

**State of California
Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Memorandum

Date: 11/6/2019

To: Sarah Mussulman
Sierra Fisheries Supervisor
Department of Fish and Wildlife
North Central Region

From: Mitch Lockhart
Environmental Scientist
Department of Fish and Wildlife
North Central Region

Subject: Resource Assessment at Sawmill Pond, El Dorado County

Sawmill Pond (Lake ID 27416), El Dorado County, is owned by the US Forest Service Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) and is a family friendly picnic destination and fishing hole located between Meyers, CA and South Lake Tahoe, CA (Figure 1). It is actively stocked with triploid rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*; RT) and Lahontan cutthroat trout broodstock (*Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi*; LCT) by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to provide angling opportunities for families within the greater South Lake Tahoe area.

On August 23, 2019, two CDFW Scientific Aids conducted a Visual Encounter Survey (VES) of Sawmill Pond. The survey started at 9:18 am under clear skies, calm wind, and an air temperature of 16° C. The VES concluded at 9:40 am for a total survey effort of 32 minutes. Twenty-one adult American bullfrog (*Lithobates catesbeianus*; RACT) were observed. No special status herpetofauna were observed. A single deceased LCT was observed floating on the water surface. The fish was missing its head but would be at least 20 inches in

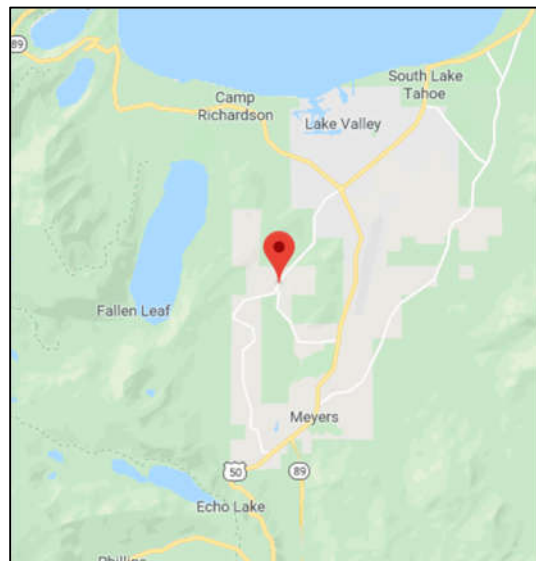


Figure 1: Map with the location of Sawmill Pond, El Dorado Co. (Red Pin), in relation to Meyers, CA; South Lake Tahoe, CA; and Lake Tahoe (Google Maps; retrieved 10.16.19).

length if it were whole. The fish was likely an LCT brood stock planted May 30, 2019.

Due to the absence of herpetofauna species of interest and the presence of invasive RACT, continuing trout plants at Sawmill Pond will not result in deleterious impacts to decision species. However, special care should be made that all RT planted into Sawmill Pond are triploid and sterile.

CDFW High Mountain Lakes - Amphibian and Reptile Visual Encounter Survey Data Sheet

Site ID: 27416	Date: 8/23/19	SKY: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Clear <input type="radio"/> Partly Cloudy <input type="radio"/> Mostly Cloudy <input type="radio"/> Over-cast	Rain	Snow	Smoke	WIND: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Calm <input type="radio"/> Light <input type="radio"/> Moderate <input type="radio"/> Strong		
Topo Name: (1:24,000)	County: El Dorado	Elevation: m ft	If not surveyed, provide reason:		Private Property	Frozen	Not Found	No Access
Surveyors: L. Mitchell, C. Hettrick			Water Type: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Lake <input type="radio"/> Unmapped pond <input type="radio"/> Marsh meadow <input type="radio"/> Spring seep	Stream: (Skip to "STREAMS" on pg. 1)				
Lake Name: Sawmill Pond	East UTM:	North UTM:	UTM Zone:					
Color: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Clear <input type="radio"/> Stained	Water (5 m from shore): 19 @ 0947 <input checked="" type="radio"/> C or F	Air (1 m above water): 16 @ 0945 <input checked="" type="radio"/> C or F	Temp 10cm deep:	Seasonality: <input type="radio"/> Perennial <input type="radio"/> Ephemeral	Currently Dry? <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No			
Turbidity: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Clear <input type="radio"/> Cloudy	Survey START time: 0918	Survey END time: 0940	Total survey duration (min): 32	HERPS SEEN? <input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO	FISH SEEN? <input type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO			
*FOR LAKES/PONDS/MEADOWS: ALSO SURVEY FIRST 200 m OF INLETS AND OUTLETS. RECORD DATA SEPARATELY IN THE "STREAMS" SECTION ON PG. 2								
HERP SPECIES	# adults	# subadults	# metamorphs	# larvae	# egg m.	# swabs	Survey Method	
RACT	21						Visual	Trapped
Calling? (Y)N							Aural	Hand Collected
							Amp Net	Incidental
Calling? Y N							Visual	Trapped
							Aural	Hand Collected
							Amp Net	Incidental
Calling? Y N							Visual	Trapped
							Aural	Hand Collected
							Amp Net	Incidental
Calling? Y N							Visual	Trapped
							Aural	Hand Collected
							Amp Net	Incidental
FISH SPECIES (circle species seen, if known): BK (brook trout), BN (brown trout), CT (cutthroat trout), GT (golden trout), RT (rainbow trout) HYBRID (e.g., GT x RT), OTHER (e.g., minnows)								
Amphibians: S. Long-toed Salamander (AMMA); Yosemite Toad (ANCA, fmlly BUCA); Sierran Treefrog (HYSI, fmlly PSRE or HYRE); Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog (RASI)								
Amph. less common in HML: CA Toad (ANBO, fmlly BUBO); Bullfrog (RACT); Cascades Frog (RACA); CA Red-legged Frog (RADR); Sierra Newt (TASI, fmlly TATO)								
Reptiles: Sierra Gartersnake (THCO); Mountain Gartersnake (THEL); Valley Gartersnake (THSI); Western Pond Turtle (EMMA, fmlly CLMA)								

PHOTOS	Photo Number	Camera	Time	Date (yyy-mm-dd)	UTM E	UTM N	Comments
Overview	0938	LVC	0936	2019-08-23	0757911	4308613	
Herps	0934	LVC	0934	2019-08-23			Potential Bullfrogs
Other	0922	LVC					outlet start
	0926	LVC					outlet end

<p>SITE SKETCH:</p>	<p>NOTES:</p> <p>Dead brood (headless) LCT floating in middle of water.</p> <p>Inlet impenetrable from willow. Stagnant standing water.</p> <p>outlet dries after 10 ft but shows signs of flow straight to an outflow pipe.</p>
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PLEASE Return to: Isaac Chellman, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, (916) 358-4038; 1701 Nimbus Rd., Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Field review	Copied	Entered	Proofed
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Figure 2: VES data sheet from a survey conducted Aug. 23, 2019, at Sawmill Pond, El Dorado County.

STREAM											
Inlet Outlet (circle one) # <u>1</u>		Stream Type: Perennial Ephemeral		Stream Currently Dry? Y N		Intermittent? Y N					
Start UTM E: <u>0757995</u>		UTM N: <u>4308747</u>		End UTM E: <u>0757975</u>		UTM N: <u>4308634</u>		Color: Clear Stained NA		Turbidity: Clear Cloudy NA	
Start Time:		End Time:		Duration (min): <u>7</u>		Water Temp:		Air Temp:		*BARRIERS (fill out info below)*	
Fish present? Y <input checked="" type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/>		Barrier 1) Photo #'s:		UTM E:		UTM N:		Description:			
Herps present? Y <input checked="" type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/>		Barrier 2) Photo #'s:		UTM E:		UTM N:		Description:			
Spawning evidence? Spawning / Redds / Fry / None		Barrier 3) Photo #'s:		UTM E:		UTM N:		Description:			
Inlet Outlet (circle one) # <u>2</u>		Stream Type: Perennial Ephemeral		Stream Currently Dry? Y N		Intermittent? Y N					
Start UTM E: <u>0757936</u>		UTM N: <u>4308591</u>		End UTM E: <u>0757939</u>		UTM N: <u>4308513</u>		Color: Clear Stained NA		Turbidity: Clear Cloudy NA	
Start Time: <u>0922</u>		End Time: <u>0926</u>		Duration (min): <u>4</u>		Water Temp:		Air Temp:		*BARRIERS (fill out info below)*	
Fish present? Y <input checked="" type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/>		Barrier 1) Photo #'s:		UTM E:		UTM N:		Description:			
Herps present? Y <input checked="" type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/>		Barrier 2) Photo #'s:		UTM E:		UTM N:		Description:			
Spawning evidence? Spawning / Redds / Fry / None		Barrier 3) Photo #'s:		UTM E:		UTM N:		Description:			
Inlet Outlet (circle one) #		Stream Type: Perennial Ephemeral		Stream Currently Dry? Y N		Intermittent? Y N					
Start UTM E:		UTM N:		End UTM E:		UTM N:		Color: Clear Stained NA		Turbidity: Clear Cloudy NA	
Start Time:		End Time:		Duration (min):		Water Temp:		Air Temp:		*BARRIERS (fill out info below)*	
Fish present? Y <input type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/>		Barrier 1) Photo #'s:		UTM E:		UTM N:		Description:			
Herps present? Y <input type="radio"/> N <input type="radio"/>		Barrier 2) Photo #'s:		UTM E:		UTM N:		Description:			
Spawning evidence? Spawning / Redds / Fry / None		Barrier 3) Photo #'s:		UTM E:		UTM N:		Description:			
HERP SPECIES	In/Outlet #	# adults	#subadults	#metamorphs	larvae	# egg m.	#swabs	Survey Method			
	(circle one) #							Visual Trapped			
	IN							Aural Hand Collected			
Calling? Y N	OUT							Amp Net Incidental			
	(circle one) #							Visual Trapped			
	IN							Aural Hand Collected			
Calling? Y N	OUT							Amp Net Incidental			
	(circle one) #							Visual Trapped			
	IN							Aural Hand Collected			
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