

**January 09, 2018**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Item # 7f**

**CAO**

**Mono County Legislative**  
**Platform Update**



# Mono County

201~~8~~7 State and Federal Legislative Platform

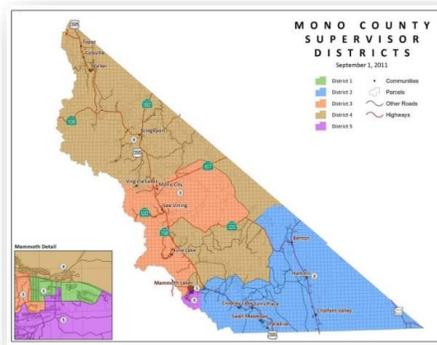
MONO  
C O U N T Y

Reviewed and adopted by the Mono County Board of Supervisors

~~February 14, 2017~~ January 9, 2018

# Mono County Board of Supervisors

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## Introduction

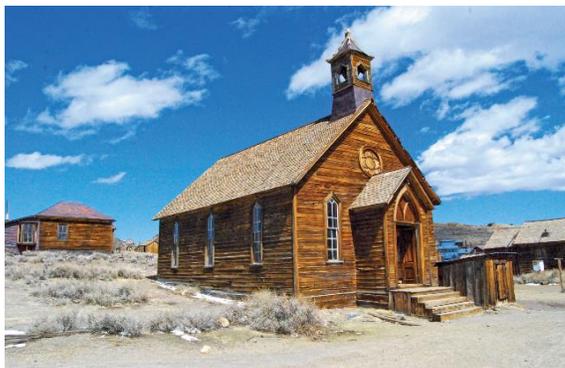
Mono County, California, is a rural county situated between the crest of the Sierra Nevada and the California/Nevada border. Accessed by state-designated Scenic Byway US Highway 395 which weaves its way north-south, Mono County is 108 miles in length, and has an average width of only 38 miles. With dramatic mountain boundaries that rise in elevation to over 13,000 feet, the county's diverse landscape includes forests of Jeffrey and Lodgepole pine, juniper and aspen groves, hundreds of lakes, alpine meadows, streams and rivers, and sage-covered high desert. The county has a land area of 3,030 square miles, or just over 2 million acres, 94% of which is publicly owned. Much of the land is contained in the Inyo and Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forests, as well as the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wilderness areas. As a result, Mono County offers vast scenic and recreational resources, and has unsurpassed access to wilderness and outdoor recreation and adventure.



*Chris Tinker/Mono County Tourism/ Mono Lake*

The county is home to, and named after, Mono Lake, which is a large high-desert saline lake with intriguing limestone tufa formations, and is a vital habitat for millions of migratory and nesting birds. Mono Lake is just one of the reasons that Mono County draws landscape photographers year-round. Another highlight is the historic gold rush town of Bodie, which during its heyday in the late 1800s, was home to as many as 10,000 people, and is now

maintained as a State Historic Park with about 200 buildings still standing as they were left, preserved in "arrested decay" for visitors to enjoy. Other natural wonders that attract people to Mono County include Devils Postpile National Monument, one of the world's finest examples of columnar basalt, and the headwaters of the Owens and Middle Fork San Joaquin Rivers, two of the state's most important watersheds. Yosemite National Park's eastern entrance at Tioga Pass is only 12 miles from Lee Vining and Mono Lake.



*Alekos McKee/Mono County Tourism/ Bodie*

Mono County has several small towns and charming villages, each with its own scenic beauty, year-round recreational opportunities, natural and historical attractions, and unique characteristics. The County seat is proudly located in Bridgeport, where the original 1881 courthouse is the second oldest in the state to be in continuous use. The only incorporated town in the county is Mammoth Lakes, which is located at the base of world-renowned Mammoth Mountain Ski Area, with a summit of 11,053 feet, over 3500 skiable acres, 28 lifts, and an average of 400 inches of snowfall annually. January 2017 recorded historic amounts of snow, with 20.5 feet accumulating in Mammoth during that month alone. Approximately 7,500 people reside in the Mammoth Lakes area year-round, but during the peak winter season, the population swells to over 35,000 when visitors from around the ~~state, country~~state, country, and world come to ski, snowboard, and take part in many other winter activities. The sister resort, June Mountain, just 20 miles north of Mammoth, offers uncrowded, wide-open slopes and a more peaceful, family-friendly alternative to busier ski areas.



Mammoth Mountain Ski Area

Summer, however, is when Mono County really shines. The region offers countless miles of alpine hiking, superb trout fishing at dozens of well-stocked lakes, streams and rivers, kayaking, cycling, horseback riding, golfing, and endless warm-weather adventures. Photographers flock to the county in September and October when it is almost impossible to take a bad photo of the fall color that lights up the Eastern Sierra landscape. *Sunset Magazine* named Mono County one of the “Top 5 places to Hike” in autumn and *TravelAndLeisure.com* listed Mono County as one of “America’s Best Fall Color Drives.” A wide variety of lodging, restaurants, and shops are available throughout the county, and commercial air service to Mammoth Yosemite Airport, just a 10-minute drive from the Town of Mammoth Lakes, is accessible from Los Angeles, San Francisco, and San Diego on Alaska and United Airlines throughout the winter, and from Los Angeles in summer and fall.

Commented [LC1]: Is this still accurate?



Alicia Vennos/Mono County

## State and Federal General Guidelines

The Mono County Board of Supervisors supports the general guidelines set forth below. County staff will apply these guidelines in evaluating State and Federal legislation, as well as executive and regulatory actions. It is the Board's objective to implement these guidelines.

To support the County's service to the community, the County should:

- Support legislative and budget efforts that protect and/or enhance local government revenues, maximize the County's access to state and federal funding sources, and/or increase local funding flexibility;
- Oppose any effort to balance the State budget through the taking of local government resources;
- Support legislation that protects the County's quality of life and diverse natural resources, while preserving the essence and history of the County;
- Support legislation that provides tax and funding formulas for the equitable distribution of state and federal monies while opposing attempts to decrease, restrict, or eliminate County revenue sources;
- Support legislation and budget action which provides additional and continuing funding for local road infrastructure, including complete street features;
- Oppose legislative and administrative actions which would create federal unfunded mandates and/or preempt local decision-making authority;
- Support legislation that realigns governmental services in such a manner as to improve the delivery of services and make government more accountable to the people;
- Support the promotion of tourism, [recreation](#), filming, and a diversified local economy in the Eastern Sierra to achieve strong economic growth and prosperity;
- Continue to support legislation that honors our veterans for their service to our country;
- Support efforts that further the strategic directions outlined in the County's Strategic Plan; and

- Engage on any proposals to repeal or alter the Affordable Care Act (ACA), which provides Mono County citizens the ability to obtain affordable health care.

**Commented [LC2]:** Still good according to Social Services Director Peterson

**Commented [LC3]:** Update this?

## State Priorities

1. **Protect County revenue sources** – Many County programs are at risk due to the instability of State and Federal funding. The Board of Supervisors supports efforts to sustain funding enabling continuation of critical programs for Mono County’s constituents.
  
2. **Encourage regulation relief/reform** – Mono County applauds California’s efforts to protect the environment. The Board supports efforts to achieve responsible regulation relief in the following areas:
  - a. **Provide regulatory relief for solid waste operations** –
    - i. Continue to provide regulatory relief to rural jurisdictions from statewide solid waste and recycling mandates when recycling infrastructure does not yet exist and causes significant transportation costs and emissions.
    - ii. Provide regulatory relief from recycling and diversion mandates for waste that originates on Federal and Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) lands. Large-scale projects and activities on those lands can dramatically impact the County’s diversion rate while circumventing the County’s regulatory authority.
    - iii. Provide funding for the siting and development of recycling infrastructure, and/or develop policies within state agencies such as Caltrans for the re-use of materials (glass cullet, wood chips) when generated in rural areas.
  
  - b. **Support CARB compliance legislation** – Support legislation regarding California Air Resources Board (CARB) compliance to assist rural counties with the costs associated with State mandated compliance.
  
  - c. **Support environmental processing legislation** – Support legislation that streamlines environmental processing, including the application of certain urban exemptions under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to rural communities.
  
3. **Natural Resources, Public Lands and Agriculture**
  - a. **Support sustainable funding for State parks** – Continue to support measures to sustain our State parks, and the roads that access them, for the continued enjoyment of visitors and residents. Closure or underfunding of these parks would result in a significant negative economic impact on our County as tourism [and recreation are](#) ~~is one of~~ our most important economic drivers.

a. **Protect our communities from forest fires and promote forest health** – Support a balanced approach to fuels management that considers air quality and other health related issues within the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (GBUAPCD).

b. **Support removal and utilization of dead and dying trees** – Support state and federal funding, as necessary and appropriate, for the continued removal and utilization of dead and dying trees due to invasive pest infestation consistent with Governor Brown’s October 2015 Emergency Proclamation. The removal of diseased trees is vital for the prevention of severe fire risk conditions, which ultimately protects public health and safety while reducing greenhouse gas emissions from wildfire and preserving the carbon sequestration capabilities of California’s forest lands.

c. **Ensure full funding of Department of Fish and Wildlife Hatchery and Inland Fisheries Program (AB 7- 2006)** – In 2006, AB 7 dedicated by law one third of all sport fishing license fees to be used for adequate stocking of Department of Fish and Wildlife Hatcheries. Beyond the funding dedication, AB 7 dictated the size of fish to be stocked. Recent DFW actions, as well as state budget actions, have reduced the size of the stocking fish and not fully directed the fee funding to this program. Mono County supports the original intent including all of the funding being directed to the hatchery program and the fish size as described in the original legislation.

~~d.~~

~~d. **Support sustainable fishing** – Support the funding of efforts to enhance the fish population in Mono County including sustainable fishing, ongoing fish stocking, education for proper catch and release practices, protection of spawning waterways, and support of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife stocking of diploid trout in allowable waters.~~

~~e. **Support sustainable fishing** – Support the funding of efforts to bolster sustainable fishing and other recreational activities, such as education for proper catch and release practices, protecting spawning waterways and the stocking of diploid trout throughout Mono County.~~

~~f.~~ **e. Support bio-energy action plan development** – We encourage the various state agencies involved to continue evolving this field of work to produce cleaner, more affordable technology based on sustainable and healthy forestry principles in a manner that benefits rural Sierra economies. Mono County has encouraged state agencies, such as the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) and California

Commented [LC4]: Submitted by Economic Director Vennos

Energy Commission (CEC) to provide funding for project scoping and planning.

**g-f. Support legislation that promotes, protects, or facilitates the sustainability of our local agriculture** – Mono County agriculture is an important local economic driver. It provides jobs, and contributes to the open-space landscape that draws visitors. Reinstatement of Williamson Act subventions and continue to develop alternative funding measures, such as the Strategic Growth Council’s Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation Program.

**h-g. Support legislation and funding that eases the burden of implementing the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act in rural, sparsely populated areas** – The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act provides for local agencies to develop groundwater sustainability plans and, pursuant to those plans, sustainably manage groundwater resources. The funding mechanism for these activities provided in the law is for local agencies to impose fees on water users. Areas subject to the Act in Mono County are sparsely populated and primarily in agricultural production. Accordingly, very few individuals (less than a dozen) would have to bear the significant burden of funding compliance with the Act. This raises real concerns regarding the future of Mono County’s agricultural operations.

**Commented [LC5]:** Supervisor Corless Comment – Is this still accurate given participation in OVGA?

#### 4. Public Safety and Criminal Justice

**a. Advocate for local impacts of cannabis legislation** –

**i.** Advocate for local control, taxation and funding for addressing the environmental, land use, and public safety impacts of the cultivation of cannabis.

**ii.** Support legislation that resolves the conflict federal statutes have with legalization of recreational cannabis use in California. Ideally, this includes removing cannabis as a schedule 1 drug and providing cannabis businesses with access to business banking services by changing federal banking access laws. Barring a legislative solution by Congress, the County supports reinstatement of the Cole Memo that assures commercial cannabis activities can operate free and clear of federal enforcement interference so long as the County has a robust regulatory framework in place.

**Commented [LC6]:** Recommended by Finance Director Dutcher

**b. Ensure State realignment & cost-shifts** – Continue to ensure successful implementation of the broad array of programs transferred to county jurisdiction under the 2011 Public Safety Realignment, including appropriate distribution of AB 109 funding. Support state policy changes that will allow for greater administrative and program flexibility for county programs associated with this shift of responsibility.

- c. **Support of rural fire districts** – The population of Mono County is highly rural and dependent upon voluntary associations that provide basic emergency services. These volunteer fire districts provide services to residents and tourists, and they are often the first responders to accidents. Support relief for rural fire districts.
- d. **Advocate for Community Paramedicine** – Advocate for the State Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA) to expand the current number of EMS Programs participating in the Community Paramedicine Demonstration Project.
- e. **Support elimination of Juvenile Housing Fees** – Support proposals to eliminate the fee paid by counties to house juveniles at the Division of Juvenile Facilities. The fee is currently \$24,000 per juvenile committed and counties are not funded for this.

**5. Transportation and Infrastructure**

- a. **Support action for transportation funding** – ~~Urge our legislators to take decisive action to find a~~Continue support for SB 1 and delivery of projects that rehabilitate and improve long-term solution to California’s transportation funding crisis, including sustainable funding sources for local roads and related infrastructure. ~~(needs to be deleted or revised to reflect SB 1 enactment and Board support for that funding)~~
- b. **Support State highway access** – Mono County supports budget policy and legislation to fund rehabilitation of the Bodie Road (Highway 270) that provides access to Bodie State Park and to facilitate early Sierra Pass openings (including Highways 120 and 108).
- c. **Support complete streets and walkable community principles** – Mono County is a strong supporter and advocate of the complete streets and walkable community principles in the 2040 California Transportation Plan. This focus is a transportation paradigm and culture shift that will impact projects from initiation to completion and maintenance. Recently, local jurisdictions have been increasingly tasked with the funding and maintenance of complete street features on state facilities such as state highways. These responsibilities lie with the state, and a corresponding shift in the functioning and funding of Caltrans is needed to ensure success.

**Commented [LC7]:** Submitted by County Engineer Higerd

**Commented [LC8]:** Supervisor Corless also recommended deletion of this section before Higerd revision.

d. **Support continued rural broadband deployment and telecommunications improvements through local, State, and Federal policy advocacy, infrastructure projects, and grant programs** – Having appropriate policy at the local, State, and Federal levels is imperative to ensure adequate communications connectivity – which is a critical part of public safety and economic development. Because Mono County has dedicated resources to improve access to high-quality broadband in our communities and as a result of the completion of the Digital 395 project, roughly 90% of our households have access to Gigabit internet. Unfortunately, several Mono County communities and residents still face barriers to connectivity as there is inadequate infrastructure to support basic Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) telephone service, let-alone high-speed Internet. In order to improve the landscape, the County should advocate for:

- i. **Policies, regulations, and enforcement around providers delivering basic POTS services to all locations desiring this service;**
- ii. **Appropriate and effective definitions of ‘broadband’ which recognize the importance of technology and dependence on the internet for public safety and economic development;**
- iii. **Legislation and associated programs that provide funding for broadband infrastructure projects and adoption/education efforts;**
  - i. ~~Programs and efforts that move to improve the accuracy of metrics used to represent the current state of broadband in Mono County~~**Support broadband deployment through the funding of infrastructure projects and grant programs**— Mono County is a rural California county in which some of our communities and constituents still lack access to high-speed Internet. Although the Digital 395 Project improved the region, Mono County communities and residents still face barriers to connectivity. Having access to state funds is critical as infrastructure projects in much of the area are typically cost prohibitive and do not yield a significant enough return based on the small population.
  - ii. ~~Support legislation that provides funding for infrastructure projects and adoption/education efforts.~~
  - iii. ~~Advocate for programs and efforts that move to improve the accuracy of metrics used to represent the current state of broadband in Mono County. Maintain an internal set of metrics based on best available information and knowledge.~~
  - ~~Advocate for continued representation through the California Advanced Services Fund and other agencies, as appropriate.~~
- iv.

(also need update based on recent consortium activity?)

**Commented [LC9]:** Update submitted by IT Director Greenberg

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## 6. Administrative and Fiscal Services

a. **Support Clerk/Recorder Services and Elections Administration improvements –**

Support resources for improving county record keeping services and election administration, and monitor legislation that may impact the following:

- i. Recording fees and process, and recorded documents;
- ii. Vital statistic fees and process;
- iii. Public records;
- iv. Unfunded mandates;
- v. Vote-by-mail, voter registration, election management systems, elections process, and election equipment;
- vi. Funding for records preservation (such as Board of Supervisors historic records);
- vii. Funding for modernization of elections equipment;

b. **Support Vote-by-mail legislation** – Support legislation to authorize vote-by-mail ballot elections for rural counties.

c. **Support the full funding of all Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT)** – Support legislation and budget efforts that provide for payment of past due balances and continue to maximize the PILT revenue to counties and maintain full funding of PILT without restrictions beyond the current authorization.

d. Oppose legislation that would limit county’s ability to contract for services.

e. Pursue county line adjustments with Madera and Inyo.

**Commented [LC10]:** County Clerk-Recorder Kendall recommends keeping voter-related items the same as last year.

9-7. Health and Human Services

a. **Ensure State and Federal Healthcare Reform has equitable funding formulas for rural counties** – Affordable Care Act (ACA) implementation began in 2014, and it is vital that local government funding streams reflect equitable distribution formulas to service our rural constituents. Securing adequate funding to sustain health care reform measures is important to Mono County. Key issues include Medi-Cal expansion and funding for these mandates and continuation of 1991 realignment allocation/amounts. [\(update based on action to date?\)](#)

~~b-b. Advocate for a level of funding that enables counties to properly administer the Medi-Cal program on the state's behalf.~~

**Commented [LC11]:** Social Services Director Kathy Peterson

c. **Support improvements to Medi-Cal** – Support the streamlining of the Medi-Cal administration and improve access to health coverage for uninsured families.

~~d. Support measures that establish full and continued State and federal funding of the IHSS program and continuance of the Maintenance of Effort funding structure.~~

**Commented [KP12]:** This is related to program funds

~~b-e. Support a funding methodology and assumptions that enable counties to properly administer the In-Home Supportive Services program on the state's behalf.~~

**Commented [KP13]:** This is related to counties ability to administer the programs locally.

~~e-f. Support county implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform~~ – Support adequate funding for county implementation of the Continuum of Care Reform including ~~increased-continued~~ funding for the Foster Parent Recruitment, Retention, and support fund administered through local child welfare services (CWS) agencies that are dedicated to the recruitment, retention, and support of resource families so that they may provide stable, loving homes for children in the foster care system.

~~d. Support Continuum of Care Reform clean up~~ – Support legislation to update the Continuum of Care Reform statute to consider the history of prior child abuse in the Resource Family Approval process.

~~f. Support of the Adult Protective Services (APS) program~~ – Support greater state and federal resources to increase statewide capacity in the Adult Protective Services (APS) program to protect and serve seniors and dependent adults who are victims of abuse and neglect. Specifically, supporting staffing in the California Department of Social Services to provide leadership and support to county APS

~~programs as well as providing additional resources for a statewide training system for APS staff. Resources should also include attending to this vulnerable population victimized by financial abuse, tracking the incidence of elder abuse and neglect to inform policy responses.~~

~~h.g.~~ **Support State and Federal laws that support affordable housing** and broaden the opportunities for local, non-profit housing entities and instrumentalities of government to increase homeownership. In addition, support increased financing, subsidy options, and tax incentives to support development of new, affordable housing units.

- ~~— **Support CalFresh application legislation** — Support legislation that would enable county jail inmates to apply for CalFresh prior to release so that benefits can begin upon release, with the goal of easing transitions back to the community and reducing recidivism.~~
- ~~— **Support background check legislation** — Support legislation to clarify and simplify the background check and criminal exemption process for individuals and families, including relatives who are going through the Resource Family Approval process to become caregivers for children in foster care.~~
- ~~— **Support electronic court reports** — Support legislation to allow court reports to be sent electronically. This would facilitate and improve the successful delivery of court reports to parties who lack a permanent address or who move frequently.~~

#### 18.8. Economic Development

- a. **Support local business development** – Maintain and support access to small business capital for local business development through the Small Business Administration, Small Business Development Corporation and other government loan and financial programs. ([Are these Federal programs or state programs? Should this be in the federal section?](#))
- b. **Support new and current business development** – Support economic development efforts that augment and promote business retention and expansion, as well as create an environment conducive to new business attraction.
- c. **Support of commercial filming** – Support efforts to attract and encourage commercial filming opportunities to the region.
- d. **Support tourism and recreation economy** – Support efforts to strengthen the tourism [and recreation](#) economy, particularly in the shoulder season (spring and fall).

## Federal Priorities

1. **Support Funding/Program Preservation** – Support legislative, regulatory, and budget efforts that protect and/or enhance local government revenues, maximize the County’s access to federal funding sources, and/or increase local funding flexibility. Oppose legislative and administrative actions that would create federal unfunded mandates and/or preempt local ~~decision-making~~ decision-making authority.
  - a. **Support full funding of the Secure Rural Schools program** – These funds are critical to Mono County as they provide funding for Mono County Office of Education programs as well as supporting road maintenance to ensure students can get to and from school on County roads.
  - b. **Support the full funding of all Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)** – Support legislation and budget efforts that continue to maximize the PILT revenue to counties and continue full funding of PILT without restrictions beyond the current authorization.
  - c. **Support federal funding for Housing and Economic Development programs** – Support the highest possible funding level for key federal housing and economic development programs, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG).
    - a. **Support continued rural broadband deployment and telecommunications improvements through local, State, and Federal policy advocacy, infrastructure projects, and grant programs** – Having appropriate policy at the local, State, and Federal levels is imperative to ensure adequate communications connectivity – which is a critical part of public safety and economic development. Because Mono County has dedicated resources to improve access to high-quality broadband in our communities and as a result of the completion of the Digital 395 project, roughly 90% of our households have access to Gigabit internet. Unfortunately, several Mono County communities and residents still face barriers to connectivity as there is inadequate infrastructure to support basic Plain Old Telephone Service (POTS) telephone service, let-alone high-speed Internet. In order to improve the landscape, the County should advocate for:
      - i. Policies, regulations, and enforcement around providers delivering basic POTS services to all locations desiring this service;
      - ii. Appropriate and effective definitions of ‘broadband’ which recognize the importance of technology and dependence on the internet for public safety and economic development;
      - iii. Legislation and associated programs that provide funding for broadband infrastructure projects and adoption/education efforts;

- d.—~~Programs and efforts that move to improve the accuracy of metrics used to represent the current state of broadband in Mono County. **Support broadband deployment through the funding of infrastructure projects and grant programs** — Mono County is a rural California county in which some of our communities and constituents still lack access to high-speed Internet. Though improving in the region through the Digital 395 Project, Mono County communities and residents still face barriers to connectivity. Having access to federal funds is critical, as infrastructure projects in much of the area are typically cost-prohibitive and do not yield a significant enough return based on the small population.~~
- ~~i.—Support legislation that provides funding for infrastructure projects and adoption/education efforts.~~
  - ~~—Advocate for programs and efforts that move to improve the accuracy of metrics used to represent the current state of broadband in Mono County. Maintain an internal set of metrics based on best available information and knowledge.~~
  - ~~—Support funding for broadband infrastructure development, service delivery, local access and adoption strategies through agencies such as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).~~

[\(same point as before; update needed?\)](#)

**Commented [LC14]:** Update provided by IT Director Greenberg

- e. **Support legislation that promotes, protects, or facilitates the sustainability of our local agriculture** – Mono County agriculture is an important local economic driver, provides jobs, puts food on the table and contributes to the open-space landscape that draws visitors.
- f. **Support Economic Development resources** –
- i. Maintain and support access to small business capital for local business development through the Small Business Administration, Small Business Development Corporation and other government loan and financial programs.
  - ii. Support economic development efforts that augment and promote business retention and expansion, as well as create an environment conducive to new business attraction.
  - iii. Support efforts to attract and encourage commercial filming opportunities to the region.
  - iv. Support efforts to strengthen the tourism [and recreation](#) economy, particularly in the shoulder season (spring and fall).
2. **Natural Resources, Public Lands, and Agriculture** – Support legislation that promotes agriculture and that protects the County’s quality of life, its diverse natural resources, and preserves the essence and history of the County, along with legislation that provides adequate funding for stewardship of our public lands.

- a. **Support sustainable funding for federal public lands** – Support measures to sustain our federal lands. Closure or underfunding of these lands managed by the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service would result in a significant negative impact to our county as tourism and recreation are our economic drivers.
  
- b. **Support outdoor recreation economy and public lands** – Support the enacted 2016 Outdoor Recreation and Jobs Act and the effort to measure the outdoor recreation economy’s contribution to the US Gross Domestic Product. Once the federal government fully understands the economic benefits of outdoor recreation, land management agencies and local governments will have necessary data to measure the impact of the recreation economy and the key role that sustainable recreation needs to play in the management decisions of public lands agencies.

**d-c. Support special designations** – Support special use designations for public lands such as National Scenic Areas, Wild & Scenic Rivers, Wilderness, National Monuments, National Conservation Areas, when demonstrated conservation values and public support warrant such designations.

Commented [LC15]: Supervisor Corless

**e-d. Oppose public lands disposal** – Oppose the large-scale sale, transfer or "disposal" of public lands except for strategic, widely supported transfers or exchanges for management and boundary adjustments with demonstrated public benefit.

**f-e. Support wildfire funding and fuels reduction** – Support legislation to change the method of funding wildfire suppression on National Forests by providing access to funding outside of the statutory discretionary limits for emergency purposes and for investment in additional resources for forest management/fuels reduction that addresses California's tree mortality crisis.

**g-f. Support public land infrastructure** – Support increased funding for public land management agencies to address deferred maintenance of infrastructure in forests, national parks and reserves that rural counties depend on for tourism and recreation based economies.

**h-g. Support land management directives** – Support Mono County's tourism and recreation economy by ensuring funding, programs, and management directives for federal land agencies (including the Land & Water Conservation Fund) that facilitate the planning, building, and maintenance of infrastructure for sustainable recreation, travel, and commercial film permitting on public lands.

**i-h. Support sustainable fishing** – Support the funding of efforts to enhance the fish population in Mono County including sustainable fishing, ongoing fish stocking, education for proper catch and release practices, protection of spawning waterways, and support of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife stocking of diploid trout in allowable waters. ~~Support sustainable fishing – Support the funding of efforts to bolster sustainable fishing and other recreational activities such as education for proper catch and release practices, protecting spawning waterways and the stocking of diploid trout countywide.~~

Commented [LC16]: Submitted by Economic Director Vennos

**j-i. Support the control of invasive species** – Support control and mitigation for the spread of invasive species to protect, conserve, and restore public and private lands.

**k-j. Support biomass project development** – Support legislation that encourages the US Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to continue actively promoting and assisting with biomass project development.

**h.k. Support ~~a~~Alternative ~~e~~Energy –**

- i. Support local efforts to develop renewable, distributed energy sources including but not limited to environmentally and appropriately scaled biomass, solar, and wind, while ensuring projects and their supporting infrastructure (i.e. transmission lines, pipes lines, towers, service roads) does not degrade the County’s quality of life, natural or visual resources, water or essence and history.
- ii. Continue to support geothermal power production that is environmentally sustainable and doesn’t negatively affect local domestic water supplies.

~~(duplicate above and below?)~~

~~**Support geothermal power** – Continue to support geothermal power production that is environmentally sustainable and doesn’t negatively affect local domestic water supplies.~~

**Commented [LC17]:** Srs. Gardner & Corless – Remove duplicate statements.

**n.l. Support Devils Postpile National Monument legislative requests –**

Support legislation to authorize a boundary adjustment request, and to designate a portion of the Middle Fork San Joaquin River as Wild & Scenic, as described in Devils Postpile National Monuments 2015 Management Plan.

~~(update on this?)~~

**o.m. Support endangered species regulation** – Support a balanced approach to the implementation of endangered species regulation with impacts to the rural economy and communities of Mono County. Mono County is fortunate to have a rich natural heritage that should be conserved, and it supports the need to protect and recover imperiled species. These conservation measures must be weighed and balanced against impacts to the fragile tourism and recreation-based rural economy and local communities, and every effort must be made to protect private property rights and avoid detrimental impacts to county residents.

**p.n. Support sage grouse conservation** – Ensure funding commitments are met and honored by federal agencies, and support continued participation in the collaborative process to address Bi-State Sage Grouse conservation efforts.

**3. Public Safety & Criminal Justice**

~~3.~~

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~~**a. Support full funding of Byrne Justice Assistance Grants** – Support the preservation of funding levels for existing safety programs such as the Byrne~~

~~Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne/JAG) Program and oppose efforts to reduce or divert funding away from these programs.~~ **Support continued funding of FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program** - Support continued funding to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire-related hazards by providing direct financial assistance to eligible fire departments, nonaffiliated Emergency Medical Services organizations, and State Fire Training Academies. This funding is for critically needed resources to equip and train emergency personnel to recognized standards, enhance operations efficiencies, foster interoperability, and support community resilience.

**Commented [LC18]:** Deleted per District Attorney Kendall

b. ~~Urge common-sense gun safety legislation~~ - gun violence is a public health issue. Congress should enact laws to regulate guns—much as the US has done with automobile use—in order to prevent gun violence and deaths.

**Commented [LC19]:** Submitted by EMS Chief Mokracek

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**Commented [LC20]:** Supervisor Corless addition

#### 4. Transportation and Infrastructure

- a. **Ensure that federal transportation formulas support rural road infrastructure** – Mono County has concerns regarding the continued implementation of the federal surface transportation reauthorization program. Mono County relies on the network of state highways and locally maintained roads to link residents to essential services. Transportation funding formulas should provide funding protections or guarantees for California's rural transportation system and reflect that rural counties lack viable means to fund larger projects that provide statewide benefit. We should advocate for formulas that distribute federal funds to support local transportation priorities.
- b. **Support efforts to protect the Highway Trust Fund** and support programs that provide funding for local roads, bridges, and transit initiatives including pedestrian and bicycle systems, and other multi-modal transportation programs.
- c. **Support federal highway access** – Mono County supports budget policy and legislation that funds infrastructure such as roads on federal land with access to popular destinations including national parks and monuments.
- d. **Support Yosemite Area Regional Transportation and Eastern Sierra Transit Authority funding** – Support efforts to seek sustainable funding for regional public transportation to Yosemite National Park, [other National Parks in our region](#), and other public lands destinations [throughout the Eastern Sierra](#).

5. Health Care Reform ([update based on legislative action?](#))

~~a. **Oppose reduction of benefits of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) – Oppose efforts to reduce the benefits provided by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) which provides benefits to 22 million Americans nationwide to obtain affordable health care coverage. If the ACA is repealed and not replaced, 15% of Mono County residents who have insurance coverage under the ACA could lose it. This figure also doesn't include those who may have shopped for and secured insurance through the exchange for insurance but didn't receive any subsidy.**~~

a. **Oppose legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) - Work to preserve and expand the number of citizens currently receiving health insurance. Oppose efforts to reduce benefits and block grants or other actions that would shift the current federal/state cost and responsibility to the states and counties.**

b. **Ensure that Affordable Care Act (ACA) funding is maintained for local governments** – Support the Prevention and Public Health Fund of the ACA, the nation's first dedicated mandatory funding stream for public health and prevention activities, which supports Mono County health care services to underserved residents.

c. **Support revisions to the Affordable Care Act (ACA)** – Support revisions to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) which would lessen the regulatory requirements imposed on employers.

~~d. **Eliminate the Cadillac Tax Element of the ACA** – This tax is 40% over employer provided premiums over \$850 per month for single coverage and \$2,304 for family plans. This tax assumes that more expensive premiums are indicative of luxurious benefits but high premiums can also be indicative of an aging workforce or more risky populations such as law enforcement, which is the case in Mono County. ([update on this?](#))~~

e.d. **Oppose funding reductions for Medicaid** – Oppose efforts to reduce federal funding for Medicaid administration or benefits including converting to a voucher system with less federal funding.

e. **Oppose turning Medicaid over to States** – Oppose efforts to turn Medicaid (Medi-Cal in California) over to the states with less federal funding.

f. **Support full funding of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).**

~~g.f.~~

~~g. **Support adult and disability services**~~

Commented [KP21]: Add this.

- ~~i. Support appropriation of \$100 million authorized under the Elder Justice Act to support state and county Adult Protective Services (APS) programs.~~
- ~~i. Support restoration of full funding for the Social Services Block Grant, which in California is used primarily to augment county and state funded in-home supportive services for elderly and disabled persons, and to coordinate services to children with disabilities.~~

g. **Support funding of Veterans benefits** – Support provision and funding for current benefits and health care programs for Veterans.

6. **Child Welfare** - Support legislation that increases services and home-based placement resources to children who are victims of or at risk of: abuse, neglect, or exploitation, and provide support to caregivers of these victims.
  
7. **Immigration** – Oppose immigration reform efforts that would eliminate a pathway to full and equal citizenship, that would restrict the rights of immigrants or break up families, or that would focus on a mass deportation of undocumented immigrants.
  
8. **Oppose efforts to reduce the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)** - when Congress reauthorizes the Farm Bill in 2018. In Mono County, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides over 1,400 residents with CalFresh benefits.
  
9. **Support the Older Americans Act (OAA)** - and increased federal funding for the OAA programs. The Act established a national network of Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) which oversee a variety of social services for seniors, including nutrition, elder abuse prevention, legal services and advocacy, and caregiver resources. The OAA is not adequately funded and does not reflect the need for senior services or the population growth of people over age 60. With the limited state funding to support California’s AAAs programs, it is critical that the federal funding expand to support senior services.

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### HIDDEN TREASURES IN PLAIN SIGHT

**MONO COUNTY** is a land of dramatic mountain backdrops, high plains, and countless clear lakes, streams, and rivers. Over 3,000 square miles in size, Mono County is well-known for its vast scenic and recreational resources. Much of this land is contained in the Inyo and Toiyabe National Forests, and the Ansel Adams, John Muir, and Hoover wilderness areas. Access to hiking, fishing, biking, skiing, horseback riding, fall colors, uncrowded campgrounds, amazing music festivals, and much more is found just off of scenic US 395, which stretches the length of the county, 120 spectacular miles from Bishop, California, to the Nevada border.

### TOP ATTRACTIONS

**YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK** – Drive California's highest pass – just 12 miles from Lee Vining to Yosemite's east entrance – to witness ten-story waterfalls, enjoy world-class rock climbing and hiking, and more (summer only).  
Contact: [www.nps.gov/yose](http://www.nps.gov/yose) or 209-372-0200. For bus service: [www.Yarts.com](http://www.Yarts.com).

**BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK** – Bodie is preserved in a state of "arrested-decay," so keep an eye out for spirits roaming the once-wild streets of this genuine gold-mining ghost town.  
Contact: [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov) or [www.BodieFoundation.org](http://www.BodieFoundation.org) or 760-647-6445.

**MONO LAKE** – Paddle a canoe around volcanic islands (don't worry, they're dormant!) and tufa towers, which are natural limestone formations created by the ancient lake's salinity.  
Learn more at Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center, 760-647-3044, or the Mono Lake Committee, [www.MonoLake.org](http://www.MonoLake.org) or 760-647-6595.

**DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** – Located near Mammoth Lakes, Devils Postpile is the world's finest example of columnar basalt formations: 760-924-5500.

<b>Mono County Tourism</b>	<b>East River PR</b>
<b>Alicia Vennos</b>	<b>Katie Shaffer</b>
<a href="mailto:avennos@mono.ca.gov">avennos@mono.ca.gov</a>	<a href="mailto:katie@eastriverpr.com">katie@eastriverpr.com</a>
1-800-845-7922	530-214-8790 Office
760-924-1743 Office	530-559-5330 Cell

### MONO COUNTY Towns AND Communities

**BENTON HOT SPRINGS** — Soak in natural hot springs that are temperature regulated in this historic stagecoach station.

**BRIDGEPORT** — Home of the county seat, the classic whitewashed wooden courthouse has been in use since 1880. Just outside of Bridgeport, Twin Lakes, Virginia Lakes and Bridgeport Reservoir offer fishing and hiking all summer long.

**CONVICT LAKE / McGEE CREEK** — Dramatically situated under towering Mt. Morrison, Convict Lake is loved by anglers, hikers, and wedding parties! Catch wildflowers or fall colors at McGee Creek Canyon.

**CROWLEY LAKE** — Fishing season opener's home base, this expansive lake offers world-class trout fishing.

**JUNE LAKE** — Tucked away at the base of 10,909-ft Carson Peak, June Lake is a scenic mountain hideaway. Well known for trout fishing and brilliant fall colors, the June Lake Loop is a snowy retreat in winter. June Mountain Ski Area offers free lift tickets all winter for kids age 12 and under.

**LEE VINING** — Overlooking dramatic Mono Lake, Lee Vining is the gateway town to Yosemite National Park – just 12 breathtaking miles up Tioga Pass Road.

**MAMMOTH LAKES** — Mammoth Mountain Ski Area consistently ranks as one of the top winter sports destinations in North America. In the town of Mammoth Lakes, you'll find quaint shops, gourmet restaurants and accommodations from cozy cabins to four-star luxury hotels.

**ROCK CREEK / TOM'S PLACE** — Famous for the beautiful Little Lakes Valley hiking trail, fall colors, and home-made pie.

**TOPAZ** — Home to Topaz Lake, which boasts a nine month fishing season (and big cash derby!), and a Nevada casino.

**WALKER AND COLEVILLE** — Ranch towns in the northern part of Mono County, Walker and Coleville host California's only ATV/UTV Jamboree!

## GETTING TO CALIFORNIA'S EASTERN SIERRA

### FLY TO THE EASTERN SIERRA!

Daily air service to Mammoth Yosemite Airport (MMH) is available on Alaska Airlines, United Airlines and/or JetSuiteX from Los Angeles, Burbank, San Diego and San Francisco.



### DRIVE

Mono County is within a scenic 5-7 hour drive from Los Angeles, San Francisco and Las Vegas. Northern Mono County is only 1.5 hours from Reno/Tahoe International Airport.

### DRIVING DISTANCES AND TIMES

Reno	2.5 hours	140 miles / 225 km
San Francisco	5.5 hours	250 miles / 402 km
Los Angeles	5.5 hours	330 miles / 531 km
Sacramento	4 hours	220 miles / 354 km
Las Vegas	5.5 hours	340 miles / 547 km
Yosemite Valley	2 hours	75 miles / 121 km

*All mileage and times are from Lee Vining, CA*



Mono Lake

## VISITOR AMENITIES

**LODGING** — With more than 140 hotels, motels, bed & breakfast inns, cabins and campgrounds, Mono County has a diverse lodging base — truly everything from deluxe spa hotels to rustic cottages and scenic RV parks.

**DINING** — All that fresh air and adventure will have visitors needing fuel. There are over 100 restaurants, cafes, pubs and bakeries to choose from throughout Mono County, with options ranging from traditional comfort food to delicious ethnic cuisine and fine dining.

**SHOPPING** — If you are looking for Macy's, you won't find it in Mono County. Our shopping experience is more about bait, gloves and woolly buggers! However, with approximately 125 stores to browse through, you'll find lots of intriguing shops, art galleries with Eastern Sierra-inspired visions, and Native American crafts and western wear that will bring out everyone's inner Wild West.

**WINTER 2017** — Kids 12 and under ski and snowboard FREE all winter at June Mountain, no restrictions!

## TOP EASTERN SIERRA ACTIVITIES

### SUMMER

Hiking and Backpacking  
Fishing and Camping  
Mountain Biking and Road Cycling  
Kayaking and Canoeing  
Stand-up Paddleboarding  
Rock Climbing  
Horseback Riding  
ATVs / Off-Highway Vehicles

### WINTER

Skiing and Snowboarding  
Cross Country Skiing  
Snowshoeing  
Snowmobiling  
Dog-Sledding  
Sledding and Tubing  
Ice Skating  
Ice Climbing

## 2017 EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

June Lake Winter Festival	June Lake	March 4
Mammoth Winter Biathlon	Mammoth Lakes	March 18-19
Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua	Lee Vining	June 16-18
Mammoth Motocross	Mammoth Lakes	June 16-25
Old-Fashioned 4th of July	Bridgeport	July 1-4
How Big Is Big Fishing Derby	Walker	July 1-30
June Lake Triathlon	June Lake	July 8
Mammoth Festival of Beers & Bluesapalooza	Mammoth Lakes	August 3-6
Friends of Bodie Day	Bodie	August 12
Founder's Day Celebrations	Bridgeport	September 1-4
Eastern Sierra Kite Festival	Walker	September 23-24
Eastern Sierra ATV/UTV Jamboree	Walker	September 26-30
June Lake Autumn Beer Festival	June Lake	September 30

For the latest news, events info, FREE Visitor Guide, and Mono County Travel Blog — visit us online at [www.MonoCounty.org](http://www.MonoCounty.org) and on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/VisitEasternSierra](http://www.Facebook.com/VisitEasternSierra).

**Elected State Representatives:**

<p>Assembly member Frank Bigelow                      5<sup>th</sup> Assembly District                      State Capitol, Suite #6027                      Sacramento, CA 94249-0005                      Phone: (916) 319-2005                      Fax: (916) 319-2105                      Website: <a href="#">Members   Assembly Internet</a></p>	<p>Senator Tom Berryhill                      8<sup>th</sup> Senate District                      State Capitol, Room 3076                      Sacramento, CA 95814                      Phone: (916) 651-4008                      Fax: (916) 651-4908                      Website: <a href="http://berryhill.cssrc.us/">http://berryhill.cssrc.us/</a></p>
<p>Governor Jerry Brown                      c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173                      Sacramento, CA 95814                      Phone: (916) 445-2841                      Fax: (916) 558-3160                      Website:  <a href="http://gov.ca.gov/Agencies/Governor-Office-of-the">http://gov.ca.gov/Agencies/Governor-Office-of-the</a></p>	

**Elected Congressional Representatives:**

<p>Senator Kamala Harris                      United States Senate                      112 Hart Senate Office Building                      Washington, D.C. 20510                      Phone: (202) 224-3553                      Fax: (202) 224-0454                      Website: <a href="http://www.harris.senate.gov/">http://www.harris.senate.gov/</a></p>	<p>Senator Dianne Feinstein                      United States Senate                      331 Hart Senate Office Building                      Washington, D.C. 20510                      Phone: (202) 224-3841                      Fax: (202) 228-3954                      Website: <a href="http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/">http://www.feinstein.senate.gov/</a></p>
<p>Congressman Paul Cook                      8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District                      1222 Longworth House Office Building                      Washington, DC 20515                      Phone: (202) 225-5861                      Fax: (909 )797-4997                      Website: <a href="http://cook.house.gov/">http://cook.house.gov/</a></p>	





County of Mono  
Post Office Box 696  
Bridgeport, California 93517  
(760) 932-5410  
[www.mono.county.ca.gov](http://www.mono.county.ca.gov)





January 8, 2018

Mono County Board of Supervisors  
PO Box 1903  
Bridgeport, California

RE: Mono County State and Federal Legislative Platform comments

Dear Members of the Board,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Mono County 2017 State and Federal Legislative Platform dated February 14, 2017. Friends of the Inyo has not previously commented on the County's legislative platforms but given the legislative threats to public lands that have emerged in 2017 we now consider it prudent for the County to take a strong stance on federal legislation impacting public lands in Mono County, as well as to support State legislation that seeks to insulate California from such federal attacks. This letter includes our concerns and recommendations for revision of the 2017 platform specifically regarding the Natural Resources, Public Lands and Agriculture sections. We ask the Board to consider the revisions below.

- In the **introduction** (pgs. 4-5), inclusion of language informing readers that Highway 395 is a designated Scenic Highway from its southern boundary to the town of Walker.
- **Support sustainable fishing** (pgs. 8, 16). We suggest including language supporting funding to clean up the lakes and streams where people fish, particularly fishing line, which is harming all wildlife, including fish. We suggest this section also include support for education regarding sustainable fishing, and for the restoration of native fish populations. The new recreation Coordinator for the County could help spearhead this as a pilot project with partners and volunteers in 2018.
- Add **support of sustainable trails**. We suggest the document include language supporting sustainable trails, including the maintenance of existing trails and the development of strategy for planning and execution of new sustainable trails. The County's new recreation coordinator could facilitate legislative tracking and advocacy around trails funding.
- **Continue to oppose legislation that would increase entrance fees to National Park lands** (pg. 15 add to section 2a or 2b). Increased entrance fees will harm gateway communities that depend on park visitors. If the current administration wants to address deficiencies in the National Park Service budget, it must commit to working with Congress to adequately fund parks including the passage of the National Park Service Legacy Act (S.751, HR.2584).

- **Support the control of invasive species** (pg. 16). We suggest adding a sentence to include the importance of following the Best Available Science, such as using native species when seeding, and eliminating the use of chemical treatments. Mono County could also coordinate with the California's Invasive Plant Council's Eastern Sierra Weed Management Area team (<http://www.cal-ipc.org/solutions/wmas/eastern-sierra-wma/>), a group of agency partners working on invasive species management in the Eastern Sierra.
- **Support State Senate Bill 5**. We suggest including language supporting The California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access For All Act of 2018. This bill earmarks \$492 million to the Sierra Nevada. The bill also provides \$100 million for forest management. The bill is widely supported, currently polling at 65%, and is endorsed by the Sierra Business Council.
- **Support alternative energy** (pg. 16). We suggest deleting 1. "Support geothermal power- Continue to support geothermal power production that is environmentally sustainable and doesn't negatively affect local domestic water supplies." This appears to be redundant as it is stated in the section just above.
- **Special Designations** (pg. 15). We fully support the section on special designations with the necessary addition of Wild and Scenic Rivers. This addition would be consistent with the Board's August 23, 2016 comment letter to the Inyo National Forest regarding the Draft Plan and Environmental Impact Statement where the Board supported many Wild & Scenic River designations.
- **Support public lands infrastructure** (pg. 16). We suggest adding language regarding the need for more law enforcement staff.
- **Support endangered species regulation** (pg. 17). Consider including language opposing any federal legislation that undermines the Endangered Species Act.
- **Support wildfire funding and fuels reduction** (pgs. 8, 16). Consider including language addressing tree mortality and stating that forest management should be driven by the Best Available Science. Current research supports prescribed burning, selective thinning of small diameter trees and the use of managed wildfire, when it does not threaten people or property. The removal of large live and dead trees, which are invaluable to wildlife, for timber benefit does nothing to promote forest health. It is important the County emphasizes a commitment to protecting the County's forest ecosystems as a whole. The County should oppose false solutions to proposed forest management legislation, such as HR 2936, which falsely promises to fix the wildfire funding crisis and promote fuels reduction, when in actuality it would weaken bedrock environmental laws and open our forests to widespread commercial timber production.
- **Groundwater** (pg. 9). In addition to section 3G, we recommend including a section on the importance of groundwater in Mono County and thus advocacy and support for stronger state regulations for groundwater pumping specifically limiting the drawdown of water tables. Because of climate change, communities throughout the County may have to rely on groundwater pumping in future years and the County should proactively protect groundwater supplies through state legislation. The Mono Basin, Long Valley, and smaller basins are too small to trigger a GSA to manage them. The proposed Mammoth Base Land Exchange and Tioga Inn projects are of particular concern regarding groundwater.
- **Water Supply**. We recommend adding language supporting federal and state funding to measure, on an annual basis, the most important glaciers and snowfields in the Sierra (i.e. Mt. Lyell) in order to prepare the County for surface water shortages and impacts to wildlife and habitat from decreased stream flows.

- **Climate Change.** We suggest including stronger language on combating climate change. This could include advocating and supporting stronger state and federal regulations on energy conservation and lowering greenhouse gas emissions. The County could also work with communities to support local renewable energy initiatives and appropriately sited and scaled projects. There are many places a section on this could fit within the document ranging from sustainable recreation to alternative energy.

In closing, we greatly appreciate the effort the County has put into crafting a strong legislative platform. We thank you for making this a public process as you review the document for 2018 and consider our recommendations.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jora Fogg, Friends of the Inyo



Lisa Cutting, Mono Lake Committee



April Sall, Bodie Hills Conservation Partnership



Lynn Bolton, Sierra Club Range of Light Group



Fran Hunt, Sierra Club



## MONO LAKE COMMITTEE

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

Phone (760) 647-6595  
Fax (760) 647-6377

### Board of Directors

Chair:  
Sally Gaines

Martha Davis  
Vireo Gaines Schiller  
David Kanner  
Richard Lehman  
Gina Radieve  
Tom Soto  
Sherryl Taylor  
Doug Virtue  
Kristine Zeigler

### Directors Emeriti

Helen Green  
Ed Grosswiler  
Genny Smith

### Executive Director

Geoffrey McQuilkin

### Southern California Office

1718 Wellesley Ave  
Los Angeles, CA  
90025-3634

### On the Internet

[monolake.org](http://monolake.org)  
[monobasinresearch.org](http://monobasinresearch.org)

January 3, 2018

Board of Supervisors

Mono County

c/o Clerk of the Board

PO Box 715

Bridgeport, CA 93517

Subject: Comments on Mono County's 2018 State and Federal Legislative Platform

Dear Supervisors Corless, Gardner, Johnston, Peters, and Stump:

The Mono Lake Committee (MLC) would like to offer the following suggested text for inclusion in the 2018 State and Federal Legislative Platform. It is our understanding that the Board will discuss and receive public comment on revisions at the January 9, 2018 meeting.

### Recommendations

The federal government is currently experiencing substantial new uncertainties in budget, lands management, regulatory approach, and water policy. Unexpected challenges may arise in 2018 and MLC suggests adding language to the platform that supports maintaining existing, established protections and regulations at Mono Lake. This would be similar in approach to the specific reference made to Devils Postpile National Monument in the existing platform. Our suggestion is to add the following to the platform section "Federal Priorities – Natural Resources, Public Lands, and Agriculture:"

**Support established Mono Lake protections – Support existing federal legislation and regulations that protect Mono Lake, and oppose those that would reduce the size or authority of the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, weaken application of the Clean Air Act to PM<sub>10</sub> emissions from Mono Lake's exposed lakebed, or restrict the application of the Public Trust doctrine by the state to water rights relevant to Mono Lake.**

MLC also suggests modifying existing language under the Federal Priorities section – Natural Resources, Public Lands, and Agriculture letter item c. "Support special designations" to include Wild & Scenic River designations. This addition would be consistent with the Board's August 23, 2016 comment letter to the Inyo National Forest regarding the Draft Plan and Environmental Impact Statement where the Board supported many Wild & Scenic River designations,

several of which are in the Mono Basin. Our suggestion is to add the following underlined text:

**Support special designations** – Support special use designations for public lands such as National Scenic Areas, Wilderness, Wild & Scenic Rivers, National Monuments, and National Conservation Areas when demonstrated conservation values and public support warrant such designations.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2018 State and Federal Legislative Platform for Mono County. We'd be happy to discuss these suggestions further; please contact me at (760) 647-6595 x142 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Lisa Cutting  
Eastern Sierra Policy Director

January 1, 2018

Mono County Board of Supervisors  
PO Box 696  
Bridgeport, CA 93517  
sent via email to: [lchapman@mono.ca.gov](mailto:lchapman@mono.ca.gov)

Re: 2017 State and Federal Legislative Platform

Dear Honorable Supervisors:

I recently received a copy of the “2017 State and Federal Legislative Platform” and I’m glad the County took the time to produce it. It is a great document and it reflects what I value about living here. I would like to offer some additions that you may want to consider for future updates.

Small things:

- Consider including Wild and Scenic River to the list of public lands designations under 2c on page 15.
- Consider including the need for more enforcement staff under 2f on page 16.
- Consider mentioning in the Introduction that Highway 395 is a designated Scenic Highway for most of the length from the Inyo County line to the town of Walker.

Bigger things:

- Please consider adding, under 3b on page 8 and 2d on page 16, that forest management and fuels reduction regarding the issue of tree mortality should be driven by science. The current science research supports controlled burns and thinning or managed wildfires when it does not endanger people or property. Clear cutting and the removal of the largest dead trees for timber do not benefit an ecosystem. This is very important to emphasize.
- I recommend asking for stronger state regulations for groundwater pumping that limit the amount a water table is allowed to drop. If we go into another set of drought years, our communities will switch from using surface water to pumping groundwater. In 2015, TOML was relying completely on their wells. The Mono Basin, Long Valley, and smaller basins are too small to trigger a GSA to manage them. Yet, several develop projects are on the horizon that will increase the take from groundwater: the Mammoth Base Land Exchange and the proposed Tioga Inn. When the glaciers and permanent snowfields in the Sierras melt with Global Warming, surface water will dwindle and the groundwater usage will increase.

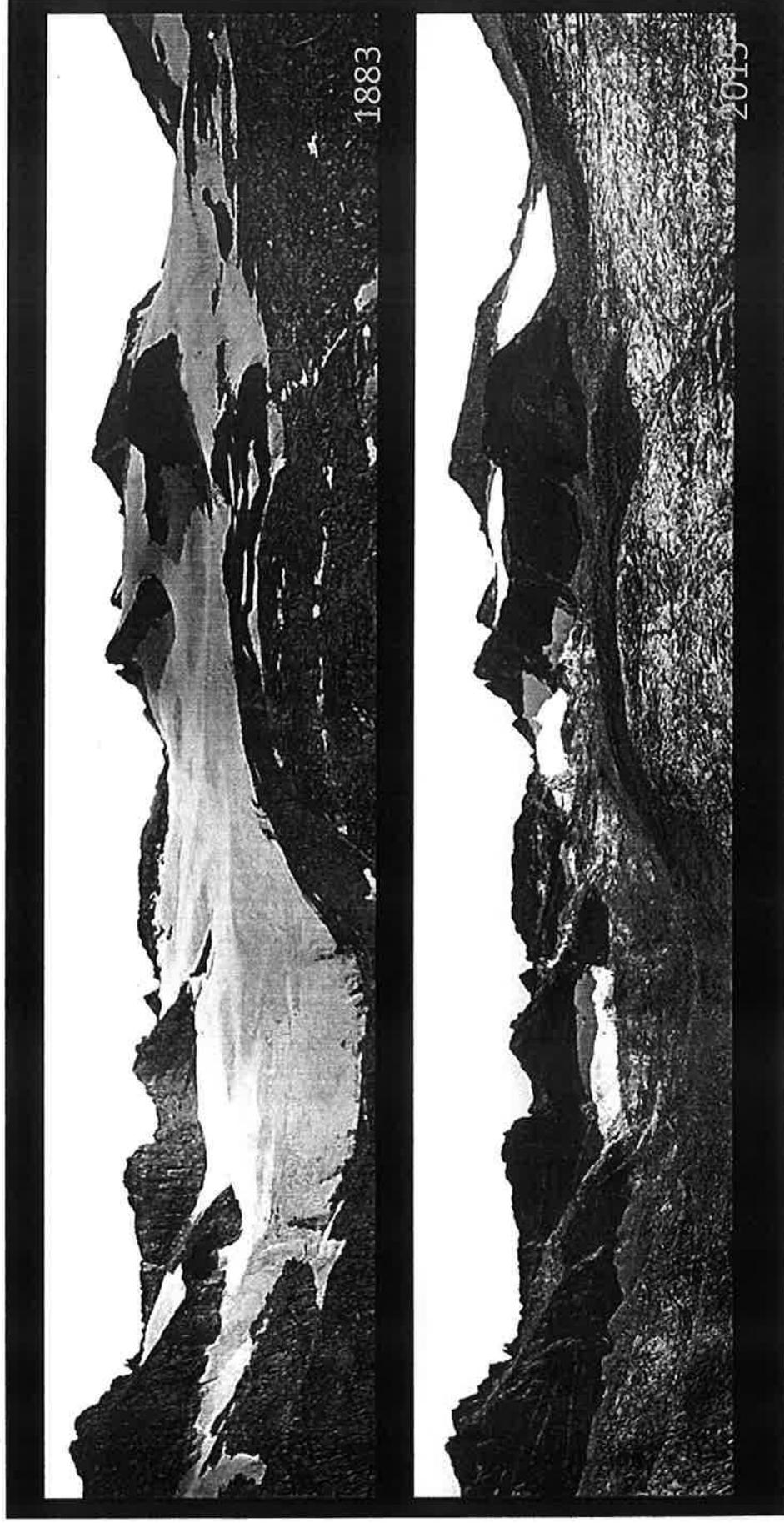
- I recommend asking the state and the USFS to measure the most important glaciers and snowfields in the Sierra, annually, to prepare the County for surface water shortages and impacts to wildlife and habitat when the streams dry up in summer. Based on the speed at which Mt. Lyell glacier is shrinking, this is not too far out.
- I recommend asking for stronger regulations nationwide to conserve energy and to lower GHG emissions. Global Warming will destroy recreational trout fishing in the Eastern Sierra. Trout are dependent upon cold lakes and streams, which are fed by snowmelt well into the summer. Global Warming will bring us more rain, less snow. Rain on snow melts snow more quickly so lakes and streams will have more time to warm up during the summer. Global Warming also threatens the ecosystem at Mono Lake.

Thank you for your hard work on this document.

Regards,  
Lynn Boulton  
Lee Vining

## Shrinking Glaciers and Snowfields

- Less groundwater recharge
- Fewer springs
- Streams dry up earlier in the season
- Lakes shrink



# Shrinking Glaciers and Snowfields



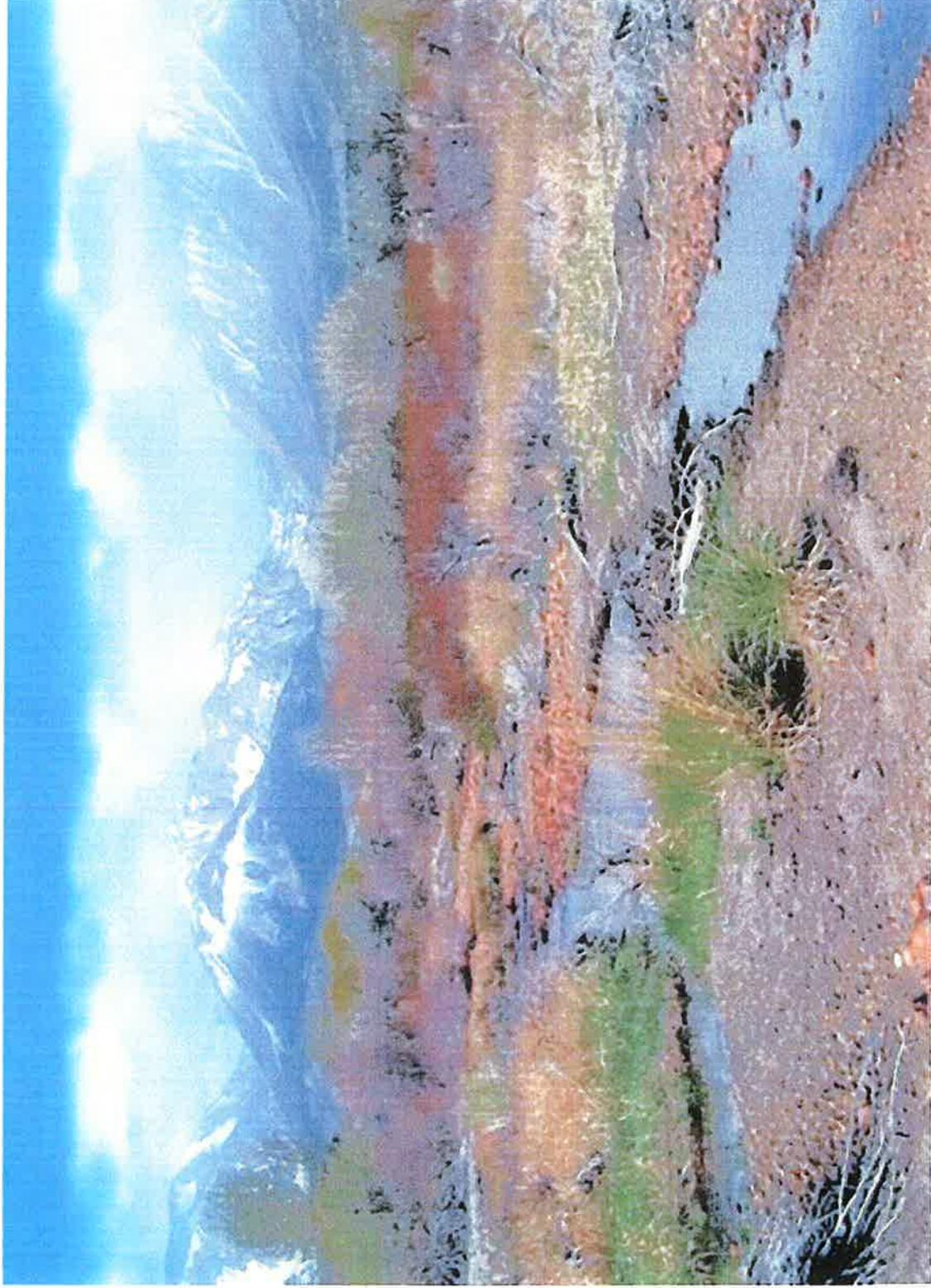
## Stream Impacts

- Seasonal (streams drying up before winter)
- Excessive algae
- Slower water, more pools
- Fewer riffles, less dissolved oxygen
- Fewer invertebrates i.e caddisflies, stoneflies, mayflies
- More anchor ice melting and plucking invertebrates and leaf litter off the bottom



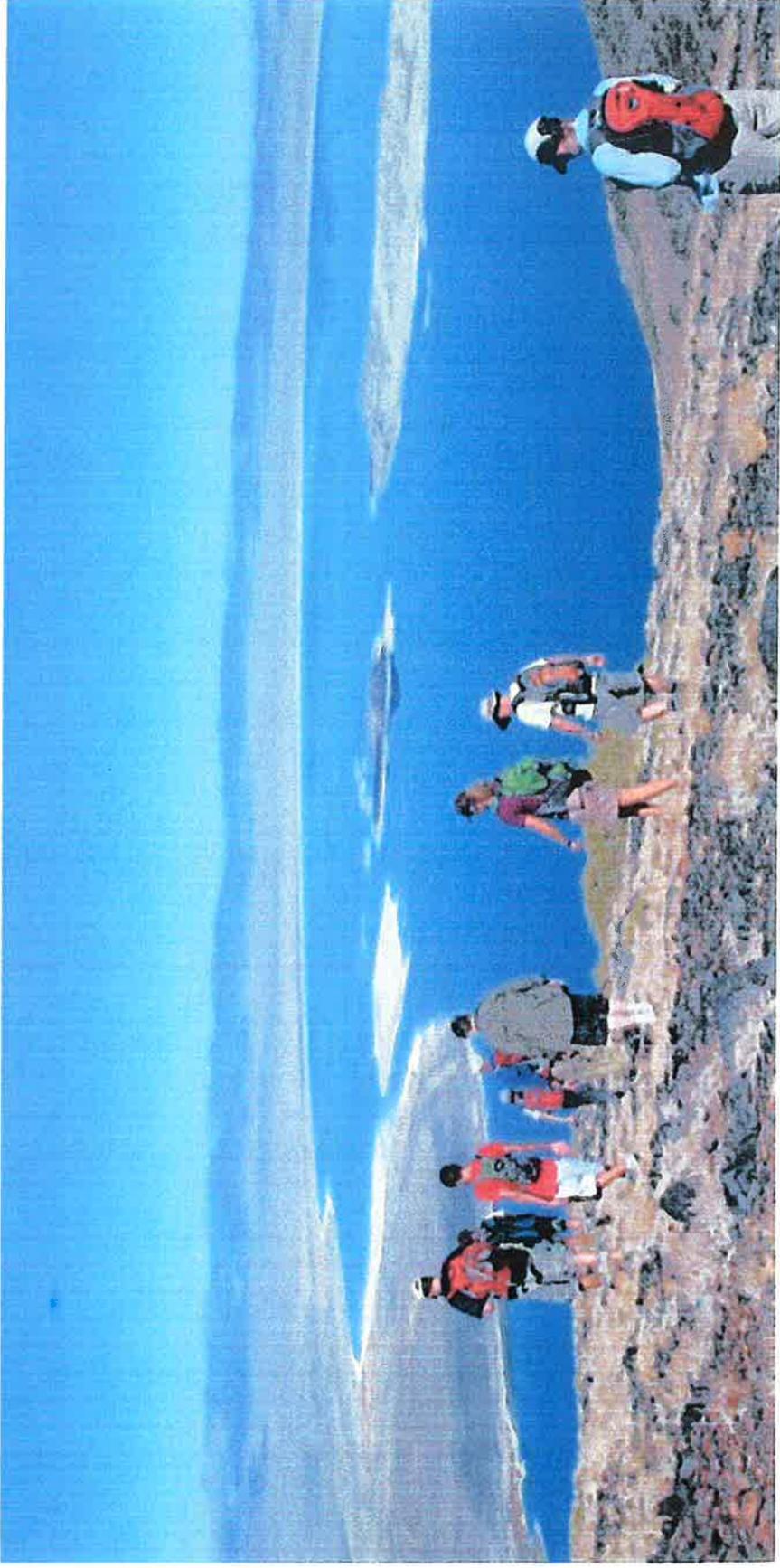
## **Stream Warming**

68 degrees F = death to a stream



# Lake Warming

- Excessive algae
- Fewer cold-water invertebrates i.e. caddisflies, stoneflies, mayflies
- Less mixing of water
- No nutrients brought from the bottom to the top layer.
- Increased evaporation
- Lakes can freeze to the bottom where now ice floats on top



**January 09, 2018**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Item # 11a**

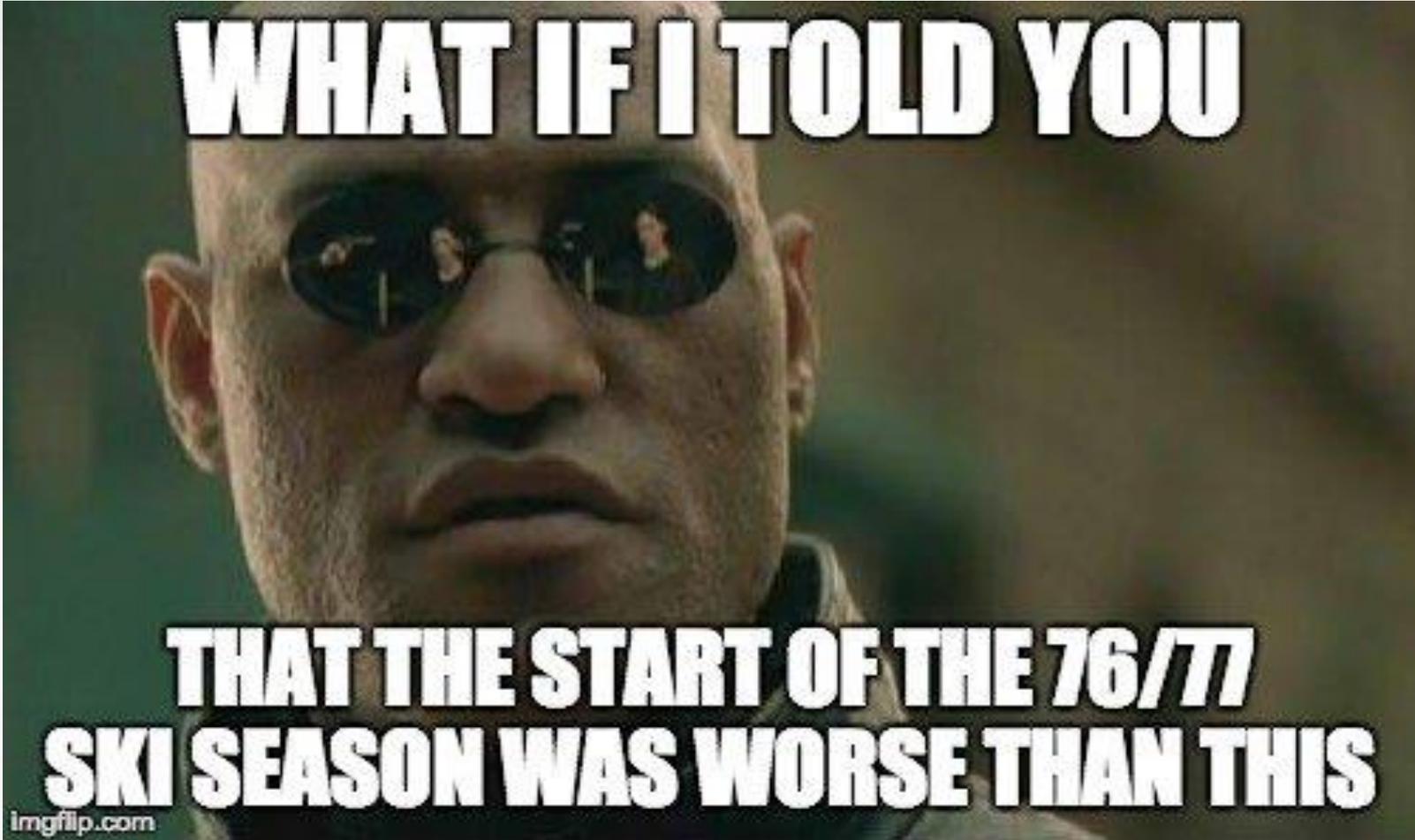
**Public Works**

**Avalanche Preparedness**  
**Presentation Sue Burak**

# Mono County Board of Supervisors presentation

January 9, 2019

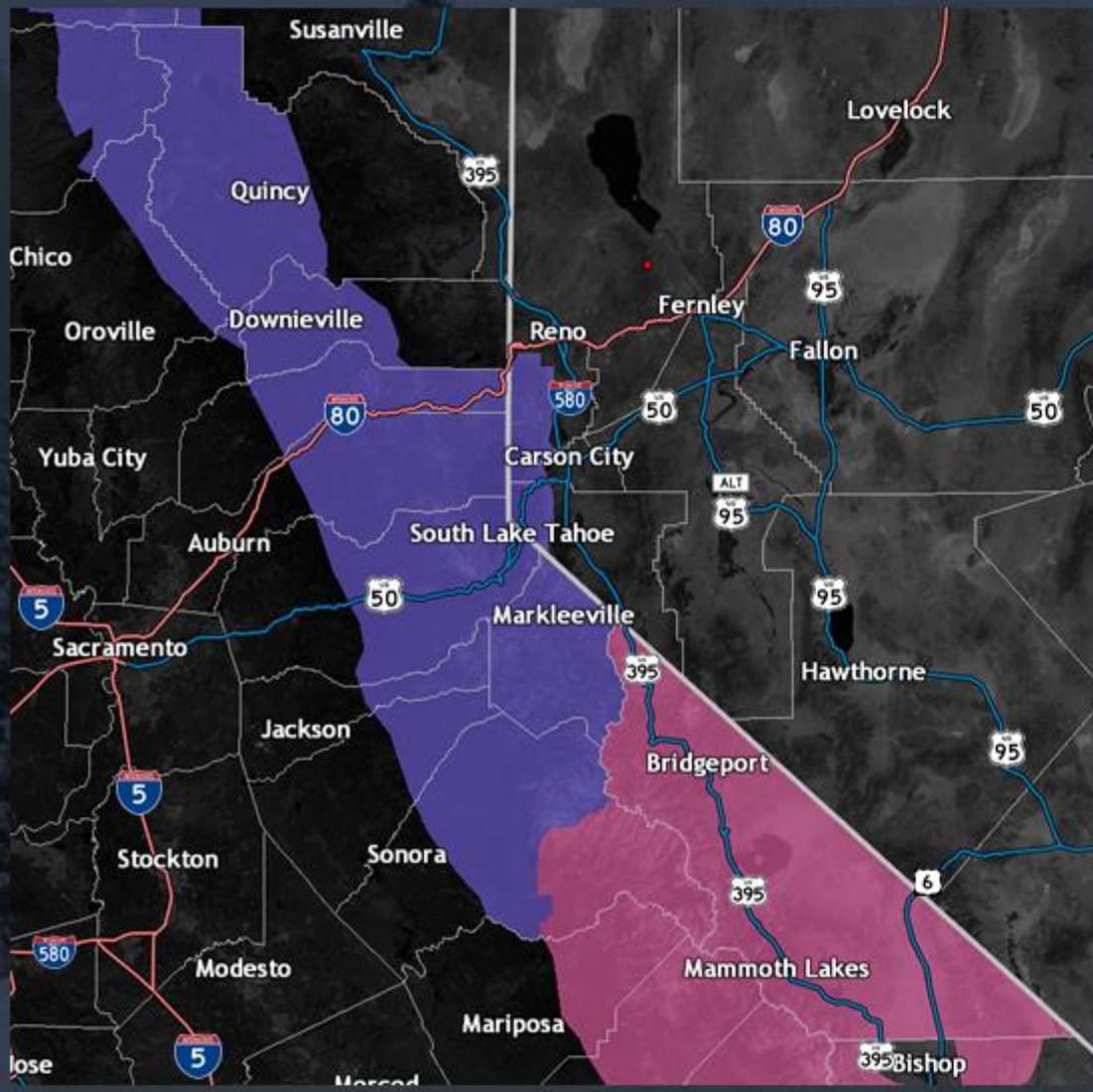
- Introduction
  - Welcome to winter 2018
  - Weather briefing, comparisons to 1976-1977 winter
- Updates to Mono County Avalanche Forecasting Program
  - Weekly avalanche advisories
    - 24 hour advisories during active avalanche conditions
    - Locations covered by advisories
    - Hazard Scale for Mono County Roads
      - Hazard levels
      - Avalanche Hazard Thresholds affecting snow removal operations



**WHAT IF I TOLD YOU**

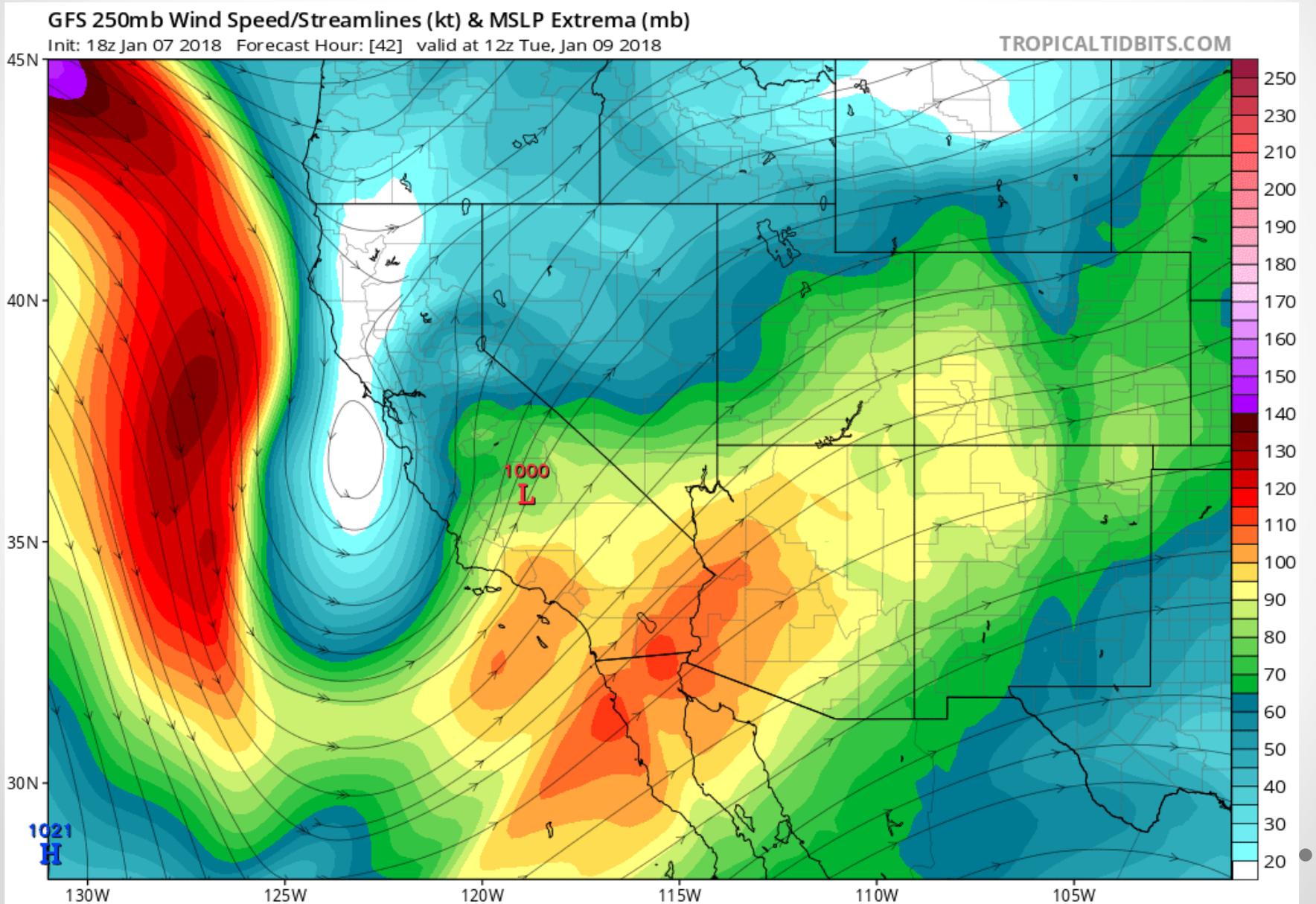
**THAT THE START OF THE 76/77  
SKI SEASON WAS WORSE THAN THIS**

imgflip.com



- **Winter Storm Warning** for Mono County above 7000 feet
  - 4 AM Mon -7 PM PST Tue
- **Winter Weather Advisory** for the Greater Lake Tahoe area above 7000 feet
  - 10 PM Mon-7 PM PST Tue
- Moderate to heavy snow
- Low visibilities
- Plan on difficult travel conditions and chain controls in the eastern Sierra over passes Monday, becoming more widespread Tuesday
- Some damage to trees and powerlines possible due to heavy wet snow accumulation

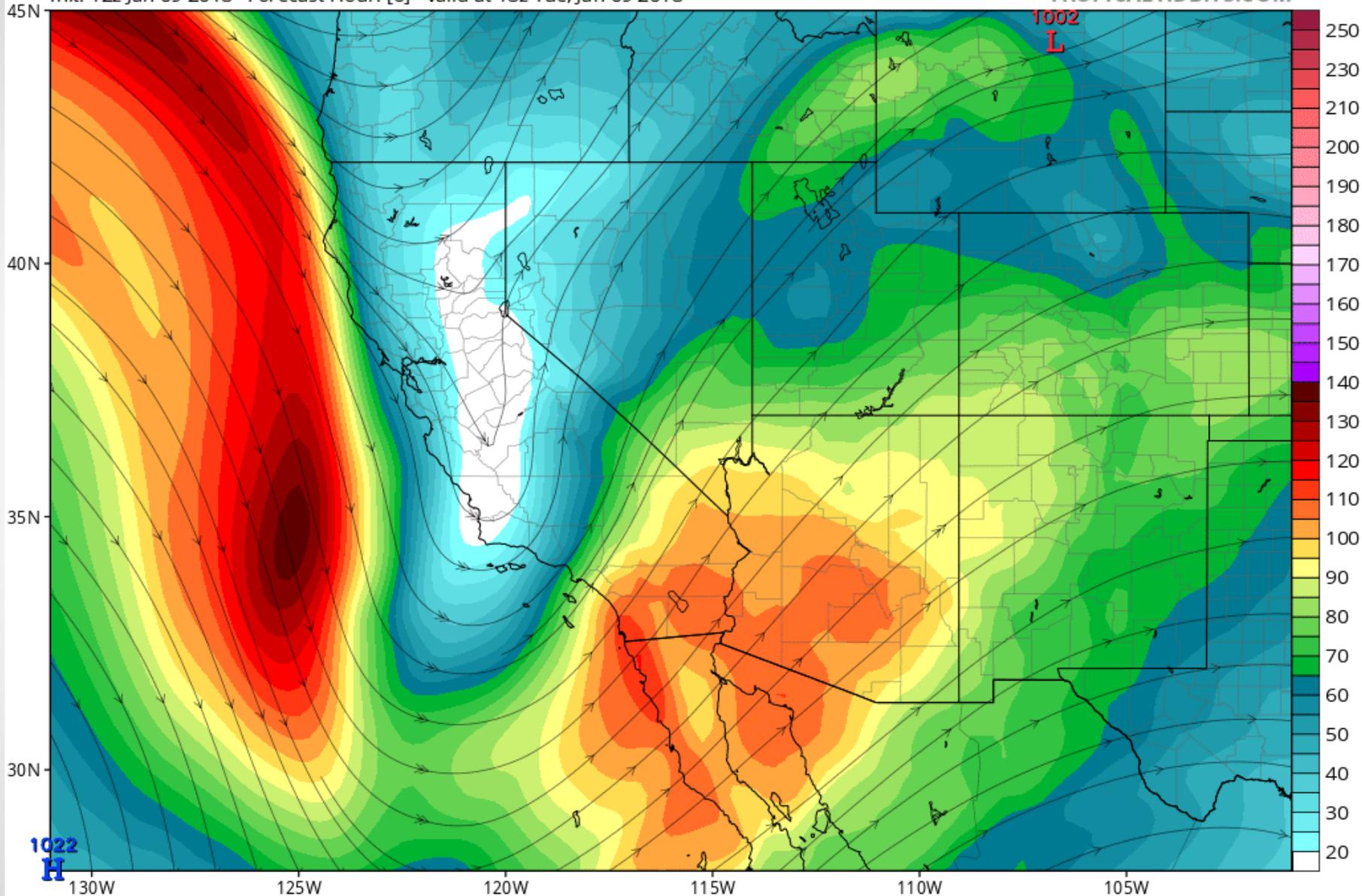
This is more like it! This is what we like to see!



# GFS 250mb Wind Speed/Streamlines (kt) & MSLP Extrema (mb)

Init: 12z Jan 09 2018 Forecast Hour: [6] valid at 18z Tue, Jan 09 2018

TROPICALTIDBITS.COM







Picture By Flaskman  
mammothsnowman.com - April 9th, 2005

April 9 2005

# Definitions

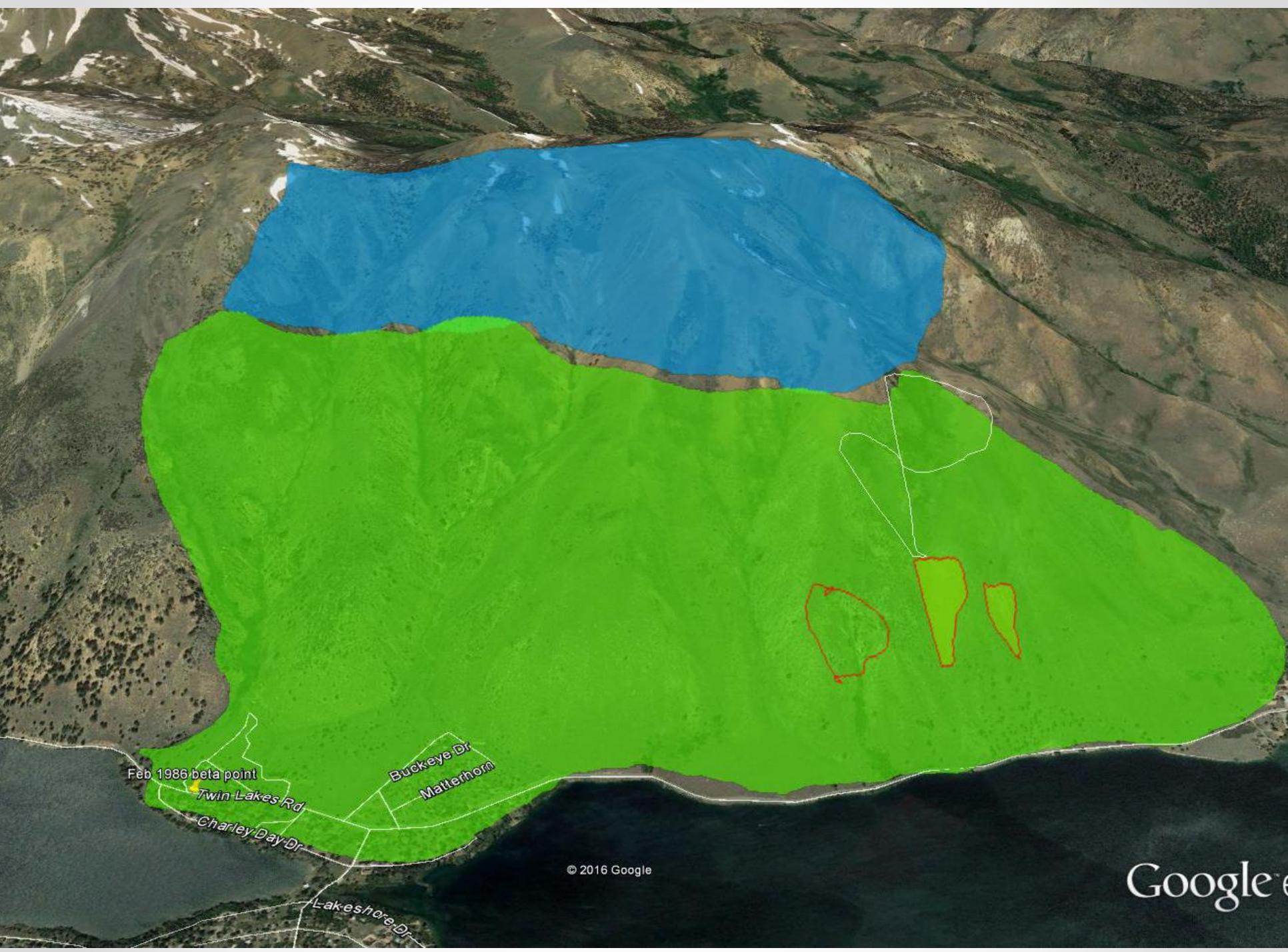
- Natural avalanches
- Avalanche Hazard- source of potential harm
  - Likelihood of triggering
  - Destructive size – will it reach the road?
  - “If it goes, what will happen?”
- Avalanche Danger
  - High, Considerable, Moderate, Low

- Unlikely
- Possible
- Likely
- Almost Certain



Qualitative judgements  
inferred from evidence

LEVEL	Description:	Description: Impact on Roads	COMMENTS
NONE	Insufficient snow cover for avalanche formation	Insufficient snow to reach the highways	No operational changes
NOTICE	Natural avalanches are very unlikely to significantly impact highway operations	Avalanches may run to within 0.25 miles of the road. Storm intensity monitored closely.	Avalanche path starting zones and tracks are snow covered. Runout zones are bare or <50% coverage.
CAUTION	Natural slab or wet snow avalanches D2 to D3 may reach runout zones upslope of the highway (possible)	Avalanches that run onto the highway will require a truck mounted snowplow to clear debris	Snow cover in avalanche starting zones, tracks and runout zones is sufficient for large avalanche to reach road. Do not work outside of vehicle
WARNING	Large Natural avalanches are likely to affect highway operations.	Avalanches large enough to bury passenger vehicles, and damage buildings and maintenance vehicles are likely	Road closures in threatened areas. Code Red. Avalanche advisories issued every 24 hours.



Feb 1986 beta point

Twin Lakes Rd

Charley Day Dr

Buckeye Dr  
Matterhorn

Lakeshore Dr

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# Weekly Avalanche Advisories

Mono County Avalanche Forecast	Date:	20180108		
Avalanche Danger Rating:	NONE	NOTICE	CAUTION	WARNING
Site/Area:				
Twin Lakes	X			
Virginia Lakes Road	X			
Lundy Lake Area	X			
Poole Power Plant Road	X			
June Lake Area	X			
Crowley Lake Drive	X			
Swall Meadows	X			
Rock Creek Narrows	X			
Lower Rock Creek	X			



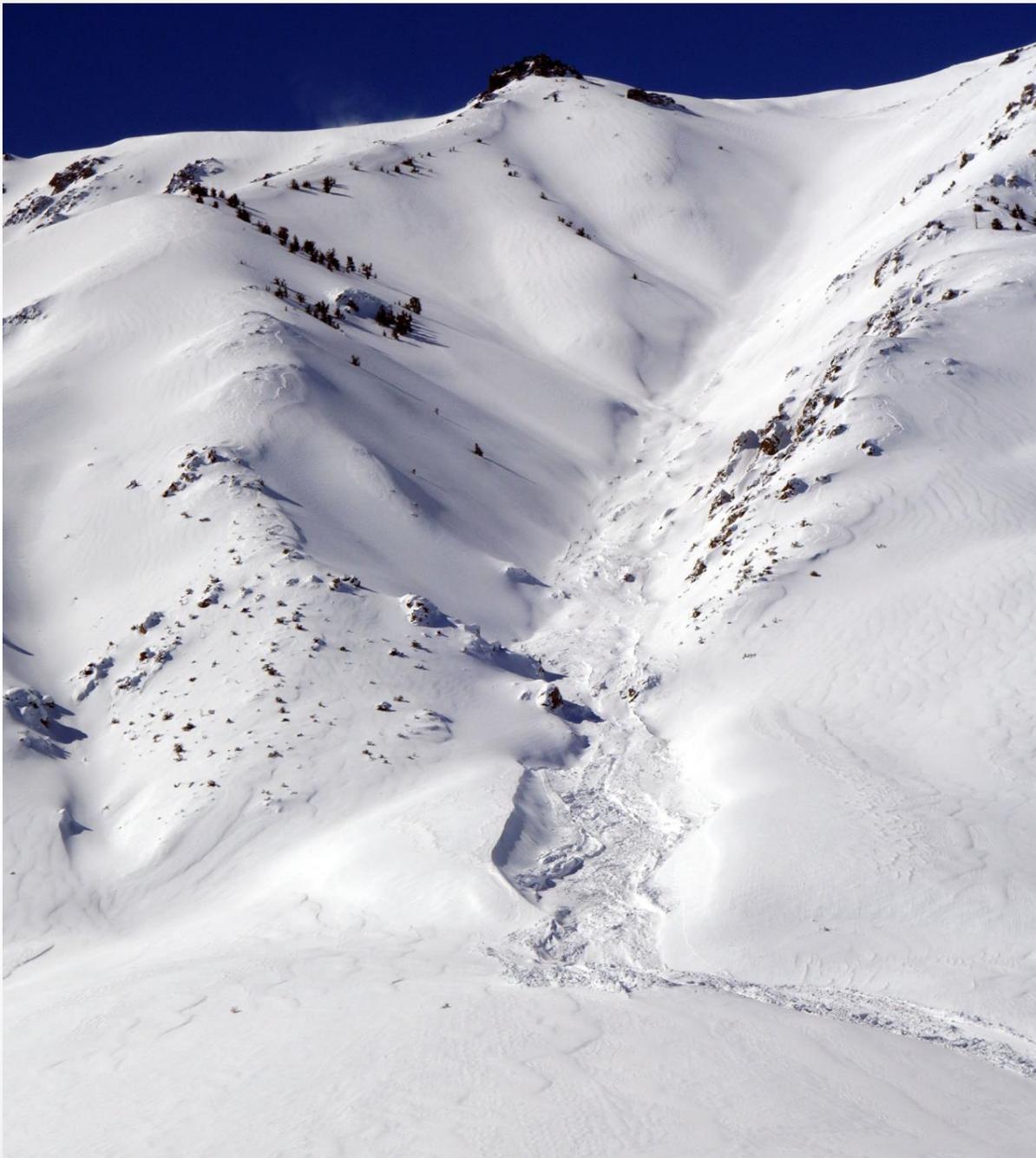
High Probability, Low Consequence

## **D2 AVALANCHE SIZE**



High Probability

High Consequence



**D3  
avalanche  
size**

# Long Valley Avalanche D4



Low Probability, High Consequence

# Avalanche advisory preparation process

Avalanche forecasting has always been difficult to explain and fraught with uncertainty.

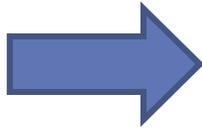
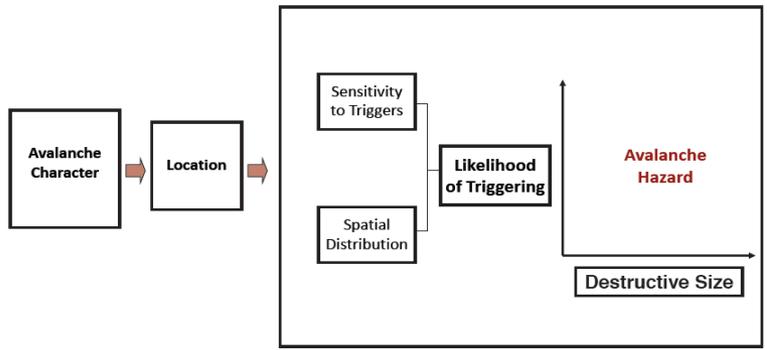
Ratings systems have little in the way of rational guidance and it remains a task for human judgement with support from technology and process.

Hazard ratings are the tool for summarizing the avalanche conditions and communicating them to a broader audience.

A large messy problem is divided into a set of smaller and presumably easier judgement calls.

# AVALANCHE HAZARD EVALUATION WILL IT REACH THE ROAD?

## Avalanche Hazard Evaluation



## Scale

### Spatial Scale

Narrows  
McGee  
Swall  
Twin Lakes  
Lundy

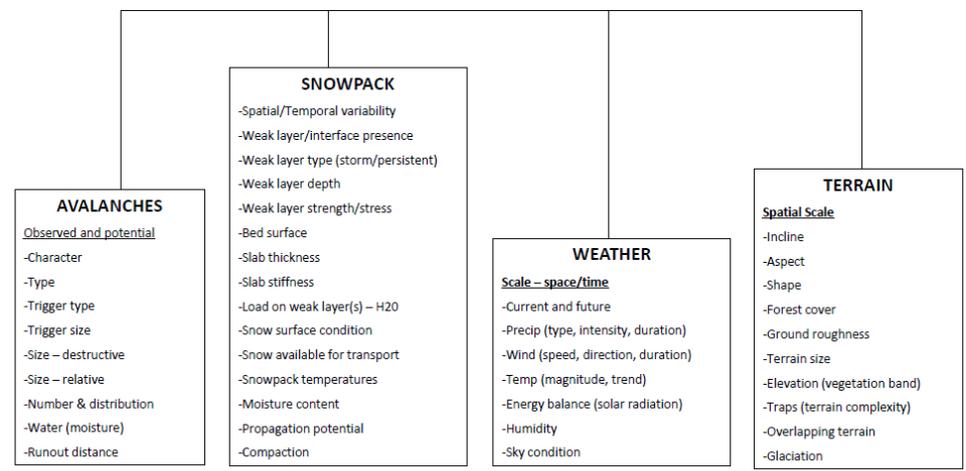
### Temporal Scale

Minutes  
Hours  
Days

## Evidence and Data

**Avalanche hazard factors** (examples of commonly used factors)

The strength and weight given to these factors is a judgemental assessment with no hierarchy of data type



LEVEL	Description: Avalanche size	Description: Impact on Roads	COMMENTS
NONE	Insufficient snow cover. Natural avalanches are very unlikely to reach the highway	Insufficient snow to reach the highways	No operational changes
NOTICE	Natural avalanches are unlikely to significantly impact highway operations	Avalanches may run to within 0.25 miles of the road. Storm intensity monitored closely.	Avalanche path starting zones and tracks are snow covered. Runout zones are bare or <50% coverage.



LEVEL	Description: Avalanche size	Description: Impact on Roads	COMMENTS
CAUTION	Natural avalanches of size D2 to D3 may reach the highway (possible)	Avalanches that run onto the highway will require a snowplow to clear debris	Snow cover in avalanche starting zones, tracks and runout zones is sufficient for large avalanche to reach road



LEVEL	Description: Avalanche size	Description: Impact on Roads	COMMENTS
WARNING	Large Natural avalanches are likely to affect highway operations	Avalanches large enough to bury passenger vehicles and damage maintenance vehicles are likely	Road closures in threatened areas. Code Red. Avalanche advisories issued 24 hours.



# Summary

- Mono County Hazard Rating Scale is work in progress

- Weekly advisories

- Observations from Road Department personnel

Weather station operational



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