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DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
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State of California
Department of Fish and Game

Memorandum

Date: 08/21/2012

To: Kevin Thomas
Senior Environmental Scientist
Department of Fish and Game

To: Ben Ewing
District Fisheries Biologist
Alpine, Amador, and Calaveras Counties
Department of Fish and Game

Subject: Noble Lake Pre-Stocking Survey

On July 25 - 26, 2012, The Department completed a pre-stocking survey at Noble Lake. The purpose of the survey was to see if there were any trout inhabiting the lake from prior stockings and to see if the lake could be stocked in the future.

Noble Lake is a small 3.5 acre lake in Alpine County located at 38° 31' 40.67 N 119 46' 37.81 W situated 8, 883 feet above mean sea level. The shoreline is open, with low scrub willow lining the majority of it. There are a few lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) and whitebark pine (*Pinus albicaulis*) scattered around the shore. The lake substrate appears to be mostly mud with a maximum depth at time of survey of 3.3 meters (10 ft. 6 inches). The lake serves as the headwaters of Noble Creek and receives water from rain and snowmelt runoff from the Tryon Peak drainage. The lake historically has received fingerling stockings of brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) and golden trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) subspecies with the last recorded plant of brook trout in 2000.

On July 25th, 2012 a 100 foot long gillnet was set at 18:05 on the southern part of the lake's shoreline extending into the middle of the lake (Figure 1). On July 26th, the gillnet was removed at 07:40. No fish of any kind were recovered in the net. At 09:00, the air temperature was 59° F with a surface water temperature of 54°F. On the 26th, CDFG personnel conducted the Fellers Freel 1995 Visual Encounter Survey Protocol as modified by CDFG to conduct amphibian surveys at Noble Lake. The native Sierran treefrogs (*Pseudacris sierra*) were seen in great numbers in the tadpole stage at the southern end of the lake with no other amphibians seen or collected.

Although the Department feels a Pre Stocking Evaluation would be approved for Noble Lake, it is likely Noble Lake will not be added to the stocking list. With the average depth of the lake being so shallow, the Department feels that the stocking of fingerling lahontan cutthroat (*Oncorhynchus clarki henshawi*) would have a difficult time growing to a catchable size for the public due to the lake freezing in the winter.



Figure 1. Noble Lake with gillnet placement transect on July 25 – 26, 2012.



Figure 2. Noble Lake from southeast corner.

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