

Truckee River Basin Water Group

Meeting Notes for Wednesday, April 26th, 2022 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Location: On-line/phone Meeting only
Truckee River Basin Water Group Meeting

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Chairperson: Hardy Bullock, Nevada County Supervisor

Convener: Truckee River Watershed Council, Beth Christman, bchristman@truckeeriverwc.org, 530-550-8760, x1 # and Eben Swain, eswain@truckeeriverwc.org, 530-550-8760 x7 #

Time	Item
10:00	Call to Order – Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions• Agenda Review
10:10	Standing Item: Committee Report Back <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No committees met since last meeting <p>Objective: Provide updates from Technical Response Team, Fish Team and any other ad hoc teams</p>
10:10	Streamflow and reservoir updates – Tom Scott, DWR <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changes from previous forecast• Streamflow and reservoir levels forecast• Questions and discussion on projected operations <p>Objective: Provide latest information on projected reservoir operations and model output, increase TRBWG member knowledge about TROA</p>

	<p>Outcome: See attached presentation.</p> <p>Question: Are Floriston rates actually expected to drop to 450cfs by the end of July?</p> <p>Yes, it is a possibility, but ultimately it depends on what the downstream parties (TROA) will do with supply and release. We can see if we can maintain flows at or near the 500cfs rather than 450.</p> <p>Question: Is rebuilding Joint Program Fish Credit Water (JPFCred) for DWR/California use as simple as having a wet winter?</p> <p>The JPFCred allocation depends on what the Tribal actions are as related to establishment. It is also dependent on whether or not the Truckee canal is on or off – this is based on agricultural needs for areas surrounding Lahontan Reservoir in the Carson River Watershed. If the Truckee Canal is on, JPFCred would most likely not be established.</p> <p>Question: In reviewing the Farad flows in late May/early June I am seeing a drop in flow levels from 900cfs to 500cfs. Which outflows are being shut-off or reduced to reflect this type of drop in flow levels?</p> <p>Boca is most likely the reservoir to be reduced, primarily because the current fish demand at Pyramid will be dropping at this time.</p> <p>Question: Is Tahoe forecasted to go below the rim by the end of September?</p> <p>Yes, Tahoe is likely to be below the rim by October 1st.</p>
11:10	<p>USFWS Fisheries Activities, Tim Loux/Derek Bloomquist, USFWS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status update lower river spawning season <p>Objective: Informational item. Lahontan cutthroat trout and cui-ui spawning out of Pyramid Lake affects reservoir operations in the upper watershed. USFWS will provide regular updates to TRBWG during the spawning season.</p> <p>Summary of information provided by Tim Loux: Approximately 80K Cui-ui have migrated to Marble Dam and have been transferred above dam to continue migration patterns. Approximately 755 Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT) have also been transferred above Marble Dam to continue migration up-stream. Regarding the Numana Dam: 2/3 of the fish migrating upstream have made it past the Numana Dam via the fish ladder. The Numana dam is slated for removal via monies obtained through the Biden Administration’s Infrastructure Bill – the Tribe will still retain a diversion rights..</p>

Regarding Derby Dam: The fish screen and fish ladder are working very well – 15 LCT have been relocated above Derby Dam.

Question: When will the Numana Dam be removed?

The project team has received 8.7 million from the Infrastructure Bill specifically allocated for fish passage considerations. Project implementation will need Tribal agreement, however the team is hoping for completion by this time next year.

Question: When will the first fish be able to migrate all the way to Lake Tahoe?

We hope that we will see LCT at Fanny Bridge within the next 12 years.

Question: Are LCT being planted in California, or just in Nevada?

LCT are stocked in Lake Tahoe currently, but not in any of the tributaries. CDFW also stocks LCT in the Tahoe/Truckee area reservoirs including Webber Lake, and Lake of the Woods, and in Echo Lake in the Tahoe Basin.

Question: Are there challenges w/ stocking LCT in Tahoe because of lake trout?

Yes, many challenges – not just biological – both political & administrative as well – uncertain if restocking will result in stable populations

- Also challenge with hybridization between LCT & other trout species – continued research should help to overcome some of these challenges leading to LCT recovery.
- Adult LCT Population has been established in Fallen Leaf lake, but certainly a challenge to integrate w/ lake trout.

Question: Is there any reason why CDFW isn't planting LCT in the put-n-take section of the Truckee upstream of Trout Creek?

(From Mitch Lockhart:) We have an allotment for it, but we cannot grow catchable sized fish, which would be the appropriate size to plant in that section.

Question: Since LCT has been tracked in Tahoe – what is their primary food source?

The diet is variable – research is ongoing, but in FLL for the younger/smaller fish the primary diet is terrestrial/aquatic bugs, but eventually they will eat other fish as they grow in size.

Question: Where can LCT fish expected to be located in Tahoe?

	Fish move a lot, may see LCT in tributaries such as Third Creek, Incline Creek, etc – still learning what the migration patterns are for LCT after re-introduction.
11:25	<p>Standing item: Suggestions for future agenda topics & announcements</p> <p>Objective: Gather input from attendees for topics of interest</p> <p>From Mitch Lockhart: John Hanson has conducted an angler creel in Truckee (Little Truckee?) – the results of this survey may be appropriate for a fall/winter presentation on summary of the data collected.</p>
11:25	<p>Standing item: Action Item report back</p> <p>Objective: capture key decisions, discussion points, and action items to include in meeting summary</p> <p>No action items at this time.</p>
11:30	Adjournment – Chair

2022 Meeting Dates:

TRBWG – monthly*

- January 26, 2022
- March 23, 2022
- April 27, 2022
- May 25, 2022
- June 22, 2022
- July 27, 2022
- September 28, 2022
- November 16, 2022

Technical Response Team

- TBD

Fish Team

- TBD

*Note: no TRBWG meeting in February, August, October, or December