

[Commented via e-mail on 11/25/2013]

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to talk about Lake County and Clear Lake with respect to the SWAP.

Lake County's authority on fish and wildlife is the Lake County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee, chaired by Greg Giusti, UC Cooperative Extension, Forest and Wildlands Ecology Advisor for Lake and Mendocino Counties. This Committee respectfully requests a presentation on SWAP at their next meeting to be held at the Board of Supervisors Chambers in Lakeport, January 16, 2014 at 6:30 pm.

I understand that Clear Lake will be considered its own ecoregion and the specialist responsible for Clear Lake is Jeanine Phillips. As far as local government, my department, Water Resources, manages Clear Lake, and will be the main point of contact for Jeanine.

With regard to Clear Lake, I was pleased to hear that all tributaries to Clear Lake will be considered as part of the Clear Lake ecoregion. Does this include parts of the tributaries that are currently upstream of Clear Lake hitch barriers?

Will the Clear Lake ecoregion be considered as if the hitch is an endangered species or a species of special concern? Will SWAP be communicating with the Chi Council, Lake County's authority on the Clear Lake hitch? Their website is <http://lakelive.info/chicouncil/>.

Who is the specialist responsible for the serpentine habitat? The Lake County authority on serpentine habitat is the UC Davis McLaughlin Reserve, Cathy Koehler or Paul Aigner.

Are Land Trusts featured in the SWAP with respect to conservation of habitats? How can CDFW support land and water conservation easements?

Will SWAP consider effects to wildlife, from illegal marijuana growing, as threats? I'm thinking of fertilizer use, pesticide use, and trash dumping. Lake County seems to be one of the most desirable counties for marijuana growing and so these threats are significant here. Will the SWAP consider the removal of illegal dams on waterways, constructed for the purpose of marijuana growing, a threat to the downstream ecosystem?

Lake County has probably more abandoned mercury mine sites, including a superfund site, than any other County. Will mercury mine sites be considered as a threat?

Plants that become invasive species have, in the past, come up against Weed Management Areas, WMAs, local groups of very often passionate volunteers, but also a funding source, that wish to eradicate or control invasive weeds. WMAs have to a large part been disbanded because of lack of funding, so invasive plant species have suddenly reared their ugly head. Where an invasive species was thought to have been eradicated and put on monitoring status, or have been controlled and put on maintenance status, there is no more monitoring or maintenance. Invasive species' populations are reappearing and growing in size. The lesson to be learned from this is, one season's eradication or control can be useless without the follow up for years after. I'm hoping that the lack of funding for WMAs will be considered as a threat to dealing with invasive plant species.

When discussing quagga and zebra mussels, is it possible to consider California water bodies in three categories? 1) Infested water bodies requiring control and/or eradication efforts and the necessity to decontaminate boats leaving those water bodies. 2) Uninfested waterbodies, confirmed uninfested by recent veliger tows, requiring prevention efforts. 3) Uninfested water bodies that are not monitored, cannot be confirmed uninfested, requiring monitoring and the necessity to decontaminate boats leaving those water bodies.

If cyanobacteria is to be treated as a threat in the SWAP as has been demonstrated for Pinto Lake in Monterey County and sea otter death, reference

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0012576> , then the

SWAP authors need to be participants in the California Cyanobacteria Hazardous Algal Bloom Network [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pHkD8ow4G8&feature=youtube\\_gdata](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7pHkD8ow4G8&feature=youtube_gdata) . As stated in the previous video link, Klamath Lake and river system, Clear Lake and Pinto Lake are the hot spots for CHABs in the State. At the local level, the Department of Public Health, Department of Environmental Health and Department of Water Resources deal with CHABs.

How will the enforcement arm of Fish and Wildlife, game wardens, be brought into the SWAP conversation at a local level? I would recommend that all game wardens are given an invitation to comment on their local issues, and to hear from SWAP your goals and objectives. Now SWAP has entered the public comment period, this will be particularly useful for the local communities that see game wardens as their connection to CDFW, and it would be helpful to the enforcement division, to know in very general terms what you hope to accomplish for the State's fish and wildlife.

Thank you again, keep in touch.

Carolyn E. Ruttan  
Invasive Species Program Coordinator  
Lake County Water Resources  
255 N. Forbes Street, Room 309  
Lakeport, CA 95453