

Memorandum

Date: 11/25/2019

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

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

Subject: **Forestdale Creek Fish Survey**

On September 10, 2019, four California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) employees and two public volunteers conducted a backpack electrofishing survey on Forestdale Creek (Forestdale) in Alpine County. Forestdale is one of the tributaries to the West Carson River. Forestdale receives water from rain and snow runoff from the local area before flowing into the West Carson River. Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*, RT), Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki henshawi*, LCT), Brown Trout (*Salmo trutta*, BN), and Brook Trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*, BK) have been documented in Forestdale (Deinstadt et al. 2004, Wickwire 1983).

The purpose of the survey was to evaluate the fishery in Forestdale. Information collected would be used to inform the Department and public of the wild fish component in Forestdale. A single electrofishing pass was made on an approximately 2,091-foot stretch of water beginning at 38.679193 N, 119.960488 W at 09:52 and ending at 38.67752 N, 119.96444 W at 14:36 (Figure 1). The location of the survey was at 7,933 feet above mean sea level.

The shoreline of Forestdale, in the survey area, was a mix of willows, rocks, and conifers (Figure 2). The creek bottom appears mostly rock. The estimated depth of Forestdale where the survey was conducted ranged from approximately one foot to two and a half feet.

The survey yielded 425 BK, with no other species collected. Average total length for BK collected was 121.1 mm (4.8 in.). Lengths ranged from 44 – 212 mm (1.7 – 8.3 in.). Total time spent electrofishing was 131 minutes. Catch per Unit Effort was 3.2 fish per minute.

The Department will not manage this fishery at this time and Forestdale will likely remain a wild, self-sustaining, recreational BK fishery.

Literature Cited

Deinstadt, J M., D. C. Lentz, Burton D. E., W. L. Somer, R. Bloom, R. Wickwire and E. Gerstung. Survey of fish populations in West Fork Carson River drainage streams. California Department of Fish and Game; 2004. Available from: <http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=50989>

Wickwire, R. Threatened trout management. California Department of Fish and Game; 2/1/1983. Available from: <http://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=49201>



Figure 1. Forestdale Creek Electrofishing Survey Transect (9/10/19).



Figure 2. Forestdale Creek (B. Ewing, 9/5/2019).

