



California Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
Northern Region
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DMUND G. BROWN, JR., Governor
JOHN McCAMMAN, Director



August 24, 2011

Mr. Bob Baiocchi
California Fisheries and Water Unlimited
Post Office Box 1035
Graeagle, California 96103-1035

Dear Mr. Baiocchi:

Re: Eagle Lake; California Heritage Trout Waters; Recommended Regulatory Actions

Thank you for your interest in the Department of Fish and Game's Heritage and Wild Trout Program (HWTP), in particular, the management of Eagle Lake, Lassen County. Eagle Lake is a designated Heritage Trout Water (Fish and Game Commission (Commission) designation in 1999). As with all Heritage and Wild Trout waters in the State, a fishery management plan had been developed for Eagle Lake which provides recommendations to fulfill HWTP goals and objectives. HWTP management plans do not provide regulatory protection, but assist fishery managers in meeting Commission and legislative policies and code (Fish and Game Code sections 1725-1728 and 13007). Currently, the Eagle Lake rainbow trout is considered a State Species of Special Concern, but is not listed under the California Endangered Species Act or Federal Endangered Species Act.

The Department manages the Eagle Lake fishery to provide fishing opportunities for the angling public while protecting other existing natural resources. Recently, the Eagle Lake watershed has been subjected to a multi-year drought and the lake elevation has receded to low levels in response to dry conditions. Although the current water year (2010-11) has been above normal, the groundwater flow that supplies an estimated 48% of the water supply to the lake will likely take several years of above normal precipitation to improve the lake surface elevation. The existing data on water inflow and outflow for Eagle Lake indicates the amount of water exiting Bly Tunnel is insignificant when compared to water loss through natural processes like evaporation and ground water percolation. Nonetheless, Our Department will continue our effort to determine if this issue is a significant factor contributing to the low lake levels and will take the appropriate actions.

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The Department will also continue to work with other pertinent state and federal agencies, interest groups, and the general public with the management of Eagle Lake watershed and its important fishery resource. If you have further questions regarding the management of Eagle Lake, please contact Paul Divine, Environmental Scientist at (530) 254-6363 or pdivine@dfg.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



NEIL MANJI
Regional Manager

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MB:sh