

Restoring Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep to the Mono Basin



September 10–12 2021

John Wehausen

\$182 per person / \$167 for Mono
Lake Committee members
enrollment limited to
10 participants

This seminar will be an introduction to the biology and conservation issues of Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, which are one of the most endangered mammals of North

America. It will take place in the high mountain habitat of these magnificent animals that so fascinated John Muir. After starting with an evening presentation on the biology and conservation of bighorn sheep, we will hike on two consecutive days to locations at which these sheep are likely to be found.

Instructor John Wehausen has studied bighorn sheep intensively for over 45 years during which he has worked as an independent research biologist studying bighorn sheep inhabiting the high mountains and deserts of California.

PLEASE NOTE

This seminar will take place at **elevations of 9,000–11,000+** feet above sea level. It may be necessary to cover 5–10 miles on foot each day in order to access bighorn sheep habitat and this may involve climbing and descending at least 1,500–2,000 feet per day. While access will involve walking on trails to the extent possible, there may be considerable off-trail walking. Those restricted to lower elevations for medical reasons should not consider this seminar, nor should anyone with medical conditions likely to be exacerbated by exertion at high elevations. Adequate physical fitness is obviously a requirement. *It is strongly recommended that those coming from lower elevations attempt to spend at least 24 hours at the highest possible elevation prior to this seminar.* If you are unsure about participating, contact the instructor at jdwehausen@gmail.com.

ITINERARY

Friday, September 10, 6:30pm: Meet at the Solar Pavilion in Hess Park on Mattly Avenue. We'll introduce ourselves and then enjoy a short preview to our weekend seminar during an outdoor talk after course materials are provided. Bring a camp chair if you have one and dress for the cool evening.

Saturday, September 11, 8:00am: Meet in front of the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore (**we will meet here Sunday morning at the same time as well**). After everyone arrives we will head to appropriate trailheads to begin our hikes; the primary goal for Saturday and Sunday is to observe some bighorn sheep. Expect to be hiking all day and returning to our cars around 5:00–7:00pm, but it is possible we might be out later than that. This weekend will be an invigorating challenge for mind and body—strenuous hiking in bighorn sheep habitat while considering the unique challenges of saving the last vestiges of the Sierra Nevada’s charismatic mega fauna.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

To prevent the spread of COVID-19, all seminars will be limited to ten participants and will take place entirely outside. Participants will caravan to each field location rather than carpool. All participants, including those who have been vaccinated, are expected to wear masks and socially distance for the duration of the seminar. Additionally, participants will need to complete a health screening before arriving in the Mono Basin and again at the start of the seminar. Keeping participants, instructors, and our staff safe is our highest priority.

ALTITUDE & DEHYDRATION CAUTIONS

Remember to bring (and drink!) lots of water because your body loses more water at the higher altitudes of the Mono Basin. Experts recommend that you begin drinking extra water as you drive to higher elevation in order to prevent dehydration and headaches. Also, the sun is rather fierce at high elevations, capable of burning even on cool and cloudy days, so be sure to protect yourself thoroughly using sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat.

MEALS

Please bring hearty picnic lunches and snacks for both days. Bring plenty of water.

TO BRING

- | | |
|---|--|
| ___ a face mask (no buffs as masks) | ___ binoculars |
| ___ hand sanitizer | ___ spotting scope if you have one |
| ___ good hiking boots | ___ lunch and 2+ liters water each day |
| ___ warm clothes, including wind protection | ___ hat, sunscreen, insect repellent |
| ___ rain gear if any threat exists | ___ day pack to carry everything |
| ___ flashlight/headlamp | |

Participants should come prepared to do *at least ten miles of strenuous, fast-paced, possibly off-trail hiking at high elevation*. This means wearing appropriate clothing and footwear, bringing enough food and water for an entire day, and being prepared to be outdoors for 12 hours.



Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars

P.O. Box 29 • Lee Vining, CA 93541 • (760) 647-6595 • monolake.org/seminars