

# Truckee River Basin Water Group

## Meeting Notes for Wednesday, March 22<sup>th</sup> 2023, 10:00 AM – Noon

**Location:** Truckee Donner Public Utility District, Board Room (and on-line)  
11570 Donner Pass Road  
Truckee, CA 96161

**Chairperson:** Hardy Bullock, Nevada County Supervisor

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

Time	Item
10:00	Call to Order – Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introductions</li><li>• Agenda Review</li></ul>
10:10	Standing Item: Committee Report Back <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No committees met since last meeting</li></ul> <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"><li>• Changes from previous forecast</li><li>• Streamflow and reservoir levels forecast</li><li>• Questions and discussion on projected operations</li></ul> <p>Objective: Provide latest information on projected reservoir operations and model output, increase TRBWG member knowledge about TROA</p> <p>Outcome: <a href="#">See attached presentation.</a></p> <p>Questions for Tom: Q. Based on the graphs and on your presentation, it appears that Tahoe will not fill – is that the case? A. Models show that there is a 10% chance of Tahoe filling based on current projections, however if we see additional storms coming in the next couple of months, than likelihood of Tahoe filling will increase. Q. If Tahoe does spill, when will this be expected to happen? A. It will be up to the Watermaster to determine appropriate timing for releases, however if needed, would likely be in June or July.</p>
11:10	USFWS Fisheries Activities, Derek Bloomquist, USFWS <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Status update lower river spawning season</li></ul>

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.

Outcome: [See attached presentation.](#)

Questions for Derek:

Q. How successful is LCT spawning within the river?

A. Spawning has been very successful – there are thousands of redds that are present and that are tracked each year. As a result of the successful spawning program, we have seen over 30,000 fry migrating down-river.

Q. Do the LCT end up in the river or do they go back to the lake?

A. Most of them will make it back to the lake.

Q. What type of success are you seeing in the upper river (ie Stateline & downstream)?

A. There have been over 70,000 LCT stocked in the upper river. Tracking of the LCT has proven to be difficult, so ultimately the success rate is unknown. Similarly in Tahoe, we have stocked over 100,000 LCT, but success of survival is also unknown.

Q. What size are the fish in the upper river and in Tahoe?

A. The ones that have either been reported by anglers, or have been able to be tracked are generally between 8-14".

Q. For those LCT that have been reported or tracked in Lake Tahoe, are you seeing similar remarkable growth as the fish that are reported in tracked in Pyramid Lake?

A. The growth is unknown, however LCT would not be expected to grow as large or as fast in Tahoe as they would in Pyramid.

Q. Are there significant differences in the USFWS fisheries hatchery program from the operations of the Pyramid Tribe?

A. USFWS works very closely with Tribal members, and have developed the hatchery program to be similar to the operations of the Tribe.

Q. Are there other waters within the Lahontan region where LCT is being stocked?

A. USFWS has also stocked LCT in Fallen Leaf Lake above Lake Tahoe.

Q. How many fish are making it past Derby Dam, and how far?

A. Fish passage is currently limited, but there has been some success in LCT utilizing the existing passage and moving upstream.

	<p>Q. Why is the USFWS not stocking LCT between the reach of river between Truckee and Tahoe City?</p> <p>A. There is limited production of LCT that does not allow USFWS to be able to extend the stocking program into this reach. USFWS prefers to stock in lakes as that is where LCT ultimately originate.</p>
11:45	<p>Standing item: Suggestions for future agenda topics &amp; announcements</p> <p>Objective: Gather input from attendees for topics of interest</p> <p>Outcome:</p> <p>Three agenda topics were proposed for future meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possibility of TNC presenting on current status of removal of invasive species and re-introduction of LCT within Independence Lake.</li> <li>• Possibility of ACOE presenting on discussion on beneficial streamflow use vs practice of holding back water in reservoirs behind dam operations.</li> <li>• Possibility of TRWC presenting on restoration projects within the Truckee River Corridor that impact flow levels and reservoir storage</li> </ul>
11:55	<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 actions or report back at this time.</p>
12:00	Adjournment – Chair

**2023 Meeting Dates:**

TRBWG – monthly\*

- January 25, 2023
- March 22, 2023
- April 26, 2023
- May 24, 2023
- June 28, 2023
- July 26, 2022
- September 27, 2023
- November 15, 2023

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

Technical Response Team

- TBD

Fish Team

- TBD