



the Owens Valley Committee

the RAINSHADOW

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w e w a t c h t h e w a t e r

The Rainshadow is the newsletter of the Owens Valley Committee.

OVC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit citizen's action group dedicated to the protection, restoration and sustainable management of water and land resources affecting the Owens Valley.

In this issue

- Seasonal Habitat Flows—Why & How
- Birds, Birders & the LORP
- Habitat Flow Ceremony
- Restorations, LORP & the MOU Lawsuit

President's Message

This has been an eventful winter and spring as regards water here in the Owens Valley. The most dramatic event was the initiation of the habitat flows in the Lower Owens River, which began in mid-February and continued into early March. At the ceremony marking the start of this 200-cubic-foot-per-second (cfs) release, I was invited, along with Mark Bagley, to share the speaker's podium with Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and LADWP General Manager David Nahai. We all floated a portion of the new Lower Owens River together, enjoying an unseasonably warm and pleasant afternoon with the Los Angeles officials. During the three weeks that this "simulation" of spring runoff was in progress, various OVC members and others observed the flows from the platform of my Cessna 182 aircraft. See our web site (www.ovcweb.org) for some outstanding images taken by Derrick Vocelka! We have worked hard to see to it that these flows were implemented on schedule, and with appropriate monitoring activities, and the spread of water was gratifying. Stay tuned to find out its effect on habitat as the summer progresses.

In other news, the discussions and planning for the development of Yellow-billed Cuckoo habitat and for the spring habitat mitigation (the ad hoc process) have been revived, and we are anticipating that there will be some actual project activities on the ground by the end of the summer. The Owens Valley Committee has been instrumental in keeping these projects on track, and they have both represented substantial collaborative efforts among the LADWP, Inyo County, California Department of Fish and Game, the OVC and Sierra Club, and the ranching community.

We also continue to press several lawsuits associated with the ongoing operation and monitoring plans for the Lower Owens River. As pleased as we are that there is water in the River, we remain committed to assuring that this project will be operated responsibly long after the responsible people who designed and initially implemented it have retired. At the same time we are encouraged by our ongoing contacts with David Nahai, who appears to be more open than his predecessors to collaborative approaches that could avoid long litigation.

Finally, we want you to know that your support of the OVC is critical to our successes and unabated efforts.

Steve Bagley



linger
resident
committee

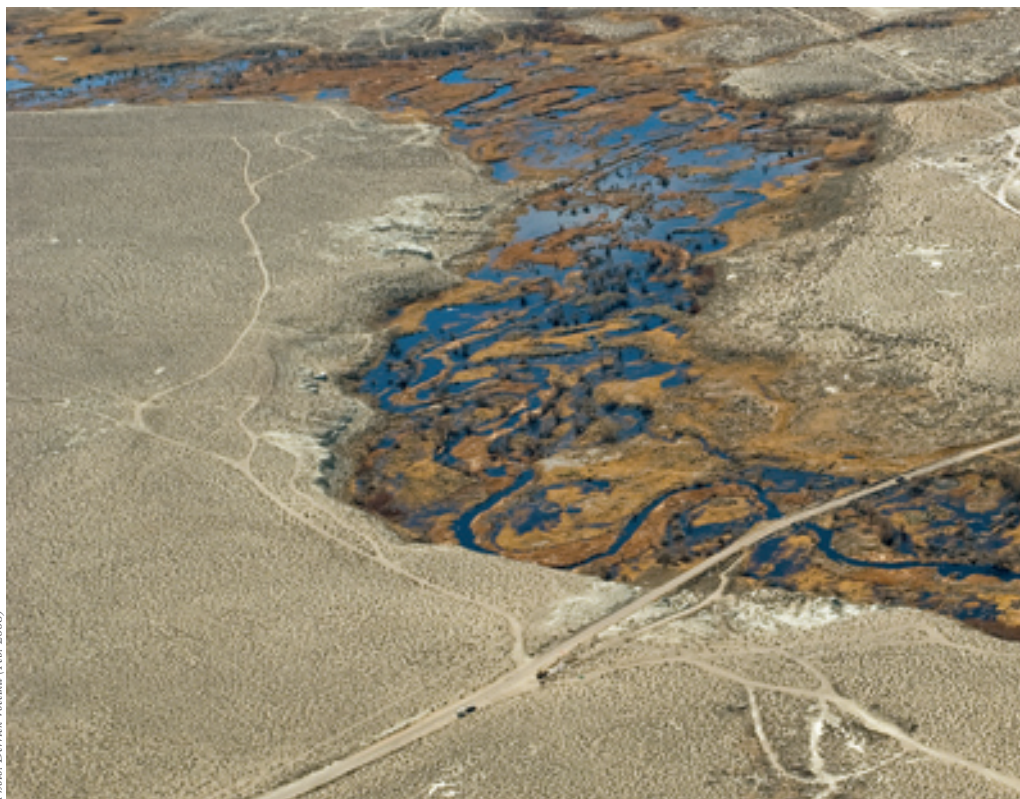
Photo: Stacy Brown

Please Check the Date on Your Mailing Label

The Owens Valley Committee needs your help! If there's a date on the mailing label of this newsletter, that's when you last made a donation to the OVC. If the date is less recent than June 2007, we ask that you take a moment now, while you're thinking about it, to use the enclosed envelope to renew your membership. (This will save us the money and resources of mailing a reminder in a couple of weeks.) If you haven't yet joined the OVC, now would be a good time!

No envelope? Our address appears on the back of the newsletter along with suggested levels of donation. Please make out a check to the "Owens Valley Committee," and congratulate yourself for performing such a good deed. We'll send you a thank you letter acknowledging your donation, the date and amount, and a statement that your donation is fully tax-deductible. You'll also continue to receive or begin receiving our newsletter (unless you tell us that you prefer to receive no mail).

Photo: Derrick Voelke (Feb. 2008)



(Left to right) Monitoring station on Lone Pine Narrow Gauge Rd.; "Heart of the Owens River"; "Islands" south of the river.

Thar She Flows!

Seasonal Habitat Flows in the Lower Owens River

Ceal Klingler, Michael Prather, John C. Williams

The historic Lower Owens River—before it was diverted in 1913 by the first Los Angeles aqueduct and became a mostly dry riverbed for 93 years—derived its water flows primarily from snowmelt via multiple tributaries. The river experienced frequent and sometimes extreme increases in flows, especially from late winter through late spring as the snowpack in the eastern Sierra Nevada melted. These seasonal variations in flow helped maintain water quality and a well-flowing channel and enhanced species diversity by promoting a healthy riparian environment for fish, willows and cottonwoods, and other flora and fauna.

In the hope that a short annual increase in flows in the revived Lower Owens River would create some of the same benefits as the river's previous natural increases in flow, parties to the 1997 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Lower Owens River Project (LORP) agreed to an annual increase in flows, which they defined in the MOU as

a "habitat flow." During a period of time that might vary from year to year the flow in the Lower Owens River would be ramped up from a base flow of 40 cubic feet per second (cfs) to a maximum of about 200 cfs and then back down.

MOU parties expected the habitat flow to wear many hats: It would, they wrote, create "a natural disturbance regime that produces a dynamic equilibrium for riparian habitat, the fishery, water storage, water quality, animal migration and biodiversity" and "achieve and maintain riparian habitats in a healthy ecological condition." Furthermore, they agreed, the habitat flow would have to be of sufficient frequency, amount and duration and be timed in such a way as to 1) redistribute the river's rich muck and river bottom material onto banks, floodplains, and terraces and to the Owens River Delta, 2) fulfill "wetting, seeding, and germination needs of riparian vegetation, particularly willow and cottonwood," 3) recharge groundwater, 4) control tule growth,

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BIANNUAL REPORT OF THE OWENS VALLEY COMMITTEE

The Biannual report edition of *The Rainshadow* is produced in the Spring and Fall of each year. Send suggestions and corrections to johnw@qnet.com

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and fish health. Lower winter temperatures mean that organic sediments flushed from the riverbed tend to produce fewer toxic gases. Fish metabolic rates are lower, and fish therefore require less oxygen, as do other aquatic organisms that are similarly affected by lower temperatures. And dissolved oxygen content in the water is higher. Consequently, when increased flows flush sediment from the river bottom in winter, fish are more likely to survive the change in water quality.

An increase in flows during the spring, however, during willow and cottonwood seed dispersal, would benefit seed distribution and germination. These cottony seeds float on the wind and water to damp places along the river's course where they germinate (or not). Unlike most seeds, willow and cottonwood seeds are viable for only a matter of days, not months or years, and must find a proper location for germination before they die.

In terms of amount and duration, high flows help shape the river channel in a way that benefits fish in the long term by creating

dispersal—primarily because of concerns about water quality and the potential for large fish kills. Los Angeles began to increase flows from the aqueduct to the river on February 13 and, during a period of seven days, ramped flows up from the river's base flow of 40 cfs to a peak habitat flow of more than 200 cfs. Because flows both evaporate and seep out of the river as they travel downstream, and also because water quality was expected to be poor during the first few annual habitat flows (the river channel as a whole hadn't received a good flush since the very high runoff year of 1983), Los Angeles supplemented the increased flows in late February at the Alabama Gates area to maintain higher flows throughout the river.

Will the annual habitat flow achieve the goals that the 1997 MOU set for it? That remains to be seen. LADWP gave Owens Valley Committee activists Mark Bagley and Derrick Vocelka and hydrologist Peter Vorster a ride in a helicopter to get a bird's-eye view of this year's habitat flow. OVC president Carla

th of Alabama Gates (Alabama Hills & Lone Pine Pk. in background); Aqueduct Intake (L.A. aqueduct upper & start of Lower Owens below—flows about equal?)

All photos: Derrick Vocelka (Feb. 2008)



5) enhance the fishery, 6) maintain water quality, and 7) enhance the river channel.

That's a tough order, especially for one relatively short habitat flow per year. For example, in terms of timing, a habitat flow in the winter would have less impact on water quality



features and places for them to breed, but in the short term, higher flows suspend more material and imperil water quality for the same fish. Lower flows don't suspend and redistribute muck as well or create enough surfaces for seedlings to establish themselves. Flows that don't last long enough won't inundate floodplains thoroughly or leave enough sediment behind. Even the rates at which flows are ramped up and then down affect the success of a habitat flow. Flows that decrease too rapidly can strand fish, collapse riverbanks, and recede too quickly to leave seeds and rich soil behind.

Fortunately, the habitat flow doesn't have to wear all of its hats at the same time. This year's habitat flow, the first, took place in winter—before willow and cottonwood seed



Scheidlinger also made several flights with OVC activists in her Cessna. The aerial views gave observers a strong sense of the potential that was always there for the restoration of 62 miles of river and riparian habitat, and what a tremendous benefit this could be for wildlife as well as for people who enjoy nature and the outdoors or care about a healthy environment and a recreation-and-tourism-related economy. During high flows several hundred ducks of various species were observed in the river reaches near Lone Pine. Already fish have moved into the formerly dry upper reaches of the project. This year's habitat flow flooded the river's banks and surroundings and apparently avoided causing any large fish kills. For a flow that's meant to imitate more complex natural flooding, that's a good start.

Birds, Birders, and the LORP

Ecology & Economy

Tom & Jo Heindel

While hopes are high, only time will tell how good the birding will become in the recently rewatered Lower Owens River. It will depend on how effective the habitat restoration and monitoring programs are. A river restoration of this scale has never been attempted before, but the opportunity to reestablish a viable riparian community would be a welcome reversal of man's past actions, which have resulted in the disappearance of more than 95% of California's riparian environments.

Effective adaptive management must insure that a luxuriant willow and cottonwood forest will develop along the river channel. This has been done quite successfully before, albeit on a smaller scale. The San Pedro River in southeast Arizona, once a man-made disaster, now supports a bounty of cottonwoods and birds. Another example, in Kern County, adjacent to Inyo County, is the South Fork of the Kern River Preserve. These magnificent models indicate that where there is a will and a lot of money, there is a way.

We have much to learn from the Kern River Preserve and its successes. Birds such as the federally endangered Southwest Willow Flycatchers and Yellow-billed Cuckoos have found a restored riparian that meets their specific needs and are reestablishing themselves as viable populations in areas where they were once extirpated or very nearly so. Other riparian obligates, species that require riparian in which to breed, that have suffered are Brown-crested Flycatchers and Summer Tanagers, both of whom are doing well at the Preserve. All indicators suggest that with the development of suitable habitat these species would do equally well

along the "new" Owens River. Protecting the most highly threatened species has residual benefits, since many species use riparian habitats. Yellow Warblers, Yellow-breasted Chats, Blue Grosbeaks, and other species should also experience a resurgence in their populations.

Another endangered species, the Least Bell's Vireo, could also be a beneficiary of the LORP. In 1891, when the A.K. Fisher Death Valley Expedition explored the Owens Valley, they found this small, gray vireo with a loud, complex voice "tolerably common." Currently, a small handful cling to the county list as breeders at China Ranch, southeast of Tecopa. There is an excellent chance that this species could repopulate a renewed Owens River. Because of enhanced habitat and cowbird control programs in southern California over the last couple of decades, their numbers have increased rapidly from almost extirpated to healthy populations. The Owens Valley has already had a few sightings of avant-garde colonists, genetically speaking, looking to return to their former breeding areas.

Many other species not specifically protected would also benefit and flourish, such as Wood Ducks, diurnal and nocturnal raptors, woodpeckers, and numerous songbirds, many of which require tree cavities for nesting.



Summer Tanager

Photo: Jo Heindel

The potential for a replenished avifauna is exciting for birders, biologists, and ecologists. But these aren't the only recipients of this largesse. Ecology and Economy share more than their first three letters. The mantra "Build it and they will come" applies to birds, birders, and other nature-lovers who will hike, fish, and canoe the Owens River, leaving an improved economy as thanks for a restored river.

[Tom & Jo are in the final stages of preparing their book, *The Status and Distribution of Birds in Inyo County Including Death Valley National Park*. The OVC newsletter will make it known when it is available.]



Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

Photo: Jo Heindel



The couple on the right read about one of Tom & Jo's birding field trips from their home in Rhode Island. They flew to Reno and then drove to the Owens Valley where they spent some time birding and spending money on motels, food, gas, etc.

Photo: Tom Heindel

For Valentine's, Lower Owens Carries L.A. Mayor Away

Ceal Klingler

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa let the Lower Owens River sweep him off his feet Wednesday, February 13, 2008. After presiding over a ceremony to celebrate the beginning of the first artificial seasonal habitat flow since the river's official rewatering in December 2006, the mayor climbed into a yellow canoe and rowed gently downstream. Many others joined him in a small celebratory flotilla, including Mark Bagley, local Sierra Club and OVC representative, and David Nahai, new LADWP general manager, who sat elbow-to-elbow at the bow of a drift boat.

The Lower Owens River Project partly mitigates environmental damage from groundwater pumping from 1970 to 1990. Yearly seasonal habitat flows—including this, the first for the newly rewatered river—were meant to imitate natural flooding by redistributing muck from the river bottom, helping to distribute and germinate seeds from riparian vegetation such as willows and cottonwood, and recharging groundwater tables in the flood plain, among other purposes.

Several speakers at the ceremony wryly acknowledged that mitigation projects for Los Angeles' water exports from the Owens Valley have often been a labor of law more than a labor of love. "We recognize that Los Angeles was a desert before we came to the Owens Valley and that the Owens Valley was an oasis," the mayor said. "....Today we say we're going to share the prosperity....We're here to be the neighbors we should have been one hundred years ago."

"We've done this together," said David Nahai, who served on the Los Angeles Board of Water and Power Commissioners before becoming LADWP's new general manager in December 2007. "....While the past is immutable, the future is there for anyone to change."

That future is still written in water. Although the Lower Owens River Project partly mitigates groundwater pumping damage from 1970-1990, damage to the Owens Valley from ongoing groundwater pumping is still a source of conflict. In spite of joint groundwater management agreements, Los Angeles' average yearly groundwater pumping exceeded sustainable levels until 2005, when a court order temporarily reduced Los Angeles' groundwater pumping in the Owens Valley until minimum flows in the river were well established.

Inyo County and Los Angeles are still negotiating the terms by which groundwater pumping in the Owens Valley will be managed to avoid additional



LADWP General Manager H. David Nahai welcomes celebrants to the first annual habitat flow. (From left to right) Mayor Villaraigosa, OVC President Carla Scheidlinger, Nahai, Sierra Club Rep. Mark Bagley.

environmental impacts. Desertification and damage to the valley's groundwater-dependent meadows are a deep and ongoing concern. And, as Owens Valley Committee president Carla Scheidlinger noted during the habitat flow ceremony, the Lower Owens River Project's degree of success will rest on an as-yet-to-be-determined monitoring and adaptive management plan for the river.

Habitat flows to the Lower Owens were ramped up slowly during a seven-day period from the river's base flow (slightly above the required average of 40

cubic feet per second) to a peak flow of more than 200 cubic feet per second at the Aqueduct Intake by February 21. Peak flows were maintained for 24 hours, and then flows slowly dropped again during the next seven days to a flow slightly higher than the river's required 40 cubic feet per second base flow. Increased flows took approximately six days to travel down the river to the Alabama Gates area, where flows were supplemented to maintain more than a 200 cfs average daily flow for several days in the Lower Owens River below the Alabama Spill Gate.



Accompanied by Mark Hill of Ecosystem Sciences (and a flotilla of other participants not shown), Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa (right front) tours the Lower Owens River during the first day of increased flows.

The Shaggy Dog Story You Need to Know

An Update on Legal & Environmental Issues

Mark Bagley (OVC Legal and Policy Liaison), John C. Williams

In an ideal world the OVC would never have to resort to litigation. All parties would agree on what their legally binding obligations to protect the environment are, and, in particular, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) would simply comply with its commitments. Unfortunately, we do not live in an ideal world.

The legal issues that OVC is currently actively involved with are all in pursuit of getting LADWP to comply with the commitments they made in their 1991 Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and in a 1997 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that helped to settle 25 years of litigation over LADWP's groundwater pumping in the Owens Valley. The MOU included six parties—LADWP, Inyo County, OVC, Sierra Club, State Lands Commission, and the California Department of Fish and Game. [The MOU and other related documents are available on the Inyo County Water Department web site—www.inyowater.org/LORP/default.htm.]

Now that the MOU-required flows in the Lower Owens River Project (LORP) are being implemented, thanks to the lawsuit brought by OVC, the Sierra Club, and Fish and Game, and the ruling by Judge Cooper, we are down to three outstanding MOU issues.

Two of these issues were raised in the original lawsuit that forced the implementation of LORP flows (the rewatering of 62 miles of river), namely the MOU commitment for development of Yellow-billed Cuckoo habitat enhancement plans at Baker Creek and Hogback Creek and development of mitigation projects to use 1600 acre-feet of water per year (AFY) for mitigation of groundwater pumping impacts to Owens Valley springs.

The third issue was raised in a separate 2005 lawsuit and involves lack of compliance with the MOU in the development of the required LORP Ecosystem Management Plan. Our main concerns are with the monitoring and adaptive management components of that plan.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo Habitat Enhancement Plans

The MOU consultants failed to produce final Yellow-billed Cuckoo habitat enhancement plans by the MOU deadline of June 2000; and they continued to

miss subsequent deadlines, including the final deadline contained in a 2004 stipulation and court order. The plans were finally produced in 2005, but none of the MOU parties found the plan for Baker Creek satisfactory.

Since the spring of 2006 the MOU parties and the affected rancher have been working together to revise the Baker Creek plan to make it acceptable to all. Significant progress has been made at the staff level, but the going is slow. OVC hopes to help push this process along over the next few months and finalize habitat enhancement plans that can go to the LADWP Board of Commissioners for their approval by the end of the year. These plans should provide significant improvements to the riparian forest habitats at both locations.

Required Additional Mitigation Plans & the Ad Hoc Process

As with the Yellow-billed Cuckoo plans, the MOU consultants failed to produce by the required deadlines the final plans to use 1600 AFY of water for additional mitigation. And like the Baker Creek Cuckoo plan, all the MOU parties found the consultant's plans unsatisfactory. Thus began the so-called ad hoc process, an informal meeting of members of the MOU parties and affected ranchers in an effort to work cooperatively to reach agreement on these long-delayed additional mitigation projects.

Last fall the OVC Board of Directors recommended that the ad hoc group reexamine the group's proposal for mitigation at Hines Spring, because it would use too much pumped groundwater. The ad hoc group has subsequently met and agreed to reduce the groundwater pumping at Hines Spring from 940 AFY to 240 AFY and to provide an additional 145 AFY from the Aberdeen Ditch. The remainder of the 1600 AFY will come from surface water and artesian wells, not pumped groundwater.

However, the change in plans for Hines Spring has required revisions to other proposed mitigation projects. These revisions are currently being developed, and the ad hoc group will likely evaluate the revised projects in the coming weeks. As with the Yellow-billed Cuckoo plans, OVC hopes to help push this process along over the next few months

and get mitigation project plans to the LADWP Board of Commissioners for their approval by the end of the year.

LORP MOU-Compliance Lawsuit— Concerns Regarding the Monitoring and Adaptive Management Plan

The OVC and Sierra Club originally filed a lawsuit in January 2005 over the failure of two important documents to comply with the 1997 MOU, namely the draft LORP Ecosystem Management Plan and the 2004 LORP Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The 1997 MOU established legally binding requirements for the LORP and for a LORP Ecosystem Management Plan (LORP Plan). The LORP Plan, which was to be developed by independent MOU Consultants, is specifically required by the MOU to provide a monitoring and reporting plan that collects the data necessary to determine whether the LORP is meeting its required goals and, if not, to provide feedback so that the management of the LORP can be modified or adapted in order to meet those goals. The MOU specifically states that if the monitoring reports reveal that adaptive modifications to the LORP management are necessary to attain the LORP goals, "such adaptive modifications will be made."

The goal of the LORP is the establishment of healthy functioning ecosystems "for the benefit of biodiversity and Threatened and Endangered Species, while providing for the continuation of sustainable uses including recreation, livestock grazing, agriculture and other activities." The goals include creation and maintenance, through flow and land management, to the extent feasible, of diverse natural habitats for specified habitat indicator species in the various geographical divisions of the area affected by the LORP.

The MOU specifies that the overall project description in the LORP EIR be consistent with the MOU consultants' recommendations contained in the LORP Plan, and with the provisions of the MOU. Unfortunately, before the LORP Plan was completed, LADWP went ahead and completed the 2004 LORP EIR, which both LADWP and Inyo County approved. Granted that the LORP EIR was long overdue; nevertheless the project description in the EIR needed to be based on the LORP Plan, as required by the MOU.

Moreover, the ersatz management plan in the 2004 LORP EIR explicitly precluded provisions for adaptive management set forth in the MOU Consultants' draft LORP Plan. Specifically, the EIR states that water input into the Lower Owens River for the high seasonal habitat flows will be released only from the Aqueduct Intake, at the north or upstream end of the project area. This completely contradicts the draft LORP Plan, which called for supplemental inputs into the river downstream from the intake as an adaptive management measure if needed to meet the LORP goals. Supplemental flows downstream of the intake may be needed because evaporation and groundwater recharge as the river flows downstream will reduce the magnitude of the seasonal habitat flows in the lower reaches.

Furthermore, the draft LORP Plan, at the time the LORP EIR was approved, was a flawed document that did not fully comply with the requirements of the MOU. For example, the protocols for analysis of some of the key monitoring data were lacking or vague, the habitat indicator species were not adequately addressed, and the feedback loops for adapting the management of the LORP based on the results from the monitoring program were generally expressed in such vague terms as to be ineffectual as a means to ensure compliance with the MOU.

In light of all the inadequacies of the 2004 EIR and of the monitoring and adaptive management portion of the draft LORP Plan, OVC and the Sierra Club had no choice but to file suit. In the lawsuit OVC and Sierra Club contend that the MOU requires that the project description in the LORP EIR be consistent with the LORP Plan and that the LORP Plan should have been completed before approval and implementation of the project. The LORP Ecosystem Management Plan is a vital part of the project, and the monitoring and adaptive management part of the plan will have a large influence on its success.

This case lay idle while LADWP worked to establish the LORP base flows. Base flows have now been established for a year, but the monitoring and adaptive management portion of the LORP Plan remained in draft form. Several draft versions of the monitoring and adaptive management plan were released in 2006 and 2007. OVC and the other MOU parties commented on those plans. OVC and Sierra Club members met in January 2008 with the MOU Consultants to discuss our concerns with the September 2007 draft plan. A final draft monitoring and adaptive management plan was released in early February 2008. Comments from the MOU parties were submitted in late

February, and a workshop with the MOU Consultants was held on March 13 in one last attempt to have our concerns addressed in the final plan.

Unfortunately, the major problems we have with the plan had not been corrected in the February 2008

tion of seasonal habitat flows below the intake as an adaptive management tool, there are no protocols or prescriptions for its use that are linked to vegetation prediction, groundwater recovery, or other habitat flow goals; 4) there is no linkage in the plan between adaptive management and actual vegetation trends that may differ from trends that were projected; and 5) the habitat indicator species are still inadequately addressed with an arbitrarily low standard of success defined as only a majority of the species having an increase in some unspecified "quantity and quality of their habitat" over pre-project conditions, whereas the MOU requires that diverse habitats be created for *all* of the habitat indicator species "to the extent feasible."

OVC and Sierra Club are not the only MOU parties to raise objections to the February draft monitoring and adaptive management plan. The Inyo County Water Department provided an eight-page comment letter which stated, in part, that the plan fails to describe "how the monitoring data will be evaluated and adaptive management options selected." The Department of Fish and Game stated in their nine-page comment letter that they are concerned that the plan "will not serve its purpose as described in the MOU." Some of the issues Fish and Game raised are concern "with the lack of measurable standards for biological resources" reflected in the lack of clear success criteria, such as some measurable goal for riparian habitat creation, and that the proposed measure of success for habitat indicator species (i.e. an increase in habitat quantity and quality compared to baseline conditions for simply a majority of the species) does not meet the requirements of the MOU.

Meanwhile, attorneys for OVC and Sierra Club began taking depositions in February in preparation for moving our court action forward.

On May 2, 2008, as this article was being written, the final LORP monitoring and adaptive management plan arrived at our door. Stay tuned for the results of our review of this final plan, but given the history of these documents and the problems that remained in the final draft, we are not optimistic this final plan will adequately address our concerns.

Even if, to our joyous surprise, the final monitoring and adaptive management plan were to comply with the MOU, the project as approved by LADWP and Inyo County based on the 2004 LORP EIR remains an issue. It remains to be seen whether LA and Inyo County will revise the project based on the new final plan.

Did we say, before we plunged into this update, that we do not live in an ideal world?

“In light of all the inadequacies of the 2004 EIR and of the monitoring and adaptive management portion of the draft LORP Plan, OVC and the Sierra Club had no choice but to file suit.”

draft. For example, the OVC and Sierra Club joint comment letter on the February draft plan included, among other comments, 1) that the plan has no adaptive management measures specifically keyed to the years in which monitoring occurs; 2) that there are no adaptive management protocols for managing habitat flows in each of the hydrologically varying sections of the river; 3) that while the plan recognizes augmenta-



LADWP hydrologists during a spring seasonal habitat flow test in February.

Photo: Mike Dunbar

OVC Mission

OVC is a non-profit citizen action group dedicated to the protection, restoration and sustainable management of water and land resources affecting the Owens Valley. The Committee oversees compliance with the implementation of appropriate water management policy, educates the public, encourages participation in local government, and advocates an inclusive and open decision-making process.

OVC Goals

1. "Watchdog" the 1991 LTWA between Inyo County and L.A.
2. Oversee the implementation and management of the Lower Owens River Project (LORP).
3. Educate the public and promote its involvement with water issues.
4. Seek a dual use designation for dust control water at Owens Lake for wildlife as well as dust.

OWENS VALLEY COMMITTEE
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Peter Knapp

YES!

I would love to join the Owens Valley Committee and help with protection, restoration and sustainable management of water and land resources in the Owens Valley.

<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	Speckled Dace
<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	Tui Chub
<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	Owens Pupfish
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