

Recycling Service Reaches Lee Vining

by Elin Ljung

While many urban and suburban areas have caught on to recycling and even have institutionalized recycling programs, here in the Eastern Sierra recycling has been a few steps behind ... until now! The Sierra Conservation Project (SCP) and California Department of Conservation are working together to assist Eastern Sierra businesses in implementing recycling programs to reduce environmental impacts. The Mono Lake Committee is proud to be a participant in this exciting new program.

Here at the Committee office, the staff feels a strong sense of responsibility to the environment, and recycling in the office is a logical place to start. However, recycling in a remote area such as Lee Vining has some large obstacles, not the least of which is a lack of a consistent recycling service. The SCP's comprehensive new program offers materials for training office staff, recycling containers for the office, and provides a pickup service. For the office, the SCP offers to collect glass, plastic, aluminum, mixed paper, magazines, newspaper, and chipboard.

The SCP has offered both indoor and outdoor recycling containers for the Mono Lake Committee office, Mono Basin Field Station, and seasonal staff housing at no cost through a grant from the Department of Conservation. The new containers

and pickup service help avoid the hour-long, gas-intensive recycling runs Committee staff used to make periodically to Mammoth. In addition, the large and sturdy new containers between the intern houses and around the Field Station make it much easier to keep the seasonal residences tidy.

The flexible SCP recycling service works well for the Mono Lake Committee's varied facilities. The Committee coordinates and oversees a store, an office, and seasonal staff and researcher housing, all of which produce different volumes and types of recyclables. As a locally organized service, the SCP has tailored its program conveniently for Eastern Sierra customers—it even provides bear-proof containers for outdoor recycling.

A consistent recycling program saves the Mono Lake Committee money spent on trash removal services, but more importantly, it helps to reduce the environmental impacts of our facilities. Visit www.recyclesierra.com to see us listed as a participating "green business" and learn more about the Eastern Sierra's recycling options! ❖

Elin Ljung is the Committee's Communications Intern. She is fulfilling a lifelong dream of living in Lee Vining long enough to see all the seasons change at Mono Lake.

Focus On Photography

by Elin Ljung

Mono Lake's spectacular beauty attracts photographers from far and wide, and their work captures the Basin in rare and stunning moods. Many of these artists have become friends and supporters of the Mono Lake Committee over the years, and their fine work is regularly featured in Committee publications like the Mono Lake Calendar and the *Mono Lake Newsletter*.

As a way to acknowledge these talented people, the Committee is turning the lens around to feature the photographers themselves from time to time. Focus on Photography is a program that allows the Committee to simultaneously recognize talented artists and support ongoing programs in education, restoration, and protection at Mono Lake.

The featured print for 2005, *Mono Mystique*, comes from Yousef Khanfar, a highly-regarded landscape photographer with strong ties to the Mono Basin. After a childhood spent in war-torn Kuwait, Yousef has "chosen to carry my camera instead of a gun to tell my story and promote peace" through his landscape

photography, which has won international praise. Yousef's accolades include recognition by the International Photography Hall of Fame and Museum. He has published a book, "Voices of Light," and now generously contributes a beautiful piece of art for Focus on Photography.



Mono Mystique by Yousef Khanfar

Yousef supports the Committee's work on behalf of the lake, and for each print ordered in 2005, he will donate all but the cost of materials back to the Committee. This generosity means that each order will generate over \$500 for restoration, protection, and education.

Focus on Photography is a way to extend Mono Lake's beauty into homes or offices, all the while providing the Committee with valuable support and recognizing Yousef Khanfar's fine work and commitment to the Mono Basin. Please visit www.monolake.org or contact Membership Coordinator Douglas Dunaway (douglas@monolake.org) at (760) 647-6595 if you would like to take part in this program!