

Memorandum

Date: 8/21/2020

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: **Upper Kinney Lake (15001) Fish Survey**

On June 25, 2020, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) personnel completed a gillnet and angling survey at Upper Kinney Lake (Kinney), Alpine County. The purpose of the survey was to determine if Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi*) (LCT) survived from the previous fingerling stockings in 2000 and to see if there was a self-sustaining LCT population present.

At the time of the survey, Kinney was at full capacity (**Figure 1**). The gillnet was placed into Kinney at 09:20, checked at 12:46, and pulled at 15:13 (**Figures 2 and 3**). Twenty Lahontan Redside (*Richard sonius*) (**Figure 4**) and three Speckled Dace (*Rhinichthys osculus*) were collected.

Two anglers fished for a total of four hours between 9:14 and 11:37. No fish were caught.

Although Kinney was at full capacity, it appears that LCT no longer exist in the lake. With no significant spawning habitat present at Kinney, the LCT from the 2000 stocking likely passed, with no recruitment to maintain a self-sustaining LCT fishery. The last record of LCT in Kinney was from July 21, 2001 (California Fish and Wildlife High Mountain Lakes Database 2020), one year after the last stocking event. Based on the results of this survey as well as nearby populations of Sierra Nevada Yellow-Legged Frog (*Rana sierrae*), a pre-stocking evaluation will not be written to add Kinney to the Department fish stocking list.



Figure 1. Upper Kinney Lake, Alpine County on 6/25/2020.
(Photo by B.Ewing)



Figure 2. Gillnet extending towards the middle of Upper Kinney Lake on 6/25/2020. (Photo by B. Ewing)

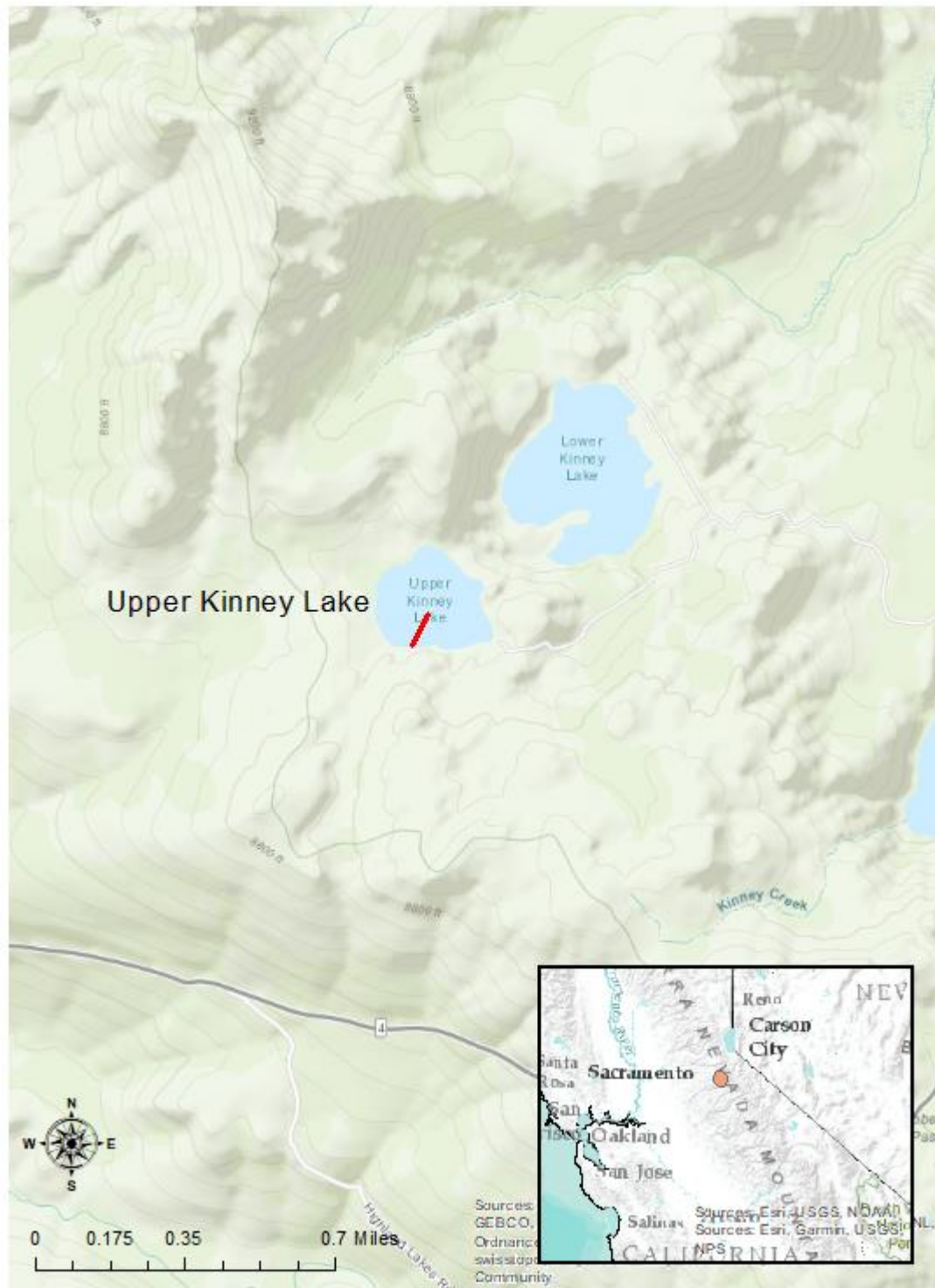


Figure 3. Upper Kinney Lake gillnet placement on 6/25/2020.



Figure 4. Lahontan Redside collected in gillnet at Upper Kinney Lake on June 25, 2020. (Photo by B. Ewing)

Literature Cited:

1. California Department of Fish and Wildlife, High Mountain Lakes Database, July 17, 2020. Accessed by B. Ewing, CDFW.