy
- 3 Asian American Drug Abuse Prevention groups, Los Angeles
- Outward Bound Adventures, Pasadena
- Iglesia Poder de Dios, Reseda
- Casa Esperanza, Panorama City
- 2 Girl Scout groups, Los Angeles
- 2 Communities for a Better Environment groups, Los Angeles
- The Renaissance School, Oakland
- Beyer High School's Global Lab, Modesto
- Hearthstone School, Oroville

The Outdoor Experiences program is now looking to the future, thanks to a 30-year lease for the program site. Having a stable home base for the program allows us to make site improvements to expand the reach of the program. The site owner is the City of Los Angeles, and we're excited to have established a long-term partnership in which the City recognizes the lasting environmental importance of Mono Lake and the continuing value of wise water use education.

## RUSS TAYLOR CANOE COORDINATOR



Russ Taylor first visited Mono Lake in 1990 while he was working in Yosemite.

"Throughout the 90s I returned to Mono Lake time and again, often in the mornings or evenings to catch first or last light. It's a place that I was

inexplicably drawn to." As Canoe Coordinator he paddled the lake's surface in the early mornings, introducing hundreds of visitors to its unique ecosystem. He says, "I really enjoyed leading the canoe tours, especially when there were young kids who were really in awe of the brine shrimp."

A longtime outdoor educator, Russ found "a common thread with the work at Mono Lake and the work I've done in the Florida Everglades"—teaching people about threatened ecosystems.

He saw the Mono Lake Committee's mission to educate the next generation pervading the work here: "We educate through canoe tours and South Tufa walks, through the store, through the website, through the film, through *Newsletters*, during membership drives.... We're all educators."



Top: Students from Generation Water in Los Angeles replaced an aged, unsightly chain-link fence with a sturdy split-rail fence at the Outdoor Education Center.  
Middle: The 2011 seasonal staff check out a freshwater spring bubbling up into Mono Lake.  
Bottom: The 2011 seasonal staff get oriented to the Mono Basin.

# SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH



Top: Volunteers count California Gull nests on Mono Lake's islets in the spring of 2011.  
Middle: Erik Lyon, Bartshe Miller, and Julia Runcie demonstrate tufa formation.  
Bottom: Bird Chautauqua participants scan the Rattlesnake Gulch area for bird life.  
Right: Geoff McQuilkin and Rose Catron at the Grant Lake Reservoir spillway during peak flow season.

The Mono Lake Committee believes science is a critical base for our policy positions, a

guide for restoration, and an inspiration for understanding Mono Lake. Since 1976, scientific research has provided ecosystem and landscape knowledge that is the foundation of Mono Lake's protection. We know that sound science will be the basis of land and recreation management decisions that will shape the Mono Basin for years to come.



For decades the Committee has worked closely with researchers, hosted a comprehensive research library, and supported well-established projects like the annual California Gull reproductive success study. We've created new programs to connect field science with youth education, and established a clearinghouse of Mono Basin scientific information at [monobasinresearch.org](http://monobasinresearch.org).

After the 1994 State Water Board decision, we

catalyzed the formation of a cross-disciplinary science advisory council to advise us and others on the scientific side of the new policy challenges we knew were coming. One of the questions we faced was simple: how do we ensure that the tradition of scientific study at Mono Lake continues?

That led to the creation of the Mono Basin Field Station in 2004. Located a few blocks away from our offices in Lee Vining, the Field Station provides lodging, computing, and research support facilities for visiting researchers, office space for established long-term projects, and basic equipment in support of field studies.

We set three goals: (1) enhance the scientific knowledge of Mono Lake, its tributary streams, and the surrounding uplands, (2) foster collaboration and information exchange among scientists in diverse areas of expertise, and (3) infuse our diverse Mono Basin education programs with opportunities to engage scientists and participate in scientific work.

The facility filled immediately; in subsequent years we've pressed additional space into service and still find demand to be overwhelming.

Since its opening, the Field Station has supported 108 researchers working on 69 projects. Topics of study range from neotropical migratory birds, Greater Sage-grouse, swallows, and Willow Flycatchers to geology, paleoclimatology, and geomicrobiology. We're happy to be supporting teams from universities, public agencies, and fellow non-profit organizations.

The insight gained through science informs

management actions. For example, 2011 marked a critical season for the endangered Willow Flycatchers living along Rush Creek. After a peak of 16 breeding adults were observed in 2004, the population has declined steadily since, with only one nest fledging two chicks in 2009. This decline is due primarily to predation by Brown-headed Cowbirds, which thrive in unnatural numbers on birdseed in town. The Committee has implemented a program to reduce inadvertent cowbird feeding and protect the Willow Flycatchers—and we are working with land managers to assure that this once-common species continues to thrive in the recovering forests of Rush Creek.

Exciting work happens in the Mono Basin—in late 2010, a bacteria found at Mono Lake called GFAJ-1 made headlines when NASA scientists announced that it was able to survive off of and incorporate arsenic into its DNA in the absence of phosphorus. However, this past summer new, independent research reported that the bacteria is only arsenic-tolerant. While GFAJ-1 is not as ground-breaking as first believed, it's a remarkable organism discovered right here in the mud of Mono Lake.



## 2011 AT THE FIELD STATION

**Eastern Sierra riparian songbird survey**  
PRBO Conservation Science  
*Stella Moss*

**Golondrinas de las Americas**  
Cornell University  
*Dr. David Winkler, Justin Hite*

**Greater Sage-grouse dispersal in the Mono Basin**  
University of Idaho, California Department of Fish & Game, Bureau of Land Management  
*Joel Tebbenkamp*

**Mono Basin paleoclimatology studies**  
California State University—East Bay  
*Dr. Scott Stine*

**Mono Basin Willow Flycatcher project**  
PRBO Conservation Science  
*Chris McCreedy*

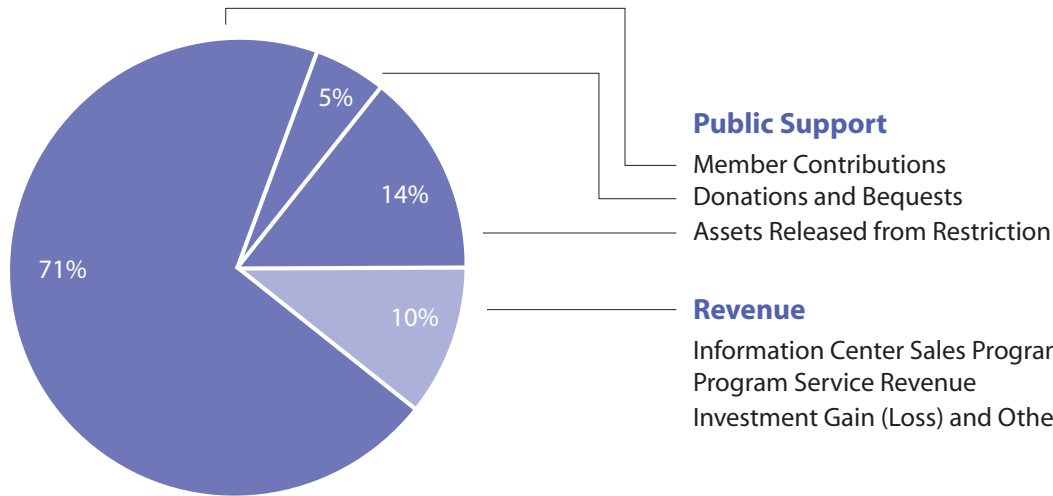
**Physiological ecology of the stress response in free-living sparrows**  
University of California—Davis  
*Dr. Creagh Breuner, Jessica Malisch*



Top: Caelen McQuilkin tests Lee Vining Creek's water.  
Middle: Humboldt University graduate student Sacha Heath sets up enclosures around trees to study insect-bird interactions.  
Bottom: PRBO researcher Kristie Nelson pilots the gull research boat on Mono Lake.  
Left: Morgan Lindsay reopens one of Rush Creek's blocked stream channels.

# STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

## INCOME



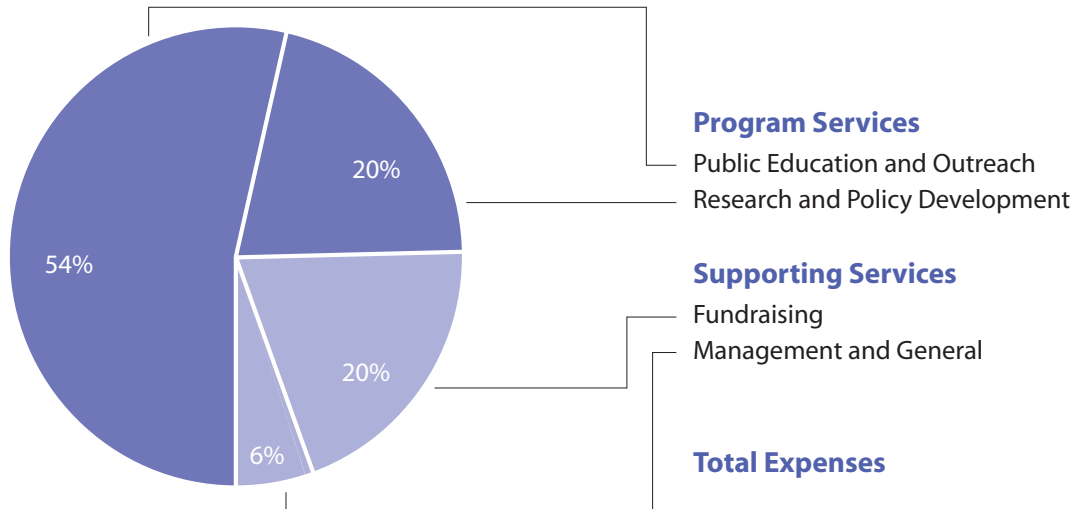
### Public Support

- Member Contributions
- Donations and Bequests
- Assets Released from Restriction

### Revenue

- Information Center Sales Program
- Program Service Revenue
- Investment Gain (Loss) and Other

## EXPENSES



### Program Services

- Public Education and Outreach
- Research and Policy Development

### Supporting Services

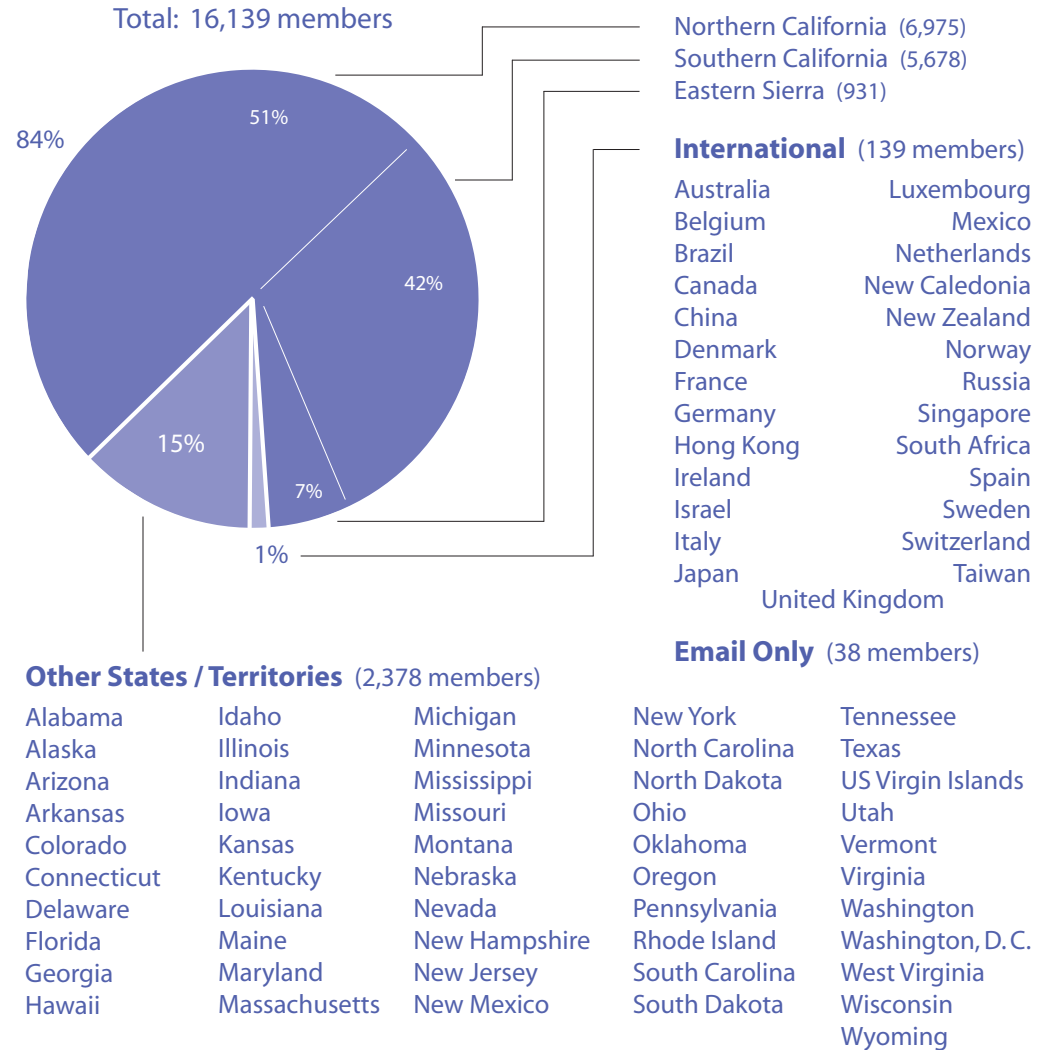
- Fundraising
- Management and General

	2011	2010	2009	2008
<b>Public Support</b>				
Member Contributions	1,109,429	1,030,456	1,060,633	1,107,193
Donations and Bequests	147,859	497,464	122,254	71,349
Assets Released from Restriction	102,265	149,312	147,752	211,165
	<u>1,359,553</u>	<u>1,677,232</u>	<u>1,330,639</u>	<u>1,389,707</u>
<b>Revenue</b>				
Information Center Sales Program	124,068	131,840	131,987	151,687
Program Service Revenue	82,411	62,247	72,300	54,602
Investment Gain (Loss) and Other	48,518	38,983	49,383	(42,126)
	<u>254,997</u>	<u>233,070</u>	<u>253,670</u>	<u>164,163</u>
<b>Total Unrestricted Income</b>	<b>1,614,550</b>	<b>1,910,302</b>	<b>1,584,309</b>	<b>1,553,870</b>
<b>Program Services</b>				
Public Education and Outreach	1,144,200	1,161,218	914,911	840,870
Research and Policy Development	300,627	258,091	273,417	307,656
	<u>1,444,827</u>	<u>1,419,309</u>	<u>1,188,328</u>	<u>1,148,526</u>
<b>Supporting Services</b>				
Fundraising	263,677	222,078	324,975	316,065
Management and General	64,313	73,530	67,301	85,520
	<u>327,990</u>	<u>295,608</u>	<u>392,276</u>	<u>401,585</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,772,817</b>	<b>1,714,917</b>	<b>1,580,604</b>	<b>1,550,111</b>

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION & MEMBERSHIP

## MONO LAKE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

	12/31/11
<b>Assets</b>	
Cash and Equivalents	76,349
Investments	1,791,575
Property and Equipment	1,067,055
Other Assets	255,393
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>3,190,372</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Current Liabilities	117,212
Notes Payable	0
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>117,212</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	
Unrestricted	1,345,590
Temporarily Restricted	1,233,050
Permanently Restricted	494,520
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>3,073,160</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>3,190,372</b>



# ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT



In the course of protecting Mono Lake it is important to evaluate the impact of our own activities. Each year we assess our primary areas of resource consumption in the office: our carbon footprint from electricity and fuel, and our water use.

Evaluating our footprint raises some tough questions. As a member-supported organization, we have to make sure that efforts to reduce our environmental impact are also reasonable expenditures of member donations.

For example, in late 2010 we installed eight solar panels on our ice house office building, turning that building into a net energy producer. The panels were installed by local company, Sierra Solar, which donated the work to get them on the roof. This type of green investment makes good sense, and we're planning to put solar panels on the main office roof as well.

What if we have to make budget choices between a sustainable action and an action core to our mission? Which do we choose? This ecological footprint analysis helps us decide how to best focus our efforts.



## WATER

The Committee's water comes from a local single-watershed system that serves the town of Lee Vining. Our office use of water is primarily for the public restroom and landscaping.

In the summer of 2012 we installed a water meter—the very first in town!—so we can monitor our use and be a regional example.

In addition, we connected the public restroom sink and the swamp cooler output with our landscaping via a greywater system. Visitors to our store now help water the plants every time they use the sink, and we no longer need our irrigation system at all.

We estimate that the greywater system will save us thousands of gallons of water per year—check next year's Annual Report for the data!



## ENERGY USE

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
electricity (kWh)	23,599	24,747	25,130	28,859	29,998	34,252
travel (miles)	29,888	47,466	69,065	48,697	40,718	56,222
propane used (gallons)	1,263	1,086	1,223	897	944	—
CO <sub>2</sub> total (pounds)	54,495	59,850	60,813	69,398	69,770	69,383

Top: Illustrator Logan Parsons prepares to stencil the Committee's logo onto the building.  
Middle: The 2011 seasonal staff enjoy the view of Mono Lake from the Warren Bench.  
Bottom: Staff unpack a generous donation of new gallery chairs from Virco, Mfg.

Sources: US EPA eGRID database; TerraPass.

# MEMBERSHIP

You, our members, make the Committee successful year after year. From every corner of California, to every state in the country, to many countries around the world, people who care about Mono Lake have united to form the Mono Lake Committee.

We began 34 years ago with the names of a few concerned individuals stored on index cards in a recipe box. Today 16,000 members make the Committee a place-based advocacy organization of tremendous strength.



The revitalized Mono Lake Website ([monolake.org](http://monolake.org)) continues to be a popular way to easily stay in touch. Be sure to check out the photos and features—including the Mill Creek webcam, our blog called “The Mono-logue,” e-cards, an easy online donation system, and the ability to manage your membership details online.

Still, the Committee maintains a personal relationship with each member: your mail comes to us in Lee Vining, if you call we’ll answer the phone, and if you visit we’ll take time to share the latest news and bird sightings. We hope to see you here at Mono Lake soon!



## BEQUESTS

Many members help ensure that Mono Lake will remain protected for generations to come by including the Mono Lake Committee in their wills and estate plans. Grace de Laet, a Mono Lake advocate from the earliest days, is one such supporter who gave the Committee a generous bequest in 2009 before her passing.

Bequest gifts can be directed to particular programs, and they are a meaningful way to create a lasting legacy for Mono Lake. If you’re unfamiliar with the process, don’t worry—it’s less complicated than it might seem, and we’re always happy to provide additional information.

## MONTHLY GIVING

The Guardians of the Lake program offers members a convenient way to make regular monthly gifts to the Mono Lake Committee. This is an easy way to help the lake, and it includes special benefits!

Guardians make a monthly pledge by check, credit card, or bank transfer. In exchange, Guardians receive special letters from Committee co-founder Sally Gaines, offering news on the lake, the Committee, and local happenings. Guardians also receive fewer mailings, a lapel pin, and recognition in the annual report. To sign up, contact Ellen King ([ellen@monolake.org](mailto:ellen@monolake.org)).

Top: The 2011 Mono Lake Volunteers at graduation from training week.  
Middle: Communities for a Better Environment Outdoor Experiences students visit the County Park boardwalk.  
Bottom: Filmmaker Jonah Matthewson gets footage of South Tufa in winter.  
Left: Visitors enjoy the display of fall colors in Lundy Canyon.

# 2011 DEFENSE TRUST

- = member for 10 or more years
- = member for 20 or more years
- = member for 30 or more years

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giving \$5,000 or more annually

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Genny Smith •••  
Ms. Jan Vannatta •••

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Friends of the Inyo—Bishop  
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Golden Gate Hotel—San Francisco  
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Mammoth Lakes Foundation—Mammoth Lakes  
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REI—Reno, NV  
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Sunset Inn—Groveland  
Tahoe Adventure Film Festival—South Lake Tahoe  
Wave Rave Snowboard Shop—Mammoth Lakes  
Wilson's Eastside Sports—Bishop  
Yosemite Conservancy—El Portal

Above: Rose Catron, Erika Obedzinski, and Jess Horn check the storefront remodel progress.

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Carolyn Balliet—Mammoth Lakes  
Russell Bell—Albuquerque, NM  
Phyllis Benham—Mammoth Lakes  
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Kim Burtnyk—South Pasadena  
Dave & Janet Carle—Lee Vining  
Ken & Elizabeth Corathers—June Lake  
Nancy Devon—Olympic Valley  
Barbara DiCostanzo—Albany  
Rob Dickerson—Healdsburg  
Jean Dillingham—June Lake  
Kathy Duvall—Bishop  
Dick & Judy Erb—June Lake  
Rich & Cathy Foye—Mammoth Lakes  
Hank Garretson & Rhonda Starr—Mammoth Lakes  
Sally Gaines—Crowley Lake  
Laurie Gehrman—Lee Vining  
Connie Henderson—Lee Vining  
Kristin Hoye—Santa Cruz

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Cheryl James—Hawthorne, NV  
Duncan King—June Lake  
Linda LaPierre—Yerington, NV  
Dave Marquart—Lee Vining  
Karen Murphy-Schlaepfer—Mammoth Lakes  
Erika Obedzinski—San Geronimo  
Bonnie Reinhold—June Lake  
Donna Roff—Mammoth Lakes  
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Igor & Lee Vorobyoff—June Lake  
Laura Walker—Lee Vining  
Jim Williams—Mammoth  
Rosemarie Willmann—Bridgeport  
Steff Zurek—Emeryville  
Coordinators: Janet Carle, Rosanne Catron

Above: An aerial photo of Mono Lake's shore taken during the annual Eared Grebe survey.

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 C. Blaine & Marian Shull •

Left: A Cabrillo High School Outdoor Experiences student hoists a large, light pumice stone.  
 Above right: Filmmaker Jonah Matthewson sets up to interview  
 Board member Tom Soto in downtown Los Angeles.

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 Eric Wilmanns & Avery Wilmanns  
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Above: Bird Chautauqua participants stop to identify a low-growing plant.  
 Left: A photographer captures Mono Lake in the still, bright winter season.

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## MONO LAKE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Committee is proud to support the local community by awarding two \$1,000 scholarships annually to college-bound high school graduates. Applicants submit personal essays in response to one of these questions:

• *What do you expect to do to change the world for the better with particular regard to solving natural resource issues?*

• *How has Mono Lake or the Mono Basin influenced your life and your choice to go to college?*



*Elin Ljung presents the 2011 Mono Lake Scholarship to Lee Vining High School students Angela Annett and Quincy Parker.*

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Above: Committee staff and Board celebrate the new film—The Mono Lake Story—on the green carpet.

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Above: The 2011 Mono Lake Committee staff. Long live Mono Lake!



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