

# Memorandum

Date: 10/5/2022

To: Leslie Alber  
Senior Fisheries Supervisor, Region 2 Sierra District  
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Subject: **2022 Granite Lake (14728) Amphibian Survey**

On September 7, 2022, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) completed a visual encounter survey (VES) for amphibians at Granite Lake (Granite). The purpose of the VES was to determine if any Sierra Nevada Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog (*Rana sierra*) were present, and to assess if the pre-stocking evaluation (PSE) could be re-approved.

Granite Lake is a small, five-acre lake in Alpine County located at 38° 37' 12. 19" N 119 57' 40.07 W situated at 8,722 feet above mean sea level. The shoreline is a mix of rocks, sand, willows, and conifer forest. The lake bottom appears mostly mud and various sized rock substrate. When Granite spills, water drains into the Upper Blue Lake watershed. Granite receives water from rain and snowmelt runoff from the immediate area. Granite historically has received fingerling stockings of Golden Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss aguabonita*, GT) and Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi*, LCT) with the last recorded stocking of LCT in 2020.

Department personnel used the Fellers and Freel (1995) VES Protocol as modified and simplified by the Department to focus on detecting *R. sierrae* and other state and/or federally-listed amphibians, to conduct the amphibian survey at Granite. A maximum depth of 11.8 m (38.7 ft) was measured for Granite prior to the start of the VES using a depth finder and float tube. The VES began at 11:43 am and ended at 12:17 pm and the majority of the lake shoreline was surveyed. Due to large, steep bedrock, the entire shoreline could not be surveyed safely. One Sierran Tree Frog (*Pseudacris sierra*) was observed. In 2018, no state or federally-listed amphibians were observed during a PSE survey by the Department (Ewing 2018). Similarly, in 2001 and 2013 during a High Mountain Lakes (HML) VES at the lake, no amphibians were observed (CDFW HML Database 2024). At the time of the survey, Granite was not spilling.

Based on the results of the evaluations completed as well as providing a unique trophy, Golden Trout fishery, a PSE will be written to keep Granite Lake on the Department fish stocking list.

Literature Cited:

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3. Fellers, G. M. and K. L. Freel. 1995. A standardized protocol for surveying aquatic amphibians. National Biological Service Cooperative Park Studies Unit, University of California Division of Environmental Studies, Davis, CA. Technical Report No. NPS/WRUC/NRTR95-01 (UC CPSU TR # 58). Available from:  
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