

Memorandum

Date: 11/16/2015

To: Kevin Thomas
Senior Environmental Scientist, Supervisor
Department of Fish and Wildlife

From: Ben Ewing
District Fishery Biologist (Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, and Lake Counties)

Subject: **Granite Lake Survey**

On September 24 and 25, 2015, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) personnel completed a gillnet survey at Granite Lake (Alpine County). The purpose of the survey was to determine if any golden trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss aquabonita*) (GT) had survived from the previous fingerling stockings in 2013 and 2014 to reach catchable sizes.

A gillnet was placed into Granite Lake at 14:38 on September 24 and pulled at 11:20 on September 25 (Figure 1). A total of four different species were collected including Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki henshawi*) (CT-L), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) (RT), speckled dace (*Rhinichthys osculus*) (DC-S), and GT. Speckled dace made up the greatest number collected with 133, followed by GT (n=14), CT-L (n=9), and RT with one. The rainbow trout was most likely a hybrid RTxGT.

Average total length for GT was 10.4 in. with a catch per unit effort (CPUE) of 0.63 fish/minute (Figure 2). Average total length for LCT was 13.2 in. with a CPUE of 0.43 fish/minute.

The total length for the one RT was 11 in. with a CPUE of 0.05 fish/minute. No lengths were taken for DC-S.

It appears that the GT that were stocked the last two years have survived in the lake and grown into healthy, quality-sized fish. With the success of the fingerling plants, the Department will likely continue to plant GT as long as water conditions and hatchery production allow.

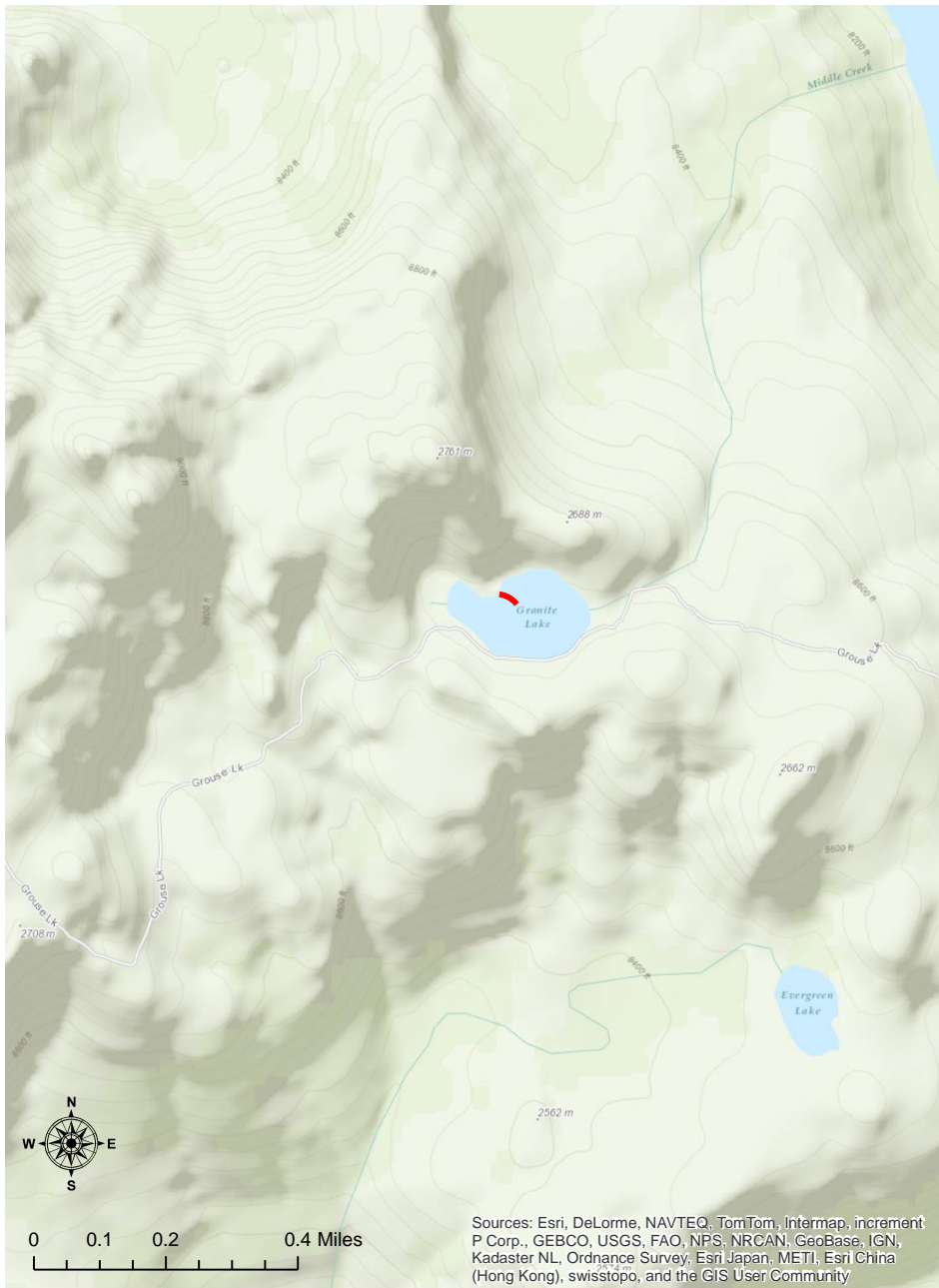


Figure 1. Granite Lake Gillnet placement (Alpine County, CA)



Figure 1. Granite Lake (Alpine County) (M. Mamola, 9/25/2015).