

## MEMORANDUM

To: Unit Waterfowl File

Date: 12-18-98

Subject: Waterfowl survey flights of Mono Lake, 10-20-99 and 11-20-98

The subject flights were conducted from the DFG Sacramento hanger at the Executive Airport. Conditions for both flights were ideal; light breezes, clear skies, and no people seen on the lake to disturb the birds, although there were people at County Ponds and DeChambeau ponds at the time of the November flight.

The 10-20 survey was flown by pilot Bob Morgan and Ron Thomas as single observer. The 11-20 flight used a second experienced observer, Tim Caldwell (DFG, Spenceville Wildlife Area). We found the second observer to be a real benefit in spotting and counting birds efficiently; especially providing for improved species identification where larger numbers were found. Future surveys should include the second observer as standard procedure.

Duck numbers observed, by area and by species (where possible), were as follows:

10-20-98 SURVEY (Begin 11:05)

<u>AREA</u>	<u>MAL.</u>	<u>SHOV.</u>	<u>TEAL</u>	<u>GAD.</u>	<u>PIN.</u>	<u>RUD.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Lee Vining Delta	15						15
West Shore							0
County Park		250 mixed species					250
Mill Creek	25						25
Wilson		100 mixed species including a high % teal					100
Black Point		75 mixed species in new lagoons					75

11-20-98 SURVEY (Begin 10:30)

<u>AREA</u>	<u>MAL.</u>	<u>SHOV.</u>	<u>TEAL</u>	<u>GAD.</u>	<u>PIN.</u>	<u>RUD.</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Lee Vining Delta	3						3
West Shore	300		200				500
County Park							0
Mill Cr.	70	50	50			20	190
Wilson	175	150	50			25	400
Black Point (inc. new lagoons NE)			50			130	180
County Ponds		1 hunter present					0
DeCham. Ponds		10-15 people present					0
N. Shore Tufa	75	(7 snow geese)					75
N. Shore lagoons	196		20			163	379
Warm Sp. marsh & lagoon	575		200				775
Simon Sp. marsh & lagoon	212		150			25 (-250 unident.)	637
S. Tufa Area						(-250 inident.)	250



AREA	MAL.	SHOV.	TEAL	GAD.	PIN.	RUD.	TOTAL
County Ponds							0
DeCham. Ponds		Coots only					0
N. Shore Tufa	10	10	10	10	10		50
N. Shore Lagoons		1075 mixed species					1075
Warm Sp. (Marsh & lagoon)		25 (+200 mixed species)					225
Simon Sp. marsh & lagoon		150 mixed species					150
S. Tufa area	100	50 mixed species				25	175
Rush Cr. Delta							0

An additional 150-200 ruddies (minimum estimate) were scattered on the eastern 1/3 of the open lake surface.

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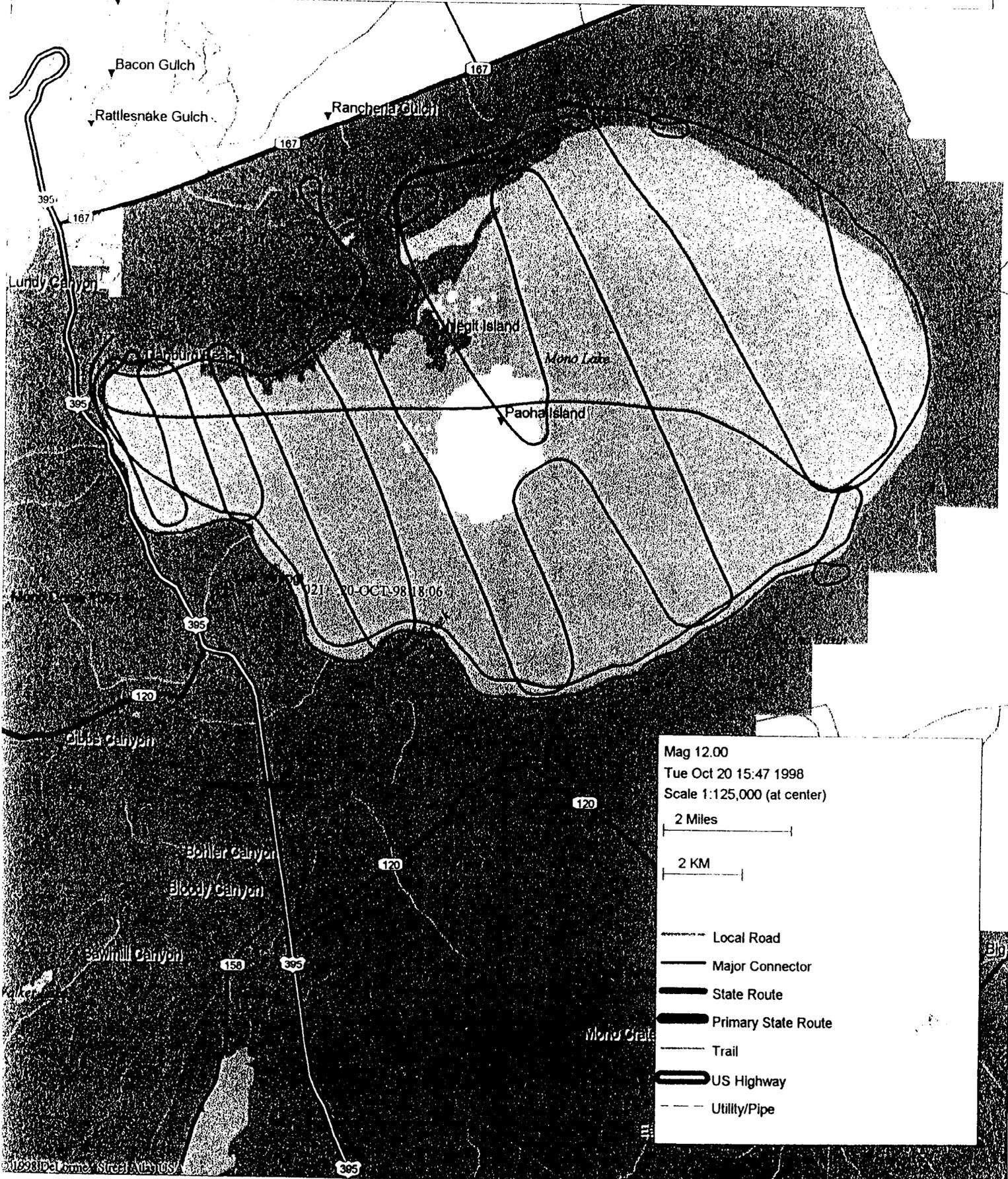


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	MAL.	SHOV.	TEAL	GAD.	PIN.	RUD.	
Totals	150	35	10	10	10	225	2375

Because of the difficulty of counting ruddies on the open lake, we decided to try GPS directed transects to survey the eastern portion of the lake in November where we have observed most ruddies. (GPS mapping of the survey flight routes are included with this report.) Due to difficulties relating to factors of light angle, visibility, and fatigue, we are planning to try circular transects in the future; such survey routes will be oriented at increasing distances from the lake shore. Additionally, this tactic may prove more efficient than line transects because numbers of ruddies appear to diminish with increasing distance from shore.

# Track Survey 10-20-98 (Ron Thomas, Bob Morga)

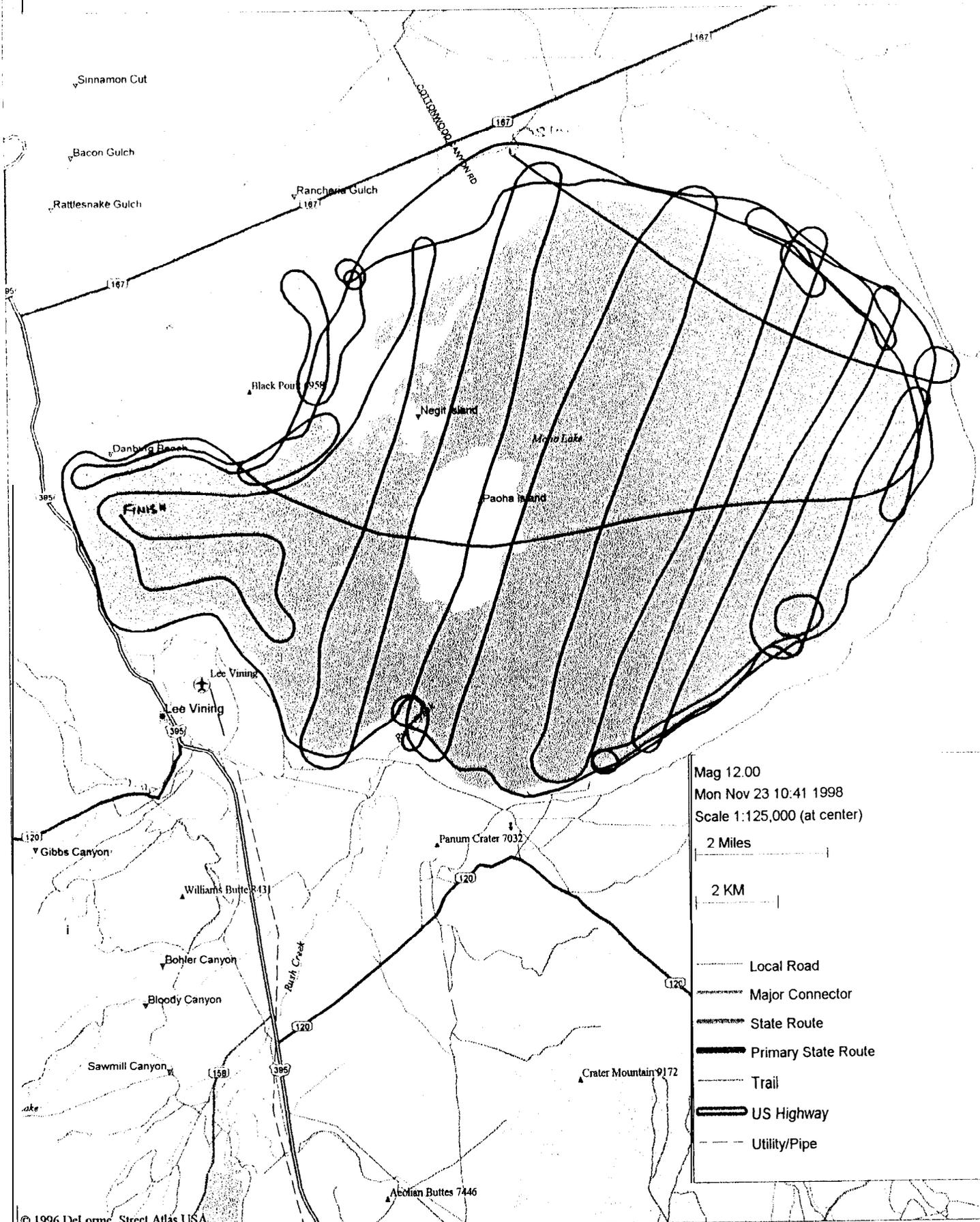


Mag 12.00  
 Tue Oct 20 15:47 1998  
 Scale 1:125,000 (at center)

2 Miles  
 2 KM

- Local Road
- Major Connector
- State Route
- Primary State Route
- Trail
- US Highway
- Utility/Pipe

# Waterfowl Count 11-20-98



Mag 12.00  
 Mon Nov 23 10:41 1998  
 Scale 1:125,000 (at center)

2 Miles

2 KM

- Local Road
- Major Connector
- State Route
- Primary State Route
- Trail
- US Highway
- Utility/Pipe

11-20-98 - Mono Duck flight

Begin Sedo Exec ~ 0920

Calm Clear  
1030 Begin

Calm  
Shoreline Till 1120

Begin Transects E. side @ point <sup>Begin</sup>

Lake glassy - 3801.43 118544

~.4 mile  
~100  
gokuts

Transect 2 - 10 no ↓

3 - 35 + 45

4 - 25 + 35

5 - 18 + 20

6 - 10 + 37

7 - 40 + 0

8 - 15

9 - 120

10 - 35 + 15

11 - 10 - 16

Circular 35 + 27

End Transect @ 12:28

(a few ~ 10)  
(island shore)

Still glassy

Note: Circular Transects may be preferred; see map