This is a summary from Trout Unlimited of what has been going on up Pine Creek this summer. The projects will take time and our donations are accounted for and being used to assist in restoring Pine Creek and preventing the Endangered or Threatened Species Listing of the Eagle Lake trout. As long as progress is being made and water studies for the watershed continue, we have a good chance that the determination by USFWS will be delayed. Our goal of restoring won't happen overnight. The future studies include lower Pine Creek Valley drainage which appears to include the affects of impounded waters discussed in ELG letter to USFWS. We have other challenges after Pine Creek and our trout are out of danger. We need your donations in order to continue to provide more funding! Please use our PayPal button on our website or mail donations to Eagle Lake Guardians 686-795 Bamboo Way, Susanville, CA 96130

Below is a direct quote from David Lass, Trout Unlimited, California Field Director.

Here is a short summary of the work we did so far this year, and please let me know if you have any questions on this:

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Non-native Brook Trout Eradication - We removed over 3,000 Brook trout from Pine Creek above Leeky Luey Pond to where Pine Creek runs dry. Compare this with 4,000 Brook trout removed in 2013, and it shows that mechanical removal of non-native trout is futile and not cost effective. TU strongly believes that a chemical (rotenone) treatment of Pine Creek, Stevens Creek and Bogard Springs Creek is essential to establishing wild Eagle Lake rainbow trout in the headwaters of Pine Creek. Regardless if Eagle Lake rainbow trout occupied that uppermost section of Pine Creek, Brook trout distribution reaches much farther downstream when Pine Creek is running and presents the single largest threat to natural survival of Eagle Lake rainbow YOY's (year of the young) outside of sufficient flow and spawning/rearing habitat.

Flow and Dye Study - We conducted a flow and dye study of the perennial section of Pine Creek and tributaries to determine the travel time of water to determine the rate and direction of flow and transport and identify places - off channel seeps and springs - which are disconnected from the main channel. Rhodamine dyes fluoresce and can thus be detected easily and inexpensively. The goal of this work is to get a good grasp on how much rotenone would have to be applied, and where, to the small section of creek to have total concentration and effectiveness.

Spring and Hydrologic Assessment - Involved walking Pine Creek, Stevens Creek and Bogard to determine the state of perennial seeps and springs in the system and impact from drought. We observed many, if not all springs documented in past years, are now dry and/or disconnected from instream habitat.

BMI Survey - We surveyed the benthic macro invertebrate densities and diversity in Pine Creek at 5 different sites. Samples were also take from the Susan River as reference so we can compare if there are any rare or unique species in Pine Creek that might limit a chemical treatment. We are doing the analysis of the BMI's this winter.

Future work - 1) Assess the meadow condition from HWY 44 down to the delta, which will show the ability of meadows to store and release water 2) Instream habitat typing in Pine Creek downstream of HWY 44 to Delta, which will show the quality of habitat for ELRT at all lifestages 3) Geomorphic analysis of Pine Creek watershed, which will show areas of impact, water capture, and when paired with #1 and #2 will provide a suite of restoration recommendations that can be implemented.

David Lass I California Field Director

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"If we take care of the fish, the fishing will take care of itself"