Abstract for presentation at the Tenth Annual Mono Basin Bird Chautauqua

**Astrobiology in the Field: Studying Mars by Analogue Expeditions on Earth**
Pamela G. Conrad

**Description:**
We will present a strategy for how one prepares to engage in fieldwork on another planet by practicing in analogous environments on the Earth, including at Mono Lake. As an example, we will address the problem of how to study the habitability of an environment when you have no idea what kind of life might be there to exploit it. This will all be related to the upcoming launch of the Mars Science Laboratory to Mars in late November this year.