

M O N O B A S I N



NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA

Comprehensive Management Plan

Inyo National Forest
United States Department of Agriculture
Pacific Southwest Region



MONO BASIN
NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA

Comprehensive Management Plan



1989

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I NTRODUCTION



Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

The Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area is located in Mono County, California. The boundary of the Scenic Area is shown on the maps appended to this plan. It includes some 76,703 acres of land and approximately 41,600 acres of Mono Lake. The Scenic Area is within the Inyo National Forest, managed by the Mono Lake District Ranger.

On September 28, 1984, the California Wilderness Act (PL 98-425) was signed (see appendix). Section 304 of this Act established the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area, hereafter referred to as the Scenic Area. This designation culminated several years of discussion and efforts to recognize the unique features and ecosystems of Mono Lake and the surrounding basin.

The Act provides direction to prepare a Comprehensive Management Plan for the Scenic Area but also makes it clear that "...water rights of the State of California or any subdivision thereof (including the city of Los Angeles) or of any person to the extent that such water rights have been granted or modified under the laws of the State of California" were to be protected. The Act further states "...nor shall any provision of this title be construed to cause, authorize, or allow any interference with or infringement of such water rights so long as, and to the extent that, those rights remain valid and enforceable under the laws of the State of California".

In recent years, attention has focused on Mono Lake and the question of whether the continued diversion of fresh water streams by LADWP in exercising its state permitted water rights would impact or destroy the lake ecosystem. Concerns over the effects of increased salinity on the brine shrimp and brine flies and the impacts these might have on the migratory waterfowl that visit Mono Lake have resulted in litigation. According to the Mono Lake Guidebook (1985), in 1979, the National Audubon Society and others filed a lawsuit against LADWP alleging violation of the "public trust doctrine". Originally heard in the Superior Court of Alpine County, the decision was appealed to the California Supreme Court by the plaintiffs. On February 17, 1983, the Supreme Court issued its decision. In a reversal of the Superior Court decision, the court held that appropriative water rights could be subject to review and potential reallocation under the public trust doctrine by either the courts or the California State Water Resources Control Board. Environmental interests must be balanced against the water supply needs of Los Angeles residents. The State of California Water Resource Control Board is re-examining the Mono Basin water rights of the City of Los Angeles. In addition, a preliminary injunction (PI) was granted in August, 1989, which requires releases to Mono Lake in sufficient quantity to prevent the lake from dropping lower than 6377 feet. This PI is in effect until March, 1990.

The Act required that the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) conduct a scientific study of the ecology of the Scenic Area with the findings and recommendations of the study to be submitted to Congress and the Forest Service. The Forest Service entered into an agreement with NAS in July of 1985. In August of 1987, NAS released its report. Entitled The Mono Basin Ecosystem: Effects of Changing Lake Level, the report discusses the effects of a changing lake level on the ecosystem.

In 1984, State of California Assembly Bill 1614 (Waters) provided funding for scientific studies concerning the effects of water diversions on the Mono Lake ecosystem and required that the study evaluate the effects of declining lake levels, increasing salinity and other changes of Mono Lake. For the study, the California Department of Fish and Game contracted with the Community and Organization Research Institute (CORI) of the University of California, Santa Barbara. The CORI study, entitled The Future of Mono Lake, was released in April, 1988.

Prior to establishment of the Scenic Area, the administration of the land was shared by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) USDI, the Forest Service USDA, and the State of California (State). The BLM administered approximately 25,600 acres, the Forest Service approximately 22,600 acres, and the State approximately 16,000 acres. The State also owns Mono Lake and the land beneath it. In 1972, the BLM designated Negit Island, one of two main islands in the lake, as a "natural area", in recognition of its value as wildlife habitat. In 1983, the BLM completed the Bodie-Coleville Management Framework Plan (MFP). This document identified some 16,000 acres around the lake and included Panum Crater, Black Point, the islands and islets, and the "relicted" land as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). The MFP specified objectives and special management requirements for the ACEC to protect the important cultural, scenic, wildlife, and natural system values.

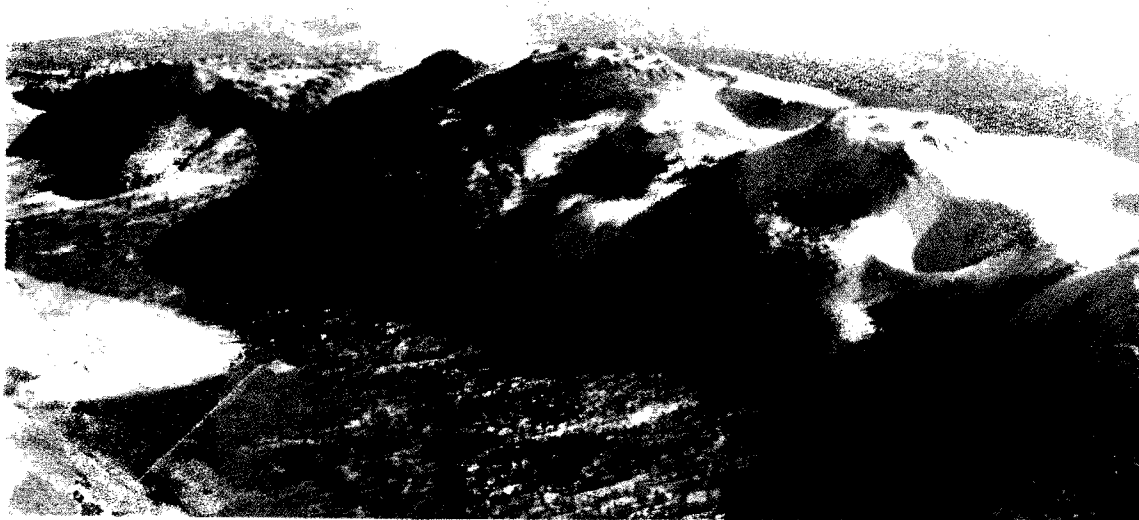
Guidelines for the management of the National Forest Land ultimately included in the Scenic Area, were outlined in the Mammoth-Mono Unit Plan. Management emphasis for most of the included land was on the watershed, visual quality, forage, and wildlife habitat. Emphasis on the Mono Craters portion was on wildlife habitat, visual quality, and minerals.

On January 1, 1982, the State established the Mono Lake Tufa State Reserve on relicted lands surrounding Mono Lake. Relicted lands are those lands adjacent to Mono Lake between elevation 6417 feet above sea level and the low water level of the lake as it varies from day to day. The State initiated a management program designed to protect and perpetuate significant natural, scenic, and other values on these lands.

The State and Federal governments were engaged in a lawsuit contesting the ownership of relicted lands between Federally owned uplands and the lake. The U.S. District Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals found in favor of the Federal Government. The decision was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court but in 1987, that court refused to hear the case. The Federal relicted lands are managed by the Forest Service.

A Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) analyzing differing approaches to the management of the Scenic Area is being released simultaneously with this Comprehensive Management Plan, and is the basis for the plan.





SUMMARY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING



Chapter II

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

A. Physical Environment

Air - The Scenic Area is located in the Mono Basin airshed which is part of the Great Basin airshed. Visibility on most days is good. Dispersion is excellent during any midday period, but inversions can occur. Ground fog over and surrounding the lake does occur in the winter.

Air quality is normally good. However, infrequent episodes of blowing alkali dust can result in total particulate loading which in the past exceeded the California 24 hour TSP standard, and in more recent times, the PM¹⁰ standard. The Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District monitors the air quality and has been working with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to mitigate the dust problem.

Geology - The Mono Basin lies at the boundary between the Basin and Range geologic province to the East and the Sierra Nevada geologic province to the west. Two major faults form the boundary for the geology and topography within and adjacent to the Scenic Area. To the west of these faults is the steep, rugged eastern front of the Sierra Nevada. To the east lies the Mono Basin zone containing Mono Lake and the Mono Craters. At least three periods of glaciation have created a transition between the otherwise distinct rock types of the Sierra and Mono Basin zones.

Rocks of the Sierra Nevada were formed over a 500 million year sequence of sedimentary deposition, folding, erosion, igneous intrusion, uplift and more folding. The broadly arched mountain range resulting from these processes, was largely covered by volcanic material during the Miocene and Pliocene. Three to four million years ago, the Sierra front began breaking apart. The land east of the faults dropped in elevation relative to the land to the west. Erosion of the uplifted land and glacial action deposited up to a thousand feet of sediment on the basin floor.

Recent volcanic activity has contributed large volumes of fresh rock material to the basin.

Several geologic features within the Scenic Area are significant since they are not common or they provide "text book" examples of geologic features. These include:

Tufa

Tufa is a deposit of calcium carbonate (calcite) deposit and aragonite which results in many mounds and towers in and adjacent to the lake. It forms when spring water containing dissolved calcium, mixes with the carbonates of the lake water. Calcite and aragonite precipitate out, forming the mounds and towers that have come to be associated with Mono Lake. Tufa

formations are found throughout the area once covered by the lake, as much as 800 feet above the current lake level. Concentrations, commonly referred to as "Tufa Groves" are found along the southern and western lake shore and at County Park.

Sand Tufa

When carbonate rich water comes in contact with the calcium rich groundwater in the sands beneath Mono Lake, calcite is deposited between the sand grains and the sand grains are cemented together. Masses, tubes, and columns of cemented sand are produced. The cemented grains are stronger than the loose sand grains and resist the erosional effects of wind and water more effectively. When the lake bottom sediments are exposed, the loose grains are removed by the wind, leaving the cemented sand, commonly referred to as sand tufa. These formations are much weaker than regular tufa and are very susceptible to damage.

Black Point

Black Point is a nearly circular, mesa-like hill on the northwest shore of Mono Lake. It covers 2 to 2.5 square miles and has a summit elevation of 6,958 feet. Black Point was formed approximately 13,300 years ago by a series of eruptions on the bottom of the lake. It is primarily composed of fine grained olivine basalt fragments. A series of nearly parallel fissures cross the southeast third of the top of Black Point. They vary in width up to 15 feet and some are 40 feet deep.

Aeolian Buttes

Between U.S. 395 and the Mono Craters are a series of low rolling hills. They are reported to be the "oldest volcanic formation" in Mono Basin. The buttes are composed of Bishop Tuff which overlay a quartz monzonite. The quartz monzonite has been dated at 85-88 million years ago, while the Bishop Tuff is approximately 700,000 years old. It is an outstanding example of wind erosion that has occurred in the Bishop Tuff.

Paoha and Negit Islands

Two islands and up to 15 islets (depending on lake elevation) are located in Mono Lake. Paoha, the larger of the two, covers approximately three square miles. This island is of fairly recent origin, probably having emerged from the lake bottom in the century prior to 1700 A.D. One small lava flow and several cinder cones occur on the northern portion of the island. The Paoha islets are west of the island and probably formed as large blocks of Paoha slid into the lake. These islets are susceptible to wave action and erosion.

Negit Island is of volcanic origin and is the product of at least six eruptions between ~1700 and ~300 years ago. This island is of importance to the California Gull as a rookery. Prior to the land bridge which formed in the early 1980's, a result of falling lake levels, the majority of the birds nested on this island. Although the "bridge" was inundated in the mid-1980's, it is in danger of forming again in 1989. The Negit islets are volcanic and more stable than the Paoha islets.

Sand Dunes

In the northeast corner of the Scenic Area is an area of nine to ten square miles covered with sand dunes. Individual dunes appear to be of several different ages. The oldest dunes are distributed throughout the area. The middle age group occurs on the edges furthest from the lake. These dunes are the largest and most active and are in the process of overrunning individual older dunes. The youngest dunes are closest to the lake.

The active group of dunes are the most susceptible to disturbance by human activity. Vegetation is, in many cases, barely establishing itself. Disturbance of vegetative cover could result in renewed dune movement.

Panum Crater and the Mono Craters

The Mono Craters are a series of overlapping rhyolitic and dacitic flows and domes which have been erupted along a linear fracture zone. The oldest features within the chain are a rhyodacitic and rhyolitic dome at the northern end of the Mono Craters. The ages of the various features are estimated to be between 35,000 and 640 years. By virtue of its isolated location on the north end of the Mono Craters, Panum Dome and Crater is a well preserved example of a rhyolitic eruption. Panum Dome is actually the result of the last of the eruptive phase from Panum Crater. It consists of several separate domes with different characteristics and ages.

Minerals - There are approximately 88 lode claims, 51 placer claims, and 9 millsite claims for a total of 148 claims within the Scenic Area. U.S. Pumice Company is the claimant on approximately 82 of these. The remaining 66 are claimed by 15 different individuals, groups of individuals, companies or corporations. Most of the claims are concentrated on the north end of the Mono Craters or in the area of the Log Cabin Mine on the western border of the Scenic Area. Two removal operations currently exist. Block pumice is removed from portions of the Mono Craters and cinders are removed from Black Point. Both operations are long established uses.

Other than roads on the Mono Craters and some activity at Black Point, current removal operations are not visible from Highways 395 and 120.

Soils - The soils of the Scenic Area are generally derived from two distinct parent materials. Those in the southwestern, western, and northern portions are generally formed from mixed rock sources but predominately granitic in nature. These soils are generally sandy or coarse-textured with varying amounts of rock fragments. Those found in the southern and eastern portions are derived from aerial ash and cinder deposits and generally have ashy or cindery textures.

Soils are generally fragile because of the susceptibility to water and wind erosion. Wind erosion is the most critical agent affecting the majority of soil types. Soils found adjacent to the lake are especially susceptible to wind erosion. The susceptibility to erosion means that disturbance will generally require mitigation.

Visual Resource - The Mono Basin is a major scenic attraction in the Eastern Sierra and has been recognized as being a sensitive, almost fragile visual resource. The landscape consists of a broad shallow basin with Mono Lake in the middle, and the Sierra Nevada escarpment rising along the western edge. A chain of volcanic features is aligned on a north-south axis through the basin.

The prominent vegetation in most of the basin is sagebrush, bitterbrush, and greasewood. However, Jeffrey pine is found in the southern portion while a mixture of conifer species are found on the escarpment. The landscape character is typical of the Great Basin, but is greatly enhanced by the presence of Mono Lake.

Visual quality has declined somewhat over the past century due to man-made impacts. Nevertheless, large portions remain in essentially untouched condition.

Water - Storms affecting the Mono Basin originate from the Pacific Ocean. The mean gauged surface runoff into Mono Lake is approximately 149,696 acre feet and it is estimated that an additional 37,000 acre feet of ungauged Sierra and non-Sierra water flows into the lake. Fluctuations in the lake level occur because of natural precipitation cycles and diversions from the basin to the City of Los Angeles for domestic and industrial use. These diversions occur in Rush, Parker, Walker, and Lee Vining Creeks, and result in major differences in stream flows. These variations have resulted in alterations to riparian vegetation, fishery habitat, and recreation opportunities along these streams.

Flows in Mill and Wilson Creeks are also diverted but not for export from the basin. The resulting impact to riparian resources is about the same as those streams where water is exported.

All surface stream water is of excellent quality until it reaches the lake. The lake is over 2 times more saline than the ocean, limiting the forms of life that can exist. Those that do exist however, form a very important food base for much of the birdlife associated with the lake.

Numerous springs of varying temperatures are found around the lake. Water quality of these shoreline springs is progressively poorer in an eastward direction around the lake as temperature, total dissolved solids and pH increases. Spring water east of Wilson Creek delta area is usually unsuited for human consumption and marginally suitable for wildlife and livestock use.

B. Biological Environment

Fire and Pest Management - From 1970-1985, the area within and adjacent to the Scenic Area had 29 human-caused fires which burned approximately 806 acres. During this same time period, there were 57 lightning-caused fires which burned approximately 996 acres. Most fires burn less than 10 acres but 3 fires have accounted for 91% of the area burned. Large fires tend to occur only when fire is fanned through dry brush by strong winds.

Approximately 50% of the Scenic Area is covered with moderate to dense growth of various brush species. The larger fires typically burn in brush and in recent years, all have been south of Mono Lake.

Approximately 12% of the Scenic Area is covered by trees. There have been no large fires in tree covered areas since 1970.

Insects, disease, animals and vegetation can damage vegetation, reduce the quality and quantity of commodities and amenities and in some cases result in hazardous conditions. Agents are considered pests when they interfere with established goals. Fomes annosus root disease, dwarf mistletoe, pine beetles, pandora moth, tent caterpillars, various rodents, halogeton, salt cedar, and some predators, might be considered pests within the Scenic Area.

Wildlife/Fish/Vegetation - There are approximately 266 vertebrate species in the Scenic Area, including 80 mammals, 170 birds (281 if rare sightings are included), 3 amphibians, 10 reptiles, and 3 fish.

The peregrine falcon is Federally listed as endangered. There is one historic record of adults on Negit Island and sightings have occurred every year since 1975. A reintroduction of birds was made in 1983 and 1984 in Lee Vining Canyon.

The bald eagle is Federally listed as endangered in California. Every winter, two or four birds are seen along Rush Creek and the west shore of the lake.

The Sierra Nevada mountain sheep is classified as threatened by the state of California. A herd of 27 was released in Lee Vining in 1986. The range of the sheep includes the western portion of the Scenic Area.

The northern goshawk is designated as a sensitive species by the Forest Service in California. Two active breeding territories are located within the Scenic Area near the north fork of Lee Vining Creek.

Forty-nine species of waterbirds and shorebirds are regularly seen at Mono Lake and another 55 species have made rare appearances. Four species, the California gull, eared grebe, Wilson's phalarope, and red-necked phalarope, are of particular interest because of their numbers and the dependency on the brine shrimp or flies during significant portions of their life cycle. Snowy plovers nest from the water line to the edge of brushy vegetation on portions of the relicted lands.

The lake biota consists of bacteria, 18 species of algae, including benthic algae and phytoplankton, the alkali (brine) fly and the brine shrimp and seven other species of flies. The brine fly and brine shrimp are the primary food source for several species of birds. The brine shrimp have been proposed for inclusion on the Federal Endangered and Threatened Wildlife list.

Four species of interest in the sagebrush habitats are the mule deer, vesper sparrow, pronghorn antelope, and sage grouse. Numerous small mammals also occupy this habitat. Live trapping records indicate that Black Point supports the most diverse small mammal population in the Scenic Area.

Mule deer from the Mono Lake and Casa Diablo deer herds pass through the Scenic Area during the spring and fall migrations. Many individuals also stay within the Scenic Area during the summer, primarily along the North Fork of Lee Vining Creek.

The vesper sparrow is an uncommon breeder in the Scenic Area. Its apparent decline is linked to the loss of grassy openings in sagebrush.

A small group of pronghorn (less than 10) have spent summers along the north shore of Mono Lake since 1982. Reasons for lack of herd growth are unknown, but could be due to lack of suitable foraging areas, avoidance of quality forage areas due to the presence of domestic sheep, severe loss of fawns to predation, and human disturbance in the fawning area.

Sage grouse have been recently seen in meadows north of the Scenic Area and east of Warm Springs. A lek (strutting ground) may have historically existed along lower Rush Creek. There is strong interest in providing suitable habitat within the Scenic Area for this species.

Streamside vegetation supports a great diversity of wildlife. Species of special interest are the Inyo shrew, yellow warbler, mountain beaver, and the osprey. The yellow warbler is on the California list of species of special concern and is on the Inyo National Forest management indicator species for riparian habitats. The mountain beaver is of particular interest its presence was unknown in Mono Basin until 1976, and only three sightings have been made since. The Mono Basin population of the mountain beaver has been proposed for Federal listing and is classified as a "category 2" species. The Inyo shrew is extremely uncommon and is known in California from only 15 specimens at five locations, one of which is lower Rush Creek. A pair of osprey are known to be nesting within the Scenic Area. They have been observed foraging in the Rush Creek drainage.

Two species of butterflies are noteworthy because of their limited distribution and dependency on moist meadow habitats. The Apache silverspot has a limited distribution. One colony is located at the County Park where it depends on moist meadow conditions and the plant Viola nephrophylla. Although the Mono checkerspot butterfly has been sighted in the past, no individuals have been found in Mono Basin since the early 1960's. It is a category 2 candidate.

Marsh vegetation is found primarily on relic lands. Marshes provide essential nesting or brood-rearing habitat for many species including the cinnamon teal, mallard, pintail, common snipe, northern harrier, Virginia rail, sora, marsh wren, red-winged blackbird, and yellow-headed blackbird. A species of special interest is the yellow rail, which rarely nests west of the Mississippi, but has nested in Mono County. A 1985 sighting at the County Park suggests that it may nest there.

The dune area northeast of Mono Lake provides habitat for a number of species, such as the Merriam's shrew, dark kangaroo mouse, Ord's kangaroo rat, and Panamint kangaroo rat. The dunes also contain small permanent ponds which provide breeding areas for the Great Basin spadefoot toad.

There are no native fish in Mono Basin. The first fish, Lahontan cutthroat trout, were introduced into the basin from the Walker system in the middle of

the 19th century. In later years, rainbow, brown, eastern brook trout were introduced and are the species found today in the Scenic Area.

There are no federally listed threatened or endangered plants known to occur in the Scenic Area. However, there are two species, the Mono buckwheat (Eriogonum ampullaceum) and the Mono Lake lupine (Lupinus duranii) with special management status. Mono Lake lupine is a candidate species (category 2) and is on the Inyo National Forest Watch List 1. Mono buckwheat is listed as sensitive by the Forest Service. Both species appear on the California Native Plant Society's List 1B, which includes all plants that are considered rare and/or endangered in California.

The vegetation of the Scenic Area is sub-divided into 14 vegetation series, each represented by the dominant plant type. These are discussed in three major geographic zones: Warren Bench which is on the plateau west of U.S. 395; Mono Basin, defined as the lands east of U.S. 395 to the 6417 foot elevation shoreline of Mono Lake, and the relict lands, defined as the exposed lake bed below 6417 feet.

Warren Bench

The two most prevalent plant communities on Warren Bench are pinyon pine and big sagebrush. Pinyon pine grows in association with Sierra juniper with big sagebrush as the dominant understory plant. In both the pinyon pine and adjacent sagebrush stands, the common associates are green rabbitbrush, sulphur flower, Indian rice grass, squirreltail grass, Indian paintbrush, penstemons, and other grasses and forbs. Big sagebrush is replaced by black sagebrush on ridgetops and upper elevation slopes.

Jeffrey pine is found in south-facing draws and hillsides, frequently with an understory of mountain mahogany. Most stands are in old growth condition, with diameters of overstory trees frequently exceeding 24 inches. Mountain mahogany occurs in fairly pure stands on ridgetops and on portions of south-facing slopes.

Aspen occurs along streams and on hillsides fed by springs and seeps. Stands of tree-form aspen are located along Lundy Creek, Dechambeau Creek, the North Fork of Lee Vining Creek in Burger's Retreat, around the perimeter of Log Cabin Meadow, and immediately north of Post Office Creek. Lodgepole pine is a co-dominant in aspen stands along streams. The understory is a rich diversity of shrubs, grasses, and forbs.

The wet meadows of Warren Bench are dominated by sedges. All meadows have a diverse composition of grasses and forbs such as groundsel, chickweed, lupine, monkey flower, and cinquefoil. Stands of willows occur within or adjacent to all meadows of Warren Bench.

Mono Basin

The sagebrush-bitterbrush-rabbitbrush complex covers 50 percent of the acreage in the Scenic Area. Each of these three species occurs in nearly monotypic stands as well as in association with one another. The blend of species found at any given site is determined by fire history, soil type, and soil depth. Bitterbrush declines as soil depth decreases and soil texture becomes heavier.

Sagebrush increases under these conditions. Bitterbrush becomes established faster on burned-over pumice soils than on burned-over soils of granitic alluvium. Rubber rabbitbrush is a prolific invader following burns and does better than bitterbrush and sagebrush on alkaline soils.

Pure and nearly pure stands of bitterbrush occupy sites east of the Mono Craters and south of Lee Vining along U.S. 395 and may represent a climax condition. Between Simons Springs and South Tufa, rabbitbrush is dominant on sites burned in the 1930's. Big sagebrush is the dominant species between Mono Craters and U.S. 395. Here, bitterbrush is a co-dominant and rubber rabbitbrush is replaced by green rabbitbrush. Where sagebrush, bitterbrush and rabbitbrush occur in mixed stands, other common shrub associates are greasewood, desert peach, Mormon tea, spiny hopsage, and horsebrush.

In the vast area between Panum Crater and Simons Springs, soils are low in magnesium and cannot support grasses. The understory species are bi-colored phacelia, coldenia, buckwheat, and prickly poppy. Where wildfire has removed the brush overstory, the sites are slow to revegetate and support mostly buckwheat. The soils on the north side of the lake are derived from granitic and metasedimentary rocks and the understory of the sagebrush-bitterbrush associations is Indian rice grass, squirreltail, western needlegrass and several forbs.

Greasewood is the dominant shrub on the northeast and eastern sides of the lake where prevailing winds have created dune fields. Common associates are big sagebrush, horsebrush, rabbitbrush, saltbush, and Indian rice grass.

The dry meadow community consists of saltgrass and wire rush on alkaline soils. This community occurs in swales within the greasewood community and around the interdune ponds. A second type of dry meadow, the Douglas sedge-wire rush community, occupies a large site south and east of Panum Crater, along Highway 120.

Open stands of Jeffrey pine are located east of Mono Craters. Most of the stands consist of second growth timber, and tree diameters are generally under 24 inches. Bitterbrush comprises a nearly monotypic brush understory of the Jeffrey pine stands within the Scenic Area. Grasses and forbs are also present.

Utah juniper occurs along a narrow band of roughly 1230 acres on the north side of the lake. Pinyon pine is the co-dominant and the understory is sagebrush, greasewood and green rabbitbrush.

Pumice flats are found east of Mono Craters and are sparsely vegetated with low-growing plants, including the vulcanicus subspecies of Parry's rabbitbrush, western needlegrass, Mono Lake lupine, one-seeded pussypaws, red monkeyflower, hulsea, and evening primrose.

The wet meadow community is comprised of sedges, grasses, and forbs, and is found along lower Rush Creek, Thompson Meadow, and Dechambeau Ranch.

The willow community is found along all streams in the Mono Basin and also along the western shore of the lake from the County Park south to Post Office Creek. Wild rose is a common associate along streams.

Relicted Lands

Approximately 35 percent of the exposed lake shore is vegetated, primarily with a mosaic of bullrush and saltgrass. When the lake level is at 6376 feet, wetlands extend over roughly 1700 acres of the relicted lands, occurring in three plant communities: the marsh community, wet meadows, and the willow community. Drier sites of the lake shore are vegetated with the alkaline herb community, the dry meadow (salt grass) community, or the rubber rabbitbrush community.

Approximately 16% of the Scenic Area is bare or poorly vegetated. Areas of sparse or no vegetation include lower Lee Vining Creek, lower Mill Creek, portions of the Mono Craters and Black Point, relicted lands from Black Point easterly to Warm Springs and from Warm Springs to Simon's Springs, and relicted lands around the islands.

C. Economic and Social Environment

Cultural Resources - To date, there are 41 recorded sites within the Scenic Area. Thirty-five are pre-historic and 6 are historic. The known prehistoric sites are situated at locations all around Mono Lake. A large area of obsidian quarrying activity has been identified in Panum Crater. Seasonal camps are located along the north and south shores of the lake. A possible burial site has been reported in the vicinity of Black Point.

A railroad grade is found in the eastern portion of the Scenic Area, the remains of the logging days when lumber was carried from Mono Mills to the booming mining town of Bodie. The remains of a goat ranch and spa are found on Paoha Island.

The Mono Lake Indian Community was recognized on 18 September 1977 by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as a half-blood group. The group is now seeking Federal recognition as an Indian tribe under 25 CFR 83.1 -11. The group does not have a reservation and many of its members live on nearby reservations in Benton, Bridgeport, Bishop, and elsewhere.

Economic - About 79% of Mono County is in public ownership. About 1,150,000 acres are included in the National Forest System. The recreational opportunities and scenic values found on these lands provide much of the economic base for the County. The economic contribution made by mining is small within the county, but is locally important in Lee Vining. The communities of June Lake and Lee Vining serve recreationists. June Lake is a year round resort community, while Lee Vining's economy is tied closely to the seasons of spring, summer, and autumn when nearby Tioga Pass, the eastern entrance to Yosemite National Park, is open.

U.S. Pumice operates a block pumice mining operation in the vicinity of the Scenic Area and is an important local employer. Road cinders are mined in another operation and provides seasonal employment. A brine shrimp processing plant also provides seasonal employment. A construction firm, 2 "cottage

industries", a restaurant, and a lodge operate from private land within the Scenic Area.

The City of Los Angeles operates and maintains a water collection and aqueduct system within the Mono Basin. The water provides about one-seventh of the City's domestic water supply. The water is also used to produce hydroelectric power for the City.

National Forest lands make direct contributions to the local economy by providing employment and the purchase of goods and services. In addition, funds are returned to the County in the form of Receipt Act payments and Payments-in-lieu-of-taxes.

Interpretation - Visitors from throughout the world come to the Scenic Area. Many come to learn about its unique features. Biologically and geologically, the area offers opportunities to learn about relationships and natural phenomena that are found only within the Scenic Area. Interpretive facilities exist at South Tufa, Old Marina (operated by the State of California), Black Point, Navy Beach, and Panum Crater. South Tufa is the most heavily visited site and has a parking lot, portable restrooms, picnic tables, and solid waste containers. Because of the heavy use, facilities are in need of rehabilitation and improvement. A self-guiding loop trail is located here also.

Because of its proximity to U.S. 395, Old Marina attracts visitors who wish to view tufa, although this site does not have the best specimens. The site may have potential to interpret the human history of Mono Basin.

Facilities at Black Point, Panum Crater, and Navy Beach are in need of rehabilitation.

Since 1978, guided activities have been provided at South Tufa, County Park, and Panum Crater by the Mono Lake Committee. In the early 1980's, the BLM conducted guided activities in cooperation with the State. The State and Forest Service have offered guided activities since those agencies have assumed management responsibilities in 1982 and 1984 respectively. In 1986, 4,235 Recreation Visitor Days (a measure of recreation use) were reported at Interpretive sites.

Lands - A number of activities and facilities are currently authorized within the Scenic Area under terms of "Special Use Permits" or easements. Some uses which were formerly under permit from the BLM have not as yet been re-authorized by the Forest Service. Existing permittees include individuals, organizations, companies, and corporations. Existing uses include utility corridors, transportation systems, and water development and transport. In addition, a number of temporary permits are written each year for filming, educational purposes, research, or recreational activities.

The Scenic Area has approximately 313 miles of roads for resource management, fire protection, private land access, mining, and general travel purposes. Cal Trans, Mono County, and the Forest Service share maintenance responsibilities for the roads. The maintenance standards vary from paved to 4WD roads.

Six mineral materials (borrow) sites have been identified within the Scenic Area, although most are small and no longer used.

Other Agencies - Within the Scenic Area there are approximately 6,880 acres of State of California land, and some 9,404 acres owned by the City of Los Angeles, Department of Water and Power. The State also owns the surface of Mono Lake and the lands underneath. Relicted lands are jointly managed by the Forest Service and the State Department of Parks and Recreation through a Memorandum of Understanding.

The County of Mono currently operates the County Park under the terms of a lease agreement with LADWP.

Cal Trans maintains the State and Federal highways within the Scenic Area, and the County of Mono maintains approximately 26 miles of roads.

The California Department of Fish and Game administers hunting, trapping, and fishing regulations, including those regulating the commercial shrimping operations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a shared responsibility for migratory wildlife.

The BLM is a cooperator in managing the grazing and mining programs.

Private Land - There are 46 parcels of private land within the Scenic Area owned by 28 landowners. These private lands (not including City of Los Angeles or State lands) amount to about 3,575 acres. Parcels range in size from 1/2 acre single family lots with dwellings to grazing land up to 320 acres. Four commercial businesses are located within the Scenic Area including a construction firm, a restaurant, a brine shrimp plant, and a lodge/restaurant.

Although uses and developments which existed on June 1, 1984, are protected, future development of private land is governed by Private Property Development Guidelines (PPDG - see appendix) formulated in 1987.

Approximately 560 acres of the private land are located within the "Developed Land Use Category" as defined in the PPDG. Most of the improvements, including all of the businesses are located within this category. The "Natural Land Use Category" contains approximately 2730 acres, but only 8 parcels have improvements on them.

Range - The Scenic Area contains 8 range allotments which extend beyond the Scenic Area boundaries onto adjacent lands. Allotments extending onto National Forest lands are managed by the Forest Service. The six allotments extending onto BLM public lands are managed cooperatively under a 1985 Memorandum of Understanding between the Forest Service and BLM. This agreement identifies the BLM as the lead agency for management of three allotments and the Forest Service for three allotments. Additionally, there are a number of private land parcels within the Scenic Area where grazing is authorized by the landowner. The most notable examples are Dechambeau Ranch, private land along the west shore of the lake, and City of Los Angeles lands.

Most private lands are not fenced. As a result, grazing does occur between Federally administered lands and other lands on an on/off basis.

The permitted grazing use within the Scenic Area is 3259 Animal Unit Months (AUM's), 54 percent of which is on federal land (1749 AUM'S) and 46 percent on private land (1510 AUM'S). Sheep grazing occurs on seven of the nine allotments, with the class of livestock being dry ewes (ewes without lambs). One allotment is grazed by cattle (cow-calf pairs). The Lee Vining Creek allotment was abolished in 1989.

Water availability is a critical factor determining use of most of the rangelands within the Scenic Area. Grazing is disproportionately heavy around water sources and light to non-existent where water is not available.

It may be impossible to restore vegetation to the prehistoric situation, since the species composition of the original vegetation type may never be known. However, opportunities exist to improve ecosystems. A number of management techniques such as prescribed burns, adjustments in season of use, adjustments in AUM's, or different grazing systems could improve vegetative conditions. However, any management strategy must also recognize ecological limits related to climate and soil type. For example, soils that are low in magnesium are frequently incapable of supporting grasses, and many of the sites lacking grasses in the Scenic Area are on these poor soils.

A few feral burros have been seen in the eastern and northeastern portion of the Scenic Area.

Recreation - The natural values of the Scenic Area and its proximity to Southern California result in a potentially high level of recreation use. The Scenic Area provides both developed and dispersed recreational opportunities, although the area is better known for its dispersed activities.

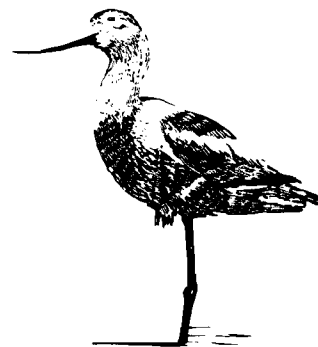
Developed facilities include several interpretive sites (which are discussed separately) and County Park. County Park is currently operated by Mono County and provides a picnic area, play equipment, and restrooms. A board walk from County Park to the lake shore allows close views of lithoid tufa and is an excellent birding location. There are no overnight camping facilities within the Scenic Area, although opportunities for development in the Jeffrey pine forest have been identified. Total developed site use was reported as 4,235 Recreation Visitor Days in 1986.

The Scenic Area provides opportunities for a wide range of dispersed activities, many of which occur in areas of a semi-primitive character. The most common uses are sightseeing, OHV use, aquatic sports, hiking, photography, birding, cross country skiing, and snowmobiling. Organized community recreation uses occur on non-National Forest System land and include a fireworks display, a motor-cross course, and a target shooting range. Much of the dispersed use is by local residents although a growing number of visitors are participating in these activities. Total dispersed recreation use was reported as 46,378 Recreation Visitor Days in 1986.

Research - The unique ecosystem and combination of elements in the Mono Basin coupled with relatively undisturbed conditions, have resulted in intense interest by the scientific community. To date, research has focused on water

chemistry, algae, brine flies and shrimp, birds and other wildlife, geology, cultural resources, and the geo-hydrology of the Basin. Studies on streams and fish habitat have recently been initiated by the California Department of Fish and Game. As the NAS and CORI reports have pointed out, however, there is still much to learn about the Basin and its resources.

Social - The communities of Lee Vining, Mono City, and June Lake are adjacent to the Scenic Area. Total population of these communities is reported as 1,349 in 1985. The lifestyles, quality of life, and social values are dependent to a degree on the resources of the Scenic Area. Four major social groups using the Scenic Area have been identified. These four are the local residents, recreational visitors, special-use permittees, and Native Americans. The management of the Scenic Area will affect these groups in different ways.



Chapter III

MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

A. Introduction

The legislative direction and the overall goal of Scenic Area management is to protect its geologic, ecologic, cultural, scenic, and other natural resources, while allowing recreational, scientific, and other activities consistent with this goal.

Management direction is all of the relevant policy which guides the actions of the Scenic Area managers. Management direction provides purpose, clarity, and consistency to future management.

Management direction comes from several sources. Relevant federal laws, regulations and policies contained in Forest Service Manuals and Handbooks, and the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Inyo National Forest (hereafter referred to as the Forest Plan) all guide the management of National Forest System lands, including the Scenic Area. This Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) supplements but does not replace such direction.

Management direction in this CMP is organized in 6 levels, from the broadest to the most specific.

SCENIC AREA GOALS describe desired future Scenic Area conditions. These goals are not quantified nor do they have specific times for achieving.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION is the direction contained in the California Wilderness Act (PL 98-425) which created the Scenic Area.

FOREST STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES are applicable guidelines from the Land and Resource Management Plan for the Inyo National Forest. For many resources, all of the forest standards and guidelines are noted here, but in some cases, only selected standards and guidelines which seem most related to the Scenic Area are noted, even though all of the forest standards and guidelines apply within the Scenic Area. These standards and guidelines apply whenever the resource activity occurs unless more specific direction is provided.

SCENIC AREA STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES are applicable only to the resources and activities within the Scenic Area. They apply wherever the resource or activity occurs.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS are direction which applies to specific areas within the Scenic Area.

ACTION ITEMS for the Mono Basin Management Area are in addition to other direction and provide specific, active direction. The Mono Basin Management Area is identified in the Forest Plan and is the Scenic Area.

Action items evolve from the preferred alternative as displayed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Scenic Area.

For ease of reading, all 6 levels of direction which apply to a resource are grouped together under the resource heading. If one or more level is missing, it means that no direction was provided at that level. A full description of the management prescriptions is provided on the following pages to provide the reader with a complete picture of each prescription. A summary of these prescriptions is also provided under each resource heading.

Variations from standards and guidelines, prescriptions, or management area direction will occasionally be needed due to unforeseen site conditions, uncontrollable or unforeseen circumstances or natural phenomena. Where minor change is unavoidable, it must be justified in the appropriate environmental analysis. Major changes or recurrence of variations should result in plan amendment or revision and would include preparation of appropriate environmental documents.

The annual budgeting and work planning processes and management direction should produce visible results. Those processes allow for annual adjustments within the overall plan direction to reflect current priorities or opportunities. The degree of implementation will depend to a large extent on appropriation of funds by Congress and the allocation to the Inyo National Forest and Scenic Area through the budget process. The Scenic Area management also needs to be alert for cooperative funding opportunities to implement the management direction.

This plan is intended to serve as a guiding document for project level site-specific planning and implementation. When appropriate, an environmental analysis and appropriate environmental documentation is required prior to implementation of any site-specific project.

B. Management Prescriptions

1. Introduction

A management prescription states the management direction by resource element or activity that will apply to specific land within the Scenic Area. A map (NEW alternative) showing the location of these prescriptions is in the map packet. The Scenic Area is divided into four prescriptions. Each prescription states an objective for management of the land, briefly describes the setting that would be expected to be found on those lands, and establishes guidance for the future management of the resource elements or activities.

In the future, if minor boundary revisions include additional land within the Scenic Area, the District Ranger shall recommend to the Forest Supervisor the management prescription to be applied to the newly included land. The Forest Supervisor will approve the application of a management prescription.

2. The Management Prescriptions

The Management Prescriptions are found in the appendix. Applicable portions of the prescriptions are part of the management direction for resources as found in part C. of this chapter. A description of each prescription is found below:

Developed Recreation Zone - The purpose is to maintain existing developments and provide for new services and/or facilities in support of visitor use needs.

The emphasis is on allowing developed facilities and opportunities that are compatible with the visual quality, recreation and interpretive objectives for the Scenic Area.

The prescription is applied to existing and potential areas of concentrated public use and developments both in the public and private sectors, and to heavily used travel corridors.

Lands within this prescription generally have paved/improved transportation routes, modified landscapes, and provide experiences, activities, and opportunities consistent with the Rural (R), Roaded Modified (RM), or Roaded Natural (RN) ROS classes. The visitor can expect to encounter many people in most places within this zone. Information is provided primarily by signs, displays, or printed material. There are few physical challenges since most areas will be accessible by 2WD drive and designated paths will be provided.

General Use Zone - The purpose is to manage for inherent values including range, wildlife, recreation and visual resources. There are a variety of activities which can occur with a minimum of conflict. Improvements that do not significantly affect scenic or other natural values are allowed. Improvements might include projects to benefit wildlife, grazing, recreation and interpretation.

Lands within this prescription have mostly 2WD access, although some 4WD trails are present. Landscapes are slightly modified, and experiences, activities and opportunities are consistent with Roaded Natural (RN) or Semi-primitive Motorized (SPM) ROS classes. The visitor can expect to encounter other people throughout the zone but concentrations only at developed sites. Information is provided primarily by signs, displays, and written interpretive materials. There is some degree of physical challenge and risk, since some areas will be accessible only by 4WD or non-motorized forms of transportation. Trails may be provided but are not a feature of this zone.

Limited Development Zone- The purpose is to provide for relatively undisturbed areas where human influence is limited and wildlife, visual, and other natural values generally take precedence.

Lands within this prescription usually have 4WD access, maintain natural appearing landscapes, and result in experiences, activities and opportunities consistent with Semi-primitive Motorized (SPM), and Semi-primitive Non-motorized (SPNM) ROS classes. There are few areas within this zone where the visitor will encounter many other people. Isolated areas are common where

only occasional contact with others will occur. Information will generally be provided by brochures. There is a moderate level of physical challenge and risk since most areas are accessible only by 4WD or non-motorized forms of transportation. Trails may be provided to reach destination points and to provide fishing access.

No Development Zone - The purpose is to provide areas free of surface disturbance and to maintain cultural, geologic, ecological, and visual values in essentially natural conditions.

The emphasis is on providing protection to natural features by whatever means are necessary, but favoring avoidance or restriction of access.

Lands within this prescription are those where protection of the natural value is considered to have a higher priority than other uses. These areas generally have non-motorized access, natural appearing landscapes and provide those experiences, activities and opportunities consistent with the Primitive (P), Semi-primitive Non-motorized (SPNM), and Semi-primitive Motorized (SPM) ROS classes. Use is primarily by individuals. Concentrations of visitors generally do not occur. Isolation is common and depending on the length of stay, other individuals may not be encountered. Information is discovered by the individual without signs. There could be a high level of physical challenge and risk, since access is mostly by non-motorized means. Trails may be provided to protect natural values.

C. Management Direction by Resource

1. AIR

GOAL - Manage land to comply with applicable air quality regulations.

FOREST STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Coordinate with the Great Basin Unified Air Pollution Control District (APCD) when developing guidelines for management programs on the Forest.

Obtain permits from the APCD prior to conducting prescription fire activities.

Burn only when fuel conditions and climatic conditions are such that minimal total suspended particles and volatilized gases are generated, and rapid smoke dispersion is assured.

Conduct, or require of lessees and contractors, dust abatement procedures during construction or other Forest activity that generates significant dust.

SCENIC AREA STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Support efforts to stabilize soils on relicted lands to reduce unacceptable impacts on air quality.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS:

No Development Zone - On relicted lands, consider land modification projects which contribute to soil stability. Favor natural methods of stabilization.

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MONO BASIN MANAGEMENT AREA

	Time to complete (from the date of CMP approval)
a. Work with the Great Basin APCD to bring the Mono Basin airshed into compliance with the Clean Air Act.	On-going
b. Pursue lake levels which minimize fluctuations and exposure of additional relicted lands.	On-going

2. CULTURAL RESOURCES

GOAL - Identify, evaluate, protect, and interpret the cultural and historic resources of the Scenic Area.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION:

In a manner consistent with the protection of the water rights of the State of California or any political subdivision thereof (including the City of Los Angeles)...the Secretary shall manage the Scenic Area to protect its geologic, ecologic, and cultural resources.

Indian people will be allowed non-exclusive access to Scenic Area lands for traditional cultural and religious purposes.

An inventory of cultural resources will be made.

FOREST STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Consult with local American Indian groups to insure protection of, and access to, traditional secular, religious, and ceremonial sites.

Assess, and authorize as appropriate, both general and site specific requests by local American Indians for traditional and religious uses of National Forest System lands.

Consult with State Historic Preservation Officer and nominate appropriate cultural/historical sites to the National Register.

Identify the types of data and research efforts needed to develop more efficient inventory, evaluation, protection, and compliance processing. Encourage and support in-service and private sector efforts to address these needs. Develop and implement appropriate management plans and strategies.

Foster active research programs by issuing antiquity special-use permits, cooperative agreements, and volunteer agreements.

Document inventories, site evaluations, assessments of impacts, and mitigation plans, in all EAs/EISs for Forest initiated, authorized, or licensed activities.

Treat Class II properties as if they were Class I until they are evaluated.

Maintain the confidentiality of cultural resource site locations to aid in their protection.

Avoid cultural resource damage during fire suppression activities, and provide protection for known cultural resource values.

Interpret cultural resources for the benefit of the public.

Develop and implement strategies, including road closures, for the protection of cultural sites.

SCENIC AREA STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Use all practical means to inventory and evaluate cultural resources within the Scenic Area.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS:

Developed Recreation Zone: Interpret sites of public interest, taking into account the uniqueness, regional significance, and the ability of the site to withstand public use.

Protect cultural resources in or adjacent to developed recreation sites to reduce vandalism and inadvertent damage.

General Use Zone: Interpret sites of public interest, which are adjacent to designated travel routes, taking into account the uniqueness, regional significance, and the ability of the site to withstand public use.

Limited Development Zone: Protect sites in a manner consistent with the ROS class. Generally, on-site interpretive facilities are not provided.

No Development Zone: Protect sites in a manner consistent with the ROS class. On-site interpretive facilities are not provided.

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MONO BASIN MANAGEMENT AREA:

Time to Complete

- | | | |
|----|--|----------|
| a. | Interpret the Bodie railroad story in coordination with the Mono Mills story. | 3 Years |
| b. | Interpret the Panum Crater pre-historic quarry site. | 3 Years |
| c. | In cooperation with the State of California, determine potential for historic interpretation at Old Marina. If feasible, implement when possible. | 1 Year |
| d. | In cooperation with landowners within the Developed Land Use Category (as defined in the Private Property Development Guidelines) identify opportunities for historical interpretation. Implement in accordance with guidelines in Appendix F and implement as feasible. | 1 Year |
| e. | Develop an agreement with the local Native American Community to provide non-exclusive access for recognized traditional uses. | 2 Years |
| f. | Encourage participation of researchers, universities, and others to investigate cultural and historic resources. Actively seek funding sources to accomplish identified work. | On-going |
| g. | Survey all proposed site specific projects including adjacent land. | On-going |

3. FACILITIES

GOAL - Maintain a transportation system that provides suitable access while protecting the emphasized values of the Scenic Area. Maintain roads at the assigned maintenance levels. Maintain other facilities to standards appropriate to the planned use, safety of users, and protection of resources. Provide distinctive non-interpretive signing only to the extent necessary to identify the Scenic Area as a component of the National Forest System, and to provide for the safety of visitors, protection of resources, and basic location directions.

FOREST STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Provide additions to the transportation system for resource development. Provide public access to public land and developed recreation sites consistent with Forest goals and objectives.

Reconstruct roads and regulate traffic as needed for public safety and/or resource protection.

Eliminate concerns regarding public safety and resource protection through road closures, relocation, or reconstruction of non-system roads consistent with available budgets.

Maintain facilities to established standards, make them energy efficient, and/or replace them if necessary.

Provide trails for hikers, skiers, equestrians, bicyclists, snowmobilers, the handicapped, and off-highway vehicle users where compatible with user needs, level of development, and Forest goals and objectives.

Maintain trails to assigned maintenance levels.

SCENIC AREA STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

To the largest extent possible, insure that signing does not detract from the visual values and the non-developed character of the Scenic Area.

Outside of developed sites, sign only to the extent necessary to provide for safety of visitors, protection of resource values, and for interpretation.

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MONO BASIN MANAGEMENT AREA:

Time to Complete

- | | |
|---|---------|
| a. Prepare a plan identifying sign needs and locations. | 1 Year |
| b. Implement sign plan | 3 Years |

4. FIRE AND PEST MANAGEMENT

GOAL - Provide a cost-efficient fire management program that minimizes resource losses and serious or long-lasting adverse effects on Scenic Area resources. Control pests to insure that they do not unacceptably impact resources and are compatible with Scenic Area goals and objectives.

FOREST STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Use Prescriptions, Management Area Direction and fire management action plans when determining the appropriate wildfire suppression strategy.

Coordinate with local fire districts in the development of major new structural facilities on National Forest lands.

Use prescribed fire as a management tool.

Consider both existing conditions and the effect of future management activities in the area surrounding the project area, when developing treatment standards for activity fuels.

Coordinate pest control programs with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, California Department of Health Services, other Federal, state, and local agencies, and private sector groups as needed.

Follow an integrated pest management (IPM) approach during the planning and implementation of all appropriate activities, particularly those that influence vegetation. Consider and analyze, on a site-specific project level basis, a full range of pest management alternatives, including cultural, biological, mechanical, and chemical methods. Select treatment method(s) through the environmental analysis process which will consider the environmental effects, treatment efficacy and cost effectiveness of each alternative. Determine monitoring and enforcement plans to implement specific measures during this site-specific process. Pest detection, surveillance, evaluation, prevention, suppression, and post-action evaluation are integral components of the IPM approach.

SCENIC AREA STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Avoid the use of the Scenic Area for "incident" camps and command centers.

Prohibit the use of mechanized suppression equipment on relicted lands.

Allow the use of mechanized equipment on other than relicted lands only with the use of a resource advisor and spotter to avoid damage to tufa, other significant geological features and cultural resource sites and with District Ranger approval.

Allow only the use of "fugitive" type aerial retardant to reduce visual impacts.

Emphasize wildfire prevention in combination with other resource protection patrols.

Include the Scenic Area in all Forest and Mono Lake Ranger District fire prevention, pre-suppression, and suppression planning.

Prefer the use of the non-chemical method when the Integrated Pest Management approach determines that chemical and one or more other form of management will be comparable in the control of pests.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS:

Developed Recreation Zone: Control all wild fire. Apply appropriate management techniques to control pests.

General Use Zone: Apply the wild fire suppression strategies of confine, contain, or control to natural fires unless they threaten persons, property, or values outside of the zone. Control all human-caused wild fires. Utilize prescribed fire where appropriate to achieve management objectives.

Apply appropriate management technique to control pests but favor biological controls if one or more methods are comparable.

Limited Development Zone: Apply the wild fire suppression strategies of confine, contain, or control to natural fires unless they threaten persons, property, or values outside of the zone. Control all human-caused wild fires. Use prescribed fire where appropriate to achieve management goals.

Control pests that cause unacceptable ecological damage or when they pose a threat to resource values outside the Scenic Area. Use appropriate control methods but favor biological controls if one or more methods are comparable.

No Development Zone: Apply the wild fire suppression strategies of confine, contain, or control to natural fires but favor confine or contain where suitable conditions are present. Control all human-caused wild fires.

Exhaust all other control methods before authorizing use of mechanical equipment.

Control pests that cause unacceptable ecological damage or when they pose a threat to resource values outside the Scenic Area. Use appropriate control methods but favor natural or biological methods if one or more methods are comparable.

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MONO BASIN MANAGEMENT AREA:

Time to Complete

- a. Develop a fire management plan which identifies appropriate fire pre-suppression and suppression strategies. Complete at time of District plan
- b. Continue eradication of salt-cedar and halogeton. On-going

5. LANDS (Direction pertaining to Private Land is found beginning on page 31)

GOAL - Manage land uses to be compatible with the resources of the Scenic Area. Provide active administration of special uses and the boundary survey/monumentation program.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION:

Subject to existing rights, federally owned lands are withdrawn from disposition under the public land laws.

FOREST STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Locate, survey, post, and mark National Forest System boundaries to standards.

Identify and reduce unauthorized occupancies on National Forest System land.

Bury new or reconstructed power distribution lines (33 kv or less) and telephone lines where feasible.

Issue special use permits only if private land suitable for the use is not reasonably available and if the use is compatible with established Forest goals and objectives.

Apply the following priorities when evaluating special-use permit applications: a) public uses (governmental), b) semi-public uses, and c) private (exclusive) uses.

Review existing withdrawals and recommend revocation where the purposes for which the withdrawals were established no longer exist or can be accomplished administratively.

SCENIC AREA STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Require authorization by special-use permit, right-of-way, or easement, of all land uses occurring on National Forest System land.

Encourage the undergrounding or relocation of existing utility lines to minimize visual impacts.

Do not allow additional utility corridors within or through the Scenic Area.

Do not allow additional microwave sites or similar land uses within the Scenic Area.

Do not allow small hydro, commercial wind generating, and similar projects since they are an inappropriate use of the Scenic Area.

Require a bond in all cases where damage to resources may occur.

Monitor all permitted uses and require mitigation to minimize impacts to resources.

Allow filming permits which are in keeping with the values of the Scenic Area. Minimize impacts to public use by prescribing locations and time of filming.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS:

Developed Recreation Zone - Allow uses that do not significantly detract from the natural integrity of the area nor interfere with the recreation and visual emphasis.

General Use Zone - Allow uses that do not significantly detract from the natural integrity of the Scenic Area.

Limited Development Zone - Allow minimal surface disturbing activities which do not significantly degrade ecological, geological, cultural, or visual values.

No Development Zone - Allow only non-surface disturbing activities that minimally impact natural values.

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MONO BASIN MANAGEMENT AREA:

	Time to Complete
a. Identify existing land uses inconsistent with Scenic Area resources and rehabilitate as opportunities arise.	1 Year (to identify)
b. Identify and resolve occupancy trespass situations.	3 Years/on-going
c. Reissue former BLM land permits with USFS Special Use Permits, consistent with Scenic Area management direction.	2 Years

6. MINERALS

GOAL - Allow continued operation of valid claims but minimize adverse impacts.
Eliminate all non-valid claims over time.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION:

Subject to valid existing rights, federally owned lands and interests therein are withdrawn from entry or appropriation under the mining laws of the United States, and from operation of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970.

Subject to valid existing rights, all mining claims shall be subject to reasonable regulations to assure that mining will, to the maximum extent possible, be consistent with the protection of the scenic, scientific, cultural, and other resources of the area.

Any patent issued after September 28, 1984, shall convey title only to the minerals together with the right to use the surface of lands for mining purposes subject to reasonable regulations.

FOREST STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Administer mining laws and regulations to permit uninterrupted production of minerals, while assuring adequate protection of other resources and environmental values.

Where valid existing rights within withdrawn areas are exercised, operating plans should be consistent with the purpose for which the area was withdrawn.

Coordinate the mineral management program with the Bureau of Land Management.

SCENIC AREA STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Recommend to other agencies that the development of methane gas, geothermal, mineral, soda ash, and other similar resources from the surface or underneath Mono Lake and its related lands, is inappropriate to the intent and values of the Scenic Area and should not be allowed.

Do not allow new mineral material (borrow) sites within the Scenic Area. Allow material removal from existing sites only to the extent necessary to achieve planned rehabilitation and in accordance with approved plans.

Do not allow the removal of any material from a mining claim without a Notice of Intent or Plan of Operation.

Administer Plans of Operation to protect Scenic Area values with a specific emphasis on visual values.

Include Rehabilitation Plans in all Plans of Operations.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS:

Developed Recreation Zone - Examine all claims for validity. On valid claims, approve Plans of Operation which limit changes in visual condition, impacts to water resources, and which allow flexibility in the timing of operations to avoid heavy recreation and critical wildlife use periods.

General Use Zone - On valid claims, approve Plans of Operation which minimize changes in the visual condition, impacts to other resources, and which allow flexibility in the timing of operations to avoid heavy recreation and critical wildlife use periods.

Limited Development Zone - On valid claims, approve Plans of Operations which minimize changes in visual condition, impacts to other resources, and which allow flexibility in the timing of operations to avoid heavy recreation and critical wildlife use periods.

Limit new 2WD roads to those necessary for mineral development. Do not upgrade 4WD to 2WD roads except for mineral development. Provide for control of public use on mining roads. Rehabilitate abandoned mining roads.

No Development Zone - Examine for validity all claims. Acquire those valid claims where development would endanger natural values. When this is not possible, require mitigation at a level necessary to maintain those values.

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MONO BASIN MANAGEMENT AREA:

Time to Complete

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------------|
| a. | Seek voluntary abandonment of claims located between Hwy 120(E) and Mono Lake (Panum Crater area). | 2 Years |
| b. | Identify and prioritize existing claims for validity examinations. | 1 Year |
| c. | Develop rehabilitation plans for identified mineral material (borrow) sites. Implement as feasible. | 3 Years (plans) |
| d. | Pursue agreements with the State of California and the City of Los Angeles to prohibit development of mineral, gas, soda ash, geothermal resources, and alternate energy sources on lands or water controlled by them within the Scenic Area. | 3 Years |

7. OTHER AGENCIES

GOAL - Strive to coordinate the management of all lands within the Scenic Area in a similar manner to protect Scenic Area values. Maintain working relationships with other agencies and other land owners to protect resources, provide for the safety of the visitor, and provide for the efficient use of the Scenic Area. Make land adjustments as opportunities arise.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION:

The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the State of California and any political subdivision thereof (including the City of Los Angeles) for purposes of protecting Scenic Area resources and administering areas owned by the State or by any such political subdivisions which are within the Scenic Area.

Commercial shrimping activities are allowed under the provisions contained in State law.

Private land or interests therein may be acquired by donation, exchange, or purchase, except that lands belonging to the State of California and any political subdivision (including the City of Los Angeles) may be acquired only by exchange or donation.

SCENIC AREA STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Seek consolidation of lands within the Scenic Area into Federal ownership as opportunities arise.

Cooperate with Cal Trans, Mono County, and the Local Transportation Commission to develop and maintain an efficient transportation system.

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MONO BASIN MANAGEMENT AREA:

Time to Complete

- a. Seek Memorandums of Understanding with the State of California and the City of Los Angeles for the purpose of protecting and managing Scenic Area resources on lands controlled by them. Specifically, these agreements would be for the purpose of managing mining activities, managing grazing on sensitive areas; utilizing appropriate sites for recreational purposes; identifying and implementing wildlife habitat opportunities; striving towards a healthy ecosystem; controlling motorized access to selected lands; and other resource needs as they are identified.

3 Years

- | | | |
|----|---|--------|
| b. | Cooperate with Mono County and LADWP to determine the long-term management needs of County Park. | 1 Year |
| | | |
| c. | In cooperation with the State of California, determine potential for historic interpretation at Old Marina. If feasible, implement when possible. | 1 Year |

8. PRIVATE LAND

GOAL - Allow development and uses in accordance with the Private Property Development Guidelines and the Comprehensive Management Plan. As opportunities arise, acquire land based on priorities established by the process contained in the Scenic Area Land Adjustment Plan, Appendix D of this Comprehensive Management Plan.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION:

Private lands or interests therein may be acquired only with the consent of the owner unless a determination is made that the property is being developed or is proposed to be developed in a manner which is incompatible with the purposes of the Scenic Area. If such a determination is made, the private land owner must receive written notification.

The Secretary shall publish specific guidelines to determine if proposed uses of private land are detrimental to the integrity of the Scenic Area or is otherwise incompatible with the purposes of this title.

Private land or interests therein may be acquired by donation, exchange, or purchase, except that lands belonging to the State of California and any political subdivision (including the City of Los Angeles) may be acquired only by exchange or donation.

FOREST STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Acquire lands by exchange, purchase, or donation in the following priority:

Highest priority - lands with water frontage, such as lakes, streams, floodplains, wetlands, and riparian zones; key game management areas and lands having endangered or threatened fish, wildlife, or plant species habitat; lands needed to reduce fire risks and prevent soil erosion; lands and easements that insure access to public lands and resources; lands having unique historical or cultural resources; and, wilderness inholdings.

Moderate priority - lands primarily of value for outdoor recreation purposes and lands for esthetic purposes; and lands needed for administrative purposes.

Lowest priority - Lands needed to consolidate existing blocks of National Forest System lands to improve administration of the area.

SCENIC AREA STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Seek consolidation of lands within the Scenic Area into Federal ownership as opportunities arise.

Utilize the direction found in the Private Property Development Guidelines (Appendix E) to determine appropriate future use and development of private land within the Scenic Area.

Determine the compatibility of proposed new commercial uses and developments on private land within the Scenic Area using the process described in Appendix F.

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MONO BASIN MANAGEMENT AREA:

Time to Complete

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|---|----------|
| a. When and if private land is acquired by the federal government, modify range allotment management plans, if necessary to avoid conflicts with other resources. | On-going |
| b. Conduct future use analyses when there are developments and improvements on acquired private land. | On-going |

9. RANGE

GOAL - Manage the grazing program to protect wetlands, springs, riparian zones, and other emphasized wildlife habitat. Allow range improvement projects which are compatible with the goal of establishing a healthy ecosystem. Phase out grazing over time on National Forest System lands. Cooperate with LADWP, the State, and private land owners to reduce impacts from grazing on their lands.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION:

Persons currently holding valid grazing permits will continue to be able to exercise those permits consistent with other applicable law.

FOREST STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Manage grazing allotments according to a planned management system.

Develop range allotment management plans before term permits are issued where possible. Incorporate in those plans provisions for implementing Best Management Practices for range management.

Use individual grazing allotment plans as the instrument to guide the avoidance of unacceptable damage to soil, water quality, and fish habitat and the resolution of incompatibilities between livestock and known key mule deer fawning areas. Institute positive measures such as delaying the grazing season and/or directing livestock away from riparian areas by herding, salting, water developments, or fencing. Amend allotment plans to include adopted means of resolution and needed mitigation measures. If mitigation is unsuccessful in preventing unacceptable resource damage, as a last resort, livestock grazing will be reduced or eliminated.

Develop a priority schedule, with an annual review, of Allotment Management Plans to be revised over the planning period. Each allotment plan will be revised commensurate with available funding.

After Allotment Management Plans are revised, they will be updated on an average of every ten years.

Consider deer forage requirements (five pounds per deer per day) in the allocation of livestock forage as part of range analysis.

Consider the benefit to fisheries, wildlife, recreation, and watershed, as well as range, when designing range improvements.

Graze meadows only when range ready as defined in Forest Service Handbook 2209.21.

Conduct utilization checks annually on selected meadows and key wildlife habitats in grazing areas.

Coordinate with the Bureau of Land Management for administration of shared grazing allotments (within the Scenic Area) to implement decisions in BLM's Benton-Owens Valley (and Bodie-Coleville) Management Framework Plans.

Achieve or maintain rangeland, over time, in "satisfactory" condition as defined by the Region 4 or Region 5 (as appropriate) Range Analysis Handbook and Resource Value Rating System (RVR).

Where feasible, locate all range improvements away from travel corridors, especially trails, popular fisheries, and other water courses.

Allotment Management Plans will display use, improvement maintenance, and other management data.

Use criteria will be established and documented for each unit of each grazing allotment. These criteria should be developed through the ID team approach utilizing long-term trend studies and identified limiting factors. These criteria will define permissible grazing levels. The following standard should be observed in the process: soil and vegetation are the basic resources. The condition of these two resources must be

maintained or improved. If they are in a satisfactory condition, then they must be maintained in this condition. If they are in a less than satisfactory condition, then allowances must be made for improvement in condition.

Inform the California Department of Fish and Game before planning and implementing revegetation projects.

Locate salt and sheep bedgrounds outside riparian areas and at least 1/4 mile away if possible and reasonable.

SCENIC AREA STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Since the Lee Vining Creek allotment is abolished, manage this area for mountain sheep.

Modify grazing permits by changing allotment boundaries to exclude National Forest System lands within the Scenic Area when permittee(s) request the change or indicate that the portion of the allotment is no longer needed.

Close grazing allotments within the Scenic Area when permits are waived back to the government and when there is no qualified purchaser of permitted livestock and/or base property.

Issue crossing permits (to cross National Forest System land) on a case-by-case basis for established routes.

When regenerating forage, use native plant species that also benefit wildlife and strive to maintain or develop vegetation diversity commensurate with species that would be naturally occurring.

Coordinate range management with LADWP, BLM, the State of California, private land owners, and permittees.

Modify grazing practices to preclude damage in known areas of sensitive plants.

Remove feral burros from the Scenic Area.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS:

Developed Recreation Zone - Permit no grazing in developed recreation sites. Manage grazing practices elsewhere to be compatible with intensive recreational use.

General Use Zone - Allow range improvement activities that are compatible with dispersed recreation and wildlife objectives. Permit no grazing in developed recreation sites.

Limited Use Zone - Manage grazing use to avoid sensitive areas and emphasized wildlife habitats. Allow range improvements needed to

facilitate effective range management when shifting grazing to less sensitive areas.

No Development Zone - Phase out grazing from National Forest System lands, consistent with ecological, geological, cultural, and visual emphasis of this prescription. Prohibit grazing of domestic livestock on National Forest System relicted lands. Existing range improvements may remain until grazing use is phased out. Improvements used in conjunction with permits to cross National Forest System lands may remain until no longer needed.

<u>ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MONO BASIN MANAGEMENT AREA:</u>	Time to Complete
a. Complete Allotment Management Plan updates.	5 years
b. Conduct range analysis for existing allotments. Include private land with the consent of the land owner.	3 years
c. Work with permittees, BLM, and LADWP to modify allotment boundaries to eliminate those portions within the Scenic Area. Adjust permitted use consistent with capacity on the remainder of the allotment.	On-going
d. Modify allotment management plans to avoid use on sensitive areas as shown in the Comprehensive Management Plan FEIS, Chapter IV-Consequences (Range-NEW alternative).	5 years
e. Initiate discussions with other agencies, private land owners including LADWP, and permittees to identify long-term range management concerns and needs within the Scenic Area. Coordinate these needs and concerns through the allotment management planning process.	Annually
f. Provide and support opportunities for research where grazing has been excluded.	On-going
g. Support the State in their efforts to remove grazing from State relicted lands.	On-going
h. Monitor and evaluate burro use and take appropriate action, including a capture plan if required. Work with BLM in removal.	On-going

10. RECREATION AND INTERPRETATION

GOAL - Provide for a low level of overnight and day use facilities and provide interpretation to present a balanced program on the ecological, cultural, and geologic values of the Scenic Area. Use the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Visitor Center as the focal point for interpretation and promote an atmosphere of discovery. Provide a full range of dispersed recreational opportunities in all ROS classes including motorized use on designated routes. Maintain an atmosphere for solitude over major portions of the Scenic Area.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION:

Recreational and interpretive facilities (including trails and campgrounds) shall be provided for the use of the public.

Existing community recreational uses as of September 28, 1984, shall be permitted at the levels and locations customarily exercised.

Recreational use of the Scenic Area shall be allowed.

The Forest Service can assist adjacent affected local governmental agencies in the development of related interpretive programs.

A visitor center is authorized to be constructed within the Scenic Area for the purpose of providing information through displays, printed material, and other interpretive programs about the natural and cultural resources of the Scenic Area.

Hunting and fishing shall be allowed except to the extent necessary for reasons of public health and safety, protection of resources, scientific research activities, or public use and enjoyment.

FOREST STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Construct and maintain facilities and sites to Regional standards. Construct and maintain sites and associated water systems and wastewater treatment plants to Facility Condition 1 as defined in RIM.

Develop associated day use facilities, interpretive and information sites and trails, together with overnight campgrounds to achieve a balanced facility package.

Maintain activities and developments at levels that meet prescribed ROS classes as defined in the ROS Users Guide.

Develop programs, displays, and publications to interpret Forest Service resource management and the natural and cultural environments.

Design physical elements of the Interpretive Services program (e.g. signs, interpretive trails, information stations) to harmonize with the setting in which they are located.

Formalize an interpretive plan of operation for each district based on interpretive composite plans.

Design at least 10 percent of recreation units for use by the physically limited, in all new highly developed sites and in reconstructed sites with a capacity of more than 125. Consider the needs of the physically limited in toilet design for these sites where possible.

Develop interpretive composite plans for major interpretive opportunities.

Continue to coordinate with the Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association to promote and facilitate interpretation and education relating to the Eastern Sierra.

Coordinate Forest off-highway vehicle planning and funding with Federal, state and local agencies, and private land owners where appropriate.

Designate OHV/OSV trails and open areas to minimize conflicts with existing or potential developed sites, private property, special uses, adjacent wilderness, administrative areas, cultural resources, riparian areas, key wildlife habitat, and sensitive watershed areas.

When necessary, close critical wildlife and fish habitat to OHV/OSV use.

Do not permit recreational use of wheeled vehicles over snow except in designated areas.

Permit OSV use only when there is sufficient snow cover to protect the soil and vegetative resources.

SCENIC AREA STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Except as otherwise provided for in special use permits or elsewhere in this plan (see Action Item 10f in this section), use (including use on relicted lands) by motorized vehicles will be allowed on existing designated routes and parking areas not posted as closed.

Non-motorized bicycle use will be allowed only on designated routes open to motorized vehicles or on specifically designated bicycle routes.

Campfire permits will be required for all campfires outside developed campgrounds or picnic areas.

Woodfires will be prohibited on relicted lands.

Low-impact dispersed camping outside of the Developed Recreation Zone prescription will be allowed (see exception in prescription narrative). Allow camping on selected portions of relicted lands by permit year round.

Discharge of firearms for the purpose of target practice, sighting in, plinking, and other non-hunting purposes will be prohibited except that skeet shooting at the established range near Old Marina or as it may be relocated, will be allowed.

Discharge of firearms within developed recreation sites will be prohibited.

Allow hunting in accordance with state and federal regulations except recommend to the California Fish and Game Commission that only shotguns be allowed within relicted lands.

Allow trapping in accordance with state and federal regulations.

Allow temporary use outfitter guide and non-motorized recreation events when such activities have an educational focus or provide activities that are compatible with Scenic Area values, and are compatible with goals and program direction.

Maintain the east, northeast, and southeast sides of the lake, Warren Bench, and relicted lands within the "No Development Zone" prescription, as areas which provide a high level of solitude.

Allow swimming and boating, but provide no public facilities on federal land.

Rehabilitate all closed roads.

Construct a visitor center on the selected site.

Recommend closure and rehabilitation of the motor-cross site.

Recommend authorization of the fireworks display near Old Marina as long as it remains a viable activity, but monitor to ensure unacceptable impacts do not occur.

Organized, motorized recreation events will normally not be permitted.

Continue existing interpretive programs in cooperation with the State of California.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS:

Developed Recreation Zone - Maintain ROS classes of RN, RM, or R.

On private and public lands, keep activities and size and extent of development consistent with the ROS class.

Provide facilities such as parking, trails, signing, overlooks, turnouts, etc, to accommodate public use and to reduce unnecessary impacts.

Construct or relocate 2WD roads to avoid sensitive areas, to provide access to developed sites, and to provide for public safety.

Improve roads when necessary to provide for heavy public use and to protect the natural integrity of the Scenic Area. If resource values are threatened, close roads, restrict access, or otherwise resolve the issue, in accordance with Action Item 10h.

Allow camping only in developed campgrounds. However, until a campground is constructed in the "Jeffrey Pine" forest area, allow low impact dispersed camping within the portion of this prescription located in the Jeffrey Pine forest.

General Use Zone - Manage land to maintain ROS classes of SPM and RN and allow experiences, activities, and opportunities consistent with these classes.

Provide general purpose non-motorized trails consistent with management objectives for the area and the ROS classes noted above.

Allow new developed recreational facilities in the public or private sector consistent with the ROS class.

Construct or relocate 2WD roads to avoid sensitive areas, increase safety, or to provide access to developed sites. Improve roads when necessary to provide for heavy public use and to protect the natural integrity of the Scenic Area. If resource values are threatened, or roads are not needed to accommodate appropriate public use, close roads, restrict access, or otherwise resolve the issue, in accordance with Action Item 10h.

Limited Development Zone - Allow the range of recreational experiences, activities, and opportunities consistent with the ROS classes SPNM and SPM. Restrict or prohibit, if necessary, any public use which causes significant modification of natural resources.

If resource values are threatened, or roads are not needed to accommodate appropriate public use, close roads, restrict access, or otherwise resolve the issue, in accordance with Action Item 10h.

No Development Zone - Allow the range of experiences, activities, and opportunities consistent with the ROS classes of P, SPNM, or SPM.

Developed facilities are not allowed except for trails necessary to protect natural values.

Consider closing or restricting access on existing roads, in accordance with Action Item 10h.

Control use to protect existing natural values.

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MONO BASIN MANAGEMENT AREA:

	Time to Complete
a. Prepare a campground site plan for not to exceed 250 PAOT (50 units) within the Jeffrey Pine Forest. Do not seek other campground sites with-	3 Years (Site plan) 5 Years (Implement)

in the Scenic Area until the Jeffrey Pine site is completed and demand warrants additional sites. Avoid significant impacts to wildlife, vegetation, and visual values.

- b. Pursue rehabilitation or redesign of the following day use/interpretive sites. Do not pursue additional sites until demand warrants or protection of resources is necessary:

- South Tufa/Navy Beach: provide additional protection to natural features, provide for increased number of visitors, provide picnic facilities, improve interpretive facilities and opportunities, improve access, and reduce visual impacts.

2 Years (Plan)

4 Years (Implement)

Investigate the feasibility of re-routing Navy Beach Road to provide continued motorized access. Provide parking for dispersed recreation uses.

- Old Marina: in cooperation with the State of California and other interested parties, determine potential for historic interpretation and other facilities. Include redesign to limit impacts to sensitive areas. Implement when possible.

1 Year (Determine Potential)

- Panum Crater: provide picnic and restroom facilities and improved interpretation.

3 Years (Plan)

5 Years (Implement)

- c. Analyze future management of Black Point, including wildlife concerns, interpretation, access, and recreation use.

2 Years (Analysis)

4 Years (Site plan- if needed)

5 Years (Implement)

- | | | |
|----|---|----------------------------------|
| d. | Develop an interpretive plan for the the Scenic Area. Coordinate with adjoining agencies and other National Forest units and activities (i.e. Volcanic tour, Mono Mills, etc). | 2 Years |
| e. | Maximize safety and scenic view opportunities by providing turnouts/viewpoints along U.S. 395, Highway 120, and Highway 167. | On-going |
| f. | Implement OSV direction as shown on the OSV map for the Scenic Area. Work with representative group to resolve future issues. Incorporate direction in the Inyo National Forest OSV/OHV Use Plan. | On-going |
| g. | Develop dispersed camping rules to protect Scenic Area values. | 1 Year |
| h. | Implement OHV direction as shown on the OHV map for the Scenic Area. Close and rehabilitate routes identified by the Scenic Area Motor Vehicle Use Work Group. Work with this group to resolve future issues. Incorporate direction in the Inyo National Forest OSV/OHV Use Plan. | 3 Years (Close and rehabilitate) |
| i. | Use field personnel and the issuance of campfire permits to monitor dispersed camping use. If necessary in the future to protect values, institute camping permit requirements and/or use limits. | On-going |
| j. | Cooperate with Mono County and LADWP to determine the long-term management needs of County Park. | 1 Year |
| k. | Recommend to California Fish and Game Commission hunting with only shotguns be allowed on relicted lands. | 2 Years |

II. RESEARCH

GOAL - Provide opportunities and encourage research projects which are not in conflict with Scenic Area values.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION:

Full use of the Scenic Area for scientific study and research is allowed in accordance with rules and regulations as they may be prescribed.

SCENIC AREA STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Provide opportunities for research and scientific study which are compatible with and/or enhance the values of the Scenic Area.

Encourage research which contributes to the understanding of the Scenic Area or which is identified in the National Academy of Sciences or CORI reports.

Authorize research activities and projects by special-use permits, and monitor use.

Require a bond when significant impacts to resources may occur.

Allow the development of research facilities on the Burger property in accordance with the provisions of the Private Property Development Guidelines.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS:

Developed Recreation Zone - Allow research activities which do not interfere with public use.

General Use Zone - Allow research activities that do not result in significant long term changes to existing natural conditions.

Limited Use Zone - Allow scientific and academic uses if only minimal changes in natural conditions occur.

No Development Zone - Allow research activities that are non-manipulative and non-modifying of natural conditions.

Consider manipulative or modifying activities only when they are temporary in nature and the natural values are not endangered in the long-term; or when the benefits of such activities to the Scenic Area outweigh the change in the natural condition.

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MONO BASIN MANAGEMENT AREA: Time to Complete

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|----|--|----------|
| a. | Provide a summary of research activities conducted within the Scenic Area to interested parties and the Advisory Board. | Annually |
| b. | Seek funding through Forest Service budget process and pursue opportunities for co-operative funding to conduct specific research when the information gained is important to the management of the Scenic Area. | On-going |

- c. Encourage and logistically support research, including but not limited to:
- instream flow studies;
 - establishment of native vegetation on relicted lands;
 - historic floristic composition;
 - cultural inventory.

On-going

12. SIGNIFICANT GEOLOGICAL FEATURES

GOAL - Manage activities to protect and maintain the integrity of significant geological features. At the same time, provide opportunities for interpretation.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION:

In a manner consistent with the protection of water rights of the State of California or any political subdivision thereof (including the City of Los Angeles)...the Secretary shall manage the Scenic Area to protect its geologic, ecologic, and cultural resources.

FOREST STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Design and construct structures or facilities located near active faults and/or areas of known seismic activity to withstand seismic impacts. Relocate structures or facilities to less active sites where design and construction is not economically efficient.

Cooperate with other agencies, where appropriate, in identifying geologic hazards in areas of existing roads or facilities and assess the feasibility of implementing hazard mitigation measures.

Wherever appropriate, include information explaining local geology or interesting geological features in interpretive displays, publications, and interpretive programs.

SCENIC AREA STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Require a permit for the removal of any material including but not limited to tufa, obsidian, and pumice.

Protect the Lee Vining Tufa Grove by not providing interpretive facilities, and by restricting access. Do not highlight in interpretive media.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS:

Developed Recreation Zone - Use appropriate means to protect identified features but favor on-site controls.

General Use Zone - Use appropriate means to protect identified features. Use on-site controls where necessary.

Limited Development Zone - Use appropriate means to protect identified features from degradation from non-natural causes, but favor avoidance and access restrictions.

No Development Zone - Use appropriate means to protect identified features from degradation from non-natural causes, but favor avoidance and access restrictions.

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MONO BASIN MANAGEMENT AREA:

Time to Complete

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|--|---|
| a. Consider options for providing additional protection to sand tufa formations between South Tufa and 1/2 mile east of Navy Beach. | 2 Years (Planning) |
| b. Develop additional on-site controls (e.g. fencing, trail definition, board walks, or additional signing) at South Tufa to provide a greater level of protection to tufa formations. | 2 Years (Planning)
4 Years (Implement) |
| c. Pursue lake levels sufficient to maintain existing islands, islets, and to protect lithoid and sand tufa. | On-going |
| d. Monitor use of Mono Craters and Sand Dunes and provide on-site or other controls if warranted. | On-going |

13. SOILS

GOAL - Manage lands to maintain or improve soil productivity. Cooperate with appropriate agencies to stabilize non-vegetated relicted lands.

FOREST STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Reduce accelerated soil erosion resulting from management activities to natural background levels within three years after the soil disturbing activity.

Conduct an Order 2 Soil Resource Inventory or an on-site soil investigation to evaluate all areas that are scheduled for modification (vegetation manipulation, construction, etc) or subject to concentrated use.

Avoid the use of soil-disturbing equipment, OHV's and the trampling by livestock on wet or poorly drained soils whenever possible.

Keep dozer-constructed lines as narrow as possible, and provide for concurrent erosion control on areas with long, continuous gouges in areas of shallow, compacted, or highly erodible soils.

Avoid land alterations that potentially cause significant soil erosion and loss of soil productivity.

Apply the BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP) from the handbook "Water Quality Management for National Forest System Lands in California" (USDA, Forest Service 1979) when implementing ground disturbing activities that may reduce the productivity of the landbase or cause surface erosion or mass wasting.

Conserve the surface mineral or surface organic layer of the soils by minimizing soil disturbance to maintain long-term productivity.

Stabilize all areas disturbed by management activities to minimize soil erosion.

Require an interdisciplinary review team to avoid or mitigate adverse impacts for any projects, or activities proposed in areas identified in the soil resource inventories as having an erosion hazard rating of nine or greater.

SCENIC AREA STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Support efforts to stabilize soils on relicted lands to reduce unacceptable impacts on air quality.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS:

No Development Zone - On relicted lands, consider land modification projects which contribute to soil stability. Favor natural methods of stabilization.

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MONO BASIN MANAGEMENT AREA:

	Time to Complete
a. Work with Great Basin Air Pollution Control Board to stabilize relicted land soils. Favor natural methods.	On-going
b. Encourage research on methods to establish native vegetation on relicted lands.	On-going

14. VISUAL RESOURCES

GOAL - Manage the Scenic Area to maintain and enhance the visual resource.

FOREST STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Obtain the Forest Supervisor's approval through the environmental analysis process for any deviations from assigned Visual Quality Objectives (VQO's) assigned in the prescription.

Maintain or enhance the size and diversity of all riparian zones, aspen stands, meadows, and alpine tundra vegetation zones, where such zones are visible from sensitivity level 1 & 2 roads and trails, or where they receive significant recreation use.

Rehabilitate and/or enhance the visual resource when implementing projects where appropriate as follows:

- Rehabilitate the visual resource where the existing visual condition fails to meet the assigned VQO.
- Enhance the resource where the existing visual condition appears monotonous, and where there is an opportunity to create visual variety in the landscape through planting, vegetation manipulation, or other accepted means.
- Base priorities for rehabilitation and enhancement projects upon the VQO assigned to the project area, corridor viewshed plans, and on the following considerations:
 - Relative importance of the area and the amount of deviation from adopted visual quality objective.
 - Length of time it would take natural processes to reduce the visual impacts so they meet the adopted visual quality objective.
 - Length of time it would take rehabilitation measures to meet the adopted VQO.
 - The coordination with the resources necessary to rehabilitate the project area.

Maintain foregrounds and middlegrounds of the scenic corridors of the following travel routes to retention and/or partial retention VQO as inventoried but not less than partial retention:

- Highways officially designated by the State as California State and County Scenic Highways.
- California State Scenic Highway System Routes as per September 1970 Master Plan. (Highways within the Scenic Area affected by the above include State Highway 120 (West of 395), and U.S. 395.)

Meet the VQO of retention in all foreground zones of other sensitivity level 1 roads and trails, recreation sites, and within all concentrated recreation areas.

SCENIC AREA STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Do not allow new overhead lines outside of existing utility corridors, which are visible from sensitivity level 1 roads and trails. Sensitivity level 1 observation points include U.S. 395, and Highways 120, 167; Lundy Canyon Road; Cemetery Road (from 395 to County Park); the visitor center; and South Tufa, Panum Crater, Navy Beach, Old Marina, County Park, and Black Point visitor sites.

Encourage and work with the community of Lee Vining and Mono County to develop scenic resource element guidelines and mitigation as a part of local planning efforts.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS:

Developed Recreation Zone - Manage vegetative setting in and adjacent to the zone to meet the VQO of retention within the foreground zone.

Strive to meet the VQO of retention but do not exceed partial retention standards for all facilities and developments as seen from sensitivity level 1 travel routes or occupancy sites. For distances greater than 1/2 mile from the viewing location, meet retention standard.

Plant and maintain vegetation at developed sites to provide screening and a natural-appearing setting. Favor native species but historically introduced species and cultivated equivalents of native species may be used.

Facilities should borrow shape, color, and texture from the natural setting.

General Use Zone - Meet or exceed VQO of partial retention.

Limited Use Zone - Meet the VQO of retention as seen from Level I and II viewpoints.

No Development Zone - Meet the VQO of retention. Upon abandonment of existing uses, rehabilitate all surface disturbances.

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MONO BASIN MANAGEMENT AREA:

Time to Complete

- a. Pursue opportunities to relocate, underground or remove overhead utility lines: east of and within 1/2 mile of U.S. 395; and adjacent to Highway 120 (E & W).

On-going

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|----|--|----------|
| b. | Develop viewshed analyses and plans for U.S. 395, and Highways 120 and 167. | 3 Years |
| c. | Work with Mono County, private interests, utility companies, and road departments to identify existing detracting uses inside and outside the Scenic Area as seen from U.S. 395, and Highways 120 and 167. Implement mitigation as feasible. | On-going |

15. WATER

GOAL - Conduct activities to maintain or improve favorable conditions of waterflow, and to comply with the water quality goals as specified in State and Federal clean water legislation. Manage the lake level to protect the ecological, geological, visual, air quality, and recreational values of the Scenic Area.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION:

In a manner consistent with the protection of the water rights of the State of California or any other political subdivision thereof (including the City of Los Angeles), or of any person to the extent that such water rights have been granted or modified under the laws of the State of California, the Scenic Area is to be managed to protect its geological, ecological, and cultural values.

Nothing in the enabling legislation shall be construed to reserve any water for the purposes of the Scenic Area or to affirm, deny, or otherwise affect the present (or prospective) water rights of any person or the State of California or any of its political subdivisions, nor shall any provision of the Title be construed to cause, authorize, or allow any interference with or infringement of such water rights so long as and to the extent that those rights remain valid and enforceable under laws of the State of California.

FOREST STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Maintain or improve water quality to meet State and Federal standards. Cooperate and coordinate with State and Federal agencies when planning projects that could affect water quality.

Implement BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP) to meet water quality objectives and maintain and improve the quality of surface water on the Forest. Identify methods and techniques for applying BMPs during project level

environmental analysis and incorporate into the associated project plan and implementation documents.

Secure water rights for existing and foreseeable future National Forest consumptive uses according to State law. Convert all National Forest System water uses into the name of the Forest Service where possible.

Require the water-bar spacing on dozer constructed fire lines as shown in the Forest Plan.

Do not channelize natural streams unless there are no other options available.

Maintain instream flows needed to maintain stream channel competence.

Design construction activities within streams to avoid sedimentation in the aquatic zone.

Revegetate roads and trails when use is terminated.

Return all lands in declining watershed condition to equilibrium.

SCENIC AREA STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

The Forest Standards and Guidelines apply to those streams within the Scenic Area having perennial flows and to any other stream which in the future may have perennial flows.

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MONO BASIN MANAGEMENT AREA:

Time to Complete

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|--|----------|
| a. In view of legislative constraints on water rights, pursue all opportunities to develop strategies and actions for ensuring a range of water levels between 6390 and 6377 with a maintenance level near the mid-point of this range. | On-going |
| b. Negotiate with public utility entities and other affected parties to return water to portions of the following dewatered streams: Rush Creek, Lee Vining Creek, Mill Creek, and Wilson Creek. | On-going |
| c. Examine the need to amend this Comprehensive Management Plan if the water level reaches a point that is outside the range identified in a. above, and all options including legal and administrative recourses to achieve that range have been exhausted. | On-going |

16. WILDLIFE/FISH/VEGETATION

GOAL - Manage habitats to promote healthy ecosystems and provide for diversity of wildlife species. Maintain viable populations of native vertebrates and invertebrates and enhance habitat of native species of special interest to the Scenic Area. Provide fishery habitat in all streams including Rush, Lee Vining, Mill, and Wilson Creeks. Manage vegetation to provide a diversity of species composition and structure.

LEGISLATIVE DIRECTION:

In a manner consistent with the protection of water rights of the State of California or any political subdivision thereof (including the City of Los Angeles)...the Secretary shall manage the Scenic Area to protect its geologic, ecologic, and cultural resources.

No commercial timber harvest shall be permitted except to the minimum extent necessary to control fires, insects, and diseases that might endanger irreplaceable features within the Scenic Area or cause substantial damage to significant resources adjacent to the Scenic Area.

Utilization of firewood, posts, and poles, and Christmas trees by individuals for their domestic purposes shall be allowed under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe to protect the natural and cultural resources of the Scenic Area.

FOREST STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Animal Species

Consider threatened and endangered species as below viability until recovery is achieved. Emphasize the protection and improvement of habitat for threatened or endangered wildlife. Manage for the protection and enhancement of all historical and potential threatened and endangered species habitat as necessary to meet recovery levels.

Cooperate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game in the management of threatened and endangered species and restoration of habitat. Submit proposals for actions that might affect the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for formal consultation.

Permit scientific studies on sensitive species only if the studies would benefit the species.

Develop and implement a consistent, systematic, biologically sound strategy to manage sensitive species and their habitats so that Federal listing does not occur.

Bald Eagle

Manage for recovery. Recovery may require the management of potential sites as well as occupied sites.

Use the presence of bald eagles and results of the habitat capability model for the species to establish the existing and potential wintering areas, including winter roosts, foraging areas, and daytime perches.

Maintain the integrity of existing wintering areas. Do not establish new winter uses or recreation developments within 1/4 mile of such areas.

Maintain and enhance fish, waterfowl, and other prey-based populations within winter foraging areas where opportunities exist.

Implement the Pacific States Bald Eagle Recovery Plan. Prepare a local winter bald eagle management plan that tiers to the Pacific States Plan.

Peregrine Falcon

Implement the Pacific Coast American Peregrine Falcon Recovery Plan prepared by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mule Deer

Maintain or enhance the integrity of key wintering ranges, holding areas, migration routes, and fawning areas for mule deer. Although management activities may allow for some alteration of their habitat, the goal is to maintain deer habitats to support deer population levels consistent with deer herd management objectives.

Recognize the sensitivity of infringement on known key mule deer fawning areas during critical fawning period from June 15 - July 15; resolve conflicts in favor of fawning areas.

Develop water sources where water is needed and opportunities are available.

Recognize the importance of key deer habitat. Emphasize the protection of critical deer habitat when analyzing development proposals.

Determine forage allocation for deer on the basis of five pounds of forage per deer per day.

Coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Game in implementing existing deer herd plans; cooperate with the Department of Fish and Game in the preparation of needed additional deer herd plans.

Sierra Nevada Mountain Sheep

Maintain existing mountain sheep habitat. Where feasible, expand their ranges by transplanting animals to suitable unoccupied habitats per criteria stated in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Sheep Recovery Plan.

Permit no increase in existing livestock use if the increase is shown to be deleterious to mountain sheep populations as defined in the Recovery Plan.

If reintroduced mountain sheep establish themselves in drainages outside the reintroduction sites, take advantage of opportunities to extend mountain sheep range, consistent with other resource activities.

Riparian Areas

Give emphasis to riparian dependent resources in the management of riparian areas.

Protect streams, streambanks, shorelines, lakes, wetlands, and the plants and animals dependent on these areas.

Use allotment management plans as the vehicle for ensuring protection of riparian areas from unacceptable impacts from grazing. Institute positive measures such as salting, herding, water developments, fencing, rest rotation, deferred rotation, and other grazing systems as mitigation measures. If mitigation is unsuccessful in preventing unacceptable resource damage to riparian habitat, as a last resort, livestock grazing will be reduced or eliminated in the affected areas.

Limit wildfire control measures and activities that would adversely affect the riparian zone. Avoid dozer-built lines in this zone where possible. Emphasize the restoration of dozer impacts on riparian zones when rehabilitating fire control sites.

Give priority to the rehabilitation of riparian areas when planning range, wildlife habitat, and watershed improvement projects.

Recognize the important and distinctive values of riparian areas when implementing management activities. Give preferential consideration to riparian dependent resources when conflicts among land use activities occur.

Move existing livestock watering locations out of riparian areas when and where feasible.

Sensitive Plants

Develop and implement a consistent, systematic, biologically sound program for sensitive plant species and their habitat so that Federal listing does not occur.

Complete inventories of project sites and areas of disturbance if there is potential habitat or known population locations are identified. The

reporting procedures for this process will be outlined in the Sensitive Plant Program Management Plan for the Forest.

Allow no new disturbance of designated sensitive plant habitat without direction from Interim Management Guides, Species Management Guides, or an environmental analysis.

Allow scientific studies when there is no detrimental effect on the species.

SCENIC AREA STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

The area within one mile of the islands and associated islets and including the islands and islets, will be closed to entry (except by permit) from April 1 - August 1 of each year to avoid disturbance of nesting gulls.

Increase vegetative diversity using a variety of means including prescribed burning.

Promote the health of ecosystems through reductions in grazing, protection of wetland areas, revegetation of native plant species, and habitat restoration where appropriate.

Manage the western portion of Warren Bench for mountain sheep.

Control plant species identified as "noxious weeds".

Prohibit the cutting of Christmas trees for individual use, to be consistent with the policy on the Inyo National Forest, even though the legislation allows such use.

Fuelwood, post, and pole gathering can be allowed on a case-by-case basis and under such requirements as are appropriate to protect Scenic Area values. In addition to the regular Inyo National Forest permits, special authorization must be obtained from the District Ranger.

MANAGEMENT PRESCRIPTIONS:

Developed Recreation Zone - Manage and maintain wildlife and riparian values to enhance public appreciation of those values.

Locate new developed recreation sites to minimize impact on wildlife and riparian resources.

In developed recreation sites, manage trees to eliminate safety hazards and to maintain the recreation attractions and values.

General Use Zone - Allow management activities to maintain or enhance wildlife and fish habitat and to provide for diversity of vegetative species and structure.

Limited Development Zone - Allow wildlife management activities to maintain or enhance habitat but which do not significantly detract from the other emphasized resources.

No Development Zone - Consider wildlife management activities and structural improvements only when needed to protect or restore native species habitat.

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MONO BASIN MANAGEMENT AREA:

Time to Complete

- | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|
| a. | Identify habitat improvement projects that enhance the status of native wildlife such as lake dependent species (e.g. gulls and phalaropes), alkalai-flat associated species (e.g. snowy plover), sagebrush-grassland species (e.g. mule deer and vesper sparrow), and wetland species (e.g. yellow warbler and migratory waterfowl). Pursue opportunities for cooperative and State funding to augment Forest Service allocations. | On-going |
| b. | Restore suitable habitat for the re-establishment of sage grouse and pronghorn antelope. Cooperate with other agencies and land owners in the design and implementation of habitat enhancement projects. | On-going |
| c. | Study species of limited distribution (e.g. yellow rail, mountain beaver, osprey, Apache silver-spot butterfly, Mono checkerspot butterfly) to determine management needs. Develop management plans when warranted and cooperate with appropriate agencies to implement. | On-going |
| d. | Work with California Department of Fish and Game to determine feasibility and interest in managing selected streams as wild trout fisheries. | 5 Years
(Feasibility) |
| e. | Maintain existing riparian vegetation and restore depleted riparian vegetation as opportunities arise. | On-going |
| g. | Negotiate with public utility entities and other affected parties to provide sufficient flows in Rush and Lee Vining Creeks for bald eagle winter habitat. | On-going |

- | | | |
|----|---|----------|
| h. | Initiate restoration of degraded habitats to reflect desired future conditions. Incorporate knowledge and data on past conditions into restoration efforts where appropriate. | On-going |
| i. | Work cooperatively with researchers and other interested parties who have knowledge of past conditions and expertise in appropriate restoration measures. | On-going |
| j. | Conduct habitat condition inventories and population surveys for species of special interest. Conduct riparian habitat condition surveys. | On-going |
| k. | Continue irrigation of DeChambeau Ranch until a decision is made concerning future use of this parcel and associated water rights. | On-going |

17. SOCIAL/ECONOMIC

GOAL - Provide efficient Scenic Area management while responding to compatible economic and social needs of the public and local communities. Provide safe conditions for visitors to the Scenic Area.

SCENIC AREA STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES:

Prohibit the landing of aircraft, (except at the Lee Vining airstrip) within the Scenic Area without a permit. Hang gliders are not included in this prohibition.

<u>ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MONO BASIN MANAGEMENT AREA:</u>	Time to Complete
a. Include the Scenic Area in the next update of the Long Valley Caldera Contingency Plan.	1 Year
b. Pursue the imposition of flight restrictions below 3000 feet above the terrain(except for aircraft landing or departing from the Lee Vining airstrip).	5 Years
c. Analyze seismic and volcanic hazards in all appropriate environmental analyses.	On-going

18. COMMUNICATION

GOAL - Provide communications for the management of the Scenic Area, the safety of visitors, and the protection of the resources.

ACTION ITEMS FOR THE MONO BASIN MANAGEMENT AREA: Time to Complete

- | | | |
|----|--|----------|
| a. | Provide radios to field personnel to allow communication with other affected agencies and the visitor center, Mono Lake Ranger District office, and the Interagency Dispatch Center. | 2 Years |
| b. | Provide telephone, radio, and electronic communication to serve the needs of the visitor center. | On-going |



MONITORING AND EVALUATION

A. Introduction

This chapter discusses the means the Forest Service will employ to ensure that future management is consistent with the direction contained in the Comprehensive Management Plan.

Monitoring and evaluation activities provide information to help determine whether or not the direction contained in the CMP is being followed and if the stated goals for the Scenic Area are being met. It is through this process that corrections and adjustments are made if necessary.

Monitoring and evaluation are separate activities. Monitoring is the collection of information. Evaluation is the examination of the information collected and the comparison with expected results. When differences are noted, the significance is evaluated and appropriate action taken.

B. Evaluation Process

Results of monitoring and evaluation will be periodically reported as shown below. Data sources include:

- Primary Management Reviews - General Management Review, Program Review, and Activity Review either as part of Mono Lake Ranger District or Scenic Area reviews.
- Ongoing Inventories and Monitoring Programs - Soil productivity monitoring and inventories, water quality monitoring, range utilization studies and inventories, threatened and endangered species monitoring, recreational facility inventories, reports from interested publics, etc.
- Management Attainment Reports - target accomplishment reports filed by the District Ranger and Scenic Area Manager and forwarded to the Forest Supervisor.

The monitoring process described in the Forest Plan is incorporated in this plan by reference. In addition, the District Ranger and Scenic Area Manager have the following responsibilities:

Mono Lake District Ranger - is responsible for a) monitoring the annual work plans for Scenic Area management, b) submitting an annual report on the status of each Action Plan item.

Scenic Area Manager - is responsible for a) assisting the District Ranger and staff officers in preparing more detailed monitoring plans, b)

preparing in cooperation with other district staff, annual work plans, c) working with others to accomplish monitoring, d) being the primary contact with using publics, e) being the primary contact with the Advisory Board and, f) assisting the District Ranger in the preparation of the annual Action Plan status report.

C. Monitoring Process

The process described in the Forest Plan is incorporated in this plan by reference.

Monitoring Plan by Resource

The monitoring plan as described in the Forest Plan is incorporated in this plan by reference. In addition, the following items will be monitored.

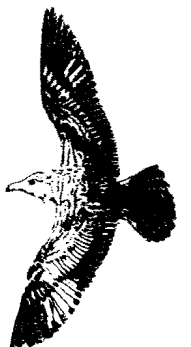
- OHV/OSV use to determine effects on resources if any;
- Use by feral burros in and adjacent to watering sites;
- Dispersed recreation to determine effects on resources if any;
- Numbers of birds using lake, arrival times, departure times, nesting success to determine significant changes if any, from historical situations, in cooperation with researchers;
- Productivity of the aquatic community in Mono Lake in cooperation with researchers;
- Active mining operations through the Plan of Operations;
- Fireworks display for impacts;
- Population trends of special interest species;
- Research uses;
- Grazing.



Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area Management Plan

Appendix A

Title III — Public Law 98 — 425



TITLE II

DESIGNATION WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

Ante, p 1491.
16 USC 1274.

SEC. 201. Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1271-1287) as amended is further amended by inserting the following new paragraph:

"(52) TUOLUMNE, CALIFORNIA.—The main river from its sources on Mount Dana and Mount Lyell in Yosemite National Park to Don Pedro Reservoir consisting of approximately 83 miles as generally depicted on the proposed boundary map entitled 'Alternative A' contained in the Draft Tuolumne Wild and Scenic River Study and Environmental Impact Statement published by the United States Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture in May 1979; to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture. After consultation with State and local governments and the interested public and within two years from the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall take such action as is required under subsection (b) of this section. Nothing in this Act shall preclude the licensing, development, operation, or maintenance of water resources facilities on those portions of the North Fork, Middle Fork or South Fork of the Tuolumne or Clavey Rivers that are outside the boundary of the wild and scenic river area as designated in this section. Nothing in this section is intended or shall be construed to affect any rights, obligations, privileges, or benefits granted under any prior authority of law including chapter 4 of the Act of December 19, 1913, commonly referred to as the Raker Act (38 Stat. 242) and including any agreement or administrative ruling entered into or made effective before the enactment of this paragraph. For fiscal years commencing after September 30, 1985, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to implement the provisions of this subsection."

Appropriation authorization.

TITLE III

ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA

16 USC 643.

SEC. 301. The area in the Mono Basin within and adjacent to the Inyo National Forest in the State of California, as generally depicted on a map entitled "Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area" dated June 1983, and numbered 1983-3, is hereby designated as the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area (hereafter in this title referred to as the "Scenic Area"). Such map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Forest Supervisor, Inyo National Forest and in the office of the Chief of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture. The Secretary of Agriculture (hereinafter in this title referred to as the "Secretary") may make minor revisions in the boundary of the Scenic Area after publication of notice to that effect in the Federal Register and submission of notice thereof to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate. Such notice shall be published and submitted at least sixty days before the revision is made.

Public availability.

Federal Register, publication.

EXTENSION OF NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY

SEC. 302. (a) The exterior boundary of the Inyo National Forest is hereby extended to include the area within the boundary of the Scenic Area. Any lands and interests therein acquired pursuant to section 303 shall become part of the National Forest System.

16 USC 643b

(b) For the purposes of section 7(a)(1) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965 (78 Stat. 897; 16 U.S.C. 4601-4 through 4601-11), the boundary of the Inyo National Forest, as modified by this section, shall be treated as if it were the boundary of that forest on January 1, 1964.

16 USC 4601-9
16 USC 4601-4 - 4601-11.

ACQUISITION

SEC. 303. (a) The Secretary is authorized to acquire all lands and interests therein within the boundary of the Scenic Area by donation, exchange in accordance with this title or other provisions of law, or purchase with donated or appropriated funds, except that—

16 USC 643b.

(1) any lands or interests therein within the boundary of the Scenic Area which are owned by the State of California or any political subdivision thereof (including the city of Los Angeles) may be acquired only by donation or exchange; and

(2) lands or interests therein within the boundary of the Scenic Area which are not owned by the State of California or any political subdivision thereof (including the city of Los Angeles) may be acquired only with the consent of the owner thereof unless the Secretary determines, after written notice to the owner and after opportunity for comment, that the property is being developed, or proposed to be developed, in a manner which is detrimental to the integrity of the Scenic Area or which is otherwise incompatible with the purposes of this title.

(b)(1) Not later than six months after the date of enactment of this title, the Secretary shall publish specific guidelines under which determinations shall be made under paragraph (2) of subsection (a). No use which existed prior to June 1, 1984, within the area included in the Scenic Area shall be treated under such guidelines as a detrimental or incompatible use within the meaning of such paragraph (2).

Guidelines, publication.

(2) For purposes of subsection (a)(2), any development or proposed development of private property within the boundary of the Scenic Area that is significantly different from, or a significant expansion of, development existing as of June 1, 1984, shall be considered by the Secretary as detrimental to the integrity of the Scenic Area. No reconstruction or expansion of a private or commercial building, including—

(A) reconstruction of an existing building,
(B) construction of attached structural additions, not to exceed 100 per centum of the square footage of the original building, and

(C) construction of reasonable support development such as roads, parking, water and sewage systems shall be treated as detrimental to the integrity of the Scenic Area or as an incompatible development within the meaning of paragraph (2) of subsection (a).

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary shall only be required to prepare an environmental assessment of

Conservation

any exchange of mineral or geothermal interest authorized by this title.

ADMINISTRATION

16 USC 543c.

Sec. 304. (a)(1) Except as otherwise provided in this title, the Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall administer the Scenic Area as a separate unit within the boundary of the Inyo National Forest in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the National Forest System. All Bureau of Land Management administered lands that fall within the boundaries of the Scenic Area are hereby added to the Inyo National Forest and shall be administered in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the National Forest System.

(2) In addition, the following parcels administered by the Bureau of Land Management are hereby added to the Inyo National Forest and shall be administered in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the National Forest System:

- township 1 south; range 26 east; Mount Diablo Meridian: east half of southwest quarter and south half of southeast quarter of section 10; and
- township 1 north; range 26 east; Mount Diablo Meridian: southwest quarter of northeast quarter and west half of southeast quarter of section 9;
- southwest quarter of southwest quarter of section 16;
- southwest quarter of northwest quarter and northwest quarter of southwest quarter of section 25;
- north half of southeast quarter of section 26, west half of northwest quarter and northwest quarter of southwest quarter of section 27;
- township 1 north; range 27 east; Mount Diablo Meridian: east half of southeast quarter of section 34;
- southwest quarter of northwest quarter of section 35; and
- west half of section 30 as intersected by Scenic Area Boundary.

(b)(1) In a manner consistent with the protection of the water rights of the State of California or any political subdivision thereof (including the city of Los Angeles) or of any person to the extent that such water rights have been granted or modified under the laws of the State of California, the Secretary shall manage the Scenic Area to protect its geologic, ecologic, and cultural resources. The Secretary shall provide for recreational use of the Scenic Area and shall provide recreational and interpretive facilities (including trails and campgrounds) for the use of the public which are compatible with the provisions of this title, and may assist adjacent affected local governmental agencies in the development of related interpretive programs. The Secretary shall permit the full use of the Scenic Area for scientific study and research in accordance with such rules and regulations as he may prescribe.

(2) Except as specifically provided in this subsection, no commercial timber harvesting shall be permitted in the Scenic Area, but the Secretary shall permit the utilization of wood material such as firewood, posts, poles, and Christmas trees by individuals for their domestic purposes under such regulations as he may prescribe to protect the natural and cultural resources of the Scenic Area. The Secretary may take action including the use of commercial timber harvest to the minimum extent necessary to control fires, insects and diseases that might—

(A) endanger irreplaceable features within the Scenic Area, or
(B) cause substantial damage to significant resources adjacent to the Scenic Area.

(c) The Secretary shall permit those persons holding currently valid grazing permits within the boundary of the Scenic Area to continue to exercise such permits consistent with other applicable law.

(d) The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the State of California and any political subdivision thereof (including the city of Los Angeles) for purposes of protecting Scenic Area resources and administering areas owned by the State or by any such political subdivision which are within the Scenic Area.

(e) Within three years after the date of enactment of this title, the Secretary shall submit to the committees referred to in section 301, a detailed and comprehensive management plan for the Scenic Area which is consistent with the protection of water rights as provided in subsection (b)(1). The plan shall include but not be limited to—

- (1) an inventory of natural (including geologic) and cultural resources;
- (2) general development plans for public use facilities, including cost estimates; and
- (3) measures for the preservation of the natural and cultural resources of the Scenic Area in accordance with subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

Such plan shall provide for hunting and fishing (including commercial brine shrimp operations authorized under State law) within the Scenic Area in accordance with applicable Federal and State law, except to the extent otherwise necessary for reasons of public health and safety, the protection of resources, scientific research activities, or public use and enjoyment.

(f) The Secretary is authorized to construct a visitor center in the Scenic Area for the purpose of providing information through appropriate displays, printed material, and other interpretive programs, about the natural and cultural resources of the Scenic Area.

(g)(1) Subject to valid existing rights, federally owned lands and interests therein within the Scenic Area are withdrawn from entry or appropriation under the mining laws of the United States, from the operation of the mineral leasing laws of the United States, from operation of the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970, and from disposition under the public land laws.

(2) Subject to valid existing rights, all mining claims located within the Scenic Area shall be subject to such reasonable regulations as the Secretary may prescribe to assure that mining will, to the maximum extent practicable, be consistent with protection of the scenic, scientific, cultural, and other resources of the area, and any patent which may be issued after the date of enactment of this title shall convey title only to the minerals together with the right to use the surface of lands for mining purposes subject to such reasonable regulations.

(h) Nothing in this title shall be construed to reserve any water for purposes of the Scenic Area or to affirm, deny, or otherwise affect the present (or prospective) water rights of any person or of the State of California or of any political subdivision thereof (including the city of Los Angeles), nor shall any provision of this title be construed to cause, authorize, or allow any interference with or infringement of such water rights so long as, and to the extent that,

Management
plan.

30 USC 7
note.

those rights remain valid and enforceable under the laws of the State of California.

Repeal.

(ix) The Act entitled "An Act authorizing and directing the Secretary of the Interior to sell to the city of Los Angeles, California, certain public lands in California; and granting rights-of-way over public lands and reserved lands to the city of Los Angeles in Mono County in the State of California", approved June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1892), is hereby repealed.

(2) The Secretary and the Secretary of the Interior shall grant and convey rights-of-way easements, at no cost, to the city of Los Angeles for those rights-of-way on public lands and national forest lands in Mono County, California, as described and set forth in maps and accompanying descriptions which were—

(A) filed by the city of Los Angeles with the Secretary of the Interior on October 24, 1944, and

(B) accepted as proof of construction on behalf of the United States by the Commissioner of the General Land Office on January 4, 1945.

Such easement conveyances shall provide for the right of the city to continue its present operations and to maintain, reconstruct, and replace all existing water and power facilities located within the bounds of the area described in the maps and descriptions referred to in the preceding sentence. The United States shall reserve in the conveyance easements all rights to use and permit the use by others of the lands so conveyed to the extent that such use does not unreasonably interfere with the rights granted herein to the city of Los Angeles.

(3) The grant in paragraph (2) of this subsection shall become effective upon relinquishment in writing by the city of Los Angeles of its applications dated October 20, 1944, and January 17, 1945, to purchase twenty-three thousand eight hundred and fifty acres of Federal land.

(4) The easements granted under paragraph (2) of this subsection shall provide that whenever the city of Los Angeles ceases to use the land or any part thereof subject to such easements for the purposes for which it is currently being used, as of the date of enactment of this title, all interests in such land or part thereof shall revert to the United States.

(j) Existing community recreational uses, as of the date of enactment of this title, shall be permitted at the levels and locations customarily exercised.

STUDIES

16 USC 643d.

Sec. 305. The Secretary shall take such steps as may be necessary to, within one hundred and eighty days of the date of enactment of this title, enter into a contract with the National Academy of Sciences for the purpose of conducting a scientific study of the ecology of the Scenic Area. The study shall provide for consultation with knowledgeable local, State, Federal, and private persons and organizations and shall provide findings and recommendations to the Congress. Such study shall be conducted in accordance with the best scientific methodology (as set forth by the National Academy of Sciences) and shall be transmitted by the National Academy of Sciences to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate, to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives, and to the Chief of the Forest Service not later than January 1, 1987. Progress

reports regarding the study shall be transmitted to the above committees on January 1, 1985, and January 1 of each year thereafter.

ADVISORY BOARD

Sec. 306. (a) There is hereby established the Scenic Area Advisory Board (hereinafter referred to as the "Board"). The Secretary shall consult with and seek the advice and recommendations of the Board with respect to—

(1) the administration of the Scenic Area with respect to policies, programs, and activities in accordance with this title;

(2) the preparation and implementation of the comprehensive management plan; and

(3) the location of the visitor center authorized by section 304(f).

(b) The Board shall be composed of nine members, who shall be selected as follows:

(1) five members appointed by the Mono County Board of Supervisors;

(2) two members appointed by the Governor of California (one of whom shall be an employee of the California Division of Parks and Recreation);

(3) one member appointed by the mayor of the city of Los Angeles; and

(4) one member appointed by the Secretary (who shall be an employee of the Forest Service).

(c) Each member of the Board shall be appointed to serve for a term of three years except that the initial appointments shall be for terms as follows:

(1) of those members appointed by the Mono County Board of Supervisors one shall be appointed to serve for a term of one year, two shall be for a term of two years, and two shall be for a term of three years;

(2) of those members appointed by the Governor of California one shall be appointed to serve for a term of one year and one shall be appointed to serve for a term of three years;

(3) the member appointed by the mayor of the city of Los Angeles shall be appointed to serve for a term of two years; and

(4) the member appointed by the Secretary shall be appointed to serve for a term of three years.

(d) The members of the Board shall be appointed within ninety days of the date of enactment of this title. The members of the Board shall, at their first meeting, elect a Chairman.

(e) The Secretary, or a designee, shall from time to time, but at least annually, meet and consult with the Board on matters relating to the administration of the scenic area.

(f) Members of the Board shall serve without compensation as such, but the Secretary is authorized to pay, upon vouchers signed by the Chairman, the expenses reasonably incurred by the Board and its members in carrying out their duties under this title.

(g) Any vacancy in the Board shall be filled in the same manner in which the original appointment was made.

(h) A majority of those members appointed shall constitute a quorum for the conduct of all business of the Board.

(i) The Board shall terminate ten years from the date of its first meeting.

Establishment.
16 USC 643e.

Termination

TRADITIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN USES

16 USC 543f.

SEC. 307. In recognition of the past use of the Scenic Area by Indian people for traditional cultural and religious purposes, the Secretary shall insure nonexclusive access to Scenic Area lands by Indian people for such traditional cultural and religious purposes, including the harvest of the brine fly larvae. Such direction shall be consistent with the purpose and intent of the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of August 11, 1978 (92 Stat. 469). As a part of the plan prepared pursuant to section 304(c) of this title, the Secretary shall, in consultation with appropriate Indian tribes, define the past cultural and religious uses of the Scenic Area by Indians.

42 USC 1996 and
note.

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

16 USC 543g.

SEC. 308. In addition to other amounts available for such purposes, effective October 1, 1985, there are hereby authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this title.

COMPLIANCE WITH BUDGET ACT

10 USC 543h.
2 USC 651.

SEC. 309. Any new spending authority described in subsection (c)(2) (A) or (B) of section 401 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 which is provided under this title shall be effective for any fiscal year only to such extent or in such amounts as are provided in appropriation Acts.

Approved September 28, 1984.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 1437:

HOUSE REPORT No. 98-40 (Comm. on Interior and Insular Affairs).
SENATE REPORT No. 98-582 (Comm. on Energy and Natural Resources).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 129 (1983):

Apr. 12, considered and passed House.
Aug. 9, considered and passed Senate, amended.
Sept. 12, House agreed to Senate amendment.

Scenic Area Prescriptions

Developed Recreation Zone - The purpose is to maintain existing developments and provide for new services and/or facilities in support of visitor use needs.

The emphasis is on allowing developed facilities and opportunities that are compatible with the visual quality, recreation and interpretive objectives for the Scenic Area.

The prescription is applied to existing and potential areas of concentrated public use and developments both in the public and private sectors, and to heavily used travel corridors.

Lands within this prescription generally have paved/improved transportation routes, modified landscapes, and provide experiences, activities, and opportunities consistent with the Rural (R), Roaded Modified (RM), or Roaded Natural (RN) ROS classes. The visitor can expect to encounter many people in most places within this zone. Information is provided primarily by signs, displays, or printed material. There are few physical challenges since most areas will be accessible by 2WD drive and designated paths will be provided.

<u>Element</u>	<u>Management Direction</u>
Cultural	<p>Interpret sites of public interest, taking into account the uniqueness, regional significance and the ability of the site to withstand public use.</p> <p>Protect cultural resources in or adjacent to developed recreation sites to reduce vandalism and inadvertent damage.</p>
Significant Geologic Features	Use appropriate means to protect identified features, favoring on-site controls.
Land Uses	Allow uses that do not significantly detract from the natural integrity of the area nor interfere with the recreation and visual emphasis.
Minerals	Examine all claims for validity. On valid claims, approve plans of operation which limit changes in visual condition, impacts to water resources, and which allow flexibility in the timing of operations to avoid heavy recreation and critical wildlife use periods.
Fire and Pest Management	<p>Control all wildfire.</p> <p>Apply appropriate management techniques to control pests.</p>

Range Permit no grazing in developed recreation sites. Manage grazing practices elsewhere to be compatible with intensive public use.

Recreation Maintain ROS classes of RN, RM, or R.

On private and public lands, keep activities and size and extent of development consistent with ROS class indicated.

Provide facilities such as parking, trails, signing, overlooks, turnouts, etc, to accommodate public use and to reduce unnecessary impacts.

Improve roads when necessary to provide for heavy public use and protect the natural integrity. If resource values are threatened, close roads, restrict access, or otherwise resolve the issue, in accordance with Action Item 10h (page 41).

Construct or relocate new 2WD roads to avoid sensitive areas, to provide access to developed sites, and to provide for public safety.

Allow camping only in developed campgrounds. However, until a campground is constructed in the "Jeffrey Pine" forest area, allow low impact dispersed camping within the portion of this prescription located in the Jeffrey Pine Forest.

Research Allow research activities which do not interfere with public use.

Visual Resources Manage vegetative setting in and adjacent to the zone to meet the VQO of retention within the foreground zone.

Strive to meet the VQO of retention but do not exceed partial retention standards for all facilities and developments as seen from sensitivity level 1 travel routes or occupancy sites. For distances greater than 1/2 mile from the viewing location, meet retention.

Plant and maintain vegetation around developed recreation sites to provide screening and a natural-appearing setting. Favor native species but historically

introduced species and cultivated equivalents of native species may be used.

Facilities should borrow shape, color, and texture from the natural setting.

Wildlife/Fish/Vegetation

Manage and maintain wildlife and riparian values to enhance public appreciation of those values.

Locate new developed recreation sites to minimize impact on wildlife and riparian resources.

In developed recreation sites, manage trees to eliminate safety hazards and to maintain the recreation attractions and values.

General Use Zone - The purpose is to manage for inherent values including range, wildlife, recreation and visual resources. There are a variety of activities which can occur with a minimum of conflict. Improvements that do not significantly affect scenic or other natural values are allowed. Improvements might include projects to benefit wildlife, grazing, recreation and interpretation.

Lands within this prescription have mostly 2WD access, although some 4WD trails are present. Landscapes are slightly modified, and experiences, activities and opportunities are consistent with Roaded Natural (RN) or Semi-primitive Motorized (SPM) ROS classes. The visitor can expect to encounter other people throughout the zone but concentrations only at developed sites. Information is provided primarily by signs, displays, and written interpretive materials. There is some degree of physical challenge and risk, since some areas will be accessible only by 4WD or non-motorized forms of transportation. Trails may be provided but are not a feature of this zone.

<u>Element</u>	<u>Management Direction</u>
Cultural	Interpret sites of public interest, which are adjacent to main travel routes, taking into account the uniqueness, regional significance, and the ability of the site to withstand public use.
Significant Geologic Features	Use most appropriate means to protect identified features. Use on-site controls where necessary.
Land Uses	Allow uses that do not significantly detract from the natural integrity of the area.
Fire and Pest Management	Apply the wild fire suppression strategies of confine, contain, or control to natural

fires unless they threaten persons, property or values outside of the zone. Control all human-caused wild fires. Utilize prescribed fire where appropriate to achieve management goals.

Apply appropriate management techniques to control pests. Favor biological controls when one or more methods are comparable.

Minerals

On valid claims, approve plans of operation which minimize changes in the visual condition and impacts to other natural resources and which allow flexibility in the timing of operations to avoid heavy recreation and critical wildlife use periods.

Consider multipurpose needs when developing roads for mineral development.

Range

Allow range improvement activities which are compatible with dispersed recreation and wildlife objectives. Permit no grazing in developed recreation sites within this prescription.

Recreation

Manage land to maintain ROS classes of SPM and RN and provide experiences, activities and opportunities consistent with these classes.

Provide general purpose non-motorized trails consistent with management objectives for the area and the ROS classes noted above.

Allow new developed recreational facilities in the public or private sector consistent with the ROS classes noted above.

Construct or relocate 2WD roads to avoid sensitive areas, to provide access to developed sites, and to provide for public safety. If resource values are threatened, or roads are not needed to accommodate appropriate public use, close roads, restrict access, or otherwise resolve the issue, in accordance with Action Item 10h.

Research

Allow research activities that do not result in significant long term changes to existing natural conditions.

Visual Resources

Meet or exceed the VQO of partial retention.

Fire and Pest Management

Apply the wild fire suppression strategies of confine, contain, or control to natural fires unless they threaten persons, property or values outside of the zone. Control all human-caused wild fires.

Use prescribed fire where appropriate to achieve management goals.

Control pests that cause unacceptable ecological damage or when they pose a threat to resource values outside of the Scenic Area. Use appropriate control methods but favor biological means when one or more methods are comparable.

Range

Manage grazing use to avoid sensitive areas and emphasized wildlife habitats. Allow range improvements needed to facilitate range management when shifting grazing to less sensitive areas.

Recreation

Allow the range of recreation experiences, activities, and opportunities consistent with the ROS classes of SPNM and SPM. Restrict or prohibit if necessary, any public use which causes significant modification of natural resources.

If resource values are threatened, or roads are not need to accommodate appropriate public use, close roads, restrict access, or otherwise resolve issue, in accordance with Action Item 10h.

Research

Allow scientific and academic uses if only minimal changes in natural conditions occur.

Visual Resource

Meet the VQO of retention as seen from Level I and Level II viewpoints.

Wildlife/Fish/Vegetation

Allow wildlife management activities to maintain or enhance habitat but which do not significantly detract from the other emphasized resources.

No Development Zone - The purpose is to provide areas free of surface disturbance and to maintain cultural, geologic, ecological, and visual values in essentially natural conditions.

The emphasis is on providing protection to natural features by whatever means are necessary, but favoring avoidance or restriction of access.

Lands within this prescription are those where protection of the natural values is considered to have a higher priority than other uses. These areas generally have non-motorized access, natural appearing landscapes and provide those experiences, activities and opportunities consistent with the Primitive (P), Semi-primitive Non-motorized (SPNM), or Semi-primitive Motorized (SPM) ROS classes. Use is primarily by individuals. Concentrations of visitors generally do not occur. Isolation is common and depending on the length of stay, other individuals may not be encountered. Most knowledge is gained by self-discovery. There could be a high level of physical challenge and risk, since access is mostly by non-motorized means. Trails may be provided to protect natural values.

<u>Element</u>	<u>Management Direction</u>
Cultural Resources	Protect sites in a manner consistent with the ROS class. On site interpretive facilities are not provided.
Significant Geological Features	Use appropriate means to protect identified features from degradation from non-natural causes, but favor avoidance and access restrictions.
Land Uses	Allow only non-surface disturbing activities that minimally impact natural values.
Minerals	Examine for validity all claims. Acquire valid claims where development would endanger natural values. When this is not possible, require mitigation at a level necessary to maintain those values.
Fire and Pest Management	<p>Apply the wild fire suppression strategies of confine, contain, or control to natural fires, but favor confine or contain when suitable conditions are present. Control all human-caused wild fires.</p> <p>Exhaust all other control techniques before authorizing use of mechanical equipment.</p> <p>Control pests that cause unacceptable ecological damage or when they pose a threat to resource values outside of the Scenic Area. Use appropriate control methods but favor natural or biological control when one or more methods are comparable.</p>

Range

Phase out grazing from National Forest System lands, consistent with ecological, geological, cultural, and visual values of this prescription. Prohibit grazing of domestic livestock on National Forest System relicted lands. Existing range improvements may remain until grazing use is phased out. Improvements used in conjunction with permits to cross National Forest System land may remain until no longer needed.

Recreation

Allow for experiences, activities and opportunities consistent with ROS classes of P, SPNM, or SPM.

Developed facilities are not allowed except for trails necessary to protect natural values.

Consider closing or restricting access on existing roads, in accordance with Action Item 10h.

Control use to protect existing natural values.

Research

Allow research activities that are non-manipulative and non-modifying of natural values.

Consider manipulative or modifying activities only when they are temporary in nature and the natural values are not endangered in the long-term; or when the benefits of such activities to the Scenic Area outweigh the change in the natural condition.

Soil

On relicted lands, consider land modification projects which contribute to soil stability. Favor natural methods of stabilization.

Visual Resources

Meet the VQO of retention. Upon abandonment of existing uses, rehabilitate all surface disturbance.

Wildlife/Fish/Vegetation

Consider wildlife management activities and structural improvements only when needed to protect or restore native species habitat.

Appendix C

Facility Cost Estimates



ESTIMATED COST OF FACILITY CONSTRUCTION

A. Introduction - Scenic Area management direction identifies new facilities and the rehabilitation or expansion of existing facilities as being desirable to provide for the recreational needs of visitors. In some instances, specific sites have been identified while in others only concepts are identified. In all cases, site specific planning and environmental analysis would be accomplished prior to implementation. It should be noted that although specific facilities and improvements are listed, they are examples only. Specific site plans and environmental analysis would determine the scope of each project.

In all cases, estimated costs are in 1987 dollars. "Design and planning" funding as shown, includes all preconstruction activities, preparation of the contract package, and contract administration.

B. Facilities

1. Campgrounds - Management direction is to develop a campground within the Jeffrey pine area of the Scenic Area and program the construction of campgrounds not to exceed 250 Persons-at-one time capacity (50 camping units). Estimate includes the cost of 50 camp units with spur, table, and cooking device; interior roads and traffic control devices; water system; restrooms; signing.

	Recreation Construction	Road and Trail Construction
Design/planning	\$ 60,000	\$ 30,000
Construction	400,000	200,000
Overhead	40,000	20,000
Total	\$500,000	\$250,000

2. Day Use Facilities - Management direction is to redesign South Tufa, Black Point, Panum Crater, and Old Marina if feasible; and to rehabilitate the Mono Mills interpretive site.

A. South Tufa/Navy Beach - Estimate includes relocation of parking for 60 vehicles, surfaced access road, restrooms, picnic area, trail hardening, signing and displays, water system, obliteration of existing road, parking.

Design/planning	\$ 31,950	\$ 48,750
Construction	213,000	325,000
Overhead	<u>21,300</u>	<u>32,500</u>
Total	\$286,250	\$406,250

B. Old Marina - Estimate includes reconstruction of parking (for 30 vehicles) and access road, hardened interpretive trail, signs/displays interpreting human history of the Basin, and rehabilitation of existing roads.

Design/planning	\$ 7,500	\$ 9,750
Construction	50,000	65,000
Overhead	<u>5,000</u>	<u>6,500</u>
Total	\$62,500	\$81,250

C. Panum Crater - estimate includes rehabilitation of roads and parking (for 25 vehicles), restroom, picnic area, reconstruction of interpretive trails, sign/displays to interpret geologic and cultural story, and

Design/planning	\$ 14,400	\$ 19,050
Construction	\$ 96,000	127,000
Overhead	<u>9,600</u>	<u>12,700</u>
Total	\$120,000	\$158,750

D. Black Point (if analysis indicates the need to make changes) - estimate includes obliteration of existing access road and parking; relocation of parking for 20 vehicles; restroom; construction of interpretive trail; signs/displays; safety controls (if needed).

Design/planning	\$ 23,250	\$ 8,700
Construction	155,000	58,000
Overhead	<u>15,500</u>	<u>5,800</u>
Total	\$193,750	\$ 72,500

E. Mono Mills - estimate includes road improvement; parking; restroom; interpretive trail; signs/displays.

Design/planning	\$ 8,250	\$ 5,500
Construction	55,000	37,000
Overhead	<u>5,500</u>	<u>3,700</u>
Total	\$68,750	\$46,200

3. Roads, Scenic/Interpretive Turnouts, and Trails (not discussed elsewhere)

A. Scenic/interpretive turnouts - estimates include paving; signing/displays; and traffic controls for up to 6 turnouts on Highways 395, 167, and 120 (E & W).

Design/planning	\$ 43,875	\$ 39,000
Construction	292,450	260,000
Overhead	<u>29,450</u>	<u>26,000</u>
Total	\$365,775	\$325,000

4. Dispersed Recreation Areas - management direction specifies the closing and rehabilitation of selected roads and installation of signing necessary to provide for the health and safety of visitors and the protection of Scenic Area values.

A. Closing/ rehabilitation of roads and relocating parking - estimate includes the closing, signing, rehabilitation and relocation.

Design/planning	\$ 7,500	2,500
Construction	150,000	50,000
Overhead	<u>15,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Total	\$172,000	57,000

B. Signing - estimate includes signing, installation.

Design/planning	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250
Construction	25,000	25,000
Overhead	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>
Total	\$28,750	\$28,750

C. Miscellaneous structures for protection of geologic features - estimate includes cost of materials and installation.

Design/planning	\$ 1,000	-
Construction	20,000	-
Overhead	<u>2,000</u>	-
Total	\$23,000	-

Total - all projects \$1,820,775 \$1,425,700

Total \$3,246,475

Appendix D

Land Adjustment Plan

Land Adjustment Plan

Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area

This land adjustment plan is prepared as a followup to the Draft Inyo National Forest Land Adjustment Plan (August, 1986). The following goals, standards, and guidelines are taken from that plan.

Forest Goals: A forest land and resource management structure and program that has compatible relationships between National Forest System lands and adjacent non-federal lands. Land ownership adjustment is a specific activity to accomplish this goal.

Forest-wide standards and guidelines: Acquire lands by exchange, purchase, or donation in the following priority:

Highest priority:

1. Lands with water frontage such as lakes, streams, floodplains, wetlands, and riparian zones.
2. Key game management areas and lands having endangered or threatened fish, wildlife, or plant species habitat.
3. Lands needed to reduce fire risks and prevent soil erosion.
4. Lands and easements that ensure access to public lands and resources.
5. Lands having unique historical or cultural properties.
6. Wilderness inholdings.

Moderate priority:

1. Lands primarily of value for outdoor recreation purposes and lands needed for esthetic purposes.
2. Lands needed for administrative purposes.

Lowest priority:

1. Lands needed to block in or consolidate existing National Forest lands to improve administration.

Scenic Area Goal - Acquire those parcels from willing land owners which are necessary to protect the ecological, geological, cultural, or scenic values; and those which have the potential to provide needed recreational opportunities.

Unless land is used or is proposed to be used in a manner determined to be detrimental to the integrity of the Scenic Area, land will not be acquired unless the owner is willing. Private land can be acquired by purchase, exchange, or donation. State and City of Los Angeles land can be acquired only by donation or exchange. Opportunities to acquire moderate or low priority land will at times arise. When these opportunities occur, the Forest Service will normally acquire the land. Priorities will be determined through the criteria established below. "Highest" priorities are those parcels rating at least a 14, "moderate" priority are those rating between 7 and 13, and "low" priority are those rating 6 or less.

Each parcel will be rated against these criteria:

How well does the parcel provide for:

1. Wildlife habitat values

- +3 Provides key habitat
- +2 Provides desirable/high quality habitat
- +1 Provides low/moderate quality habitat

2. Watershed values

- +3 Wetland or floodplain
- +2 Contains stream zone and/or is adjacent to relicted lands
- +1 Important watershed

3. Developed recreation/interpretation values

- +3 Development possible and desirable
- +2 Development possible
- +1 Development possible but not desirable

4. Dispersed recreation values

- +3 Has unique attractions and is or would be often visited
- +2 Has attractions and is or would be occasionally visited
- +1 Lacks attractions and is or would be rarely visited

5. Visual quality values

- +3 Is within the Developed Land Use Category or is an improved site within the Natural Land Use Category and is visible from a key viewing area.
- +2 Lies within Developed Land Use category or is an improved site within the Natural Land Use category and is visible from a secondary viewing area.
- +1 Lies within the Developed Land Use Category or is an improved site within the Natural Land Use Category but is not visible from viewing areas.

6. Cultural Resource values

- +3 Contains a known site
- +2 Possibly contains a site
- +1 Little likelihood that it contains a site

7. Ecological or geologic values

- +3 Contains unique features generally not found outside of Scenic Area
- +2 Contains features that are interesting but are found elsewhere
- +1 Contains features commonly found