

MONO LAKE

N E W S L E T T E R

Fall 2025



Working on this *Mono Lake Newsletter*, it struck me how many complex, technologically advanced systems are part of the articles that make up this issue. Air quality monitors, Motus stations, water treatment and recycling. Easements and grants for property transfer. Public meetings broadcast to millions and Zoom presentations between distant groups of students.

It also struck me that although these systems can be hard to understand or seem unnecessarily complex, they are tools in service of such simple, essential, and fundamental needs we have at Mono Lake.

The air quality and Motus technology lets us know in real time how pieces of the Mono Basin's ecosystem are doing (pages 4 and 9). The complicated property transfer of Tupe Nobe allows the Mono Lake Kootzaduka'a Tribe to begin returning home (page 10). Zoom connects kids in Lee Vining with kids at Laguna Mar Chiquita in Argentina for a better experience when they meet in person (page 8).

Mono Lake's most essential need—a sustainable supply of water—is the same as Los Angeles' essential need. The advanced water recycling technology at the Tillman Plant will help to meet it, in part thanks to the Mono Lake Committee's persistence through a complex process to secure funding for the plant in the 1990s (page 6).

Another of Mono Lake's fundamental needs? People who can speak up for it. We could watch in Lee Vining as Geoff did that at the LA City Council because that meeting was broadcast far and wide (page 5). And we have set up an online letter writing tool so you can ask the State Water Board to schedule their hearing about Mono Lake as soon as possible (page 3). No matter where you live, you can help serve one of Mono Lake's essential needs when you use your voice for it.

Not *everything* is high-tech these days, though—you can once again get a good old fashioned "Save Mono Lake" bumper sticker sent to you through the mail from Lee Vining (page 3). I hope you'll display it proudly.

—Elin Ljung, Communications Coordinator



COVER PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN DITTL

SANTIAGO M. ESCOBAR

Members of Pacoima Beautiful show how far Mono Lake is from its healthy level. Pacoima Beautiful is an environmental justice organization from the San Fernando Valley that has been a partner in Mono Basin Outdoor Education Center programs for decades and is a strong voice calling to save Mono Lake as part of their community's sustainability and resilience goals.

Mono Lake Committee Mission

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.



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State Water Board plans action ... but when?

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power doubles down on lowering Mono Lake

by Geoffrey McQuilkin

News headlines shined spotlights on Mono Lake this summer. On the front page of the *Los Angeles Times* “‘It needs more water’: Calls grow for boosting Mono Lake” was followed several days later by “Mono Lake showing toll of LA’s thirst for water.” The multiple stories, reminiscent of the 1980s and 90s, were prominently featured in the *LA Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *New York Times*, and more.



ANDREW YOUSSEF

To raise Mono Lake the nine feet still needed to achieve the healthy lake level, the State Water Board needs to take action at a hearing.

The articles sparked new conversations with folks in Los Angeles, concerned Mono Lake Committee members, and thousands of visitors at Mono Lake. “When is the State Water Board hearing happening?” is an increasingly common question.

When will the State Water Board step in?

To raise the level of Mono Lake the nine feet still needed to achieve the California State Water Resources Control Board’s healthy lake level mandate, the Board needs to hold a hearing to issue new rules for DWP’s water exports. But when that hearing will take place is still a guessing game.

There’s no question that State Water Board members and staff are well aware of the situation at Mono Lake, and that they plan to act on their own self-imposed requirement to hold a hearing. We have seen signs of progress, including leadership traveling to Mono Lake for agency meetings and the Board increasing staffing in preparation for the hearing. Additionally, the Board’s commissioning of Mono Lake-specific climate change and hydrology reports and tools from an expert modeling group at UCLA is promising.

On the other hand, the Board has not announced a schedule for holding the hearing. Summer came and went, despite being frequently mentioned as the time when the hearing notice would be issued.

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The State Water Board needs to hear from you

Now is the time to speak up for Mono Lake and write to the State Water Board to encourage them to schedule the Mono Lake hearing as soon as possible.

You can send a personalized email to the State Water Board using our online letter writing tool at monolake.org/rising.

While you’re at it, get a “Save Mono Lake” bumper sticker to help spread the word.

First produced in 1979, these bumper stickers became an icon of the movement to stop DWP’s destructive water

diversions. We had retired them after the State Water Board ordered Mono Lake to rise back in 1994, but with the lake only halfway to the mandated healthy level after 31 years, it’s time to bring them back.

With DWP ignoring the healthy 6,392-foot lake level requirement and continuing to maximize water diversions each year, it’s time to rally again under the “Save Mono Lake” banner. Show your support—on your car, laptop, or water bottle—and help urge the State Water Board to act now.

SAVE MONO LAKE

Mono Lake Committee • Lee Vining, California • monolake.org

DWP prepares to fight

Spending millions of ratepayer dollars to undermine State Water Board decision

by Bartshé Miller

The Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (DWP) is preparing to fight at the future hearing before the California State Water Resources Control Board. While the date has yet to be announced, the hearing will be the State Water Board's opportunity to evaluate and decide if a reduction in Mono Basin water exports is required to raise the level of Mono Lake.

DWP asserts that everything is fine at Mono Lake, it's healthy and doing well despite the fact that it remains only halfway to the mandated level 31 years after the decision to raise it. DWP's current narrative is that the lake is at a "steady and encouraging level."

But Mono Lake is not healthy. The ecosystem is showing signs of stress and strain as decades of an artificially low lake have created accumulating impacts. Mono Lake remains nine feet below its mandated level, and 35 feet below its pre-diversion level. California Gulls have suffered a steep decline due to the faltering lake ecosystem, air quality violations continue due to the exposed lake playa, and restoration of surrounding waterfowl habitat, lake wetlands, and shorebird habitat remain stalled because of DWP's push to maximize water diversions.

Throw money at unnecessary studies and create delay

Based on what we have seen of its current activity around the Mono Basin, DWP intends to continue maximized diversions while pursuing new, costly research projects that its attorneys will attempt to use to challenge established research conclusions vetted in the 1994 State Water Board decision.

Recent DWP projects include groundwater mapping conducted by helicopter (see Fall 2024 *Mono Lake Newsletter*) at a cost of nearly \$1 million as well as a newly launched,

multi-year alkali fly research effort that involves dozens of sampling sites all around the lake.

In March 2025, the DWP Board of Commissioners approved a staff-recommended resolution to contract with consulting firms for \$35 million "to provide science, technology, and air quality services for Owens Lake, Mono Basin, and other water gathering activities in the Eastern Sierra."

During the summer, one of the contracted consulting firms, Formation Environmental, began installing air quality monitoring stations on the dry lakebed within the Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve.

A dust up over dust events

For decades, Mono Lake has been in significant violation of federal air quality standards due to lakebed exposed by excessive DWP water

diversions. Only recently, since the prospect of a State Water Board hearing date, has DWP become interested in collecting its own data on air quality at Mono Lake. The regulatory authority, Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District, has been monitoring air quality at Mono Lake for decades, and their highly precise instruments have documented that Mono Lake has exceeded federal air quality standards hundreds of times for PM-10, particulate matter of ten microns or less (see Fall 2021 *Mono Lake Newsletter*).

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New DWP air quality monitoring equipment (center, right) next to Great Basin's long-established, better-quality equipment (left).

Owens Lake air quality lawsuit brought by DWP is denied

In September the Superior Court of Los Angeles denied a court petition filed by DWP against the California Air Resources Board and regional Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District.

Due to air quality violations, DWP was ordered in 2021 to undertake dust suppression mitigation on a portion of the emissive dry bed of

Owens Lake. DWP took no action and subsequently, claiming a variety of procedural objections, litigated. The court rejected DWP's arguments. DWP continues to pursue two other court cases against the agencies, likely at a cost of millions of dollars.

Both the Air Resources Board and Great Basin have air quality regulation jurisdiction in the Mono Basin.

LA City Council reaffirms support for Mono

DWP misses the point, attempts to twist purpose of Mono Lake Day celebration

by Geoffrey McQuilkin

The Mono Lake Committee has celebrated September 28 for years as the anniversary of the establishment of the healthy 6,392-foot lake level requirement, when the State Water Board modified Los Angeles' water rights in 1994. Last year the Los Angeles City Council joined in acknowledging the important milestone for the city too, proclaiming the date to be Mono Lake Day.

This year I journeyed south on Highway 395 for a celebration and renewal of that recognition in front of the LA City Council. It was a moment in the spotlight for Mono Lake—a moment which DWP chose to aggressively preview its intent to fight against raising the lake.

The agenda item was kicked off by Councilmember Adrin Nazarian, who appropriately noted, “Mono Lake Day reminds us that Los Angeles can meet the challenges of climate change while protecting the places that make California special.”

DWP representatives and its attorney also attended the meeting, though they largely missed the point of the city's recognition of the importance of Mono Lake to the people of LA. The DWP spokesman made a promising start by recognizing “a continued commitment to protecting the environment and resources at Mono Lake...” But the message quickly went sideways, veering into a series of points that seemed to indicate DWP's hope to keep water diversions forever unchanged, regardless of Mono Lake's health.

The points came as no surprise, but DWP's choice to use the City Council's Mono Lake Day celebration as an opportunity to make its case was illuminating.

DWP incorrectly claimed that diversions have no impact on lake level—despite joint Mono Lake Committee and DWP hydrological modeling work showing otherwise (see Fall 2024 *Mono Lake Newsletter*). DWP said, “At this moment Mono Lake levels are completely dependent on hydrology, which means how many dry years in a row and how many wet years in a row we get.” This is untrue.

Then, after claiming its diversions are actually very small, DWP forecasted doom and gloom if those same diversions were reduced in order to accomplish the required lake restoration, saying it would have to purchase replacement water from other expensive imported water sources.

This was confusing to folks in attendance, since real solutions to LA's needs lie in new local water supply programs (see page 6). DWP then went on to celebrate these local supplies and how Los Angeles is a leader in water efficiency.

“Angelenos are making huge investments to expand local water supply such as recycled water, groundwater, and stormwater capture,” DWP said, highlighting the very local supply solutions that make it possible to meet LA's water needs while raising Mono Lake to the mandated—and agreed to—6,392-foot surface elevation required by the State Water Board back in 1994.

DWP's spokesman next made a jab at the Committee, claiming credit for the scenic qualities of the Mono Basin and taking a swipe at the Mono Lake Committee calendar that hangs on so many cubicle walls at DWP headquarters. He claimed DWP “has enhanced the creation of scenic beauty in the area, such that it's now a nice tourist attraction, and even some folks sell calendars with beautiful pictures on them of Mono Lake.”

Here's what the Committee has known since David and Sally Gaines founded the organization: There's DWP, the massive utility legendary for constructing the Los Angeles Aqueduct a century ago, which continues to disregard its damage to the Eastern Sierra. And then there are the people of Los Angeles and their elected representatives, who seek sustainable paths forward for the city and the environment. This was on full display for the City Council on Los Angeles' Mono Lake Day.

For the Committee's remarks I focused on how restoring Mono Lake is emblematic of a successful partnership with Los Angelenos to build a sustainable future—a fitting reason for the City Council to celebrate Mono Lake Day.

Choices made about water use in Los Angeles directly

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The Los Angeles City Council established September 28 as Mono Lake Day last year and reaffirmed its support by recognizing the anniversary this year.

PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY SANCHEZ

Will LA bring recycled water full circle for Mono Lake?

by Martha Davis

The Mono Lake Committee's decades-long effort to secure new local recycled water for Los Angeles, and effectively replace stream diversions from Mono Lake, may be on the precipice of finally being realized.

The story begins in the 1980s when the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (DWP) argued that any reduction in its Mono Lake exports would force Los Angeles to secure water from other places, hurting Southern California or the San Francisco Bay Delta.

We said no. There had to be another solution.

Los Angeles and Mono Lake shared the same need: reliable and adequate water supply. So, the Mono Lake Committee set out to help Los Angeles develop projects to create reliable water supplies within the city, so that Mono Lake could be saved *and* DWP would not transfer the problem to another place or community.

By 1992, the Committee had secured over \$100 million in state and federal funds to support DWP's water conservation and recycled water projects. The federal money came through the US Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI Program and would fund 25% of the cost of building DWP's first major recycled water project.

Unbelievably, DWP refused to accept the money, unwilling to admit that there was a solution that met our shared needs.

After years of bitter conflict, LA's Mayor and City Council overruled DWP's attorneys and agreed to accept both state and federal funds in December 1993. The money would support building new recycled water infrastructure at the existing Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant in the San Fernando Valley, and the new, potable water created would permanently



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADI LIEBMAN

Committee Board member Martha Davis, right, speaks at the recent event celebrating the expansion of water recycling to generate more local water for LA than is diverted annually from Mono Lake.

replace the water previously taken from Mono Lake.

California Governor Pete Wilson attended the City's press conference, hailing the consensus settlement as "a victory for the people of Los Angeles and every Californian." In a private note to the Committee, the governor lauded our work, saying that it "set a high standard for resolving environmental issues. This common-sense approach will protect California's environment for generations to come."

Despite statewide accolades and significant funding support, the recycled water project was derailed in 2000 due to inaccurate publicity about recycled water safety. The Tillman plant was completed, but only about 8,000 acre-feet annually ended up replacing existing potable water use.

DWP has never acknowledged that those 8,000 annual acre-feet were part of LA's historic agreement to protect Mono Lake.

Fast forward to this year, late summer—an event held at the Tillman Water Reclamation Plant. Over 150 city and community leaders gathered with DWP and LA Sanitation & Environment in a big construction hanger to celebrate the expansion of the original recycled water project begun decades ago. Now called the LA Groundwater Replenishment Project, it will deliver all of the recycled water the original project was intended to deliver, and more.

The \$740 million LA Groundwater Replenishment Project adds a series of water purification treatments, including membrane filtration, reverse osmosis, and ultraviolet oxidation, and then, using the pipeline from the original project, recharges the groundwater table for future extraction. When finished in 2027 the project has been advertised to yield 22,000 acre-feet of treated recycled water annually—a new local source of drinking water for LA.

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ARCHIVE PHOTO

In 1993 DWP accepted funds secured by the Mono Lake Committee to develop recycled water supplies and permanently reduce the amount of water taken from Mono Lake.

At the event, much to everyone's surprise, DWP Commission President Richard Katz announced that the project is now expected to yield 40,000* acre-feet annually, more than doubling the originally expected water yield.

Back in 1993, then-State Assemblymember Katz was a key speaker at the press conference alongside Governor Wilson, LA Mayor Richard Riordan, the Mono Lake Committee, and other city and legislative leaders—celebrating LA's decision to use Tillman's recycled water to protect Mono Lake.

Decades later, now-DWP Commission President Katz explained to the crowd that the increased production to 40,000 acre-feet annually was a “new” and “unexpected” water supply—additional water that he hoped would enable DWP to reduce its remaining 16,000 acre-feet per year of water diversions from Mono Lake in order to allow the lake to rise to the State Water Board-ordered healthy management level of 6,392 feet.

This really could be the opportunity for LA to bring the recycled water solution for Mono Lake full circle.

To be clear: Hope is not the same as a firm commitment that Mono Lake will benefit from this new supply of water.

But President Katz's statement is welcome news because it means LA will have additional water it can rely upon while also complying with its obligation to raise Mono Lake to the State Water Board-mandated healthy level. It's time for this replacement water, forged when there was no other solution, to benefit Mono Lake.

There is also a more fundamental point here. As we cope with climate change impacts, we can affirm our capacity to share water with special places like Mono Lake so they can thrive alongside people and cities. We cannot accept choices that don't offer real solutions. We must work to find those solutions and make them possible.

Three decades ago, the City of Los Angeles made the choice to protect Mono Lake and the world applauded. The question today is whether Los Angeles' leadership will finally fulfill its promise to save Mono Lake by raising the lake to State Water Board-mandated protection level. ❖

Martha Davis is the Committee's former Executive Director and a current Board member.

**Correction: Originally printed as 50,000 acre-feet.*

South Tufa for sale? Proposed public lands sell-off averted

by Arya Degenhardt

In June, South Tufa, the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, Lundy Canyon, Lee Vining Canyon, Tioga Pass, much of the June Lake Loop, and many other treasured Eastern Sierra locations were part of 3.25 million acres of public lands eligible for sell-off in the United States Senate's version of the “Big Beautiful Bill.”

The proposal would have required rapid action to privatize public lands following a vague process. While “housing” was mentioned as a criterion, and affordable housing is a priority for the town of Lee Vining, there was no priority given to community efforts to increase affordable housing. In addition, Tribal interests were not identified for first right of refusal in the bidding process.

Hundreds of Mono Lake Committee members jumped quickly to action, calling Mono Lake's Congressional Representative, Kevin Kiley, and raising awareness about the large amounts of public land in his district and at Mono Lake, and their value to the local economy and environment. Many other organizations supportive of public lands staying public also ran action campaigns.

Representative Kiley responded with strong action. “Our beautiful public lands are essential to the character of our region, and I will fight to protect them in every way I can,” he said.

Mono Lake Committee members joined many thousands of voices and the sell-off of millions of acres of public land was not included in the final bill.



ANDREW VOUSSEF

Lee Vining students follow the phalaropes again

by Ryan Garrett

In a capstone experience after a year of planning, organizing, and fundraising, five Lee Vining students, high school teacher Sarah Taylor, and I followed the path of the phalaropes to Miramar, Argentina, for the second annual Experience Ambientalia exchange in July. Together with peers, teachers, and staff from the non-profit group Fundación Líderes de Ansenuza, we explored Mono Lake's sister saline lake, Laguna Mar Chiquita, while building a shared commitment to conservation.

Mono Lake and Laguna Mar Chiquita are linked within the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network as critical habitat for Wilson's Phalaropes. These small shorebirds—saline lake specialists—migrate across the Americas, breeding in Canada, staging in the Great Basin, and wintering in South America. Sadly, according to the Center for Biological Diversity, the species has lost nearly 70% of its global population since 1980 due to habitat loss across its range.

Experience Ambientalia was founded to raise awareness about these birds and to connect youth to the stewardship of saline lakes. Throughout the year, students across the hemisphere participate in shared events like World Migratory Bird Day, Coastal Cleanup Day, and World Planting Day to deepen their sense of environmental responsibility. The program culminates in an international exchange between the two sister lakes.

In Argentina, students learned about conservation efforts through presentations on ecological restoration and ecotourism in the new Ansenuza National Park, recycling initiatives in the town of La Para, wildlife camera monitoring of pumas and maned wolves, students uncovering the history of megafauna from 70,000 years ago, and more. The students came to appreciate Laguna Mar Chiquita's vastness—14 times the size of Mono Lake—and the complex challenges restoration efforts face.



Students went birding at Laguna Mar Chiquita and saw shorebirds, flamingos, and raptors.

Despite these differences, both communities share a deep commitment to protecting their lakes. Our students were inspired by peers and advocates working tirelessly to safeguard Laguna Mar Chiquita's waters and wildlife.

Reflections after the trip reveal the exchange's impact. One student wrote, "This experience was literally beyond incredible. It showed me the power of human connection—how friendship, laughter, and kindness can transcend borders, language barriers, and cultural divides." Another shared, "I've become more aware of where my water comes from and how it impacts places like Mono Lake. I now have a deeper appreciation for bird habitats and the unique ecosystems that depend on these lakes."

The exchange was made possible by the support of many local community groups and longtime Mono Lake supporters. Community members and Rotary Club members rallied around the program in June by hosting the Night of the Phalarope, a charity event dedicated to raising funds for the Mono Lake and Laguna Mar Chiquita chapters. And beyond this event, the program was also supported by Mammoth Lakes Rotary, Bishop Rotary Foundation, DeChambeau Creek Foundation, June Lake Women's Club, Eastern Sierra Bird Alliance, Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP, and many Mono Lake Committee members. This program would not be possible without dedicated program volunteer Sarah Taylor. Equally essential was the leadership of Marina Castellino, co-director of Experience Ambientalia, and the dedicated team at Fundación Líderes de Ansenuza, with hosting support from Manomet Conservation Sciences.

Experience Ambientalia shows how much can be accomplished when young leaders from across the hemisphere unite for their lakes, their birds, and their future. ❖



Students from Mono Lake traveled to Laguna Mar Chiquita this summer to join Argentinian students in conservation efforts for Wilson's Phalaropes, migratory shorebirds that depend on both lakes.

Motus network unlocks new migration monitoring at Mono Lake

by Robbie Di Paolo

The Mono Lake Committee has installed three new Motus stations at Mono Lake. These stations detect animals outfitted with special tags, automatically uploading those detections to the Motus network. The Motus network compiles detections made by multiple stations and can show the paths birds and animals travel across large distances.

Motus, Latin for “movement,” is an international research and conservation technology that seeks to track the movements and migrations of small flying animals. The key word here is *small*. While there are wildlife tags that can track migration routes using satellites, the weight of those tags is too great for smaller flying animals. Motus has unlocked the potential to study and understand small flying birds, bats, and even insects.

There are more than 2,000 Motus stations installed across 34 countries that have tracked nearly 60,000 animals of more than 400 species. Here at Mono Lake, we are interested to see which tagged organisms might get detected by our stations, but there are two species that we’re especially interested in: the Wilson’s Phalarope and the Red-necked Phalarope.

Phalaropes are the most abundant shorebird that visit Mono Lake. In summer, Wilson’s and Red-necked phalaropes descend on Mono Lake by the tens of thousands as part of their southern migration. The reason: A buffet of alkali flies and brine shrimp to feed on. The abundant food supply makes Mono Lake a valuable stopping point for phalaropes on their multi-thousand-mile-long migration to South America. Understanding where phalaropes are on Mono Lake, how long they stay, where individuals come from before arriving, and where they go after leaving, are all critical insights that can now be better



Three new Motus stations in the Mono Basin are providing information about how phalaropes move around at Mono Lake, how long they stay, and where they go after leaving.

understood thanks to the Motus network in the Mono Basin.

The installation of these new Motus stations was planned in coordination with Ryan Carle, Science Director at Oikonus Ecosystem Knowledge and the lead phalarope researcher, who has been conducting annual phalarope surveys on the lake since 2019. Motus station locations and design were informed by Carle’s knowledge about where detections are most likely to occur. Once the project design was finalized and a lengthy Inyo National Forest permitting process was completed, the race was on to construct each station before Carle and his team began tagging phalaropes on the lake. By July 24, after more than 100 hours of physical labor in hot summer conditions, the last station was complete.

Less than 24 hours later, our first phalarope detections came online—a Red-necked Phalarope tagged by Carle and his team, which was the first time the species had been tagged in the United States.

These data promise to be a vital

conservation tool at Mono Lake and beyond. Already, the new Motus stations are helping to trace the journeys of four Wilson’s Phalaropes and seven Red-necked Phalaropes, some of which have been detected by as many as 12 other Motus stations beyond Mono Lake and as far south as Durango City, Mexico. Each detection, made possible by research and conservation partners across the hemisphere, reveals hidden threads of connection. Through the lens of the Motus network, the phalaropes bind Mono Lake to distant, diverse ecosystems we might not know about otherwise. And together, each partner organization is supporting collective understanding about the birds we share and the places they rely on.

To see real-time data from the Mono Lake Motus stations and follow the tagged phalaropes, go to motus.org. ❖

Robbie Di Paolo is the Committee’s Restoration Field Technician. In his 11 years at Mono Lake, he has helped with field research related to gulls, grebes, phalaropes, alkali flies, and endemic ticks.

Kootzaduka'a Tribe moves forward at Tupe Nobe

by Caelen McQuilkin

In the spring, the Mono Lake Kootzaduka'a Tribe finalized the purchase of Tupe Nobe, land formerly known as Burger's Sierra Retreat. Located on the Tribe's ancestral homelands, this land sits ten miles east of Yosemite National Park and five miles west of Mono Lake. The purchase returns 160 acres of land back to its original stewards.

Tupe Nobe translates to "the rock house" and refers to the mountain in the middle of the property. The land encompasses several diverse and important habitats—wet meadows, aspen forest, riparian and upland habitats. The parcel is a small piece of the larger region where the Kootzaduka'a Tribe has lived since time immemorial. Starting in the 1860s, settlers divided this land into plots and took it from Kootzaduka'a people. Tupe Nobe was one of those parcels, and now its return to the Tribe is a significant step in the "land back" movement.

Now at Tupe Nobe, the Tribe is carrying on their legacy of conservation and Tribal stewardship. They are working to sustain Kootzaduka'a culture, memory and traditions with the resources and opportunities that this land provides.

The Mono Lake Committee supported the Tribe and grant partners through the acquisition process and celebrated the completion of the land transfer, a step in both reconciliation for the Kootzaduka'a Tribe and also protection of this important land.

Some history of Tupe Nobe

The Kootzaduka'a people did not demarcate land with boundaries or see it as a commodity to be owned. In their words, "We as Kootzaduka'a people see boundary lines as impossible demarcations of a landscape ... to try to divide landscapes is like trying to divide the air we breathe or the water we drink."

However, when white settlers discovered gold in the area, demand for agricultural production and other amenities began to rise. The Kootzaduka'a chapter in the book *Voices of the People* recounts: "Many ranchers moved to the Mono Lake area. In doing so, they displaced the Kootzaduka'a from their camps and gathering places." Backed by federal laws, settlers divided, claimed, and took ownership of Kootzaduka'a territory. However, Kootzaduka'a land remains technically unceded because the Tribe never signed a treaty or gave up their land in another legal way.

One important point in this story was the passage of the Homestead Act of 1862, which encouraged settlers in western territories to claim 160-acre land parcels with the condition they would live there and cultivate the land.

Tupe Nobe is a small piece of the larger region where the Mono Lake Kootzaduka'a Tribe has lived since time immemorial. Its return to the Tribe is a significant step in the "land back" movement.

It was in this context that the first documented owner of Tupe Nobe purchased it in 1881. After that, the land was passed down or sold to eight different, successive people. In 1943, the Burger family purchased the land, and established Burger's Sierra Retreat as a wildlife sanctuary.

Two generations of the Burger family established a legacy of environmental conservation on the property. Dale Burger, known for his hands-on care for the property over decades, even established a conservation easement for the land to ensure lasting protection.

When the Burger family decided to sell the property, continued care for the land was the top concern. Dale shared that he and the family are proud and excited that the Tribe will now take care of the land. "I wanted someone who would respect the property, cherish it, maintain it, share it," he said. "And wow. I got all of that with the Tribe ... of all the possible buyers, I could not think of a better one. These are people who cherished the land before we even got there. And that's what I want for that property."

Work and plans at Tupe Nobe

The Kootzaduka'a Tribe acquired the land in part through a grant from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, working closely with the Eastern Sierra Land Trust to successfully apply. After finalizing the purchase in the spring, the Tribe began work on the land and structures there, improving and preparing them for use. This included cleaning cabins, installing new floors, and adding a water storage tank for fire safety.

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For more about Tupe Nobe go to monolake.org/tupenobe.
For more about the Mono Lake Kootzaduka'a Tribe go to monolaketribe.us.

The timeliness of Board action is critical. For all its beauty, Mono Lake is suffering at the current low level, a situation starkly illustrated by the California Gulls having their worst nesting season on record last year (see Summer 2025 *Mono Lake Newsletter*).

DWP doubles lake decline with diversions

Mono Lake would naturally fluctuate down a half foot in this drier-than-average year. This expected drop in lake level, when Mono Lake has not yet reached the healthy level mandated by the State Water Board, made no difference to DWP when it planned water diversions. DWP's Annual Operations Plan laid out plans to maximize water export this year.

As a result, DWP is doubling the drop of Mono Lake this year, an impactful yet dubious accomplishment. Between maximized surface water diversions and the ongoing daily capture of Mono Basin groundwater, DWP's water exports are removing the equivalent of half a foot of Mono Lake this year (see page 14).

Meanwhile, a DWP press release headline made lofty claims: "Highlighting Commitment to Sustainable Water Management and Stewardship of Eastern Sierra Resources."

DWP could certainly change operations in response to robust local water supply successes in the city. But operators were told to crank open the gates and water began flowing

away from Mono Lake to Los Angeles exactly as planned, on October 1.

As a result of DWP's water exports, at the start of the next runoff year, April 1, 2026, Mono Lake will be half a foot lower than it needs to be, and half a foot further from the healthy lake level DWP agreed to work toward 31 years ago.

How low could Mono go?

Will the winter ahead be a wet one? Or dry? Predictions abound, and snowfall in the months ahead will provide the real answer. But if dry conditions like those we've experienced over the recent 15 years return, the lake will drop to disappointing levels that raise new alarms.

Over the next 18 months, if we have a rerun of dry winters like those seen in 2013–2015 and again in 2020–2022, models project Mono Lake will fall below 6,380 feet. That would expand the landbridge to the nesting islands, giving predators access to vulnerable nesting gulls, and requiring deployment of the gull protection fence. It would also be a sad loss of the lake level progress made after the wet winter of 2023.

This dry scenario assumes DWP continues to maximize diversions, accelerating the lake's drop, because it always does. The outcome highlights the opportunity for the State Water Board to take a better approach, one which dynamically limits diversions to lock in lake level gains when they happen. ❖

DWP prepares to fight from page 4

Formation Environmental stated in its State Park permit application that the purpose of air quality monitoring was to calibrate and test air quality monitors "collaboratively with DWP and Great Basin." In fact, Great Basin had no prior knowledge of DWP's new monitoring plans and was surprised to learn that Formation Environmental and DWP were installing a series of air quality and soil moisture monitoring stations just below Great Basin's long-established monitoring equipment. The Inyo National Forest had previously rejected DWP's request to install particulate matter monitoring and dust plume observation equipment on their land and noted "the Mono Basin Comprehensive Management Plan direction on air specifically calls out working with Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District."

According to DWP and Formation, "The monitoring data proposed in this study plan is anticipated to improve our understanding of air quality issues in the region." Yet, decades of research at Mono Lake have already measured the worst particulate air pollution in the nation. Anyone who knows the Mono Basin—the Mono Lake Kootzaduka'a Tribe, north Mono Basin residents, motorists on Highway 167, Mono Lake visitors—already understand the air quality issues in this region. If you're unlucky enough to be caught in a dust event, it's difficult to breathe. If you're trying to enjoy the scenic views from the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center or Lee

Vining, the horizon is obscured.

According to Formation's permit application, "A better understanding of the mechanisms controlling PM10 emissions will improve potential management outcomes and ultimately the quality of outdoor recreation in the area." For DWP, "quality" may really mean less access. A *Los Angeles Times* article from August 4, 2025 reported that "DWP officials have suggested that a feasible solution [to hazardous air quality] would be to have a warning system and restrict public access to remote, dust-prone areas when high winds are forecast."

DWP's new story line

DWP's push to launch its own air quality research, the helicopter groundwater survey, and the alkali fly research adds up to tens of millions of Los Angeles ratepayer dollars—all to oppose a healthier outcome for Mono Lake and its surrounding inhabitants.

These studies are expensive and unnecessary. State Water Board-ordered research and monitoring are already underway, and decades of scientific work was conducted for and evaluated in the State Water Board decision. If DWP was serious about raising Mono Lake to its healthy 6,392-foot lake level it would not be maximizing diversions, nor would it be spending millions of dollars to craft a new narrative designed to undermine the State Water Board decision. ❖

Inn Fire disrupts Mono Lake access

State Reserve boardwalk burned, removed, and awaiting replacement

by Elin Ljung

Memorial Day Weekend became, unfortunately, extra-eventful in the Mono Basin when the Inn Fire started late in the afternoon of May 22 on the edge of Highway 395 just south of the Mono Inn.

Fanned by erratic winds and fueled by unusually dry conditions, the fire spread rapidly across both sides of Highway 395 in the first several hours after it ignited. One home was burned, power poles and lines burned, cutting off power to Mono City and Bridgeport, the highway was closed, and evacuation orders were issued.

Thankfully, local volunteer fire departments and agency fire crews were able to protect many structures, including the Mono Inn, nearby homes, and the neighborhood of Mono City. Helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft dropped water and retardant almost continuously during daylight hours. Their hard work over the subsequent days and nights saved homes, allowed power to be restored after just 48 hours, made it possible to reopen Highway 395 during the busy holiday weekend, and eventually allowed residents to return home several days later.

Popular boardwalk burned

The Inn Fire reached the beloved Mono Lake County Park and State Reserve boardwalk on the northwest shore of Mono Lake. While the park's restrooms, playground, and most of the lawn survived, much of the Mono Lake Tufa State Natural Reserve boardwalk burned.

The wooden boardwalk allowed people to see tufa formations up close, watch birds, and walk through vital and sensitive marshy areas to platforms with breathtaking views of Mono Lake. Every summer for decades the Mono Lake Committee and State Reserve have led weekly birding tours at the park and down the boardwalk, introducing thousands of people to the Mono Basin's bird life. As one of the three access points to Mono Lake it is an important place for visitors and community members alike.

The Inn Fire was declared 100% contained on June 4, and as soon as access was safe, staff from the State Reserve, Committee, and Mono County met at the park to assess the boardwalk's condition.

The fire damage was both devastating

and fascinating—large sections of the boardwalk, surrounding willows, and the lakeshore observation platform burned to the ground, and while some sections remained intact, scattered embers had burned holes in the boardwalk surface and destabilized the support structure. Even though the boardwalk went through lush wetland and marsh, the dry 25-year-old wooden structure ignited from the erratic winds and blowing embers.

Due to the scale of the damage, the State Reserve determined that the entire boardwalk needed to be removed and replaced.

Community removal effort

The Committee quickly organized a volunteer effort and worked with the State Reserve, Mono County, and the Bodie Foundation to remove the burned boardwalk as the first step toward eventual replacement.

During several days in mid-July, 75 volunteers and staff worked together to remove the entire boardwalk. A wide variety of folks came to help, from Mono Lake Volunteers to individuals who saw flyers posted locally. Some traveled across California to support the work, coming from the Bay Area, Sacramento, the central California coast, and Los Angeles. The many zip codes represented showcased wide-reaching appreciation and love for the Mono Basin.

Partner coordination and organization allowed volunteers with a variety of skill sets to work swiftly. One group helped clear spiky remnants of burned plants, another team focused on removing nails from the wood planks, and a third group focused on disassembling the boardwalk. When possible, wood was salvaged for use at local visitor sites, and burned and damaged material



After the Inn Fire was contained, 75 people worked to remove the entire damaged State Reserve boardwalk at County Park, readying the site for a new, non-combustible boardwalk.

Continued on page 13

was transported by Mono County for disposal. The Lee Vining Women's League, Linda Dore of the former Epic Café, and volunteers kept the work crews fed and hydrated.

The removal project had been planned for three days, but thanks to the enthusiastic volunteers the work was completed by early afternoon on the second day. State Reserve employees commented that what was done in a day and a half would have taken their small team a whole season to complete.

As sections of the boardwalk were carried away one treasure was found: a wedding ring that must have slipped between the planks years ago. The distinctive ring features markings that memorialize a location near Catalina Island. Sound familiar? We'd love to reunite the ring and owner—please contact us at info@monolake.org.

Replacing the boardwalk

The outpouring of volunteer and partner support completed the removal and added momentum to planning and building a replacement. The Mono Lake Committee has subsequently met with California State Parks staff to discuss those plans.

The State has committed to replacing the boardwalk using modern, non-combustible materials that have become standard in the 25 years since the boardwalk was built. The new



GEORGE MCQUILKIN

Although the State Reserve boardwalk was located in a lush wetland and marsh, the Inn Fire burned the dry 25-year-old wooden structure enough to necessitate a complete replacement.

boardwalk will follow the path of the old one, winding through willows and tufa towers to reach the lakeshore. Allowing visitors to reach the water is an important feature of all public access sites at Mono Lake; a boardwalk provides safe access while protecting sensitive wetland habitat.

Interpretive signs and the removeable nature of the boardwalk will continue to give visitors visual cues that by now Mono Lake should be much higher, and the boardwalk itself should be much shorter. If the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power hadn't maximized its water diversions during the past three decades and had actually allowed Mono Lake to rise further toward the mandated healthy level—which

is nine feet higher than today—the boardwalk reconstruction would be more straightforward. People reaching a viewing platform at the end would be able to enjoy Mono Lake at a healthier level, with fewer dust storms and a vibrant ecosystem flourishing in the water just yards from where they stand.

The Mono Lake Committee is supporting fast action in hopes the State Reserve can replace the boardwalk so that visitors arriving next summer can once again reach the shore from County Park. ❖

Elin Ljung is the Committee's Communications Coordinator. Like many other staff and neighbors, she and her family were evacuated during the Inn Fire.

All of this work is setting the Tribe up to continue forward with their priority plans for the land, which center around stewarding and protecting the land, using Kootzaduka's traditional practices, and building capacity for the Tribe. These goals go hand in hand, as the Tribe described in a 2023 proposal—they are "tried and true traditional stewardship practices that have served the Tribe and the landscape well for millennia."

This ongoing work includes developing and using "nature-based

solutions to climate change impacts." The Tribe will establish a Tribally led conservation crew that will "work toward restoring landscape resilience," maintain and steward the land, protect the critical habitat it provides for many species, and help run educational programs and camps to share the area with visitors.

Because Tupe Nobe is particularly vulnerable to fire, the Tribe is also prioritizing removing dead wood and other fire starters. They also applied for a grant through the California EPA's

Environmental Justice Action Program to bolster this work.

The Tribe also shares that Tupe Nobe will be important as a place for ceremonies and cultural events. This land provides vital space to keep traditions alive. ❖

Caelen McQuilkin is a correspondent for the Mono Lake Newsletter. She wrote this article in collaboration and with approval from members of the Mono Lake Kootzaduka's Tribe.

Streamwatch

Rush Creek flows reduced by DWP's water management

by Greg Reis

This spring's shifting snowmelt runoff forecasts highlight that the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (DWP) needs to modernize its forecasting methods and ensure access to reliable data in the Mono Basin.

No peak flow was required on Rush Creek due to DWP's revision of the May runoff forecast, which was significantly lower than the preliminary April forecast (see Summer 2025 *Mono Lake Newsletter*). The May forecast was developed from flawed methodology that uses the lower May 1 snow water content in the April 1 forecasting equation.

DWP relies on outdated regression equations that were developed with data from the past climate. Using modern airborne snowpack survey methods, which are used in adjacent watersheds,

would vastly increase accuracy in runoff forecasting.

DWP's Annual Operations Plan for the Mono Basin planned a mid-June start to water exports to prevent "unintended spills" from Grant Lake Reservoir into Rush Creek. Fortunately, DWP didn't start exporting right away and Rush Creek benefited when Grant spilled June 11–27. Exports occurred June 17–July 26 and resumed on October 1.

Rush Creek would have reached a more natural 250 cubic feet per second (cfs) peak flow if DWP had followed the Mono Lake Committee's recommendation to stop exports earlier last winter. Instead, it got a peak of 163 cfs, when augmented by Lee Vining Creek diversions. Lee Vining Creek peaked at 278 cfs, Parker Creek 43 cfs, and Walker Creek 25 cfs—all close to

median-year peak flows. Rush Creek's unimpaired median peak flow is close to 400 cfs.

DWP's decision to begin exporting in the summer and to maximize diversions impacts Mono Lake, Grant Lake Reservoir levels, and stream restoration. Exports could be delayed to later in the season to maximize Rush Creek peak flows and advance restoration. DWP's approach is not based on collaboration and unnecessarily conflicts with a restoration goal established in 1998 to maximize peak flows in Rush Creek—a goal that reflects best management practices and that still applies to the wetter year types in DWP's 2021 water rights license. ❖

Lakewatch

DWP's water exports are responsible for almost half of Mono Lake's decline this year

by Greg Reis

In May, DWP predicted Mono Lake would decline 1.1 feet this runoff year—the biggest predicted decline in ten years. Half a foot of this decline is due to DWP's surface and groundwater exports. If surface water exports were released to Mono Lake instead of being exported, Mono Lake would drop less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a foot this year.

Considering the needs of Los Angeles, the State Water Board allowed stream diversions during the projected 20-year

transition period while the lake was below the 6,392' management level, even though it would slow Mono Lake's rise. But the 16,000 acre-feet of surface water DWP is currently allowed to export annually is too much to allow the lake to rise from its severely lowered level caused by 45 years of unrestricted exports. The management level is now 11 years past due and Mono Lake is still 9 feet too low.

In the 31 years since the State Water Board decision, LA has reduced its urban water use by 26%, from 652,000 acre-feet to 484,000 acre-feet (ten-year averages). The city has increased its local stormwater capture programs and will continue expanding its recycled water supplies by 50,000–100,000 acre-

feet in the next five to ten years (see page 6). DWP delivering more of its permitted 16,000 acre-feet of export to Mono Lake is entirely feasible.

Mono Lake's level is 6,382.4 feet above sea level, on track with that predicted 1.1-foot drop. DWP could have reduced exports to mitigate this poor outcome, but as usual, it did not. The lake's ecosystem cumulatively suffers when diversions are maximized. Each year DWP does this it prevents Mono Lake from rising closer to the a healthy level the State Water Board ordered in 1994. ❖

Greg Reis is the Committee's Information & Restoration Specialist. He is writing a book about climbing mountains.

6,417'

Prediversion lake level, 1941

6,392'

Management lake level

6,382.4'

Current lake level

6,372'

Historic low, 1982

Mono Basin Journal

A roundup of quiet happenings at Mono Lake

by Geoffrey McQuilkin



Geoff McQuilkin

Wilson's Phalaropes arrived by the thousands in late July, delighting many South Tufa visitors as dense flocks of these small shorebirds flew with flashing wings among towering tufa.

They appeared with impeccable timing, just as *Los Angeles Times* reporter Ian James came to town to research his front-page article highlighting Mono Lake's need for more water. During his visit to the lake the phalaropes were a highlight, flying overhead, swimming in circles for alkali flies, resting on tufa, and all the while demonstrating their essential connection to salt lakes across the hemisphere. James went on to write a feature story just about them, their vast migratory journeys, and the youth connections they've inspired between continents.

Paddling on the lake, I watched phalaropes delicately snap up alkali flies. We know the flies expend extra energy to survive the high salinity of the low lake, reducing their body size and reproduction success. As I watched the phalaropes I couldn't help but think that what we marvel at today is a diminished version of Mono Lake. That makes it both challenging and inspiring to imagine how phalaropes will thrive at the very achievable, higher, healthier Mono Lake of the future. ❖

Geoff McQuilkin is the Committee's Executive Director. His youngest daughter is measuring Mono Lake's seasonal variation in clarity for her science fair project.

Benchmarks



Sophie Coyne

July 2024: Mono Lake was at 6,384.1 feet above sea level, the highest level it reached in 17 years.



Andrew Youssef

October 2025: Mono Lake dropped to 6,382.4 feet, 1.7 feet lower than its high stand in July 2024.

2025 Free Drawing to protect Mono Lake

Tickets due by December 9

When you enter the Mono Lake Committee's Free Drawing you get a chance to win one (or more!) of these exciting prizes, and you strengthen our effort to protect Mono Lake from ongoing threats. Thank you to all the generous businesses and organizations who donated prizes for this year's Free Drawing, which is one of our largest annual fundraisers. Mail in your tickets today (find them in the center of this *Newsletter*) for a chance to win and see all the prize details at monolake.org/freedrawing.

You could win one of these great prizes:

- Mammoth Mountain & June Mountain ski pass
- two-night stay at the Empeiria High Sierra Hotel, breakfast at Stellar Brew, horseback ride with Frontier Pack Train, gift certificates for Booky Joint and Minaret Cinemas, and dinner at Giovanni's Restaurant
- Mono Basin Field Seminar for two and breakfast at Stellar Brew
- two-night stay at the historic Yosemite Valley Lodge
- one-night stay at The Redwoods in Yosemite plus a Yosemite Conservancy guided outdoor adventure
- Tamarack Cross Country Ski Center season pass
- Mono Lake Committee canoe tour for four
- camp comfort gift packs: camp chair and puffy blanket
- Patagonia Nano Puff jackets and gear
- priority registration for the 2026 Owens Valley Bird Festival and a gift certificate for Looney Bean
- Mono Lake Committee bookstore shopping spree
- admission to the Nevada Museum of Art and the Fleischmann Planetarium in Reno
- tickets to the 2026 California River Awards Gala hosted by Friends of the River
- admission to The Huntington and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
- one-night stay at Murphey's Motel in Lee Vining, a Mono Lake canoe tour, and a movie at Minaret Cinemas
- two-night stay at the Inn at Benton Hot Springs plus breakfast and coffee from Looney Bean and a gift certificate for Eastside Sports in Bishop
- sailing trip on San Francisco Bay with Captain Kirk's Sailing Adventures
- Island Packers cruise to Channel Islands National Park
- Mono Arts Council art and wine experience for two
- Bodie Foundation custom tour for four
- Mammoth Mountain pint glasses, tumblers, and coasters from North Drinkware
- admission to the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach
- Pentax Papilio II 8.5 x 21 binoculars
- Juniper Ridge home and body care gift set
- photography books by Dennis Flaherty, Robb Hirsch, and Jeff Sullivan
- admission to the USS Midway Museum and the Fleet Science Center in San Diego
- full-day boat rental from Lundy Lake Resort and gift certificates for Great Basin Bakery and Looney Bean
- Parks Project gift bag



affect Mono Lake, and what I highlighted is that, regardless of what DWP has to say, the City views water management quite differently than it did in the old days of William Mulholland. As a result, for the three decades since Los Angeles accepted the State Water Board decision we've made a difference at Mono Lake, which would otherwise have collapsed ecologically by now. Even as we celebrate that progress, I emphasized that there is work to be done to achieve the healthy lake level—and that, through partnership, a sustainable water future is achievable for both Mono Lake and Los Angeles.

To wrap things up I quoted the City Council's Mono Lake Day Resolution, which concludes with a vision of the future "in which lakes, streams, cities, wildlife and people all have an opportunity to thrive together."

City Council members, who oversee the largest public utility in the nation, are well acquainted with the need to parse DWP's claims. Comments from Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky, a water policy expert, were icing on the cake. After thanking the Mono Lake Committee for decades of hard work advocating for an ecosystem that the city directly impacts and appreciates, she observed, "There's still

plenty more work to do ... progress is not victory..." And that is what protecting Mono Lake is all about: doing the work, making progress, and pursuing a future where we all—birds, brine shrimp, and all of us who care for the lake—thrive. ❖



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANA SANCHEZ

Celebrating Mono Lake Day 2025 in Los Angeles with some of the many people instrumental in securing funding for local LA water projects to offset Mono Lake diversions in 1993, many of whom are pictured in the poster they are holding. Left to right: Zev Yaroslavsky, Richard Atwater, Martha Davis, Richard Katz, Ruth Galanter, Geoff McQuilkin, Mary Nichols, Tom Soto.

Walking Water returns to Mono Lake

by Teri Tracy

As the sun rose in a hazy sky, a group gathered at Mono Lake to launch Lake to Lake 2025, a Walking Water project contributing to an "ever-growing Indigenous-led movement that calls for the restoration of our relations with water." Charlotte Lange, Chairperson of the Mono Lake Kootzaduka'a Tribe, led the September 1 opening ceremony. With poignant narrative, she illustrated the Tribal importance of Kootzabaa'a (Mono Lake) and its tributary creeks and the need to restore them to health. Community members from the Mono Basin and Payahuunadü (Owens Valley) joined the early-morning circle as Eared Grebes dove and resurfaced in the shimmering distance.

Inspired by their journey from Mono Lake to Los Angeles ten years ago, Walking Water set out to retrace the path from Mono Lake to Owens Lake, "in celebration of the original journey and in witness to what has and has not changed in this iconic California water story." With the sun nearly obscured by wildfire smoke from the Garnet Fire, the group walked the dirt roads heading south, joined by Mono Lake Committee staff, including former and current Executive Directors Martha Davis and Geoff McQuilkin. Participants learned about the need to reduce water exports because Mono

Lake has been well below the healthy, mandated level of 6,392 feet above sea level.

The first day ended at West Portal, the site of the historic encampment built during the construction of the Los Angeles Aqueduct in the Mono Basin. The Committee sponsored a shared dinner, and though walkers planned to camp, they were grateful to escape the smoke and sleep indoors at the Committee's nearby Mono Basin Outdoor Education Center.

The Committee was set to participate in events planned throughout the 22-day Lake to Lake journey, including community walks along the route and a panel discussion with Tribal and other water leaders from the Eastern Sierra and Los Angeles. Unfortunately, smoke intensified as Walking Water continued south, and remaining events were postponed. The Committee looks forward to re-engaging with Walking Water about sustainability in water use, LA's commitment to wise stewardship of water, and the importance of partnership and connection with communities in the Owens Valley.

For more about Walking Water, go to walking-water.org.



MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

INFORMATION CENTER & BOOKSTORE

Fall Catalog

See more
product
details
online at
[MONOLAKE.
ORG/SHOP](http://MONOLAKE.ORG/SHOP)

NEW!



CREWNECK MONO LAKE COMMITTEE LOGO SWEATSHIRT

This soft sweatshirt worn by Deja and Brendan comes in light heather gray with the Mono Lake Committee logo printed on both the front and back in darker gray. This lightweight sweatshirt is perfect for chilly evenings or when you just want a thin, comfy layer.

Mono Lake Committee exclusive.

Crewneck Mono Lake Committee logo sweatshirt, 52% cotton and 48% polyester, unisex sizes S-XXXL: \$60.00

CALIFORNIA GULL HOODIE

One of the largest breeding colonies of California Gulls is found at Mono Lake, where the gulls need water levels to rise in order to nest safely. Show your solidarity for the gulls like Pearl and Olivia by wearing this sage-colored hooded

sweatshirt that has the Mono Lake Committee logo printed on the front chest and a California Gull printed on the back in white. *Mono Lake Committee exclusive.*

California Gull hoodie, 50% cotton and 50% polyester, unisex sizes S-XXXL: \$60.00



BACK DETAIL

NEW!



MONO LAKE COMMITTEE LOGO CORDUROY CAP

This navy-blue corduroy cap worn by BreeLynn is perfect for wearing while you prepare your garden for winter or go for a walk in your favorite park. The corduroy fabric spruces up our classic cap and gives it a cozy, sweater-weather feel. *Mono Lake Committee exclusive.*

Mono Lake Committee logo corduroy cap, unisex, one size, adjustable: \$26.00

order at monolake.org/shop or (760) 647-6595

IT'S FOR THE BIRDS T-SHIRT

The latest edition of this T-shirt, modeled by Ana and Brendan, featuring Bishop artist Nancy Overholtz's beautiful American Avocet art, is an autumnal, rust red. Show your love for Mono Lake's shorebirds in this comfortable, heavyweight T-shirt with the reminder "Mono Lake – It's for the Birds" printed on the front. *Mono Lake Committee exclusive.*

*It's for the birds T-shirt, 100% cotton, unisex sizes
S-XXXL: \$30.00*



BACK DETAIL



FRONT DETAIL



MONO LAKE COMMITTEE LOGO INSULATED WATER BOTTLE

This snazzy, stainless steel water bottle is made almost entirely from recycled materials and is topped with a sustainably harvested bamboo cap. Meant to keep drinks cold, this bottle is vacuum insulated and has an opening that will fit ice cubes. It is free from BPA, PFAS, and lead and fits in a standard cup holder. The Mono Lake Committee logo and "Long Live Mono Lake" are laser-etched on opposite sides of the bottle in a subtle, classy style. *Mono Lake Committee exclusive.*

*Mono Lake Committee logo insulated water bottle,
20 ounces: \$50.00*

LONG LIVE MONO LAKE COASTERS

These vegetable-tanned leather coasters are hand-dyed blue and tooled by artist Becki Ayers with the words, "Long Live Mono Lake." They will make a beautiful conversation starter for your table.

Mono Lake Committee exclusive.

*Long Live Mono Lake coasters, set of four, natural
variations in blue dye color, 3 1/8": \$36.00*



TUFTED TITMOUSE



CHICKADEE



GRACKLE

HOLIDAY BIRD CARDS

These playful holiday bird cards are sure to bring a smile to anyone's face. Select from a dapper-looking Tufted Titmouse in elf shoes, a darling chickadee in a Santa hat, or an inquisitive Grackle cozily stuffed into a hanging stocking. *Holiday bird cards, individually sold, envelope included, please specify design, 4 1/4" x 5 1/2": \$6.50*



BRINE SHRIMP ORNAMENT

This ornament serves as a festive tribute to Mono Lake's endemic brine shrimp. Hang this ornament in your home as a shiny reminder of this iconic Mono Lake species.

This *Mono Lake Committee exclusive* is available in silver and gold.

Brine shrimp ornament, 3" tall, please specify color: \$12.50



MONO BASIN BIRDS KEYCHAIN

Each of these brass keychains is unique as they are cut from a custom Mono Basin bird print plate by Truckee artist Krista Tranquilla. Your unique array could include Osprey, American Avocet, American Dipper, Wilson's Phalarope, Common Nighthawk, Pinyon Jay, Clark's Nutcracker, Black-billed Magpie, Juniper Titmouse, Rock Wren, and Dark-eyed Junco.

Perfect for bird lovers. *Mono Lake Committee exclusive.*

Mono Basin birds keychain, 2"x ¾": \$16.00



CHARLEY HARPER ORIGAMI KIT

This origami kit is fun for anyone who likes to create and enjoys the flair of Charley Harper's mid-century modern wildlife art. It comes with detailed instructions to help fold up colorful little foxes, butterflies, penguins, ladybugs, and cardinals. This kit stretches the brain, tunes fine motor skills, and is a fun way to pass the time.

Charley Harper origami kit, 64 sheets, 6"x 6" sheets, 7¼"x 9" package: \$20.00



GREAT HORNED OWL PLUSH

Great Horned Owls are often heard at nighttime in the Mono Basin. The luckiest visitors get to see their chicks perched on the tufa towers where they occasionally nest. This larger-sized plush is wonderful for kids who love to snuggle their favorite animals.

Great Horned Owl plush, 9" tall: \$22.00



CLAY CREATURE KIT

This kit is a terrific way to ignite imaginative play. Park your little ones outside with the kit's six blocks of clay, wooden sculpting tool, and googly eyes and have them gather natural materials to incorporate into their creations. Rocks, sticks, flowers, and leaves are all fun additions to the clay figures.

Clay creature kit, 4"x 2½"x 6¾": \$15.00

See all the products featured in this catalog and more in full color online at MONOLAKE.ORG/SHOP.

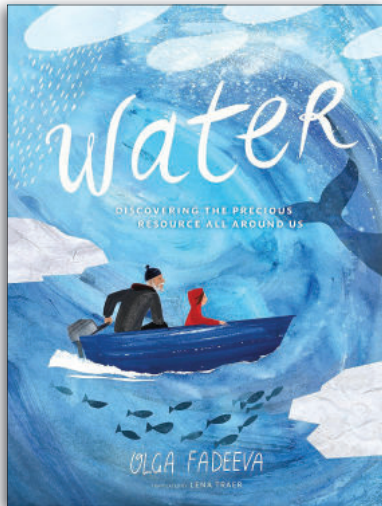
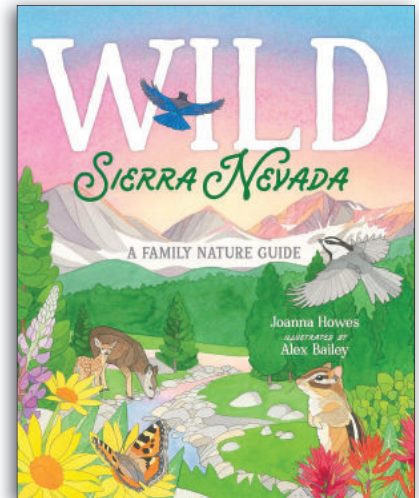
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WILD SIERRA NEVADA: A FAMILY NATURE GUIDE

WRITTEN BY JOANNA HOWES, ILLUSTRATED BY ALEX BAILEY

Beginner naturalists ages 4–8 will be delighted by this colorfully illustrated field guide—it is like a children’s version of the beloved *Laws Field Guide to the Sierra Nevada*, with sections on trees, mammals, shrubs, wildflowers, and birds. It is designed to build confidence in identifying common species and is the perfect companion for families exploring the outdoors together.

Wild Sierra Nevada, hardcover, 48 pages, Yosemite Conservancy, 10¾" x 8½": \$18.99



WATER

WRITTEN BY OLGA FADEEVA

TRANSLATED BY LENA TRAER

Inspire a wonder for water with this book full of fun facts and explanations. Readers ages 8–14 will learn about rain, clouds, underground water, river formations, rainbows, lakes, oceans, and seas. The whimsical layout of this book makes learning delightful and entertaining.

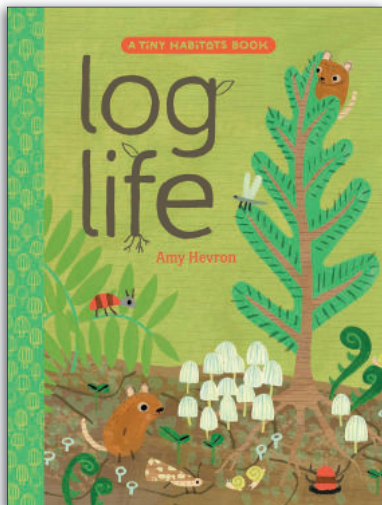
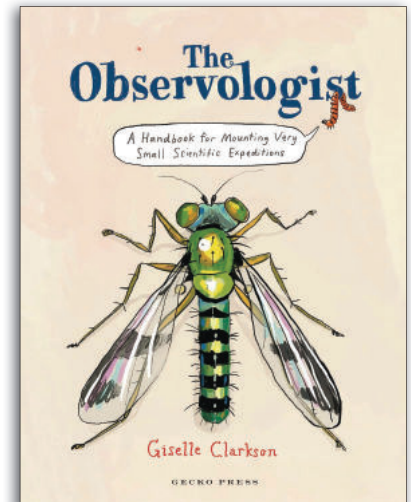
Water, hardcover, 56 pages, Eerdmans Books for Young Readers, 11" x 8½": \$18.99

THE OBSERVOLOGIST

WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY GISELLE CLARKSON

Children ages 8–13 will learn about the study of looking with this playful, quirky book full of doodles that cultivates curiosity. Readers will learn to study a damp corner, pavement, a weedy patch, and behind the curtains. Observations of everyday spots will serve as a primer for exploration of new places.

The Observologist, hardcover, 120 pages, Gecko Press, 10" x 8½": \$24.99



LOG LIFE

WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY AMY HEVRON

Emerging minds will love learning about how a fallen log becomes a source of life and opportunity for plants, animals, and insects. This sweet tale thoughtfully introduces young scientists ages 4–8 to ecological succession and forest habitat critters. Learn what life the log provides in each season, as well as one year, ten years, 100, 500, and 1,000 years after its falling.

Log Life, hardcover, 48 pages, Beach Lane Books, 11½" x 9": \$18.99

I'M BUILDING A NEST

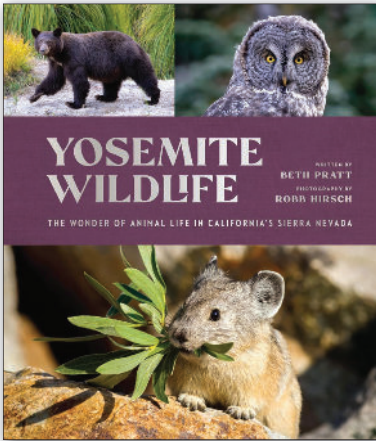
WRITTEN BY SASKIA GWINN

ILLUSTRATED BY ADAM MING

Readers ages 4–6 are invited to explore how different animals around the world find homes. Learn about animals that live in dens, tunnels, hills, caves, logs, nests, hives, and even hot springs. Narrated in a vibrant tone and brought to life by expressive illustrations, this book celebrates the care and creativity animals use to create safe places for themselves and their young.

I'm Building a Nest, hardcover, 48 pages, Happy Yak, 11½" x 9½": \$19.99





YOSEMITE WILDLIFE:

THE WONDER OF ANIMAL LIFE IN CALIFORNIA'S SIERRA NEVADA

WRITTEN BY BETH PRATT, PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBB HIRSCH

In their new, gorgeously written and beautifully photographed book, wildlife advocate Beth Pratt writes about more than 150 creatures large and small, with captivating images by biologist-turned-photographer Robb Hirsch. The first 75 copies purchased will come signed by the authors!

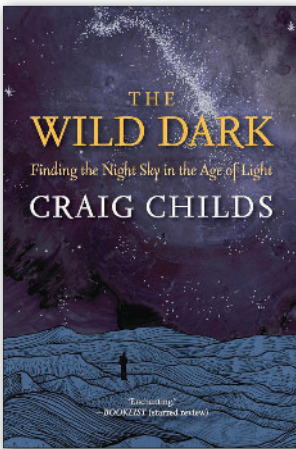
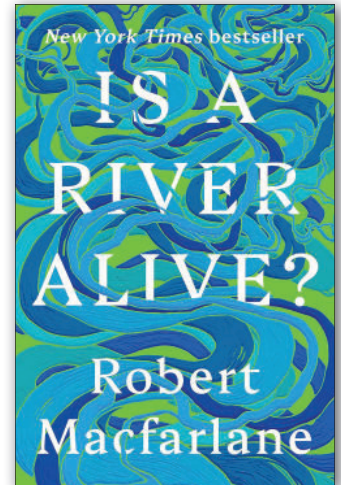
Yosemite Wildlife, hardcover, 456 pages, Yosemite Conservancy, 9½"x 11": \$60.00

IS A RIVER ALIVE?

BY ROBERT MACFARLANE

Poetic and urgent, this book asks what might change when we think of rivers as living things. In case studies of three rivers across the world, Robert Macfarlane explores the threats of mining, logging, industrial pollution, and dams, bringing the reader along in a confluence of storytelling and activism that just may transform the way we think.

Is a River Alive?, hardcover, 384 pages, W. W. Norton & Company, 9¼"x 6": \$31.99



THE WILD DARK:

FINDING THE NIGHT SKY IN THE AGE OF LIGHT

BY CRAIG CHILDS

Accompany Craig Childs on a journey from the beaming light pollution of the Las Vegas Strip to a place of immense darkness. He travels across nine Bortle rating zones, writing beautifully about his immersion into increasing darkness as he gets further away from the city. Childs points out that light pollution has an easy fix—the flip of a switch.

The Wild Dark, hardcover, 212 pages, Torrey House Press, 8¼"x 5½": \$24.95

WHEN IT ALL BURNS:

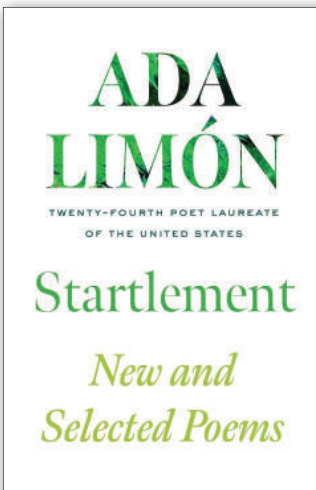
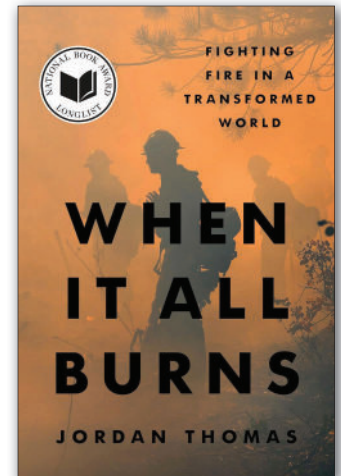
FIGHTING FIRE IN A TRANSFORMED WORLD

BY JORDAN THOMAS

Climate change is fanning the flames of megafires, which are burning longer and hotter than before.

Anthropologist and former firefighter Jordan Thomas writes about an especially trying fire season with the Los Padres Hotshots. Thomas discusses the new challenges of megafires and writes about how colonization ended controlled burns by Indigenous people, and the ways that certain industries profit from disasters.

When It All Burns, hardcover, 368 pages, Riverhead Books, 9¼"x 6¼": \$30.00



STARTLEMENT: NEW AND SELECTED POEMS

BY ADA LIMÓN

Perhaps we so deeply appreciate the way Poet Laureate Ada Limón causes the natural and human realms to collide because we yearn for such connection to nature and genuine emotion in a world increasingly weighed down by the trappings of technology and mirages of happiness. Thoughtful observations of nature are the essence of her writing, for example, "If you sit by the riverside, you see a culmination of all things upstream."

Startlement, hardcover, 232 pages, Milkweed Editions, 8½"x 5½": \$28.00

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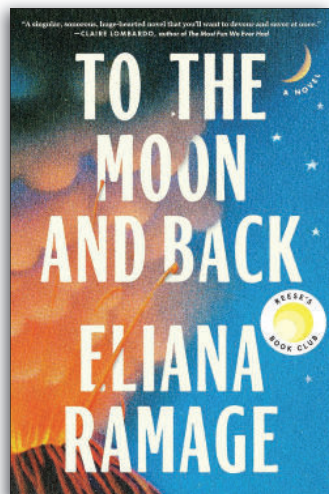
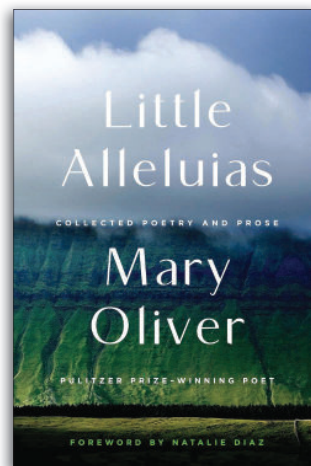
LITTLE ALLELUIAS: COLLECTED POETRY AND PROSE

BY MARY OLIVER

Much of Mary Oliver's poetry was written by salty waters and wetlands, places kindred to Mono Lake.

This volume is a posthumous compilation of a single, long poem *The Leaf and the Cloud*, her *What Do We Know* poetry collection, and her book of essays titled *Long Life*. From *Long Life*: "In water that departs forever and forever returns, we experience eternity."

Little Alleluias, paperback, 256 pages, Grand Central Publishing, 8¼"x 5¼": \$23.99



TO THE MOON AND BACK

BY ELIANA RAMAGE

Cherokee Steph Harper is raised in Tahlequah, Oklahoma after she, her mom, and her sister flee an abusive home. As

a child looking at the stars, she dreams of becoming an astronaut so she pours herself into pursuing a prestigious education in hopes of one day joining NASA. The book centers around her three formative relationships and is laced with themes such as Indigenous identity, ambition, disappointment, family bonds, and love.

To the Moon and Back, hardcover, 448 pages, Avid Reader Press, 9¼"x 6¼": \$30.00

THESE MEMORIES DO NOT BELONG TO US

BY YIMING MA

In a dystopian future, China becomes known as Qin, the main, authoritarian world power. Citizens have the ability to exchange memories through an intracranial "Mindbank," and "Memory

Capitalism" allows people to live out the experiences of others. But as with all technology, there is room to alter it, and memories can be bent for selfish gain. This novel looks at how government and technology can be set up to control lives.

These Memories Do Not Belong to Us, hardcover, 224 pages, Mariner Books, 9¼"x 6¼": \$28.00



THE ISLAND OF LAST THINGS

BY EMMA SLOLEY

Emma Sloley's novel explores a reality of disappearing wildlife and wild spaces. The narrative follows Camille, a zookeeper on Alcatraz Island, which offers a haven for animals in a world where there is nothing wild and civil unrest has taken over. When a newcomer to Alcatraz offers her passage to a secret sanctuary, away from the unrest where wild animals roam free, Camille must decide: Does she stay where she is or does she risk it all for a chance of a better future?

The Island of Last Things, hardcover, 272 pages, Flatiron Books, 9¼"x 6½": \$28.99

BOG QUEEN

BY ANNA NORTH

At the intersection of the capitalistic interest of a peat moss business, environmental activists demanding protection for a bog, and a forensic scientist digging for clues comes a story about a 2,000-year-old woman's well-preserved body discovered in a bog and various obstacles in learning what happened to her. The book alternates between the voice of the forensic scientist weaving together a tapestry of events leading to the bog woman's death and the voice of the druid woman whose body was discovered. This book is an interesting mix of mystery, historical fiction, and climate fiction.

Bog Queen, hardcover, 288 pages, Bloomsbury Publishing, 9¼"x 6¼": \$28.99





HANDMADE CERAMIC FOOTHILLS & CREEKS MUG

This mug is perfect for enjoying a hot beverage on a cool morning. A vibrant blue glaze highlight drips down toward a clay-colored bottom. Its curves are like rolling Sierra foothills and the glaze is like the running waters of mountain creeks. This mug is made in Mammoth Lakes by nature-inspired artist, Kristen Gentilucci, who enjoys turning raw earth into functional art that is meant to be held, used, and loved.

Handmade ceramic foothills & creeks mug, natural variations in color glaze and size, holds 10–12 ounces: \$65.00

BATH SOAKS

Awaken with a bath soak chock full of rejuvenating and restorative ingredients. Choose from either the “wintertime” scent with eucalyptus and peppermint or the “open heart moon” scent with lavender, hibiscus, and rose. Both blends are specially created with wellness and relaxation in mind by Smoketree Apothecary in Mammoth Lakes.

Bath soaks, please specify scent, 5 ounces: \$30.00



NEAT LIPS MOISTURIZING SALVE

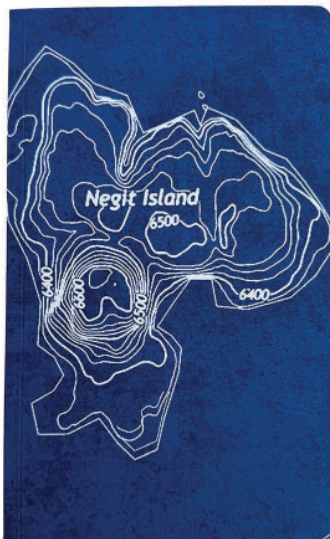
Protect your lips on the ski slopes, at the beach, and everywhere in between. Lather on a soothing blend of oils to create a barrier to exposure to wind, salt, and dry air. This lip salve is blended by hand in small batches by Smoketree Apothecary in Mammoth Lakes.

Neat Lips moisturizing salve, 0.17 ounces: \$18.00

SWEETGRASS BAR SOAP

Sweetgrass has a delicate and warming natural scent. Found in wetlands and along running water, sweetgrass has long been used by Native Americans for healing. This soap was crafted by a couple with Lakota and Dakota origins who incorporate traditional medicine knowledge in their soaps and reciprocity in their business.

Sweetgrass bar soap, 4½ ounces: \$11.00



NEGIT ISLAND NOTEBOOK

Featuring a topographic map of Negit Island, this notebook's cyanotype cover design was created by Sierra artist Kali McKeown using the magic of the sun in the Sierra Nevada. Whether you are jotting down field notes, sketching trails, or capturing late-night ideas under the stars, this *Mono Lake Committee exclusive* notebook is your lightweight, go-anywhere, remember-everything companion.

Negit Island notebook, 48 blank pages, acid-free paper, 5"x 8¼": \$22.00

FIRST SNOW CARD

Artist Michelle Snyder's letterpress print depicts a wintertime scene where sagebrush habitat meets the alpine after a light snowfall. The card captures a quiet dusk beneath a crescent moon, beckoning hearts to go on that nighttime backcountry ski.

First snow card, blank inside, envelope included, 5½"x 4¼": \$6.50



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2026 MONO LAKE CALENDAR

Next year's calendar features tufa towers, snowfall along Lee Vining Creek, majestic thunderheads, Lundy Canyon, fall foliage, and a Mono Basin moonrise. Each photograph is a reminder of why the Mono Lake Committee is dedicated to protecting this watershed.

Mono Lake Committee exclusive.

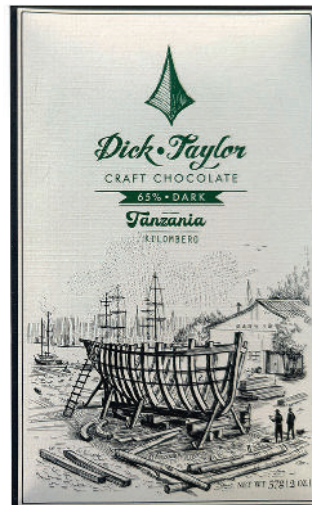
2026 Mono Lake Calendar, 13"x 9½": \$14.95

DICK TAYLOR CRAFT CHOCOLATE BARS

Sink your teeth into a crunchy and creamy quinoa milk chocolate bar or let a 65% Tanzania dark chocolate bar with notes of cherry and lemon melt in your mouth. These chocolates are crafted using transparent trade practices that provide fair wages to cacao farmers and meet high environmental standards.

Dick Taylor craft chocolate bars, please specify variety: \$12.00

*View all the ingredients for the products
on pages 24–25 at [MONOLAKE.ORG/SHOP](https://monolake.org/shop).*



MONO LAKE HOLIDAY CARD SET

Ten wintry wildlife cards designed by Wendy Morgan feature different wildlife species of the Mono Basin. This seasonal card set is a beautiful way to send holiday wishes with the message "May you have a Happy Holiday and joyous New Year" printed in red ink inside. *Mono Lake Committee exclusive.*

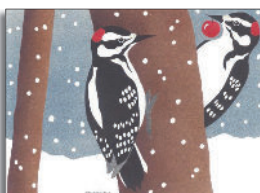
Mono Lake holiday card set, 10 unique cards with envelopes, 6¼"x 4½": \$17.00



BEARS



CLARK'S NUTCRACKERS



HAIRY WOODPECKERS



CHICKADEES



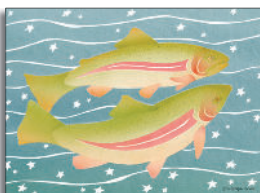
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Staff migrations

by Deja Charles-Tomkins

Fall is often a time for reflection as the cycle of another summer season comes to an end. As we experience the transitions of staffing it reminds us that, like the migratory birds of the Mono Basin, we at the Mono Lake Committee are experiencing another period of transition from one season to the next.

In July, we welcomed baby **Jesse Jules Jones** to the Committee family. Congratulations to his mom, Information Center & Bookstore Manager **Mara Krista Plato**, and his dad, **Pete Jones**. Best wishes on this exciting adventure!

Especially in summer, our work requires all hands on deck. A special thank you to our seasonal staff who helped support educational programming, inspire new and returning visitors to the Mono Basin, and make possible the work we do to save Mono Lake.



Jesse Jules Jones with his mom, Bookstore Manager Mara Krista Plato.

We were thankful to have **Chris Hamilton** return as a Project Specialist for a second summer season. His enthusiasm inspired people to become new Mono Lake Committee members, and he was the caretaker of our in-store brine shrimp. Chris migrated to the central California coast to pursue a fellowship with a newspaper to develop his career in journalism.

The Information Center & Bookstore was led by **Patience Brennan** and **Judith Goddard**, who helped many visitors and kept the bookstore humming along while Mara welcomed baby Jesse. At the end of the season, Patience left to pursue a PhD in Evolutionary Biology, and Judith returned to Mammoth Mountain Ski Area's ski school.

Canoe Coordinator **Brendan Peralez** guided visitors by boat on Mono Lake through tufa towers, plumes of brine shrimp, and phalarope murmurations. We are glad he agreed to stay on as a Project Specialist and will continue to welcome and guide visitors in the Mono Basin through winter and spring.

Birding Intern **Remy Perry** led flocks of birders on guided bird tours in Lundy Canyon. She migrated to Lee Vining from

the East Coast and has since made her return trip to Williams College for her third year, where she is studying Geosciences and Environmental Studies.

Alkali Fly Research Technician **Steve Root** spent his summer sampling and counting our favorite scuba diving flies. Steve will be enjoying winter in Mammoth Lakes. Field Monitoring & Reporting Intern **Sarah Lampley** divided her time between field monitoring, engaging with visitors in the bookstore, and canoe tours. Sarah returned to Mammoth Mountain Ski Area for her third winter working as a ski instructor.

Mono Lake Interns **Jazmin Morenzi**, **Diego Murguia**, and **Ana Wanner** brought much enthusiasm and positive energy to the office, bookstore, and interpretive programs. Jazmin and Diego completed a full audio recording of a South Tufa tour in Spanish. Ana split her time between staffing the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center and developing an interpretive table to help us further engage with the public. Jazmin returned to the East Coast to start her third year at Williams College studying English and Geosciences and participating in the Williams Outing Club. Diego started his second year at UC Davis continuing to study Geology. Ana remains close by to explore a teaching career by working at Lee Vining Elementary School as a teacher's aide. ❖

Deja Charles-Tomkins is the Committee's Operations Coordinator. She is hoping for lots of snow so she can continue learning how to snowboard this winter.



The 2025 Mono Lake Committee staff.



From the mailbag

News from members and friends

by Leslie Redman

Autumn has descended on the Mono Basin, leaving its mark with colorful aspen leaves and snow-dusted peaks. The seasonal change from summer to fall encourages us to slow down, take in the brief, dramatic display, and reflect on the importance of protecting this landscape. Thank you to all who donated in honor or in memory of friends and loved ones. Your support makes our work possible.

In honor

The **Bruno family** of San Fernando gave a gift in honor of **Corey & Chelsea Hatch**. **George Cervantes** of Carson City, NV donated in honor of **Tabatha**. **Karen Gaines** of Santa Fe, NM contributed in honor of **Madison & Dylan Gaines**. **Larry & Carol Holt** of San Diego gave a gift in honor of **Julie Calvert & David Briggs**. **Anna Plumley** of Van Nuys donated in honor of the **Plumley family**.

In memory

Grace Anderson of South Lake Tahoe, **Max Bier & Mary Anne Flett** of Point Reyes Station, and **Susan Sanders** of Nevada City contributed in memory of **Ted Beedy**. **Tom Benson** of New York, NY, **Allan Lerner** of Vancouver, WA, and **Phillipp Ruprecht** of Reno, NV gave gifts in memory of **Wes Hildreth**. **David Allen** of Sacramento donated in memory of **Alice Allen** and **Jerry Allen**. **Mark Bollinger** of San Rafael contributed in memory of **Anita Bollinger**. **William Butler** of Sparks, NV gave a gift in memory of **Emily Butler**. **Marilyn Cochran** of Corning donated in memory of **Daniel P. Thomas**. **Catherine Collamer** of El Portal contributed in memory of **Erin M. Anders**. **Anuj Agarwal** of San Mateo gave a gift in memory of **Rhona**.

Lyndi Cooper-Schroeder & Jack Schroeder of Reno, NV, **Patrick Denny** of Canadensis, PA, and **Anna & Bill Hook** of St. Louis, MO donated in memory of **Ted Schroeder**. **Marjorie E. Logan Davis** of San Carlos contributed in memory of **Elizabeth & Martin**

Strelneck. **Sally Gaines** of Crowley Lake, CA gave a gift in memory of **Liz Fleming**. **Mary Anne Flett & Max Bier** of Point Reyes Station donated in memory of **Jim Flett**. **Peter Hackett** of Ridgway, CO contributed in memory of **John Fischer**. **Dianna Higgs** of Las Vegas, NV gave a gift in memory of **Bill Mendoza**.

Joanna Hilker of San Luis Obispo and **Barbara Taaf & Kate SipzSimons** of Portland, OR donated in memory of **Bill & Virginia Hilker**. **Diana Stephens Holman** of San Diego contributed in memory of **Bill & Ben Stephens**. **William Krausman** of Fullerton gave a gift in memory of **Alfred & Helena Krausman**. **Christine Lozski** of Big Pine, **Leo & Dottie Mellon** of Happy Valley, OR, and **Donald & Ann Van Dyke** of San Diego donated in memory of **Bill Carson**.

Jane Matthewman of Mill Valley and **Kate St. Clair** of Aptos contributed in memory of **Rich Stallcup**. **Bill Miley** of Ojai gave a gift in memory of **Cookie Miley**. **Patrish Naegle** of Safety Harbor, FL donated in memory of **John & Leah Naegle**. **Sandra Newton** of Battle Ground, WA contributed in memory of **Mark S. Newton**. **Patricia Nikkel** of Spring Valley gave a gift in memory of **Buddy Edwards**. **Ingrid Parker** of Santa Cruz donated in memory of **Ken Norris**. **Darien Raistrick** of Big Sur contributed in memory of **Jory Hopkins**. **David Rogers** of Santa Fe, NM gave a gift in memory of **Shirley J. Dreiss**. **Judith Rubin** of Los Angeles donated in memory of **Marc Rubin**.

Helene Siebert of Burbank contributed in memory of **Jack L. Siebert**. The **Sylvester family** of Chico gave a gift in memory of **Frank S. Stephens**. **Marjorie Thomas** of Los Altos donated in memory of **Holly Warner**. **Stacie Tibbetts** of Tustin contributed in memory of **John M. Johnson**. **Michael & Stephanie Tiffany** of Ventura gave a gift in memory of **John & Susan Tiffany**. **Harry Turner** of Portola Valley donated in memory of **John W. Working**. **Gretchen Whisenand** of Santa Rosa contributed in memory of **Hap Dunning**. **Kirsten Winter** of Poway gave a gift in memory of **Karen Daniels**. ❖

Leslie Redman is the Committee's Membership Coordinator. Inspired by the inaugural "The Mammoth" 214-mile ultramarathon in the Eastern Sierra this fall, she has already begun training for next year's races.



American pika (*Ochotona princeps*).



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