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Cc: Fish File

Bull Run Lake Aquatic Resource Survey

On July 7 and 8, 2014, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) personnel completed an aquatic resource survey at Bull Run Lake. The purpose of the survey was to determine if there were any trout inhabiting the lake from prior stockings, determine if any Sierra Nevada mountain yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierra*) were present, and to assess if the lake could be added to the Department fish stocking list.

Bull Run Lake is a small, sixteen acre lake located in Alpine County at 38° 28' 37.77 N 119 54' 55.49 W. The lake is situated at approximately 8,700 feet above mean sea level (Figure 1). The shoreline is a mix of rocks, sand, and conifer forest. The lake bottom appears mostly mud and various sized rock substrate. Maximum depth of the lake at the time of the survey was 20.5 ft. When Bull Run Lake spills, water drains into the North Fork Stanislaus River. The lake receives water from rain and snowmelt runoff from the immediate watershed. The lake historically has received fingerling stockings of brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), brown trout (*Salmo trutta*), and Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki henshawi*) with the last recorded plant of brook trout in 2000.

A 100 foot long variable mesh size gillnet was set at 16:45 on July 7, on the western part of the lake's shoreline extending towards the middle of the lake at a maximum depth of 13.6 feet (Figure 2). The gillnet was pulled at 08:31 on July 8 for a total of 15.76 hours of fishing time. A total of 12 brook trout were collected in the gillnet. Average total length was 288.4 mm (11.4 in.) and average weight was 230 g (0.5 lbs.). Catch per unit effort (CPUE) was 0.76 fish per hour.

A total of 1.49 hours were spent angling for fish in Bull Run Lake. No fish were collected.



Figure 1. Bull Run Lake, Alpine County, California.



Figure 2. Setting gillnet on Bull Run Lake (J. Hanson, 6/2014).

Department personnel conducted the Fellers Freel 1995 Visual Encounter Survey (VES) Protocol as modified by the Department to conduct the amphibian survey at Bull Run Lake. The VES began at 15:50 and ended at 16:27 on July 7 where the entire lake shoreline was surveyed. Approximately six to seven Pacific tree frog tadpoles (*Pseudacris regilla*) was observed during the survey as well as 3 dead brook trout in the 12 – 13 inch total length range. In 2004 during a High Mountain Lakes survey at the lake, Pacific tree frogs were observed (CDFW HML Database 2014) during the VES and eight brook trout were collected in the gillnet averaging 309 mm (12.1 in.) in total length. Based on the results of the evaluations completed, Bull Run Lake will not be added to the Department fish stocking list due to a self-sustaining brook trout fishery. The Department will monitor the self-sustaining fishery every five to 10 years.

