

File

Memorandum

To : Dennis Lee
Senior Fisheries Biologist

Date : July 3, 1997

From : Department of Fish and Game
Region 2

Subject : Weber Creek, El Dorado County - Red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) surveys and findings.

On Tuesday, July 2, 1997 at approximately 21:45 hours Gary Fellers, PhD of the Natural Biological Resources Division - USGS and Maria Boroja, USFWS (Lead Agency), surveyed Spivey Pond (T10N, R12E, S1, SE1/4) located on the North Fork Weber Creek. The night spotlight surveys resulted in six (6) adult red-legged frogs observed and confirmed. A female was held overnight for photographs and released back into the pond. Dr. Fellers believes that the pond probably contains 10 to 15 adults. On Wednesday, July 3, 1997 an additional red-legged frog tadpole was observed along with numerous tree frog (*Hyla regilla*) tadpoles in the pond. The pond is located on private property. I did not enter the property as I did not have permission. I will be seeking permission at a later date.

On Wednesday, July 3, 1997 we surveyed approximately 0.75 miles of North Fork Weber Creek from Weber Reservoir upstream to Snows Road. We also surveyed 100 yards upstream of Snows Road. No red-legged frogs were found. One (1) bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) and one (1) young of year western pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata*) were found.

This population of red-legged frogs in North Fork Weber Creek is highly significant. No other populations have been found to date, in the Sierra Nevada. On going surveys have not confirmed any of the nebulous sightings that have recently been reported. We will be doing additional surveys to monitor this population.

Fish species that were observed in the North Fork Weber Creek were rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), California roach (*Lavinia symmetricus*), Sacramento sucker (*Catostomus occidentalis*). Additionally, there are Centrarchids downstream in Weber Reservoir.

The property on which the pond is located is proposing a timber harvest and subsequently being put up for sale. Due to the sensitive nature of this area and El Dorado County politics this information should be kept confidential until USFWS releases the information to the property owner.



Stafford Lehr
District Fishery Biologist

cc: Mr. Patrick O'Brien - Region 2
Mr. Chuck Knutson - IFD
Mr. John Brode - IFD
Mr. David Drake - Region 2