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Evergreen Lake Amphibian Survey

On July 18, 2018, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) completed an amphibian survey at Evergreen Lake. The purpose of the survey was to determine if there were any special status amphibian taxa present, and to use this data to determine if stocking Evergreen Lake would result in impacts to special status species, specifically Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierra*, SNYLF).

Evergreen Lake is a four acre lake in Alpine County located at 38.613253, 119.955281 W, situated at 8,489 feet above mean sea level (Figure 1). The shoreline is a mix of bedrock, sand, and conifer forest (Figure 2). The lake bottom appears mostly mud and various sized rock substrate. When Evergreen Lake spills, water drains into the Mokelumne River watershed (Figure 3). The lake receives water from rain and snowmelt runoff from the immediate area. The lake historically has received stockings of Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki henshawi*) (LCT), with the last recorded stocking of LCT in 2013.

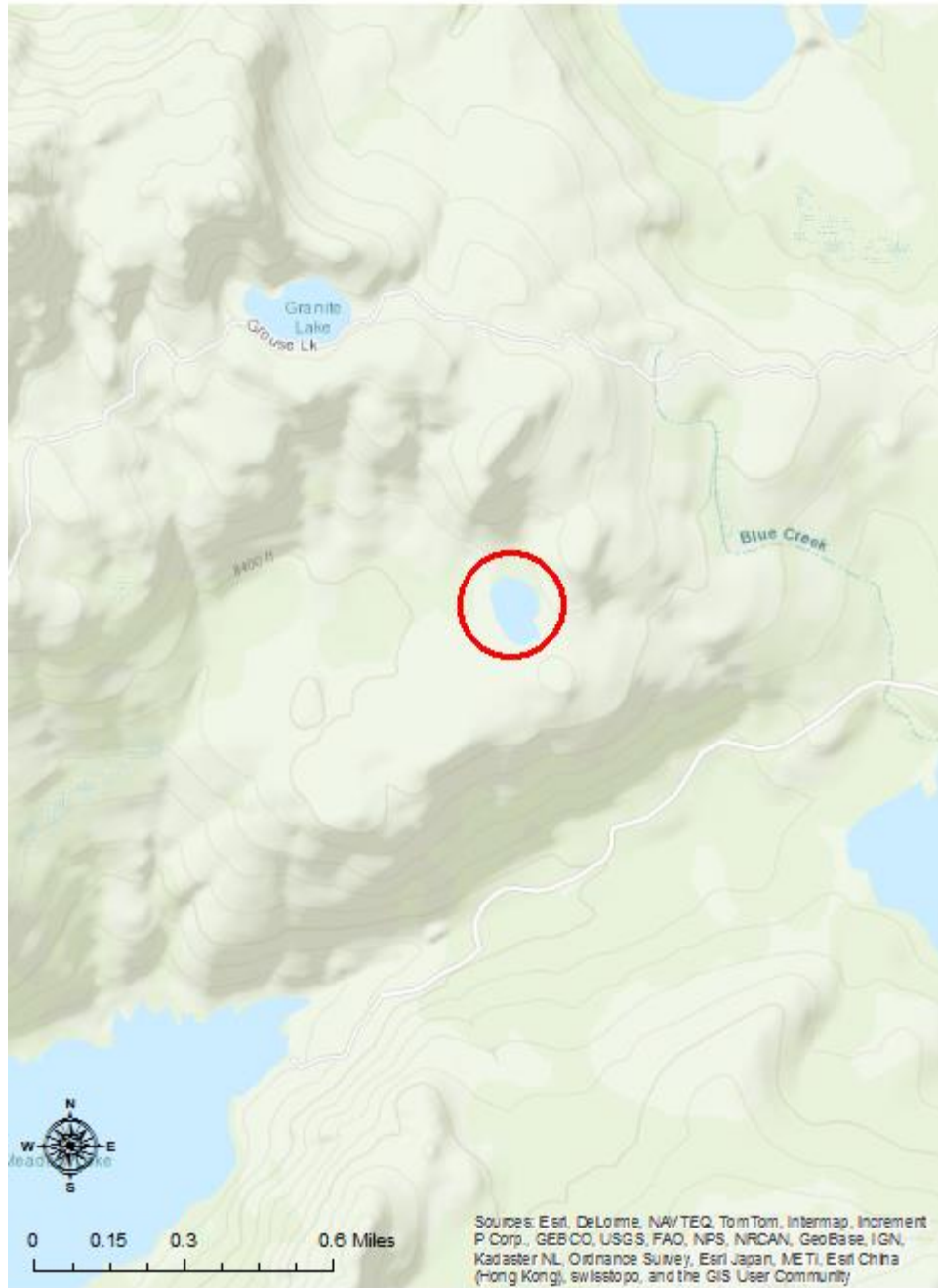


Figure 1. Evergreen Lake, Alpine County, CA.



Figure 2. Evergreen Lake, Alpine Co. (July 18, 2018).



Figure 3. Evergreen Lake Outlet (July 18, 2018)

One Department biologist conducted a visual encounter survey (VES) at Evergreen Lake. The surveyor slowly circumambulated the entire lake looking for diurnal amphibians and reptiles (Fellers and Freel 1995). The VES began at 10:53 and ended at 11:40 with a total survey duration of 38 minutes. The air temperature was 73.4°F (23°C) at 11:50 under smoke-filled skies. Water conditions were relatively clear, with visibility to about five feet. There was little to no breeze on the water, producing relatively flat water conditions and unimpeded views into the water. Water temperature was 73.8°F (23.2°C) at 11:55. No amphibians were observed.

Due to the absence of special status amphibian species, Evergreen Lake is suitable to stock. The Department will stock fingerling-size LCT to create a put and grow fishery for recreational anglers.

Literature Cited:

1. 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).

