

# Memorandum

**Date:** 11/13/2017

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**Subject:** Lower Kinney Lake Fish Survey

On October 17, 2017, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) personnel completed an angling survey at Lower Kinney Lake (Lower Kinney), Alpine County. The purpose of the survey was to determine if any Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkia henshawi*) (LCT) were still present in Lower Kinney. The last stocking of LCT was in 2000, but the Department was informed by a member of the public that it currently has a sustainable and productive LCT fishery. Department staff surveyed Lower Kinney in 2001 and 2012 in which LCT and Lahontan reddsides (*Richardsonius egregius*) (LRS) were collected using gillnets (HML Database). During the 2012 survey, Department staff observed a pair of adult LCT over a red in the north inlet of Lower Kinney (HML Database).

At the time of the survey, Lower Kinney was down approximately 10 feet from full capacity (Figure 1).

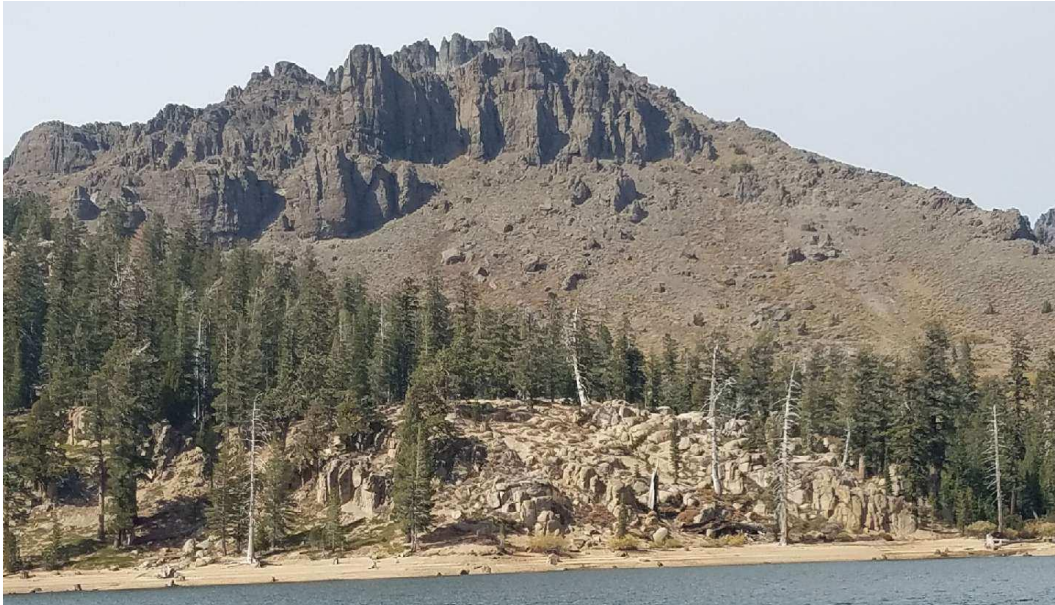


Figure 1. Lower Kinney Lake (S. Manabe 9-14-17).

Angling sampling included one Department employee and three volunteers. A total of 15.5 angling hours were recorded. Five LCT were landed, ranging from 14 to greater than 16 inches in total length (Figures 2 – 4). Three of the four anglers used lures, while the fourth angler used flies.



Figure 2. LCT caught at Lower Kinney Lake (S. Manabe 9-14-17).



Figure 3. LCT caught at Lower Kinney Lake (S. Manabe 9-14-17).



Figure 4. LCT caught at Lower Kinney Lake (S. Manabe 9-14-17).

Lower Kinney was not at full capacity during the survey and did not have any significant inflow, which would be from Upper Kinney Lake. It appears that Lower Kinney has a self-sustaining LCT fishery since it is unlikely the LCT that were stocked in 2000 are still present in large numbers. Remnants of crawdads were found which likely contribute to the forage base for LCT (Figure 5). No baitfish were observed during this survey, although LRS have been collected in 2001 and 2012 (HML Database).



Figure 5. Remnants crawdads at Lower Kinney Lake (S. Manabe 9-14-17).

The Department will likely not make any immediate fish management decisions on Lower Kinney. This is due to the fact that it appears to be a quality, self-sustaining LCT fishery, and that Sierra-Nevada Yellow-Legged frog (*Rana sierra*) have been documented at Lower Kinney, which makes stocking additional LCT unlikely.

#### Literature Cited

1. High Mountain Lakes Database. 2018. California Fish and Wildlife. Unpublished.