

Memorandum

Date: 9/16/2019

To: Sarah Mussulman
Senior Environmental Scientist, Supervisor
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Subject: **Round Top Lake (14589) Survey**

On July 26, 2019, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) personnel completed an angling survey at Round Top Lake, Alpine County. The purpose of the survey was to determine if any Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) (RT) had survived from the previous fingerling stockings in 2017 and 2018 to reach catchable sizes. Prior to 2017, the last stocking was with fingerling-size Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi*) in 2006.

At the time of the survey, Round Top Lake was at full capacity and spilling (Figures 1 and 2). Angling methods included both float tube and shore angling. Sixty-three minutes were spent fishing. Weather was windy, cold, with light showers during the survey. No RT were caught or observed, but one RT was seen dead on bottom of lake. During the survey, one staff person walked above Round Top Lake and was able to get an aerial view of the lake. It appears that a large part of the lake is very shallow. This part of the lake that is very shallow may freeze solid during the winter, condensing the RT into a small area. This small area may to live in may make overwintering for RT difficult. A prior survey by the Department recorded a depth of 40 – 50 feet at Round Top Lake (Region 2 Fish Files 1951)

Although no live RT were seen or caught, personnel contacted anglers along the trail and at Round Top Lake who have caught RT from Round Top Lake. The Department has an angler survey box at the trailhead to Round Top Lake. In 2018 no anglers reported catching any RT from Round Top Lake (Ewing 2019). Although there is evidence that RT are growing to catchable sizes in Round Top Lake, the Department will likely reduce the RT allotment to reduce over-wintering competition. Continued monitoring will be made with the angler survey box.



Figure 1. Round Top Lake (Alpine County)
(B.Ewing, 7/26/2019).



Figure 2. Round Top Lake (Alpine County)
(B.Ewing, 7/26/2019)

Literature Cited

Ewing, B. 2018 Frog Lake, Winnemucca Lake, Round Top Lake, and Fourth of July Lake Angler Survey Box Analysis. California Department of Fish and Game; 5/8/2019. Available from: <http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=168598>

R2 North Central Region. Lake survey summary. California Department of Fish and Game; 1951. Available from: <http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=50415>