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Cc: Region 2 Fish Files
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Wet Meadows Reservoir Fish and Amphibian Survey

On June 19, 2018, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) completed a fish and amphibian survey at Wet Meadows Reservoir (Wet Meadows). The purpose of the survey was to determine if there were any trout inhabiting the Wet Meadows from prior stockings, determine if any Sierra Nevada mountain yellow-legged frog (SNYLF, *Rana sierra*) were present, and to assess if Wet Meadows could be added to the Department fish stocking list.

Wet Meadows is approximately a 35 surface acre reservoir in Alpine County located at 38.604278 N, 119.867736 W situated at 8,024 feet above mean sea level (Figure 1). The shoreline is a mix of rocks, sand, willows, and conifer forest (Figures 2 and 3). The reservoir bottom appears mostly mud and various sized rock substrate. Wet Meadows receives water from Upper Deer Creek. At the time of the survey, Wet Meadows was slightly spilling (Figure 4). When Wet Meadows spills, water drains into Summit Lake. Water leaving Wet Meadows is also controlled by a valve at the dam, where it exits into Upper Deer Creek. Wet Meadows has no official, documented trout stockings, although large brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) were observed in a Department gillnet in 2001(HML Database).

A 120 foot long variable mesh size gillnet was set at 11:54 on June 19, 2018 on the southern part of the lake's shoreline extending towards the middle of the lake (Figure 1). The depth of the gillnet was 7.4 ft. at the end of the set. The gillnet was pulled at 17:54 on June 19, 2018 in which the water temperature was 70°F. No fish were recovered.



Figure 1. Wet Meadows Reservoir (Alpine County) with gillnet placement transect on June 19, 2018.



Figure 2. Wet Meadows Reservoir (B. Ewing, 6/19/2018).



Figure 3. Wet Meadows Reservoir (B. Ewing, 6/19/2018).



Figure 4. Wet Meadows Reservoir Spillway (B. Ewing, 6/19/2018).

Department personnel conducted the Fellers Freel 1995 Visual Encounter Survey (VES) Protocol as modified by the Department to conduct the amphibian survey at Wet Meadows. The VES began at 12:53 and ended at 16:00 on June 19, where the majority of the shoreline was surveyed. Sierran tree (*Pseudacris sierra*) tadpoles, four mountain garter snakes (*Thamnophis elegans elegans*), and one long-toed

salamander (*Ambystoma macrodactylum*) were observed either at Wet Meadows or in a side pool to Wet Meadows (Figures 5 – 8). On May 31, 2012, Department staff observed SNYLF at Summit Lake (HML Region 2 Database), which is connected to Wet Meadows and approximately 120 feet from Wet Meadows' spillway. Based on the results of the 2012 survey, a pre-stocking evaluation will not be written to add Wet Meadows to the Department fish stocking list.

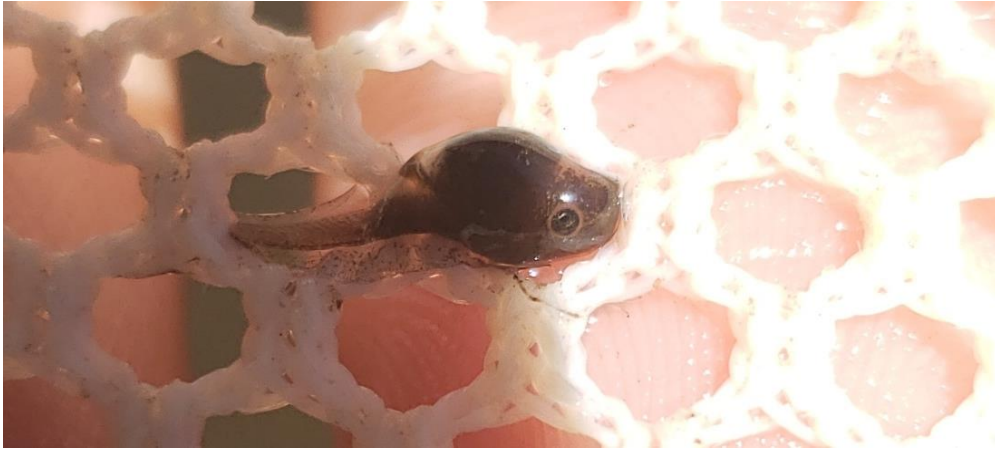


Figure 5. Sierran tree frog tadpole observed during V.E.S. at Wet Meadows Reservoir, Alpine Co. (S. Drayer, 6/19/2018). Tadpole was taken from Pond 115 (38.60290 N, 119.86863 W), which was in close proximity to the reservoir.



Figure 6. Sierran tree frog tadpole observed during V.E.S. at Wet Meadows Reservoir, Alpine Co. (S. Drayer, 6/19/2018). Tadpole was taken from Pond 116 (38.60326 N, 119.86921 W), which was in close proximity to the reservoir.



Figure 7. Long-toed salamander observed during V.E.S. at Wet Meadows Reservoir, Alpine Co. (B. Ewing, 6/19/2018).



Figure 8. Mountain garter snake observed during V.E.S. at Wet Meadows Reservoir, Alpine Co. (B. Ewing, 6/19/2018).

Literature Cited:

1. California Department of Fish and Wildlife, High Mountain Lakes Database, July 3, 2018 Accessed by B. Ewing, CDFW.
2. Fellers, G. M. and K. L. Freel. 1995. A standardized protocol for surveying aquatic amphibians. National Biological Service Cooperative Park Studies Unit, University of California Division of Environmental Studies, Davis, CA. Technical Report No. NPS/WRUC/NRTR95-01 (UC CPSU TR # 58).

