

IF file

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

REGION 2  
1701 NIMBUS ROAD, SUITE A  
RANCHO CORDOVA, CALIFORNIA 95670  
Telephone (916) 358-2900



January 14, 1998

Mr. Alan Ehrgott  
American River Conservancy  
P. O. Box 562  
Coloma, California 95613

Dear Mr. Ehrgott:

The Department of Fish and Game has reviewed your request for support for the acquisition of Spivey Pond and the surrounding 50 acres, located on the North Fork Weber Creek, in El Dorado County. This parcel has been determined to be critical habitat for the California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*), a federally-threatened species, and therefore we strongly support acquisition of this property.

The Department has been surveying the Weber Creek drainage since the 1940's. The last reported sighting of the California red-legged frog in this watershed was in 1975. Interest was renewed in 1996 when there was a reported sighting on the North Fork Weber Creek near Snows Road (near the 1975 location). In July 1997, surveys by federal researchers documented six adult red-legged frogs in Spivey Pond. This was the first confirmed California red-legged frog sighting in the Sierra Nevada in approximately 25 years. Therefore, the importance of this pond is extremely critical for the recovery efforts of this species.

The Department is preparing a Land Acquisition Evaluation along with a subsequent Conceptual Area Acquisition Plan to acquire funding from the Wildlife Conservation Board for a joint purchase venture with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the non-profit Fish and Wildlife Federation. It is anticipated that the U.S. Forest Service would manage the property along with other parcels in the watershed.

The Department has concerns regarding the integrity of the dam that creates the Spivey Pond impoundment. We recommend a thorough evaluation of the structure and a program to ensure its long-term stability. The Department is committed to assisting in this endeavor.

In conclusion, the Department believes that the acquisition of the Spivey Pond property is essential to ensure the stability of the California red-legged frog population that is present in the Weber Creek watershed. We strongly endorse all efforts to acquire this property.

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If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Stafford Lehr, Fishery Biologist, at (530) 647-9827, or Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Senior Fishery Biologist, at (916) 358-2939.

Sincerely,



Banky E. Curtis  
Regional Manager

cc: Mr. Wayne S. White  
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Mr. Stafford Lehr  
Mr. Patrick O'Brien  
Department of Fish and Game  
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Mr. W. John Schmidt, Executive Director  
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bc: Mr. David S. Zezulak, Region 2

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