



Eastern Sierra Land Trust

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Permanent Protection of Mono Lake Scenic Vista Draws Applause

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Excellent Photos Available**

MONO BASIN, CA—The removal of junked cars and piles of debris that once marred the views north of Mono Lake, in addition to an agreement that will keep the land from ever being subdivided into ranchettes, were grounds for a celebration on Saturday, July 26th. Residents from the Eastern Sierra and from across the state gathered in Mono Basin to applaud the restoration and generous donation of a 480 acre conservation easement to the Eastern Sierra Land Trust (ESLT).

Ted Yednock and Doug Frazer purchased the property (located off SR 167) as a “land rescue.” Isolated junkyards left by the previous landowners marred the property that otherwise boasted pristine wildlife habitat and incredible views. Yednock and Frazer got to work with volunteers and contractors to remove debris and start the process of revegetation. ESLT worked with the landowners to place a conservation easement on their land to prevent future development of this important property above Mono Lake.

ESLT commemorated the restoration and preservation of the land by hosting a public celebration in the middle of the property. Guests walked a half mile through the property to the event site and were greeted by white tents, music, hors d’oeuvres and refreshments. As the sun dipped low on the horizon and wine glasses glistened in the evening light, speakers described some of the meaningful characteristics of this property and the Mono Basin. USGS Research Geologist, Angela Jayko, described the land in the context of geologic time, noting that all who attended were standing on “14,000 year old beach sand” that once bordered a larger Mono Lake. Norm DeChambeau, a historian at the Old School House Museum in Lee Vining, set the land in the context of historical time, presenting to the crowd family stories from the Mono Basin that date back 137 years. ESLT Lands Director, Karen Ferrell-Ingram described the conservation values of the property. ESLT Board President, Tony Taylor, recognized all who made the event possible—especially the landowners, Ted Yednock and Doug Frazer.

The Yednock/Frazer conservation easement preserves the dunes and junipers that add drama to the unique landscape viewed from the Mono Basin National Forest Scenic Area. It protects habitat that provides food and cover for such animals as mule deer, quail, mountain lions, and badgers. The areas’ new protection ensures that this land will never again be a landmark of debris piles and rusting vehicles.

The Eastern Sierra Land Trust works with willing landowners to protect vital lands in Inyo, Mono, and Alpine counties for their scenic, recreational, historical, botanic, watershed, and wildlife values. A conservation easement is one tool used by private property owners to protect natural resources and preserve scenic open space for the benefit of future generations.