

August 9, 2016
Regular Meeting
Board of Supervisors

Item #9a -
Additional Letters
Comments on the
Inyo National Forest
Plan Revision & DEIS

Helen Nunn

From: Tim <timalpers1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 08, 2016 9:02 PM
To: Helen Nunn
Subject: Fwd: Inyo National Forest Draft Forest Management Plan

Begin forwarded message:

Resent-From: <talpers@mono.ca.gov>
From: Gary Nelson <admiralnelson52@gmail.com>
Date: August 8, 2016 at 4:33:09 PM PDT
To: <talpers@mono.ca.gov>
Subject: Inyo National Forest Draft Forest Management Plan

Dear Tim,

This Management Plan is something we will have to live with for a long time and we hope that it will reflect reliance on our new economic base - Mono County wild by nature. Maintenance of INF recreation facilities has been deferred for far too long.

There are no trail maintenance or backcountry rangers anymore. Last year Geoff McQuilken and family did the John Muir Trail and encountered no rangers until they entered Kings Canyon National Park. Hiking up Lundy Canyon will soon require bringing a machete.

Mono City and Lee Vining are surrounded by dangerous buildups of wildfire fuel on Federal Lands. We have repeatedly requested that they reduce the danger posed by unchecked fuel buildups. They have done this twice in the nearly 30 years I have been here. Correctly designed fuel breaks which are maintained yearly will save property and the lives of residents and firefighters.

A long-time Lee Vining resident was totally anti-wilderness when we first met him, but recently admitted that the establishment of the Mono Basin Scenic Area and Tufa State Reserve have greatly benefitted the area's economy. Please support wilderness additions to the INF. Today's generation and future generations will thank you.

Gary Nelson and Deborah Lurie

Mono County Board of Supervisors
Outline of INF Plan Comments for Discussion

Aug. 9, 2016

• **INTRODUCTION**

- Emphasize INF's critical role in Mono County's success based on strategic plan focus areas of environmental sustainability and economic base.
 - Note % of lands in Mono County comprised of INF-managed lands
 - Note reliance on recreation & tourism industry
- Note particular areas of interest in partnership and stewardship of the land
- Generally support Alternative B with suggested modifications.
- Note comments are consistent with General Plan and Strategic Plan
- Appreciate that the plan is based on Best Available Science and the need for adaptive management.

• **FIRE MANAGEMENT**

- Support efforts to develop a biomass market to encourage and increase the economic viability of fuel reduction treatments. Note biomass support is entirely related to fuels reduction treatment (as opposed to timber harvesting).
- Support collaborative efforts with other federal, state, and local fire districts; fire does not recognize political boundaries.
- Support management of smoke impacts due to visual/scenic and health/safety impacts.
- Support fuel reduction focus around communities and travel corridors
- Note the County's recognition of wildfire risk and the need to return the resiliency of fire-adapted systems to avoid catastrophic events

• **ECOLOGICAL INTEGRITY**

- Support focus on sage grouse, collaboration with the Bi-State partners, and consistency with the Bi-State Action Plan.
- Provide sufficient management direction and guidance for at-risk species to maintain ecosystem integrity such that potential Endangered Species Act listings are not necessary
- Plan addresses preventing the spread of invasive species, however, plan seems to lack specific direction and management for treating and eradicating existing invasive species.

• **SUSTAINABLE RECREATION AND DESIGNATED AREAS**

- Commend the INF for including partnership language & highlight Mono County's willingness to work together
 - Encourage creation of Partnership Coordinator position
- P. 84 Scenic Byways: Lee Vining Canyon Scenic Byway – provide for interpretive displays/opportunities as noted in the Mono County Regional Transportation Plan.
- Note film partnerships are important to Mono County's economy: current plan language states "Filming opportunities are authorized that encourage responsible use and stewardship of public lands." (in certain Recreation Places descriptions)
- Support ESRC/ESCOG points (attachment 1 to staff report)
- Missing Components:
 - Provide measurable objectives for Partnerships (Chapter 3, Plan Objectives): encourages implementation and accountability, and enables celebration of successes
 - Support the expansion of summer recreation activities and associated facilities at ski areas per the USFS guidelines based on the Ski Area Recreational Opportunity Enhancement Act of 2011, particularly for June Mountain.

- Address the need to manage parking at destination locations
- Emerging issue: drones – have heard community concerns

- **WILDERNESS and WILD & SCENIC RIVERS**

- Are wilderness additions supported?
 - Glass Mountains (Alt C): An alternative could be to recognize the nature of critical resources in this area and recommend it be protect in some way, while continuing to provide for fuel reduction and other management activities.
 - Also in Alt C: Dexter Canyon, Excelsior, Horse Meadow
 - Suggested via public comment: Ansel Adams Addition, Solitude Canyon
- Are Wild & Scenic River designations supported?
 - Rock Creek (in all Alts)
 - Suggested via public comment: Dexter Canyon, Wet Canyon, S. Fork Birch Creek, O’Harrel Canyon Creek, Rush/Parker/Walker creeks

- **OTHER**

Local Communities

- Provide language to work with local communities on meeting service and infrastructure needs for health & safety and community viability

Energy

- Provide standards and guidelines for potential energy corridors, including compatibility with scenic integrity objectives and ecological integrity

Appendix B: Proposed and Possible Actions

- This section contains a level of detail that more directly affects stakeholders and local communities, but these can be modified at an administrative level. Request the INF conduct outreach with local communities prior to any changes.

Helen Nunn

From: HihnJoanne <jhphotos73@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 08, 2016 3:14 PM
To: r5planrevision@fs.fed.us
Cc: Stacy Corless; Tim Fesko; Tim Alpers; Fred Stump; Larry Johnston; Helen Nunn
Subject: Comment Letter Re Inyo National Forest Draft Plan

Planning Team Leader

Forest Plan Revision

1839 South Newcomb Street

Porterville, CA 93257

Dear Planning Team Leader,

The Inyo National Forest figured prominently in our decision to move to Mammoth Lakes, CA from upstate New York in April of 2012. My husband and I were searching for a place to set down roots in our retirement years. We visited the Eastern Sierra the previous year and fell in love with the area that offered us the opportunity to get into truly wild places, something we have enjoyed doing all of our lives. As we settled into our new home and began exploring this remarkable land, we were struck by the fact that wilderness in the form of forests, lakes, mountains, and both riparian and desert terrain, was easily accessible and enjoyed in a variety of ways by locals and guests alike.

It is essential that we continue to open these wilderness areas for all to enjoy, but we also must remain vigilant that we preserve these special places in their wild state by protecting critical water resources, fish and wildlife habitats using science-based best practice. The Draft Inyo Forest Plan is a first step in laying out strategies for the continued protection of our precious wild places. It can be strengthened in several ways:

1. Provide better education to prepare visitors for their interaction with wilderness in a responsible way. Signage should be more complete and maintained so visitors will have an understanding about what areas are available to them and which areas are out of bounds due to delicate ecosystems or protection of vulnerable and at-risk species including sage grouse, black-backed woodpeckers, Desert and Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep, willow flycatchers, Yosemite toads, California Golden Trout, pine marten, northern goshawks, and endangered native plants.
2. Extend "wilderness" designation, particularly to areas which are adjacent to existing wilderness: I have a particular interest in these areas: Glass Mountain, Ansel Adams Addition, Deep Springs North (adjacent to Bristlecone Pine Forest), and White Mountain Addition East, since I have hiked extensively in these areas and can personally attest to their diversity of ecosystems and primitive beauty.

3. Streams and wild rivers such as Dexter Canyon and Wet Canyons, South Fork Birch Creek, O'Harrel Canyon Creek and the restored Mono Lake tributaries of Rush, Parker and Walker Creeks should receive additional protection as they are important to fish and wildlife management.

4. Fire season is upon us. There are currently 3 fires (as of 8-7-16) that bring potential risks to wildlife, wilderness and the public. Please clarify in the Draft Plan that science-based fire mitigation practices should include the reduction of ground fuels (bushes and small trees) through prescribed burns. Trees larger than 24 inches should be protected from lumbering since these larger trees provide important habitat for birds and mammals.

5. Organizations like the Range of Light Group of the Sierra Club are anxious to partner with the Forest Service to assist in monitoring the health of the forest and aiding in the maintenance of recreational opportunities within the forest. The Range of Light Group has recently completed a project with the permission of the Forest Service to rejuvenate and improve old blue diamond Nordic ski routes in 3 local Mammoth areas: Shady Rest, Obsidian Dome and Inyo Craters. The ROLG also created, printed and distributed a map this past winter details the routes in the three areas. Again, we worked closely with the Forest Service to comply with its regulations. This is just one example of a successful partnership between the FS and a local community organization.

Please consider the above suggestions for improvement of the existing Inyo National Forest Draft Plan. There are so many of us who treasure our National Forest and are committed to preserving it for future generations. We have an opportunity to "get it right" if we all work together. Our first priority should be to protect the special wild places we all know and love.

Thank you.

Joanne Hihn

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August 9, 2016

RE: Comments on the Proposed Revision to the Inyo National Forest Land Management Plan

Dear Mono County Board of Supervisors,

The Proposed Revision to the Inyo National Forest Land Management Plan (Proposed Plan) represents a significant opportunity to substantially refocus how the Inyo National Forest is managed. The Town of Mammoth Lakes has been involved in the current Forest Planning process since the start of the process. The Town is generally supportive of the Proposed Revision to the Inyo National Forest Land Management Plan and preferred Alternative, noted as "Alternative B." The following comments on the Wilderness element of the Proposed Plan are provided for the Board of Supervisors' consideration.

Recommended Wilderness

As it relates to wilderness, as noted in the DEIS, "Alternative B would make a preliminary administrative recommendation to include four additional areas in the National Wilderness Preservation System on the Inyo National Forest (South Sierra; Piper Mountain Addition; White Mountains East; and White Mountains West). These are also referred to as "recommended wilderness areas." All four areas are adjacent to existing designated wilderness area boundaries and total 37,039 acres. No additional areas would be recommended on the Sequoia or Sierra National Forests."

Under Alternative B the Proposed Plan addition of 37,039 acres for wilderness consideration will place 51% of the Inyo National Forest as designated wilderness or managed as wilderness (1,004,068 acres). This leaves the remaining 49% of the forest to be managed in appropriate ways to meet the remaining Proposed Plans' objectives in the portion of the Forest that has been evaluated and found not being conducive to being designated as Wilderness.

The Town's support of Alternative B without any changes to the proposed Wilderness area additions is based in part on the following:

- While the Inyo National Forest has been thoroughly analyzed for its Wilderness character, it has yet to be fully analyzed for its unique recreation opportunities, and on behalf of our constituents the Town would like to see that analysis underway before weighing in on any additional Wilderness designation proposals.
- The Town wants to do what we can to work with the Inyo National Forest using their proposals for Sustainable Recreation to find new ways to manage the designated Wilderness that already exists while we take on the task of better understanding current and not yet considered recreation opportunities here in Mono County.

- The Town supports the Inyo National Forest staff and its analysis of areas like the Glass Mountains, which they determined would be a potentially problematic fit for Congressionally designated Wilderness given that many of the “facts on the ground” are not fully consistent with the essential requirements for Wilderness character.

As noted in the Proposed Plan, “The wilderness management area on the Inyo National Forest includes all existing wilderness areas that have been designated by Congress, as well as areas recommended for wilderness designation (Figure 7, appendix A). In addition to plan components that apply to all designated wilderness areas, the Ansel Adams and John Muir Wildernesses have additional desired conditions that are specific to three different types of wilderness recreation categories that occur across these two wildernesses. Similarly, the South Sierra Wilderness has additional desired conditions that are specific to four opportunity classes that occur across this wilderness. Individual wilderness plans provide wilderness area specific guidance in addition to the strategic level guidance provided in this land management plan.”

There is an overarching need to support the Forest Service and the elements of the Proposed Plan that focus on the use of partnerships and the need for management actions that support Sustainable Recreation on the Inyo National Forest. The framework provided in the Proposed Plan will assist in creating added value for visitors by providing experiences that are not overly focused on Wilderness trailheads (such as the Lakes Basin, Red’s Meadow, June Lake Loop), which place greater pressure on maintaining the wilderness character of existing dedicated areas. The opportunity for greater levels of dispersed mixed use recreational activities adds not only the ability to connect people with nature in new ways, but reduces the potential impacts on wilderness areas. To add new areas that may result in user conflicts, added management challenges, and a diversion of limited resources detracts from the long-term viability of the Eastern Sierra Region economically, socially, and environmentally.

The Town agrees with the Desired Conditions for Wilderness and supports management practices that will achieve these conditions. The addition of wilderness areas that have been determined to not meet the standards for wilderness character as provided for in the analysis will only add to the management conflicts and further stretch limited resources available for managing these areas until such time that Congress may act.

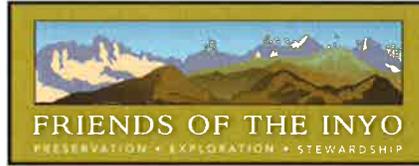
The Town of Mammoth Lakes hopes that the Board will take these comments into consideration as you work to finalize your own comments on the Forest Plan. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding these comments or if you would like to discuss them further.

Sincerely,



Daniel C. Holler
Town Manager

cc: Town Council



August 5, 2016

Mono County Board of Supervisors
PO Box 1903
Bridgeport, California

RE: Inyo National Forest Draft Forest Plan Revision and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Members of the Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Inyo National Forest Draft Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement to be discussed during your August 9, 2016 board meeting. Friends of the Inyo has been engaged on Forest Plan revision since 2012 and is working diligently to provide meaningful comments on all aspects of the plan. This letter includes our concerns and recommendations for revision of the draft management plan and further work needed in the analysis (DEIS) as it relates to Mono County. Friends of the Inyo asks the board to support alternative B with revisions and additions to topical areas including recommended wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, at-risk species, fire management, recreation and partnerships.

Recreation

Recreation is a driving force of the County's economy and in California generates over \$85 billion in consumer spending, 732,000 jobs, and \$6.7 billion in state and local tax revenue. The Eastern Sierra receives over 3 million visitors a year, most recreating on the Forest. The Plan should recognize the quality of recreation on the INF is directly tied to these figures and plan for a growing outdoor economy over the next decade. The Plan lays out a revised Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS). Overall, the ROS map for alternative B seems to best represent a balanced approach to multiple use recreation, but does not tie these classes to management guidelines or prescriptions. The Plan also lacks a winter ROS or any direction on winter recreation planning which would facilitate winter travel planning in 2017/2018. The ROS should be linked to plan components such as measurable objectives and guidelines to alleviate deferred maintenance of recreational facilities and provide direction ROS implementation. Our recommendation is for the Board is to urge a winter ROS and winter recreation plan components.

Partnerships

The Forest listened to many stakeholders during the scoping period and developed an appendix (C) on partnerships that recognizes the necessity and value of using partners to achieve management goals. Unfortunately the language used is vague and broad, with little to guide future Forest leadership in developing these partnerships. We suggest the Forest commit to hiring a partnership coordinator to establish and facilitate partnerships with non-profits and local agencies and government within three years of plan implementation. The Plan should incorporate Appendix C into plan components where partnership work

would be appropriate. The appendix should also recognize the partner work of organizations such as the June Lake Trails Committee, as well as the contribution of Mono County to maintaining USFS system trails.

Recommended Wilderness

Friends of the Inyo is asking the agency to move areas in Mono County, with boundary modifications as described below, under consideration in Alternative C to the preferred alternative (B). Recommended wilderness will attract a wide variety of visitors to these little known areas, while at the same time preserving traditional existing uses such as grazing, fish stocking, and hunting. These areas represent an economic opportunity to put these places on the map, which will draw visitation and help distribute visitors across the Forest who seek solitude and unconfined recreation. In addition, these areas provide habitat connectivity for both common and at-risk species, while also adding underrepresented ecosystems to the National Wilderness Preservation System- from old growth red fir and limber pine forests to alkali flats. We ask the board to support one or more of these areas in alternative B:

Glass Mountain

The Glass Mountains are the only east-west trending mountain range in the Eastern Sierra. It is part of the Long Valley Caldera, which comprises lava domes, rhyolite and obsidian flows. With diverse forests ranging from pinyon to limber and Jeffrey pine, as well as snowbank and riparian aspen groves, abundant meadows, spring-fed creeks, steep-walled canyons and high volcanic ridges, it represents a wonderful and truly unique ecological, recreational and cultural resource.

The crown jewel of unconfined recreation in the Glass Mountains is the northeast summit hike to the range's high point at 11,000 ft. It is this high ridge that represents the wildest part of the range and is the core of our wilderness recommendation. The DEIS alternative C recommends 34,591 acres of the original 40,368 acre wilderness evaluation polygon. The December 2015 alternative C acreage was much more realistic, with 17,443 acres around the highest part of the range. We believe this is an appropriate boundary for alternative B because it would provide the best opportunities for primitive recreation while avoiding conflicts with sage grouse habitat restoration and fuels treatment projects. We recommend the county support Glass Mountain as recommended wilderness with the 17,443 acre boundary modification.

Although we appreciate the desire for future recreational developments, we need to recognize this is a very large forest with many areas open for potential multiple use opportunities. We need a balanced approach to recreation planning that will preserve the integrity of the last and best remaining wild, roadless places we have remaining on the Inyo. The Glass Mountains is one of those places.

Ansel Adams Wilderness Addition

This area would be a long and thin addition (about 7,000 acres) to the existing Ansel Adams Wilderness (AAW). Also known as the Horse Meadows Inventoried Roadless Area, it includes the transitional slope from the floor of the Mono Basin to the mid-slope boundary of the Ansel Adams Wilderness. The addition would add mature, mixed conifer forests in Gibbs, Bloody and especially Sawmill canyons to the AAW. Extensive, old-growth mixed

conifer forest of this transitional zone is poorly represented in Wilderness on the Inyo National Forest. This mixed conifer zone is also unique for its diversity and inclusion of relatively rare conifer species- particularly healthy limber and western white pines. The current boundary is alternative C represents the entire evaluation polygon- an unrealistic footprint. Particularity, we ask for modifications that would exclude the unauthorized route up Bohler Canyon, which could be reopened at a later time, the Walker Lake area in its entirety, as well as developed recreational facilities. We ask the county to support a recommendation for this wilderness addition with appropriate boundary modifications.

Dexter Canyon

The 12,311 acre Dexter Canyon roadless area is perhaps the most geographically varied and ecologically rich on the north zone of the Inyo National Forest. A landscape of rough hewn granite knobs, rolling uplands, and flat volcanic mesas deeply incised with steep-walled canyons reminiscent of the desert southwest, Dexter is unlike anywhere on the Forest. The western portion supports old-growth lodgepole and Jeffrey pine forests dotted with sedge/rush-dominated meadows (Crooked, Dead Horse, Sagehen, Sentinel and Johnny Meadows) while the northern and eastern portion are defined by open sagebrush plains, extensive snowbank aspen groves and narrow riparian aspen filled canyons. Free-flowing North Canyon, Dexter Canyon, Wild Cow and Wet Canyon Creeks support locally-limited but ecologically critical riparian habitat.

Again, boundary modifications are needed to the Alt C map. During scoping, we provided detailed comments on a manageable boundary that would offer the best opportunities for primitive recreation and ecological protection. We also provided the Forest with a map of our proposed boundary. We ask the county to support a recommendation for Dexter Canyon with appropriate boundary modifications, with adjustments to exclude motorized system routes and INCLUDE the southwestern portion of the roadless area. We can provide our boundary modifications to the county if needed.

Pizona-Truman Meadows, Adobe Hills, South Huntoon Creek, Huntoon Creek

Collectively known as the Excelsiors, these four polygons comprise at over 40,000 acre area of wilderness quality lands with a few access roads separating polygons. An amazingly wild, untouched chunk of the western Great Basin, this landscape contains extensive pinyon-juniper woods, isolated ephemeral lakes, dune systems and locally limited but ecologically critical springs and associated riparian systems. When taken together with the contiguous inventoried roadless areas on the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest east of the CA-NV line, this roadless complex contains over 200,000 acres of unprotected, wild public lands rich in Native American and settlement area history. Some boundary modifications are needed and we can provide these to the county if needed.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

The Plan assessed 969 miles of waterways and identified nearly 160 miles of rivers and streams as eligible for potential Wild & Scenic River (WSR) protection. 11 eligible streams are in Mono County. They include Convict, Fish, Hot, Laurel, Lee Vining, Mill, Parker, Rock, Rush, and Walker Creeks and the Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River. Despite the extensive inventory, some key reaches were not determined eligible. The Mono Lake

tributaries have seen substantial changes in flow since the last rivers inventory. The Forest found eligible the upper reaches of Parker, Walker, Lee Vining and Rush Creeks. Lower reaches were not considered eligible. Wild and scenic rivers draw visitors to recreate, fish, hunt and hike and provide a great deal of economic value in their protection, a component that should be underscored in the Plan. Despite popular belief, wild and scenic river eligibility would not limit existing uses- the classification given to the river segment govern its use. Lower reaches of Mono Lake tributaries would likely be given a “scenic” or “recreation” classification. Most “wild” segments are already in existing wilderness. We ask the county to support the inclusion of the lower reaches of Mono Lake tributaries in the Forest’s wild and scenic river eligibility. Language in the Land Use section of the County General Plan is consistent with support for wild and scenic rivers.

Fire Management

The draft plan increases the use of prescribed fire and fire managed for resource and community benefits through redefined fire management zones. These new zones are a good start but need more robust objectives to restore natural fire regimes to the Eastern Sierra landscape. The draft Plan proposes to use prescribed fire on less than 1% of the landscape over the life of the plan. The emphasis should be on managing natural ignitions as an effective fire management tool, while at the same time increasing fuels treatment (with a 24 inch diameter limit on trees) and fire use. Currently the draft plan offers no protection of large diameter trees. One example of our recommendations for fire management is to increase the acreage of prescribed fire in dry conifer forests to 20,000 acres per decade. By comparison, alternative B currently has targets of 20,000-25,000 acres of prescribed burning per decade over the entire forest.

At-Risk Species

Friends of the Inyo will not provide comments here on plant species, but it is clear the draft Plan is extremely weak in its protection of vulnerable species and lacks clear management direction to sustain viable populations of at-risk wildlife species and their habitats. There is a need to add standards and guidelines for species considered at-risk by experts and wildlife agencies including Black-backed Woodpecker, Sierra Nevada and desert bighorn sheep, Northern Goshawk, Yosemite Toad and Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog. The agency has done a good job of including standards and guidelines for Sage Grouse, and we encourage the Forest to do the same for other wildlife species. There is also a dire need for the Forest to lay the groundwork for new wild horse management plans as the populations are increasing with unprecedented resource damage. We recommend the county use wildlife direction in the General Plan to support stronger protections of at-risk species.

In closing, we commend the Forest Service for their exemplary job at outreach and engagement to the public, local and tribal governments and various stakeholders during this long process. It is no easy task to pull together such a comprehensive and detailed document on all aspects of land management on the forest and the agency is open and willing to improve the draft plan. We also thank each of you for engaging in this planning process.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jora Fogg

FW: IMBA - Mono County Wilderness Discussion

Helen Nunn

Sent: Tuesday, August 9, 2016 8:44 AM

To: Helen Nunn

Dear Mono County Board of Supervisors,

It is my understanding that on today's board meeting agenda, there will be discussion on "Comments on the Inyo National Forest Plan Revision & DEIS". In particular, I wanted to add to your discussion of potential Wilderness designations for Mono County representing the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA).

IMBA is in support of Alternative B without any additional recommended Wilderness.

As you know, mountain biking and all mechanized use is restricted from recommended and designated Wilderness. And while Wilderness is certainly a very important component of the Mono County recreational experience, we feel as though there are valuable mountain biking opportunities that should be evaluated and considered by Mono County before the Board weighs in on any additional recommended Wilderness.

Mono County has huge potential to be a world class mountain biking destination, both summer mountain biking and winter fatbiking. In fact IMBA was thrilled to host the 2015 IMBA California Region Summit in Mono County last September, where over 70 mountain bike advocates and stewards from all over California came to experience the trails of Mono County. The growth of mountain bike tourism is compelling communities throughout California to invest in quality trail networks. Recreation-reliant communities are faced with the realities of climate change and drought years, and where other forms of recreation are impacted (i.e. skiing, flyfishing), mountain bike tourism creates economic resiliency.

The local chapter of IMBA, Sierra Eastside Mountain Biking Association (SEMBA), has been working diligently in support of the USFS efforts. Both IMBA and SEMBA will continue to be active partners with the USFS as they implement plans for Sustainable Recreation in Mono County.

Thanks very much for your consideration. Please don't hesitate to connect directly with me with any questions that you may have.

Laurel Harkness

California-Hawaii Region Director
International Mountain Bicycling Association
mobile: 530.859.9168

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MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

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August 9, 2016

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Subject: Mono Lake Committee's comments on the draft Inyo Forest Plan

Dear Supervisors Alpers, Corless, Fesko, Johnston, and Stump:

The Mono Lake Committee (MLC) would like to provide a brief summary of some of the comments we will be formally submitting to the Inyo National Forest (Inyo) on the Draft Revised Land Management Plan. On June 21st, during a Mono County Supervisor's workshop on this topic, you requested that organizations submit their comments to you in advance of the deadline so that you could consider them when formulating your comments. The comments below are priority areas that the MLC has identified and believes the County should consider as well.

MLC is a non-profit citizen's 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. Supported by 16,000 members, the MLC has been active in the Mono Basin since 1978.

MLC is still in the process of refining our final comments. Knowing that additional detail and providing our supporting rationale related to these items will be helpful, MLC plans to send our final comments to Community Development staff and all supervisors by August 12, 2016.

Given our geographic area of expertise, MLC has focused our attention on the Mono Basin and associated relevant areas of the draft plan. It is important to note that we have also been working with the Sierra Forest Legacy coalition that includes over a dozen environmental organizations and the MLC will be a signatory to those comprehensive, forest-wide comments as well.

Priority comment areas

1. **Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) inventory and eligibility findings.** The draft plan currently does not include the lower reaches of Mono Lake's tributary streams as eligible for WSR status. We will ask the Inyo to reconsider the detailed comments that MLC submitted to the Inyo in February 2016 (attached) related to Mono Basin streams and extensive supporting documentation for including them in the WSR inventory.

NC P.C.
Lisa
Cutting

Summary: At the time of the previous inventory recommendations by the Inyo in 1993, it was understandable that the lower reaches of Mono Lake's tributaries—Rush, Lee Vining, Parker, and Walker creeks—were determined to be ineligible. We were still a year away from the historic State Water Board Decision 1631 that balanced water exports to the city of Los Angeles with the needs of the creeks. If there was any water in the creeks at all it was a minimum amount and the creeks were in a highly degraded state after over 50 years of excessive water diversions.

However, since the 1994 decision and subsequent State Water Board restoration orders, the streams have undergone a restorative transformation. Cutting-edge restoration activities have brought back functioning ecological processes and self-sustaining trout populations, and have recreated healthy riparian and meadow habitat for songbirds and wildlife.

Please see the attached comments for detailed specifics but essentially all reaches of Rush, Lee Vining, Parker, and Walker creeks from the headwaters to Mono Lake should be included in the Inyo's WSR eligibility inventory. The lower reaches of Mill Creek, Mono Lake's third largest tributary, should also be included in the Inyo's WSR eligibility inventory.

The restoration of natural flows into Mono Lake, particularly from Rush and Lee Vining creeks is a nationally significant value. The importance of these stream systems and their contribution to the overall health of the Mono Basin watershed cannot be ignored or understated.

2. **Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Comprehensive Management Plan.** The draft plan currently acknowledges the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area and the associated Comprehensive Management Plan but does not explicitly state how the two management plans will be integrated.

Summary: The Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area was established in 1984 and the Comprehensive Management Plan was finalized in 1989 with substantial local input via an advisory board. Since that time the management of the Scenic Area has been relatively straightforward as the Comprehensive Management Plan has superseded the existing Inyo Forest Plan (1988).

It is unclear how the two plans will function together and clarity in these types of situations is always helpful. Under the Designated Areas section (page 80) the plan states, "Where multiple designated areas overlap, the designated area with the most restrictive plan components must be followed." The Inyo should revise the current language to provide greater clarity for the management of the Mono Basin Scenic Area.

3. **Volunteers, Interpretation, Partnerships and Stewardship.** The draft plan does a good job of identifying the various ways that partner groups can help the Inyo but does not offer a clear plan or process for how to engage with these groups. The draft plan should be revised to include specific details on how these types of relationships can be initiated, implemented, and institutionalized. A commitment should be made by the Inyo to hire a discrete partnership coordinator within one year of the final plan whose sole responsibility is to develop an Inyo Partner Program with measurable goals, timelines, and a clear and streamlined process for partner organizations to follow.

Summary: In the Mono Basin we have witnessed declining Forest Service budgets, elimination of key staff positions, and for the north end of the forest, non-existent law enforcement officer presence. Coupled with increasing visitation numbers, the challenge

is quite clear. To keep up with these trends the Inyo must develop a robust and inclusive partnership program to help with ongoing needs and the additional workload that will result when this plan is finalized.

Arguably, this is perhaps the most important aspect of the draft plan for the County to comment on. Because Mono County is 98% public land and our economy depends largely on outdoor recreation tourism, it is critical that we manage our public lands accordingly. Partner organizations can help support visitor services with things such as interpretation, educational campaigns, stewardship, a forest presence in the front country and wilderness, discrete forest projects, scientific monitoring, resource protection, restoration, and perhaps most importantly, a mechanism for leveraging additional funding opportunities.

4. **Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Management Strategy.** Urge the Inyo to formally adopt and include in the plan the Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Recovery Plan (2007) in order to more fully commit to the recovery of the species.

Summary: The Inyo plan currently includes specific language related to the recovery of the Greater Sage-grouse Bi-state Distinct Population Segment under management goals (page 89). This section of the plan only references working with various agencies “to rehabilitate and maintain essential habitat for species according to species’ recovery plans”. The Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Recovery Plan should be specifically called out and included by name.

5. **Recommended Wilderness.** Urge the Inyo to reassess and revise their preferred alternative (Alternative B) to include wilderness areas in Mono County. Several roadless areas in the Mono Basin were not included in any alternative and should be reevaluated for inclusion in the preferred alternative.

Summary: The current Inyo preferred alternative (Alternative B) does not recommend any new wilderness areas within Mono County. This is not acceptable. As climate change impacts continue to affect our natural landscapes, wilderness areas provide the greatest opportunity for connectivity, resiliency, and adaptation providing critical habitat for at risk species. Wilderness areas also provide the greatest protection for ensuring hydrologic function is preserved into the future.

These remaining open spaces also provide recreational opportunities that include hiking, bird watching, hunting, backpacking, and horseback riding. Again, these recreational opportunities are reasons that people come to Mono County to visit and why many of us have chosen Mono County as our home. Historically, Mono County has prided itself on its wilderness heritage and embraces “Wild by Nature” as its primary tagline.

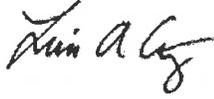
As a first step, the Inyo should take another look at the current designations and reevaluate the areas that were omitted. Ideally, the Inyo would share this revised analysis with the public before the plan is finalized. Of particular importance to the MLC is the fact that several roadless areas in the Mono Basin were evaluated but not included in any plan alternative. Most of these areas are adjacent to existing wilderness and would therefore provide greater habitat connectivity, enhanced hydrological functionality, and refuge for endangered species.

Conclusion

MLC appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments. Our public lands are Mono

County's greatest asset and we must all work together to ensure their health and stability as we move towards times of greater environmental uncertainty and the additional pressures of increased visitation and recreational use.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Cutting". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Cutting
Eastern Sierra Policy Director



MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 29
Hwy 395 at Third Street
Lee Vining, CA 93541

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Board of Directors

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February 1, 2016

Randy Moore, Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 9459

Via cara-ecosystem-management.org (<http://tinyurl.com/earlyadoptersfpr>)

Subject: Comments on Inyo National Forest Plan preliminary draft Wild and Scenic Rivers inventory and eligibility findings

Dear Mr. Moore:

The Mono Lake Committee (MLC) would like to provide comments on the Inyo National Forest Plan preliminary draft Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) inventory and eligibility findings that was distributed to the public on December 15, 2015. In addition to these specific comments we note that we are also a signatory to a joint letter with other organizations under the leadership of Sierra Forest Legacy.

The MLC is a non-profit citizen's 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. Supported by 16,000 members, the MLC has been active in the Mono Basin since 1978.

Our comments are focused exclusively on Mono Basin streams. MLC has been working with all land management agencies in the Mono Basin for over 35 years protecting and restoring Mono Lake's tributary streams. The four south Mono Basin creeks—Rush, Lee Vining, Parker and Walker creeks—were diverted by the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (DWP) beginning in 1941 and at times carried no water at all. A series of historic court proceedings eventually established minimum streamflows for the creeks and State Water Board (SWB) Decision 1631 established new rules for water exports to by DWP to Los Angeles. Restoration of the degraded creeks began as soon as water was returned to the stream channels. Decision 1631 and subsequent restoration Orders 98-05 and 98-07 outlined details for specific actions to restore the streams that had been degraded by excessive water diversions.

Working with DWP and State Water Board-appointed stream scientists, we have developed an extensive knowledge of the stream systems—their historic conditions, flows necessary for restoration and continued recovery, and all the plant, animal, aquatic, and other biotic components that are indicators of a healthy, functioning riparian system. This knowledge has been incorporated into a state-mandated cutting-edge ecological restoration program that is returning the streams to health, enabling a self-sustaining

trout population, and restoring extensive riparian and meadow habitat for songbirds and wildlife. There are few places in the Great Basin, or indeed the public lands of the United States, where such comprehensive river restoration progress is being made on such a scale, and the Mono Basin creeks are now showcases of how balanced management of water rights can result in vibrant ecological health while also providing for urban water needs. All of this is happening within the Congressionally designated Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, created in 1984 to provide specific management focus on the protection of the outstanding ecological, cultural, and scenic resources of the federal and private lands surrounding Mono Lake and including most of the segments discussed below for addition.

MLC has reviewed the 1993 Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Study and it is clear that the 1993 evaluations did not include lengthy segments of Mono Lake tributaries below DWP's diversion systems. Given that at the time of that analysis the streams were still dewatered, this omission is understandable. However, consistent instream flows, and the extensive fishery and riparian restoration program mentioned above has been mandated and underway consistently since 1994. Today Rush, Lee Vining, Parker and Walker creeks are worthy of designation and should be deemed eligible in the Inyo findings.

The restoration of natural flows into Mono Lake, particularly from Rush and Lee Vining creeks is a nationally significant value. The importance of these stream systems and their contribution to the overall health of the Mono Basin watershed cannot be ignored or understated.

Comments

Rush Creek

Rush Creek is the largest tributary in the Mono Basin. It originates in the Ansel Adams Wilderness and flows for approximately 23 miles before reaching Mono Lake.

1993 WSR Eligibility findings:

No segment of Rush Creek was determined to be eligible.

2015 Draft WSR Eligibility findings:

Only the segment from the headwaters to the inlet of Waugh Lake, a 3.7-mile section of Rush Creek was determined to be eligible under the wild classification. Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV) include scenery and recreation values.

MLC recommendation:

1. Concur with upper watershed finding to list as eligible for wild classification.
2. Add the Rush Creek segment from the outlet of Silver Lake to the inlet of Grant Lake as eligible for recreational classification.
3. Add the Rush Creek segment from the bottom of the Mono Gate One Return Ditch to Mono Lake as eligible for scenic classification.
4. The Forest Service should consult with DWP to determine interest and possible concurrence in the eligibility of the Rush Creek segments that flow through DWP property within and outside of the federal reservation boundaries. At a minimum, the Forest Service should determine eligible all segments of Rush Creek within federal reservations (Inyo National Forest and Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area), including segments that flow through DWP-owned inholdings.

MLC rationale:

1. No comment.
2. This segment of Rush Creek is in the heart of the June Lake Loop and is commonly recognized for its scenic canyon vistas. This segment is also a very popular recreational fishing area for both spin and fly fishing. (ORVs include scenic and recreational)

3. This segment of Rush Creek includes a section that is within the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area and as a result of the enabling legislation (1984 PL 98-425, section 301) is subject to management actions directed at “protecting its geological, ecological, cultural, scenic and other natural resources.” Recreational activities include fishing (historically a Blue Ribbon trout stream), photography, hiking, and birding, especially at the delta where Rush Creek meets Mono Lake. This area has important geological significance because the creek cuts into Ice Age lakebed, forming an unusual terminal lake delta with an interior portion that has created broad bottomlands riparian habitat that is rare in the Great Basin. This segment of Rush Creek has been documented as having the highest concentrations of Yellow Warblers in California and has seen the return of endangered Willow Flycatchers. This restored segment of Rush Creek provides migratory habitat connectivity between Mono Lake and the high country as well as necessary riparian corridors in the arid Great Basin landscape. Historically, Native American Kutzadika^a Paiute used this section of Rush Creek as a summer home and for ceremonial purposes, including a cemetery located within the creek floodplain. Over 15 years of State Water Board-ordered restoration has transformed this reach from a barren creek to a vibrant, recovering riparian system (see photos). (ORVs include scenic, recreational, geological, wildlife, cultural, and other values—hydrology transition from diversions to cutting-edge restoration)

Lee Vining Creek

Lee Vining Creek is the second-largest tributary in the Mono Basin. Originating in the Hoover Wilderness, Lee Vining Creek flows for approximately 17 miles before reaching Mono Lake.

1993 WSR Eligibility findings:

- Segment 1 (2.1 miles) was determined to be eligible for wild classification.
- Segment 2 (3.0 miles) was determined to be eligible for recreational classification.
- Segment 3 (2.5 miles) was not determined to be eligible.
- Segment 4 (5.1 miles) was determined to be eligible for recreational classification.
- Segment 5 (3.4 miles) was not determined to be eligible.

The 1993 WSR Eligibility Findings found what was then segment 2 (which is now segment 3) to possess outstandingly remarkable historical values associated with the Bennettville historic site. We disagree that there is now apparently insufficient knowledge concerning this site to determine whether it is outstandingly remarkable. According to the 1988 Inyo Forest Plan, the Bennettville historic site includes “several 100 year-old mining buildings” and the town “is recognized locally as an important site” (1988 Inyo Forest Plan, pg. 158) Bennettville serviced the Tioga Mining District and the Great Sierra Mine in what is now Yosemite National Park. Bennettville’s historic assay office and bunkhouse were restored in 1993.

2015 Draft WSR Eligibility findings:

- Segment 1 (1.5 miles) Headwater tributaries to Harvey Monroe Hall Research Natural Area was determined to be eligible for wild classification. (ORVs include scenery, recreation, and geology)
- Segment 2 (.2 miles) Harvey Monroe Hall Research Natural Area to Greenstone Lake was determined to be eligible for wild classification. (ORVs include scenery, recreation, and geology)
- Segment 3 (3.0 miles) Saddlebag Lake to Highway 120 was determined to be eligible for recreational classification. (ORVs include scenery, recreation, and geology)
- Segment 4 (6.0 miles) Southern California Edison powerhouse to DWP diversion pond was determined to be eligible for recreational classification. (ORVs include scenery, recreation, and geology)

MLC recommendation:

1. Revise Segment 3 and change from recreational to scenic classification.
2. Revise Segment 4 and change from recreational to scenic classification.

3. Add the Lee Vining Creek segment from the DWP diversion pond to Mono Lake as eligible for recreational classification. Even though there are inholdings owned by DWP, this segment appears to be entirely located within the federal reservations (Inyo National Forest and Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area).

MLC rationale:

1. Segment 3 of Lee Vining Creek is only accessible only by dirt roads and trails. It is undeveloped except for one walk-in campground. The views from this segment are exceptional (Mount Dana, Mount Conness, and other peaks of Yosemite and the Hoover Wilderness). The area is a popular hiking and fishing location. This segment of Lee Vining Creek is important biologically for the wet meadow habitat it provides. (ORVs include scenery and wildlife)
2. Segment 4 is largely undeveloped except for a series of Forest Service campgrounds and trails. There is no commercial development in the area. (ORVs include scenery, recreation, and geology)
3. This segment of Lee Vining Creek has undergone significant State Water Board-ordered restoration and habitat recovery as a result of Decision 1631. This segment also includes a portion that is within the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, and as a result of the enabling legislation (1984 PL 98-425, section 301) is subject to management actions directed at “protecting its geological, ecological, cultural, scenic and other natural resources.” This segment also includes the Lee Vining Creek Trail, a very popular hiking trail that connects the town of Lee Vining to the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Visitor Center along Lee Vining Creek. Signs along the trail interpret the natural and political history of the riparian corridor and specifically the restoration actions that have brought the creek back to life. The town of Lee Vining is a gateway community to Yosemite National Park and Lee Vining Creek physically connects the two areas. With the exception of a culvert at Highway 395 and some portions adjacent to Highway 120 West and Utility Road (spur road), Lee Vining Creek is primarily accessible by dirt roads. The town of Lee Vining is within view in the lower sections but well away from any sound or direct visitor experience. This restored segment of Lee Vining Creek provides migratory wildlife habitat connectivity between Mono Lake and the high country as well as necessary riparian corridors in the arid Great Basin landscape. Over 15 years of State Water Board-ordered restoration has transformed this reach from a barren creek to a vibrant, recovering riparian system (see photos). (ORVs include scenery, recreational, wildlife, and other values—hydrology transition from diversions to cutting-edge restoration)

Parker Creek

Parker Creek is a tributary of Rush Creek that originates in the Ansel Adams Wilderness and flows for approximately 9 miles until its confluence with Rush Creek.

1993 WSR Eligibility findings:

Segment 1 (7.1 miles) was determined to be eligible for wild classification.

Segment 2 (1.9 miles) was not determined to be eligible.

2015 Draft WSR Eligibility findings:

(4.5 miles) Headwater to Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary was determined to be eligible for wild classification. (ORVs include scenery and recreation)

MLC recommendation:

1. Add the Parker Creek segment from the Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary to Rush Creek eligible for scenic classification.
2. The Forest Service should consult with DWP to determine its interest and possible concurrence in the eligibility of the Parker Creek segments that flow through DWP property within and outside

of the federal reservation boundaries. At a minimum, the Forest Service should determine eligible all segments of Parker Creek within the federal reservation.

MLC rationale:

1. This segment of Parker Creek is no longer diverted for export by DWP and is now free-flowing in perpetuity (Stream Restoration Agreement 2013). This segment provides important spawning habitat for self-sustaining trout populations. (ORVs include scenery, fish and other values— hydrology history of diversions to free flowing, restored system)

Walker Creek

Walker Creek is a tributary of Rush Creek that originates in the Ansel Adams Wilderness and flows for approximately 10 miles until its confluence with Rush Creek.

1993 WSR Eligibility findings:

Segment 1 (3.5 miles) was determined to be eligible for wild classification.

2015 Draft WSR Eligibility findings:

Segment 1 (2.6 miles) Headwater tributaries to Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary was determined to be eligible for wild classification (ORVs include scenery and recreation).

Segment 2 (.4 miles) Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary to Walker Lake was determined to be eligible for scenic classification (ORVs include scenery).

MLC recommendation:

1. Revise Segment 2 and change from scenic classification to wild classification.
2. Add the Walker Creek segment from below Walker Lake to Rush Creek eligible for scenic classification.
3. The Forest Service should consult with DWP to determine its interest and possible concurrence in the eligibility of the Walker Creek segments that flow through DWP property within and outside of the federal reservation boundaries. At the minimum, the Forest Service should determine eligible all segments of Walker Creek within the federal reservation.

MLC rationale:

1. The short segment of Walker Creek from the Ansel Adams Wilderness boundary to Walker Lake is very remote and only accessible by trail.
2. This segment of Walker Creek is no longer diverted for export by DWP and is now free-flowing in perpetuity (Stream Restoration Agreement 2013). This segment provides important spawning habitat for self-sustaining trout populations. (ORVs include scenery, fish and other values— hydrology history of diversions to free flowing, restored system)

Mill Creek

Mill Creek is the third-largest tributary in the Mono Basin. Mill Creek originates in the Hoover Wilderness and flows for approximately 13 miles until flowing into Mono Lake.

1993 WSR Eligibility findings:

Segment 1 (3.9 miles) was determined to be eligible for wild classification.

Segment 2 (1.2 miles) was determined to be eligible for scenic classification.

Segment 3 (.7 miles) was determined to be eligible for recreational classification.

2015 Draft WSR Eligibility findings:

Segment 1 (4.0 miles) Headwater to Hoover Wilderness boundary was determined to be eligible for wild classification. (ORVs include scenery and recreation)

Segment 2 (1.4 miles) Hoover Wilderness boundary to Private Property was determined to be eligible for scenic classification. (ORVs include scenery and recreation)

Segment 3 (.8 miles) Private Property to Lundy Lake was determined to be eligible for recreational classification. (ORVs include scenery and recreation)

MLC recommendation:

1. Add the Mill Creek segment from below Lundy Lake to Mono Lake eligible for recreational classification.
2. The Forest Service should consult with the DWP to determine its interest and possible concurrence in the eligibility of the Mill Creek segments that flow through DWP property within and outside of the federal reservation boundaries. At the minimum, the Forest Service should determine eligible all segments of Mill Creek within the federal reservation.
3. Even though there are inholdings owned by DWP, this segment appears to be entirely located within the federal reservations (Inyo National Forest and Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area).

MLC rationale:

1. This segment of Mill Creek flows through Lundy Canyon and is noted by many for its scenic vistas of the Sierra crest, canyon walls, and Mono Lake. This segment is a popular recreational area for fishing, birding, hiking, and photography. This segment of Mill Creek includes a portion that is within the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area and as a result of the enabling legislation (1984 PL 98-425, section 301) is subject to management actions directed at "protecting its geological, ecological, cultural, scenic and other natural resources." Like Rush Creek, this area also has important geological significance because the creek cuts into the Ice Age lakebed and forms an unusual terminal lake delta with an interior portion that has created broad bottomlands riparian habitat that is rare in the Great Basin. Mill Creek has been the least impacted by incision of all Mono Lake's tributary streams and thus has fewer obstacles to restoration. Along with Lee Vining Creek, this segment of Mill Creek has a very high species composition of riparian songbirds and the Mill Creek delta has been documented as the favored nesting habitat in the Mono Basin for over 19,000 waterfowl each year. This segment of Mill Creek also provides important migratory habitat connectivity between Mono Lake and the high country as well as necessary riparian corridors in an arid Great Basin landscape. (ORVs include scenic, recreational, geological, and wildlife)

Conclusion

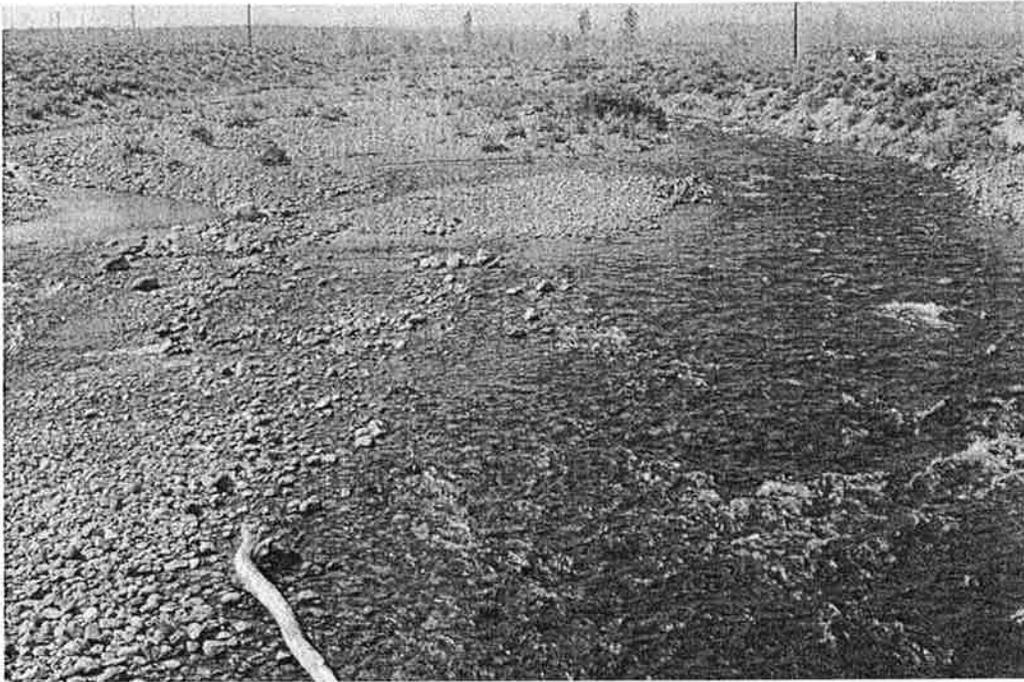
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Inyo National Forest Plan preliminary draft Wild and Scenic Rivers inventory and eligibility findings. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

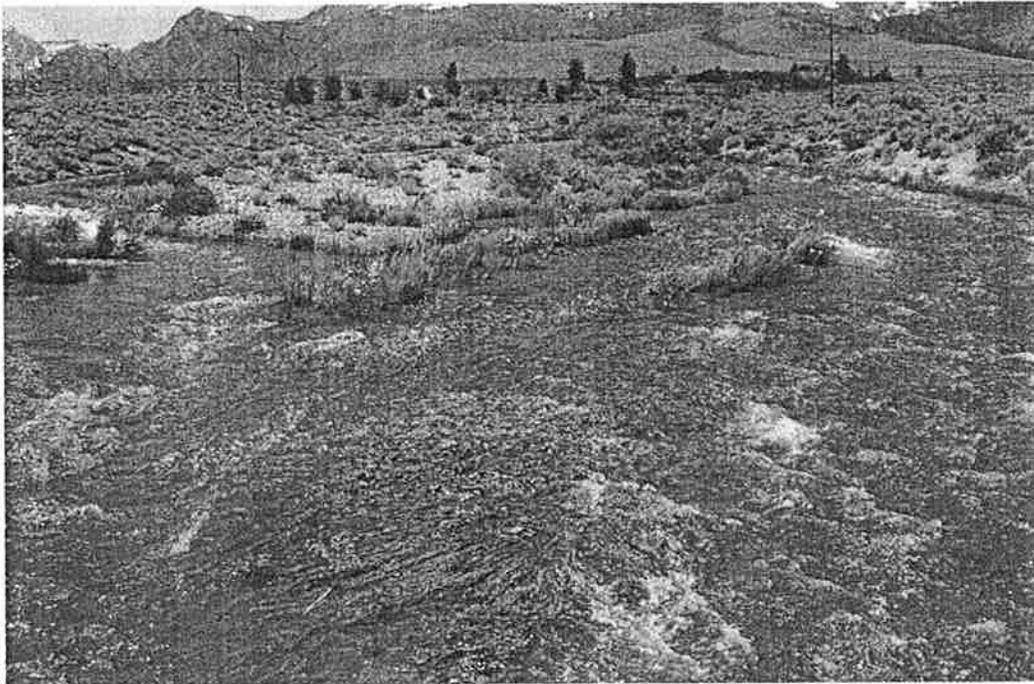


Lisa Cutting
Eastern Sierra Policy Director

Attachments: 1. Supporting photo documentation.

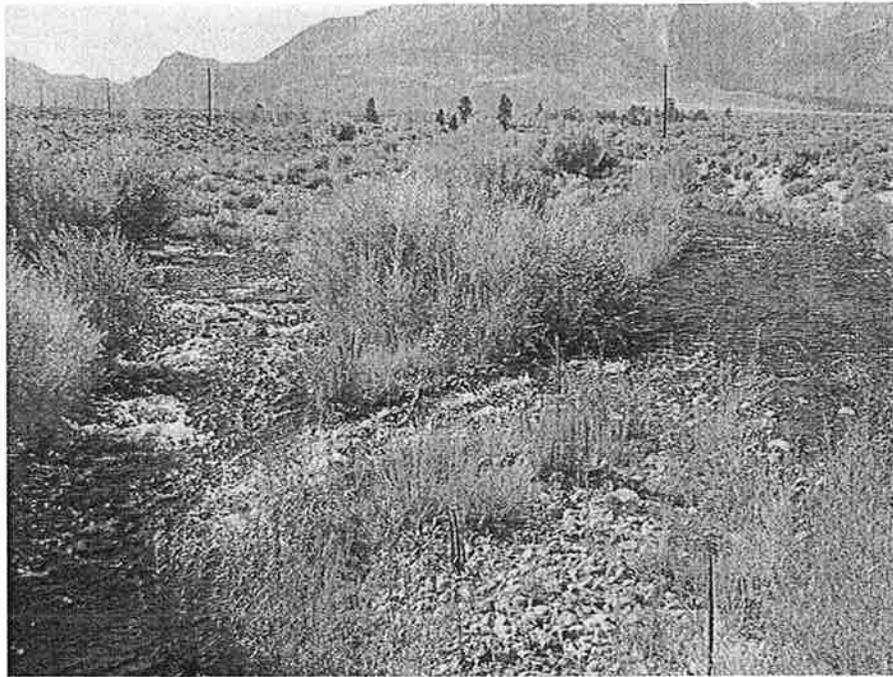


1987

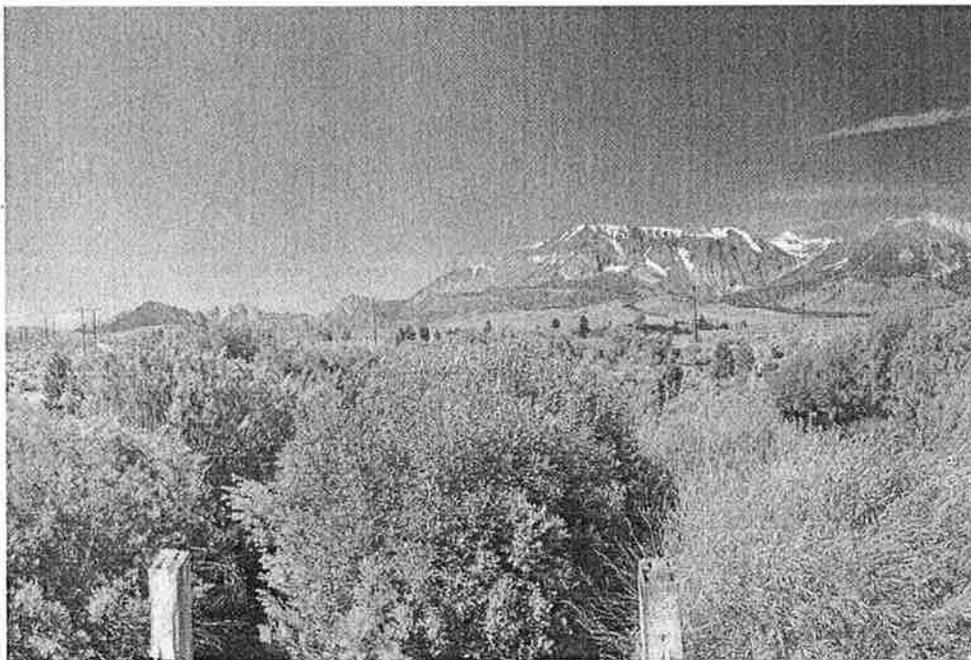


1995

Figure 2-5a. Upper Rush Creek at photopoint #6, looking upstream from the Old Highway 395 Bridge. Photos provided courtesy of retired CDFG biologist Gary Smith.

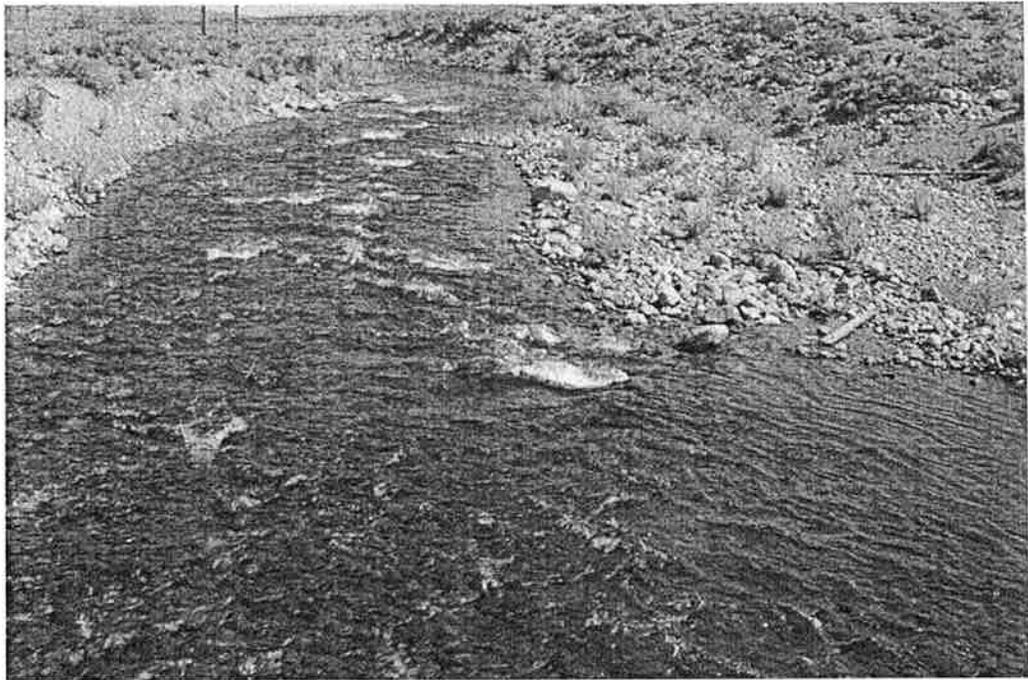


2002



2009

Figure 2-5a. (Continued)



1987



1995

Figure 2-5b. Upper Rush Creek at photopoint #6, looking downstream from the Old Highway 395 Bridge. Photos provided courtesy of retired CDFG biologist Gary Smith.

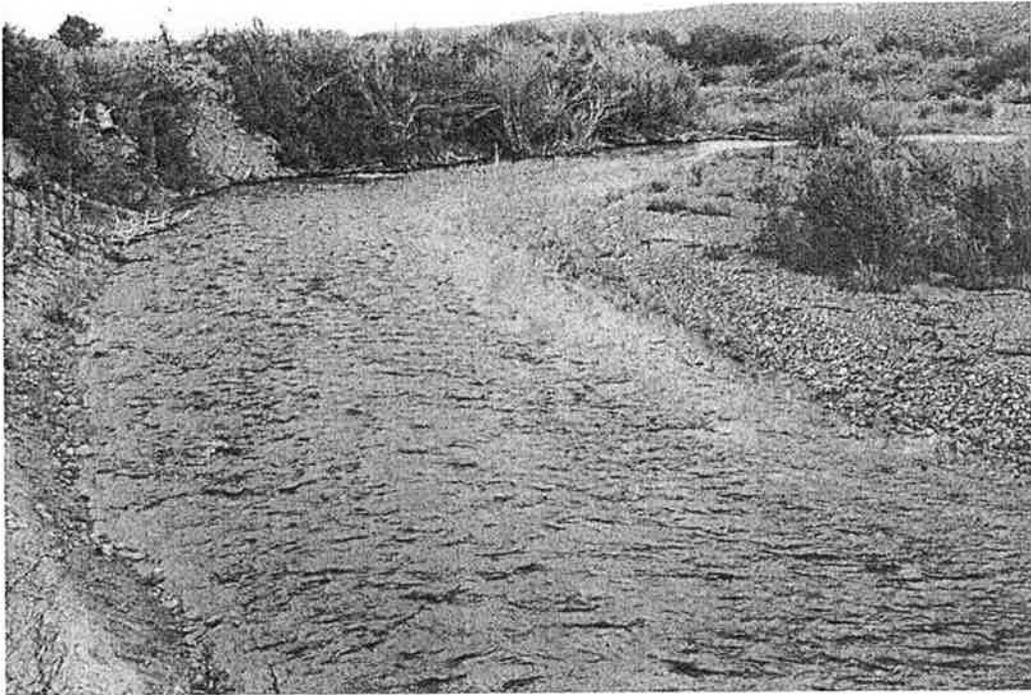


2002

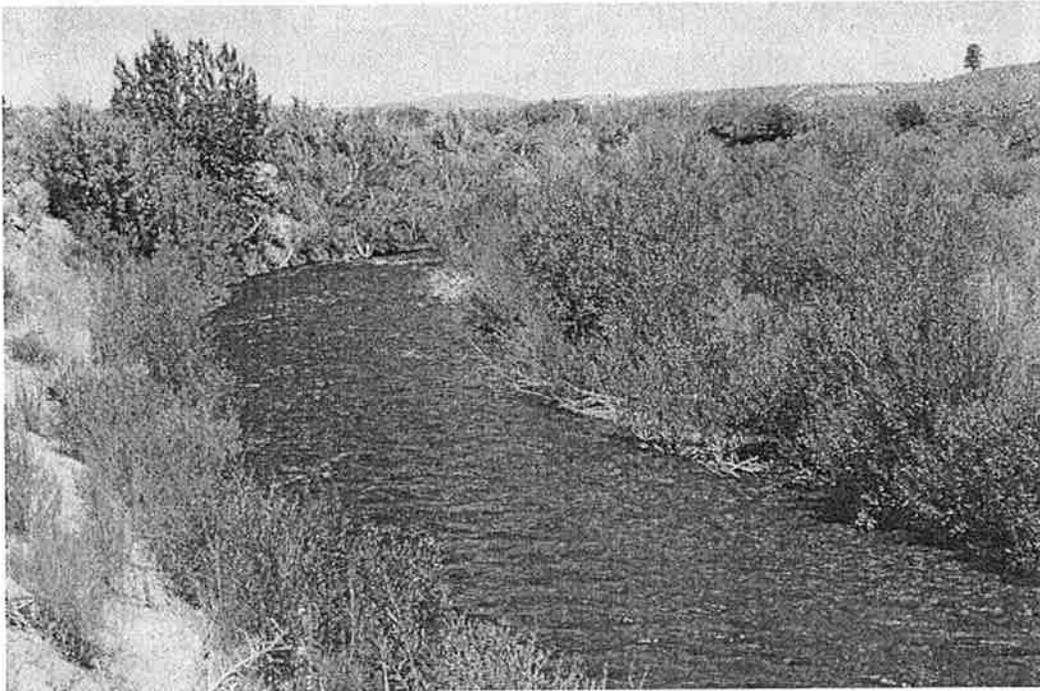


2009

Figure 2-5b. (Continued)



1987



1994

Figure 2-5c. Lower Rush Creek at photopoint #13, looking downstream from the top of the left bank at the end of a short spur road. Photos provided courtesy of retired CDFG biologist Gary Smith.



2001

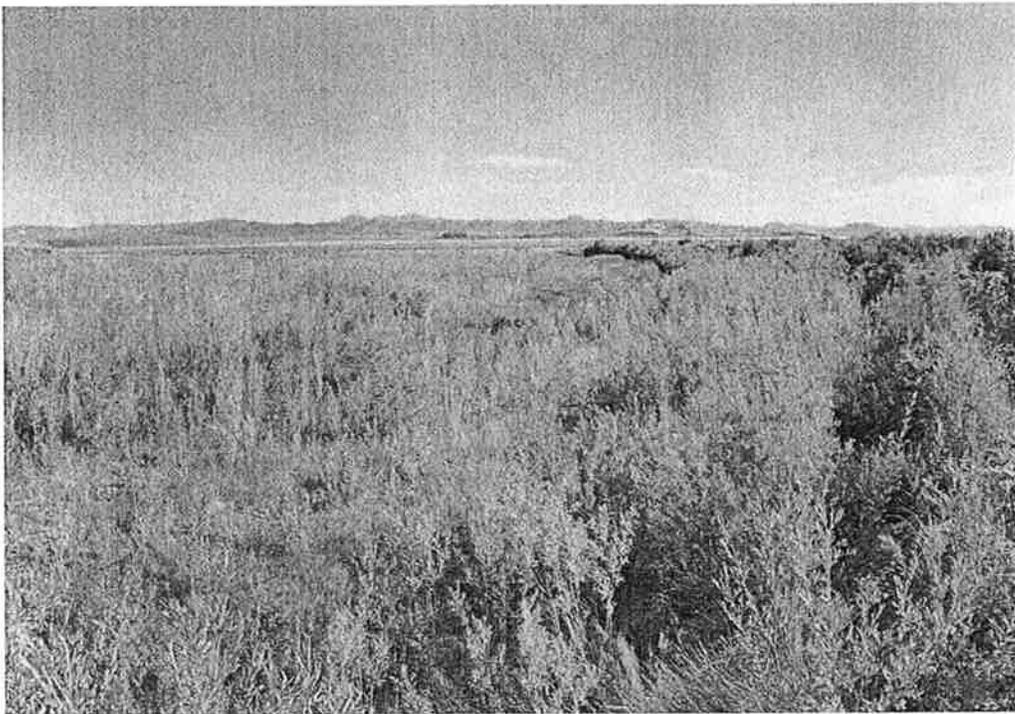


2009

Figure 2-5c. (Continued)



1987



2009

Figure 2-5d. Rush Creek at photopoint #17, at the Rush Creek delta looking toward Mono Lake. Photos provided courtesy of retired CDFG biologist Gary Smith.

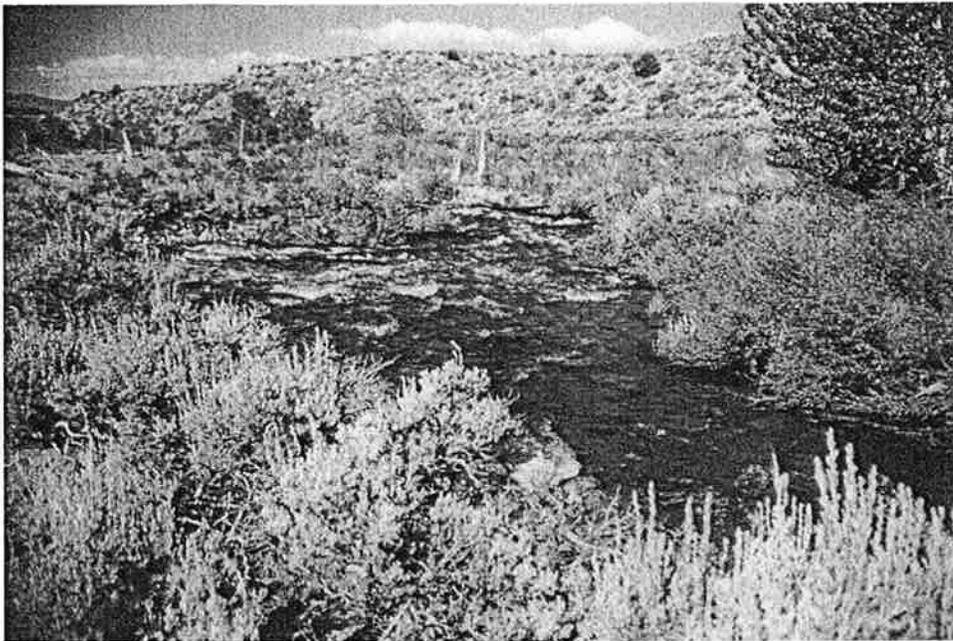


1998



2009

Figure 2-5e. Lee Vining Creek at photopoint #1, on left bank of B-1 Channel at XS 6+08 looking downstream.

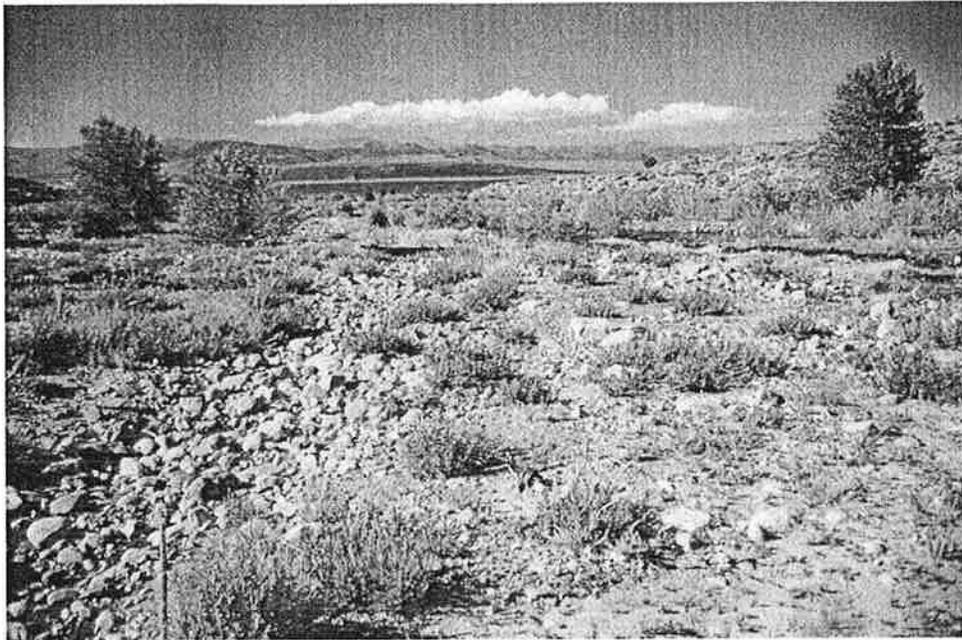


1998

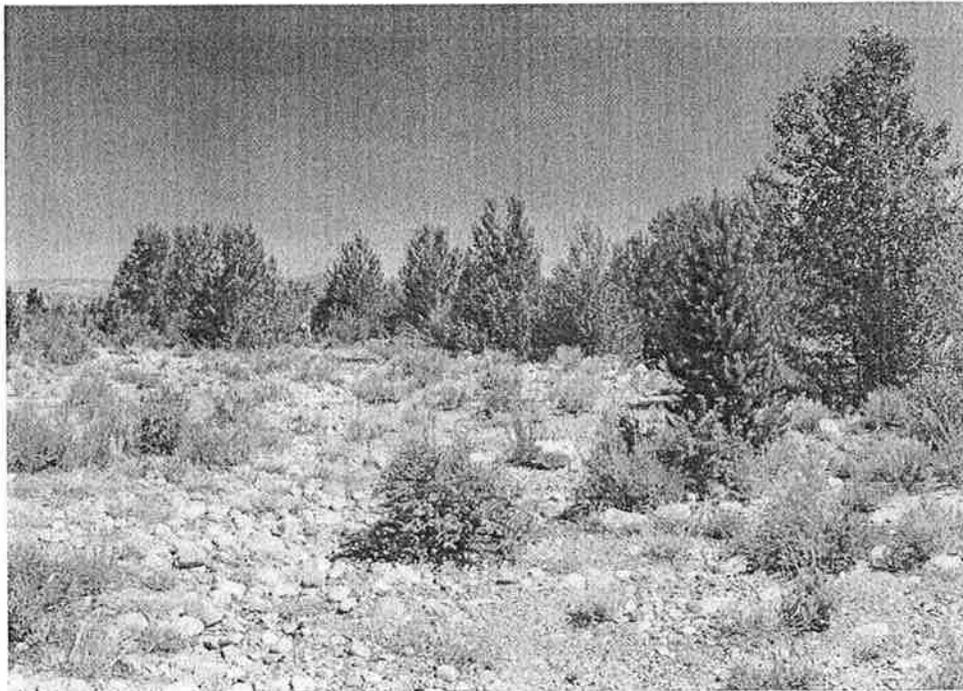


2009

Figure 2-5f. Lee Vining Creek at photopoint #3, on left bank of A-4 Channel at XS 4+04 looking downstream.



1998



2009

Figure 2-5g. Lee Vining Creek at photopoint #6, on the upper mainstem left bank floodplain near XS 10+44 and MLC Piezometer B-1.



1998



2009

Figure 2-5h. Lee Vining Creek at photopoint #7, looking upstream on the upper mainstem left bank near XS 13+92.

Parker Creek



Figure 1: The south side of Parker Creek below the pass-through diversion structure, 06-20-2009. Mono Lake Committee archive photo.



Figure 2: Parker Creek directly below the pass-through diversion structure, 6-17-2010. Mono Lake Committee archive photo.

Walker Creek

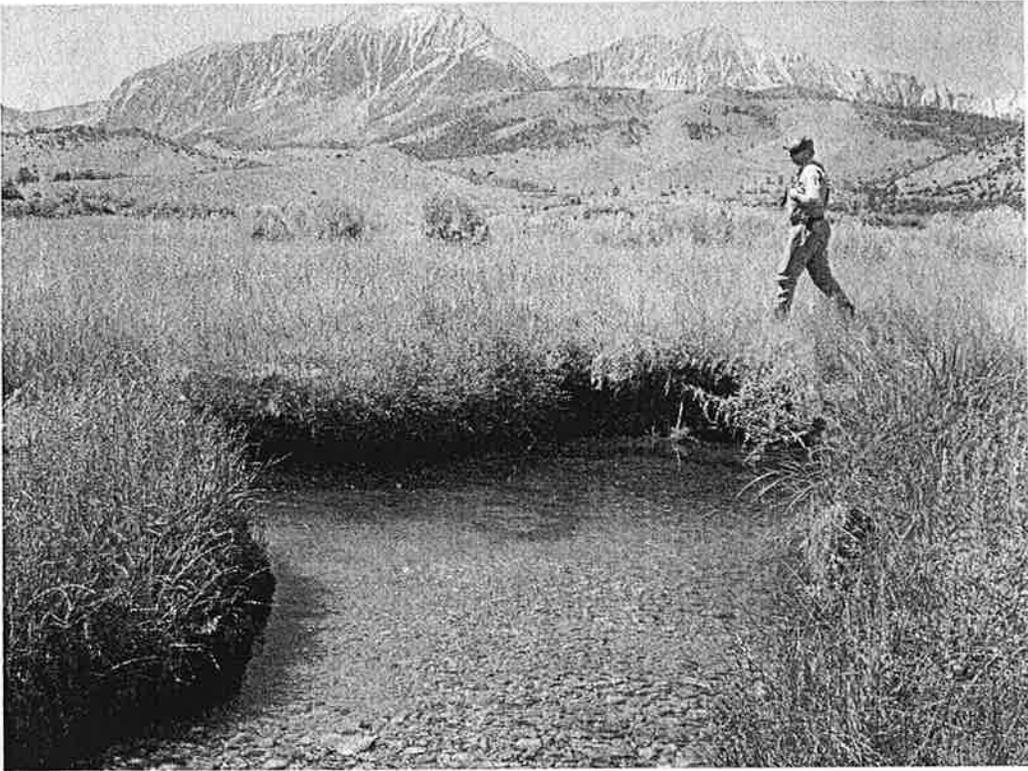


Figure 3: Walker Creek below diversion structure, 09-15-2010. Photo courtesy of Ross Taylor.

Mill Creek

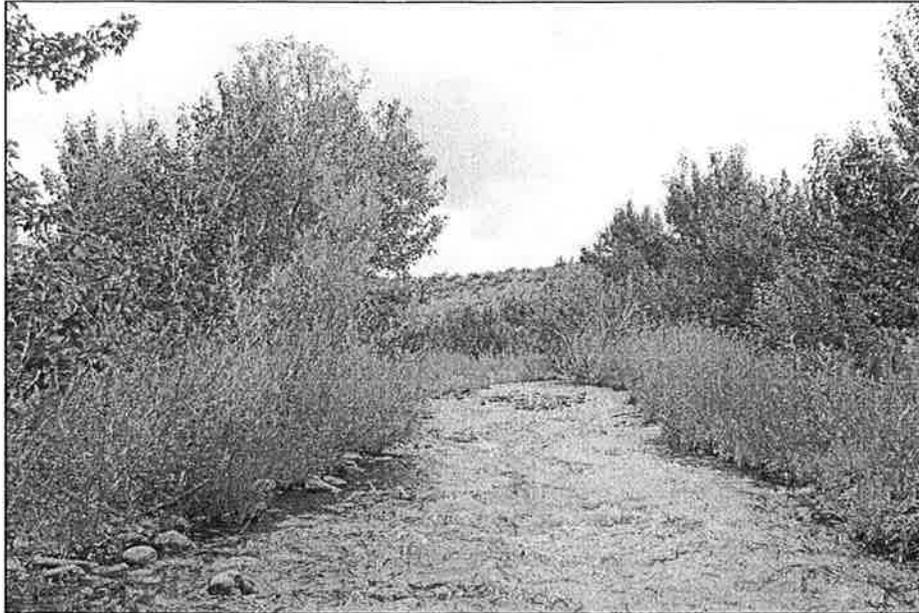


Figure 4: Mill Creek above the County Road culvert, 07-03-2013. Mono Lake Committee archive photo.



Figure 5: Mill Creek below the County Road culvert, 08-20-2012. Mono Lake Committee archive photo.

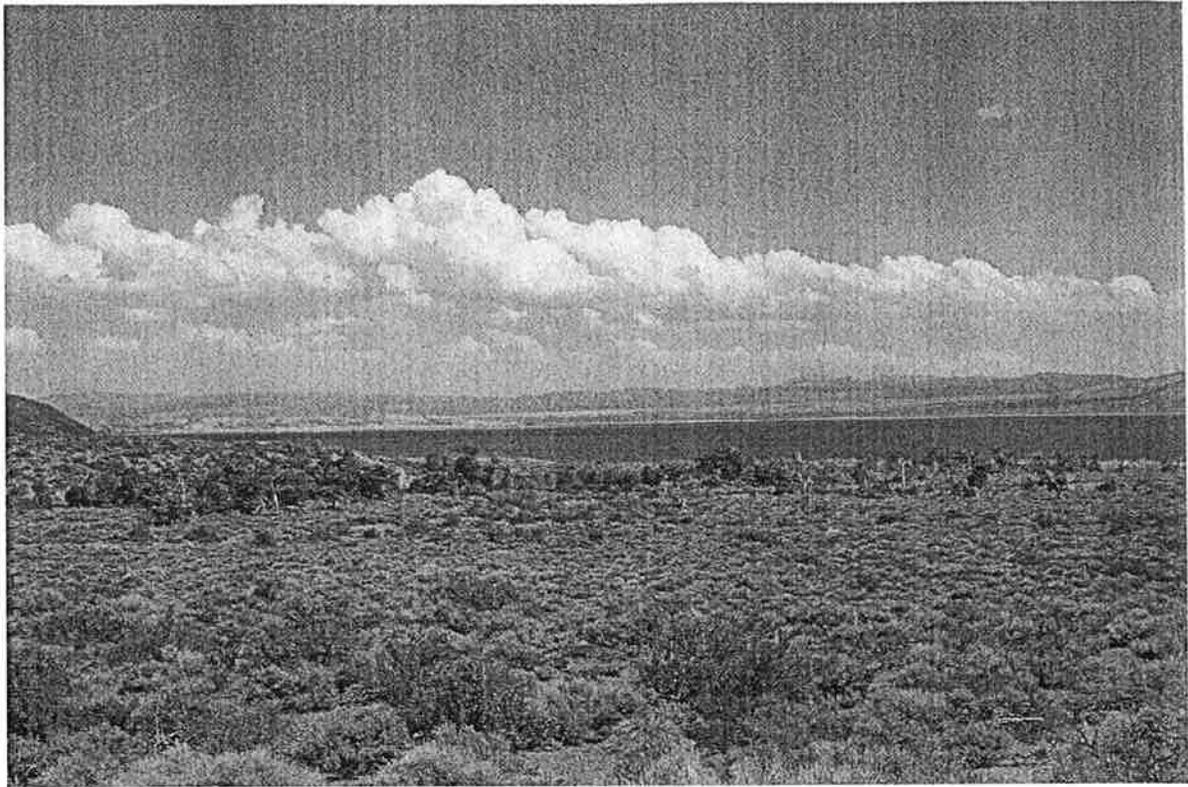


Figure 6: Mill Creek as it enters Mono Lake, 2012. Photo courtesy of David Calleri.

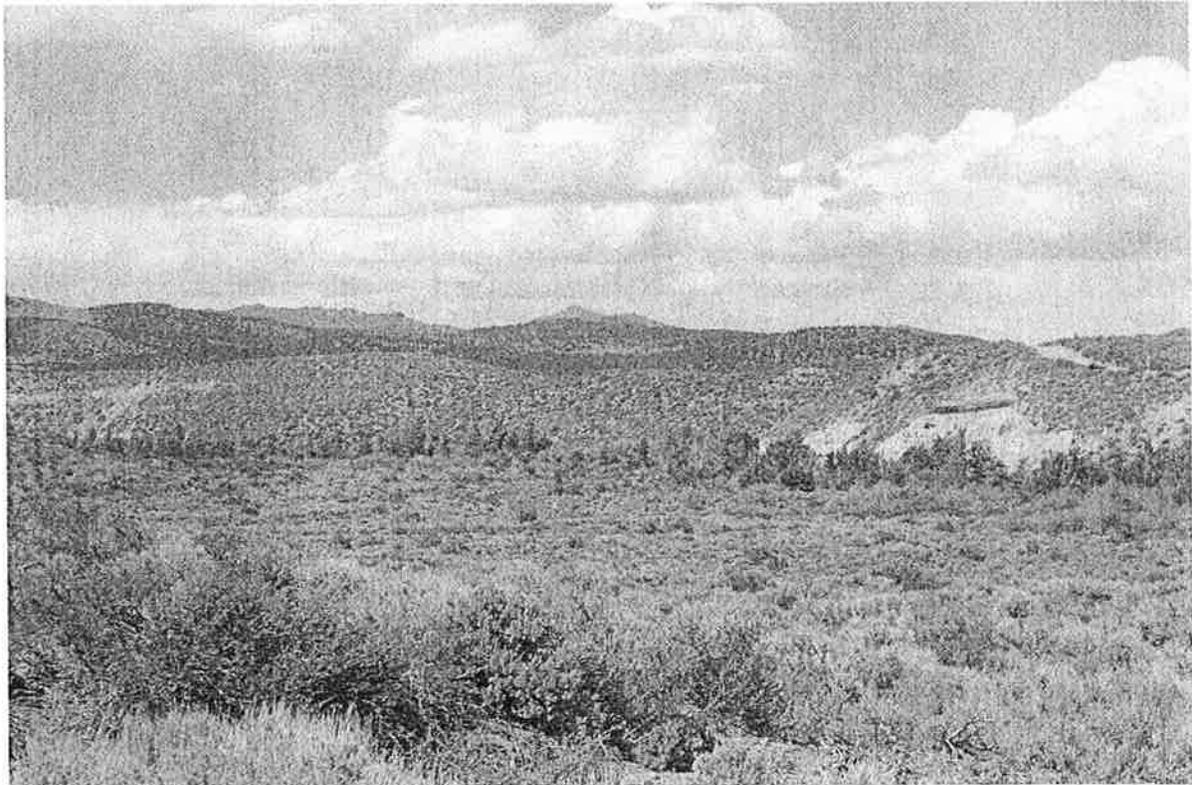


Figure 7: Mill Creek flowing through the floodplain before reaching Mono Lake, 2012. Photo courtesy of David Calleri.

August 9, 2016
Regular Meeting
Board of Supervisors

Item #13d -
Probation
Restructure

Karin Humiston



Probation Services

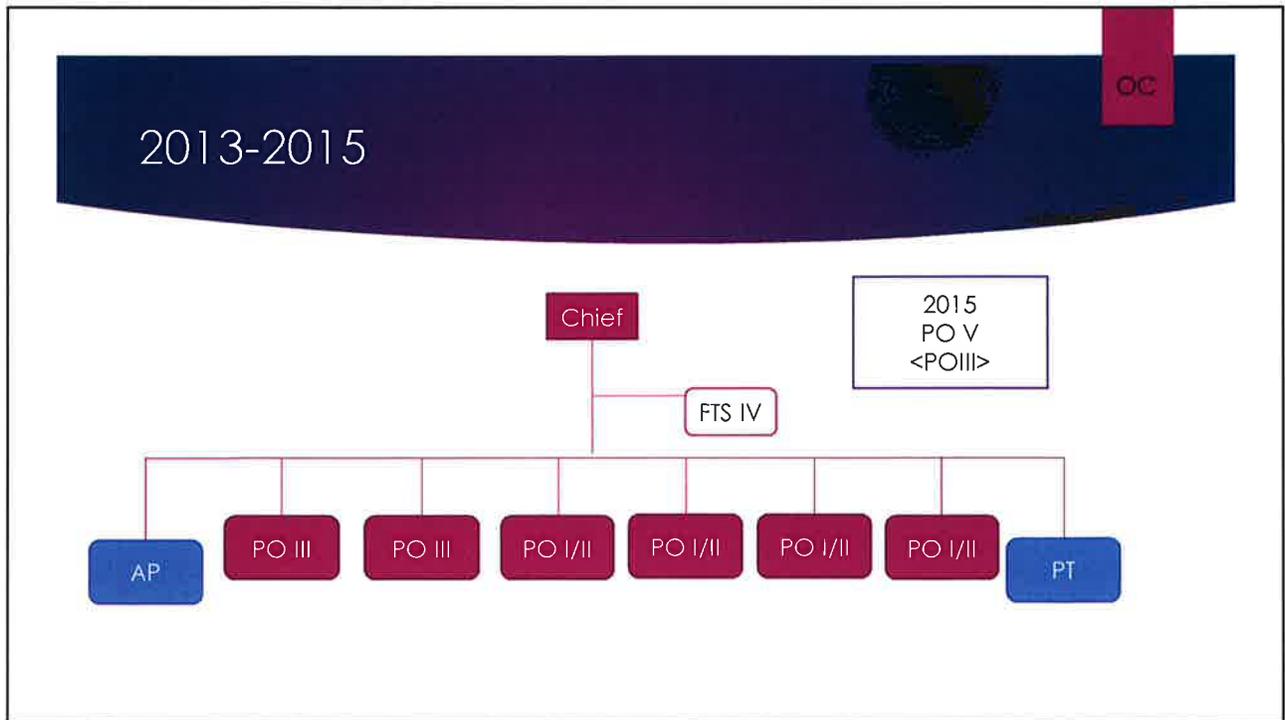
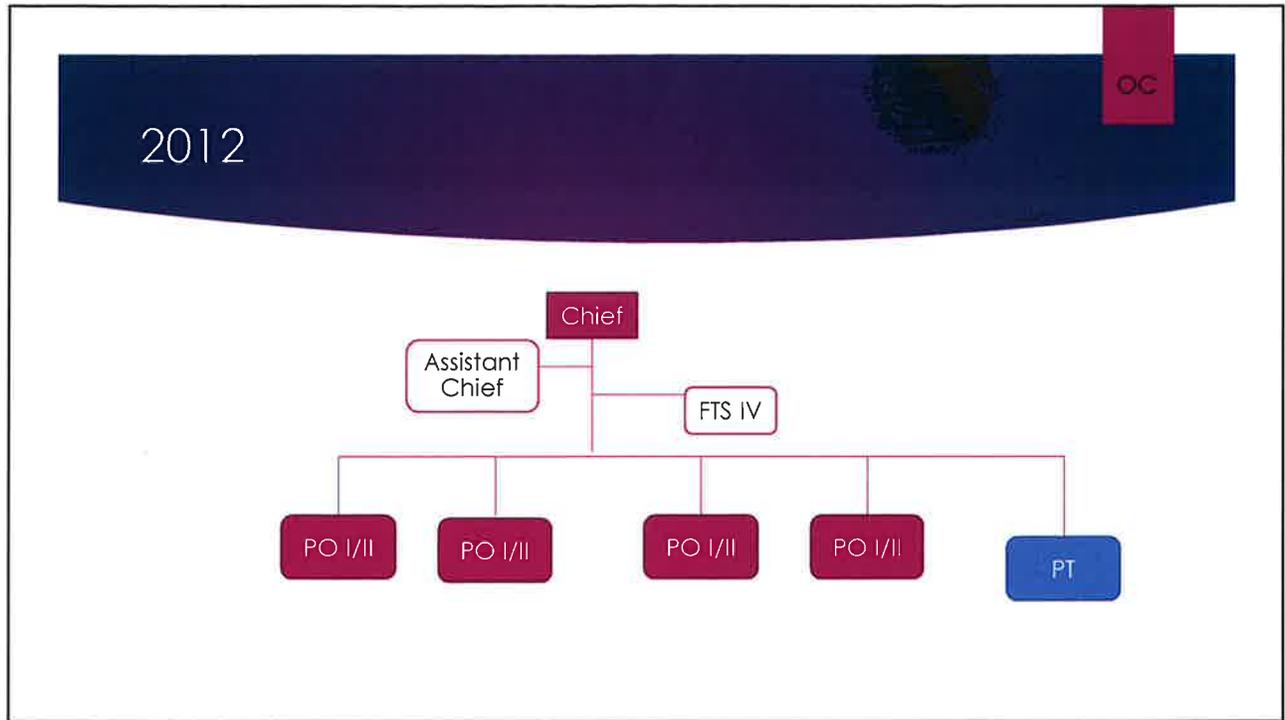
MEETING THE CHANGING DEMANDS IN CALIFORNIA CRIMINAL JUSTICE

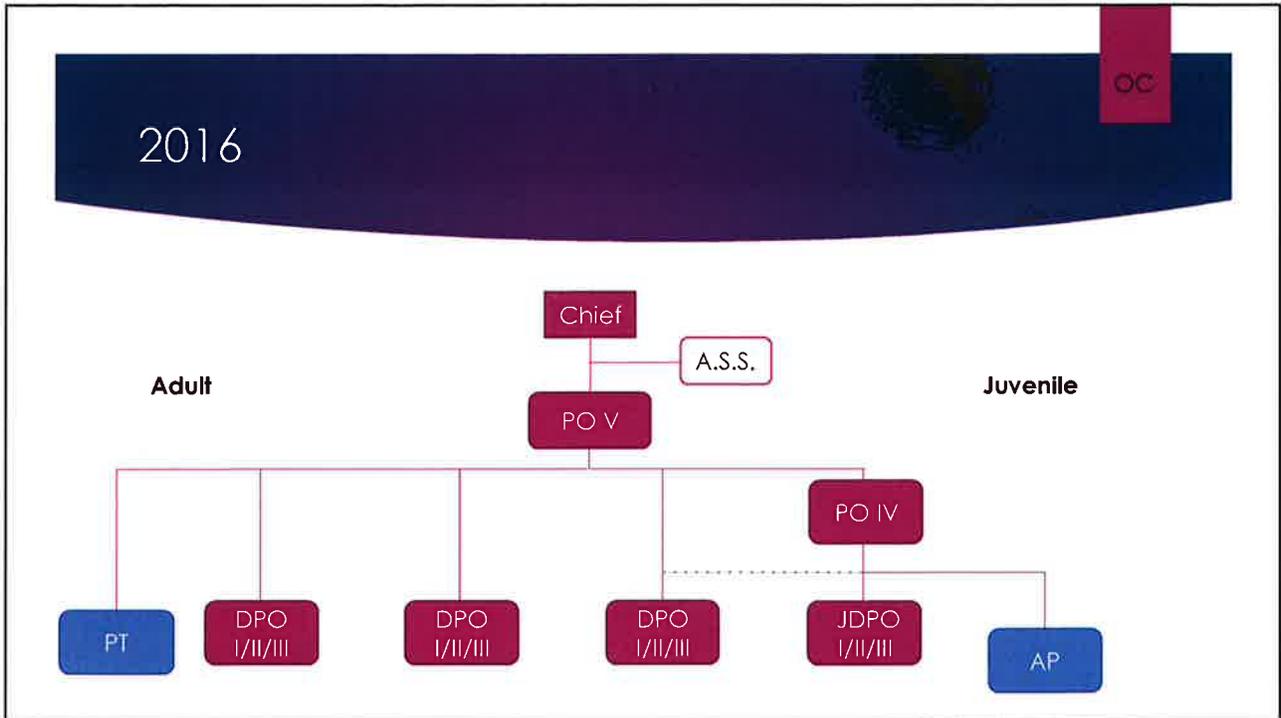


Comparison of Organizational Structure 2012-2016

CHANGING NEEDS WHILE REALIGNMENT PUSHES MORE RESPONSIBILITIES TO
COUNTIES

13d





Deputy Probation Officer I

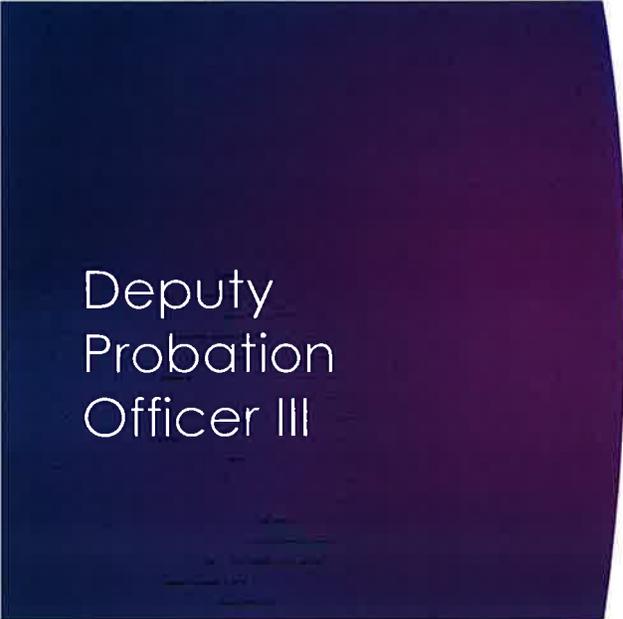
- ENTRY LEVEL
- CLOSELY SUPERVISED
- MUST ATTAIN ALL TRAINING
- MAY NOT CARRY A CASELOAD UNSUPERVISED



Deputy
Probation
Officer II



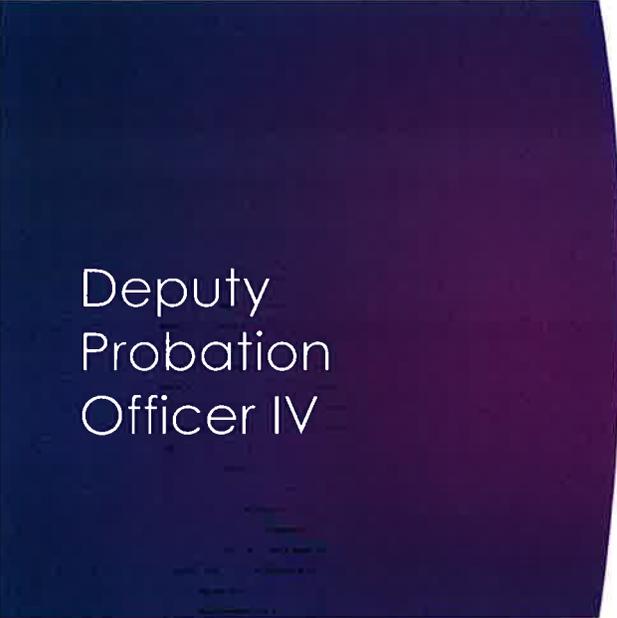
JOURNEY LEVEL
MANAGE UNCOMPLICATED CASELOADS
MUST ATTAIN ALL CONTINUED TRAINING AND CERTIFICATIONS
WORKS MORE INDEPENDENTLY
GAINS KNOWLEDGE



Deputy
Probation
Officer III



COMPLICATED CASELOADS
ACTS AS A LEAD, ASSISTING OTHER STAFF
INVESTIGATES MORE DIFFICULT CASES AND COMPLEX JUVENILE DELINQUENCY
PROVIDES ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
COORDINATES AND DELIVERS TRAINING



Deputy
Probation
Officer IV

SUPERVISOR
ACTS FOR PO V IN ABSENCE
MAY ACT ON BEHALF OF
CHIEF WITH AUTHORITY TO
APPROVE INVOICES AND PAY
SHEETS
COMPLETES EVALUATIONS



Same
progression seen
in Finance

FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE
SERVICES OFFICER
(SUPERVISOR)
A.S.S.
FTS IV
FTS III
FTS II
FTS I

“ BSCC conducted a Task Analysis of all Probation Officers within the state. The study found Mono County Probation Officers accomplish almost 20% more duties than similarly situated probation officers elsewhere. ”

Small counties tend to have fewer officers to specialize in duties such as sex offender, PRCS and other specialized caseloads and duties.

An example of the duties assigned to the Juvenile Officer:

- AB12
- FOSTER CARE
- PLACEMENT OFFICER
- TITLE IVE FEDERAL FUNDING
- WRAP AROUND OFFICER
- SARB – SCHOOL ATTENDANCE REVIEW
- MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM
- SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT
- JJCPA
- YOBG
- JJCC
- JUVENILE U.S. FOREST WORK CREW
- CONDUCT CBT WORK WITH YOUTH
- CASE MANAGEMENT.....