

Memorandum

Date: 8/23/2019

To: Sarah Mussulman
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North Central Region

From: Mitch Lockhart
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Subject: Visual Encounter Survey at Upper Angora Lake, El Dorado County

Upper Angora Lake, El Dorado County, is a popular day use destination in the Lake Tahoe basin near South Lake Tahoe. The lake is walk-in only, accessible via a one mile trail. A private resort, Angora Lakes Resort, owns and operates cabins along the lakeshore that are available to rent (Figure 1).

On July 16, 2019, two CDFW (California Department of Fish and Wildlife) Scientific Aides conducted a visual encounter survey of Upper Angora Lake. The purpose of the survey was to determine if special status herpetofauna species are present at Upper Angora Lake. The data are used to determine if planting Upper Angora Lake with fingerling Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi*) would result in impacts to special status species; specifically, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierrae*).

The survey began at 17:22 and continued until 17:41 with a total survey duration of 31 minutes. The surveyors slowly circumambulated the lake shoreline and walked 200 meters of each tributary looking for diurnal amphibians and reptiles (Fellers and Freel 1995). The air temperature was 19.5° Celsius at 17:46 under clear skies. Water conditions were clear with little to no surface disturbance. Water temperature was 18.5° Celsius at 17:45. No amphibians or reptiles were observed during the survey. Minnows were seen but were not identified.

Due to the absence of special status species, Upper Angora Lake is suitable to plant fingerling Lahontan cutthroat trout as a put-and-grow fishery for the use and enjoyment of day-use recreational anglers and clients of the Angora Lake Resort. The expectation is that individual Lahontan cutthroat trout that gain enough size will utilize the available minnow forage and develop into desirable sports fish.

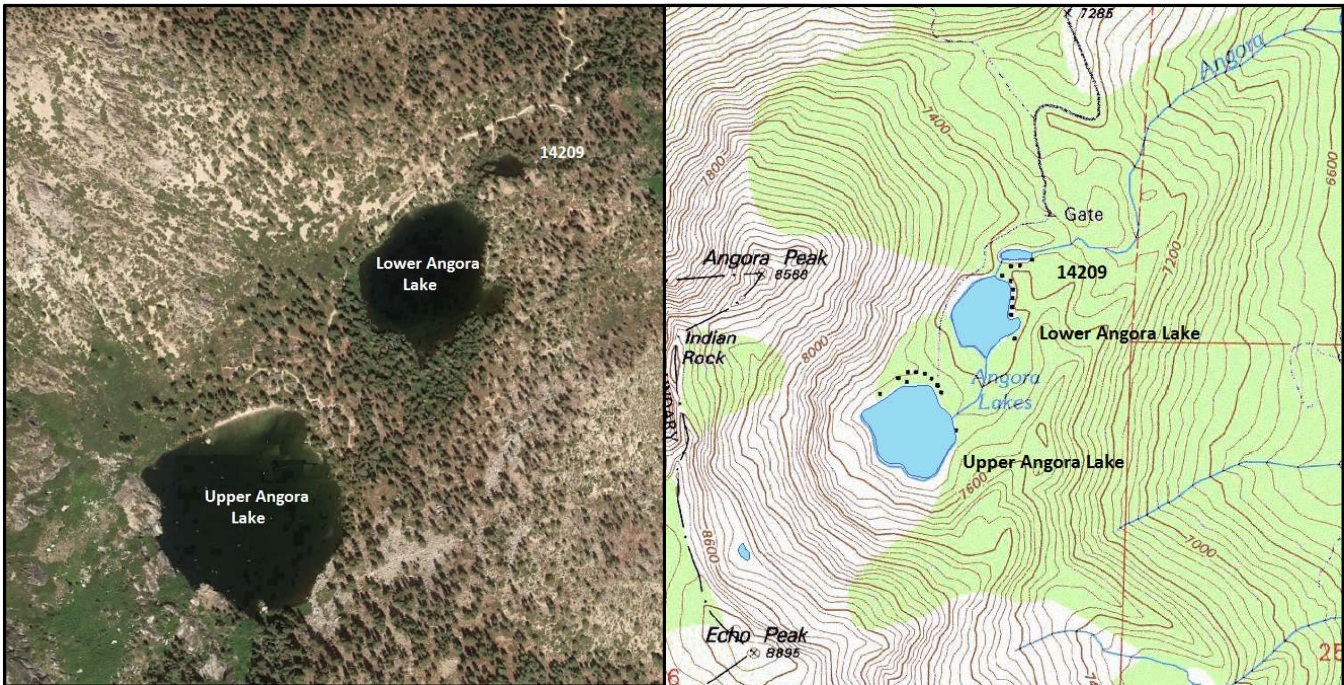


Figure 1: Overview satellite image and topographic map of the Angora Lakes basin in El Dorado County near South Lake Tahoe. Included in the overview are Upper Angora Lake, Lower Angora Lake, and an unnamed pond (LakeID 14209). The satellite image was retrieved from Google Earth on 8-30-18.