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Cc: Region 2 Fish Files

Indian Creek Reservoir Fish and Amphibian Survey

On June 5, 2018, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) completed a fish and amphibian survey at Indian Creek Reservoir (ICR). The purpose of the survey was to determine if there were any trout inhabiting the reservoir from prior stockings, determine if any Sierra Nevada mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierra*) were present, and to assess if the pre-stocking evaluation could be re-approved.

ICR is a 110 surface acre reservoir in Alpine County located at 38.746423 N, 119.779463 W situated at 5,612 feet above mean sea level. The shoreline is a mix of rocks, sand, willows, and conifer forest. The reservoir bottom appears mostly mud and various sized rock substrate. When ICR spills, water drains into Indian Creek and into the East Carson River. ICR receives the majority of its inflow from a diversion from the West Fork Carson River. ICR has historically had stockings of brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*, RT), and Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki henshawi*, LCT) with the last recorded stocking of RT and LCT in 2018.

Department personnel conducted the Fellers Freel 1995 Visual Encounter Survey (VES) Protocol as modified by the Department to conduct the amphibian survey at ICR. The VES began at 16:06 and ended at 17:11 on June 5 where the majority of ICR's shoreline was surveyed. One mountain garter snake (*Thamnophis elegans elegans*) and seven western fence lizards (*Sceloporus occidentalis*) were the only herpetofauna observed. A visual fish survey was also conducted on June 5, 2018. Fish species collected and/or observed during the survey were speckled dace (*Rhinichthys osculus*), tui chub (*Siphateles bicolor*) (Figure 1), and LCT. In 2004 during a High Mountain Lakes survey at ICR, no herpetofauna were observed (CDFW HML Database 2018). No decision species have been observed at ICR according to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB 2018). Based on the results of the evaluations completed, a pre-stocking evaluation will be written to keep Indian Creek Reservoir to the Department fish stocking list.



Figure 1. Tui chub collected by dipnet at Indian Creek Reservoir on June 5, 2018 (Photo by B. Ewing).

Literature Cited:

1. California Department of Fish and Wildlife, High Mountain Lakes Database. July 5, 2018. Accessed by B. Ewing.
2. California Natural Diversity Database. July 5, 2018. Accessed by B. Ewing, CDFW.
3. 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).

