

Living on the Edge:

Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep in the Mono Basin



September 8–9, 2018 • John Wehausen

\$182 per person / \$167 for Mono Lake Committee members
enrollment limited to 15 participants

This seminar will be an introduction to the biology and conservation issues of Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep, which are one of the most endangered mammals of North America. It will take place in the high mountain habitat of these magnificent animals that so fascinated John Muir. We will hike on two consecutive days to locations at which these sheep are likely to be found, taking breaks along the way to discuss many aspects of the biology and conservation of these sheep.

Instructor John Wehausen has studied bighorn sheep intensively for over 40 years during which he has worked as an independent research biologist studying bighorn sheep inhabiting the high mountains and deserts of California.

PLEASE NOTE

This seminar will take place at **elevations of 9,000–11,000+** feet above sea level. It may be necessary to cover 5–10 miles on foot each day in order to access bighorn sheep habitat and this may involve climbing and descending at least 1,500–2,000 feet per day. While access will involve walking on trails to the extent possible, there may be considerable off-trail walking. Those restricted to lower elevations for medical reasons should not consider this seminar, nor should anyone with medical conditions likely to be exacerbated by exertion at high elevations. Adequate physical fitness is obviously a requirement. *It is strongly recommended that those coming from*

lower elevations attempt to spend at least 24 hours at the highest possible elevation prior to this seminar. If you are unsure about participating, contact the instructor at wehausen@qnet.com.

ITINERARY

Saturday, September 8, 8:00am: Meet at the Mono Basin National Forest Visitor Center, just north of Lee Vining on the bluff east of Highway 395 (**we will meet here Sunday morning at the same time as well**). After brief introductions and check-in, we will head to appropriate trailheads to begin our hikes. We will take multiple breaks during each hike, and during each break the instructor will discuss a different topic concerning these sheep. A primary goal will be to observe some bighorn sheep. Expect to be hiking all day and returning to the cars around 5:00–7:00pm, but it is possible we might be out later than that. This weekend will be an invigorating challenge for mind and body—strenuous hiking in bighorn sheep habitat while considering the unique challenges of saving the last vestiges of the Sierra Nevada’s charismatic mega fauna.

Altitude and Dehydration Cautions: Remember to bring (and drink!) lots of water because your body loses more water at the higher altitudes of the Mono Basin. Experts recommend that you begin drinking extra water as you drive to higher elevation in order to prevent dehydration and headaches. Also, the sun is rather fierce at high elevations, capable of burning even on cool and cloudy days, so be sure to protect yourself thoroughly using sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat.

MEALS

Please bring hearty picnic lunches and snacks for both days. Bring plenty of water.

TO BRING

- good hiking boots
- warm clothes, including wind protection
- rain gear if any threat exists
- flashlight/headlamp
- binoculars
- spotting scope if you have one (instructor will have some)
- lunch and sufficient water each day
- hat, sunscreen, insect repellent
- day pack to carry everything

Participants should come prepared to do at least ten miles of strenuous, fast-paced, possibly off-trail hiking at high elevation. This means wearing appropriate clothing and footwear, bringing enough food and water for an entire day, and being prepared to be outdoors for 12 hours.



Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars

P.O. Box 29 • Lee Vining, CA 93541 • (760) 647-6595 • monolake.org/seminars