

August 23, 2016

Special Meeting

Item #2a

Community

Development

**Comment Ltr. on the Inyo National
Forest Plan Revision & Draft
Environmental Impact Statement**

Presentation at Mono BOS Meeting Tuesday 23 August at Mammoth Lakes

1. My name is John Boynton. I'm a summer resident of the Mono Basin and a retired Duke University Biology Professor who taught and did research for 32 years.
2. I built a small house on the north side of Mono Lake in 1977. My 34 acre parcel became an inholding in the USFS Mono Basin Scenic Area in 1984.
3. I was a named plaintiff in the first of several lawsuits leading to the Public Trust Decision that reduced LADWP's water exports from the Mono Basin.
4. For three decades, I have closely followed the contentious issues regarding water allocation between Mill Creek and Wilson Creek in the North Basin.
5. During this time, I have provided written testimony to FERC, SCE, USFS, SWRCB and Mono County to support the continued flow in Wilson Creek.
6. A Wild & Scenic designation for only Mill Creek could influence future litigation and SWRCB decisions to preferentially allocate Lundy water to Mill Creek, severely reducing Wilson Creek flows and damaging North Basin Environment.
7. Therefore I request that the Mono BOS recommend the lower reaches of both Mill Creek and Wilson Creek for Wild & Scenic status in their comments on the Inyo National Forest Plan, based on the unique ecological significance of both creeks.
8. If the Mono BOS is unwilling to recommend both Mill Creek and Wilson Creek for Wild & Scenic status, they should not recommend either creek to avoid prejudicing future legal decisions affecting water allocation between these two creeks.

Ecologically significant features of Wilson Creek that could be threatened if only Mill Creek receives a Wild & Scenic designation, resulting in reduced Wilson Creek flows:

1. Green vistas of Conway Ranch Meadows from the Conway Summit overlook that depend on irrigation with water from Wilson Creek could disappear.
2. The only remaining wet meadow habitat in the Mono Basin found on Conway Ranch would disappear as it depends on irrigation from Wilson Creek.
3. Self-sustaining brown trout populations existing along stretches of Wilson Creek would be eliminated.
4. The fresh water delta wetland at the mouth of Wilson Creek that supports thousands of shore birds would be threatened. Shore birds appear to prefer the Wilson Creek delta to the adjacent mouth of Mill Creek located less than a mile to the west.