

PROJECT EAGLE LAKE TROUT
Meeting – November 15, 2008, 3:00 PM, Spalding Community Hall

MINUTES

Sep Hendrickson called the meeting to order. Introductions of the 40 assembled interested individuals took place.

Sep stated the purpose of this meeting was the formation of the PELT/CIFFI Steering Committee, to collect information and work with California Inland Fisheries Foundation, Inc., to administer spending.

PELT/CIFFI dollars currently buy – 5,000 pounds of Bonus fish, hatchery food, transportation and delivery and hatchery manpower, seasonal aide creel census, approximately \$13,000 annually, also equipment for fish recovery, nets, waders, gloves, etc., to supply DFG and volunteers.

Future planting of fish/super fish into the Lake was discussed. It was felt that perhaps PELT/CIFFI could increase funding and increase the amount, and size, of fish planted. However, State hatcheries are out of space to be able to hold more fish. A discussion was held regarding funding to enlarge hatchery space, but with the passage of the Cogdill Bill, AB7, several years ago, there is currently more than enough money for hatchery maintenance.

Eagle Lake is a California “Heritage Lake” and gets extra attention and messing with the genetics will not be allowed. Fish planted in the Lake come only from eggs taken from the Lake. PELT/CIFFI will not be able to purchase BIG fish from any outside sources to be planted into the Lake. Also, a pending lawsuit by Stanford law students regarding fish planting in California, is an issue, although it is felt that Eagle Lake will not be affected.

A discussion was held regarding what **can** be done. Future efforts regarding fish rescue will require added emphasis. PELT/CIFFI needs to be prepared for this year. Weirs should be situated on all tributaries, which will reduce mortality significantly. It was felt that 18 small weirs would handle this issue. The key is to maintain flexibility and portability, so weirs can be placed into, or taken out, on an as-needed basis. Paul Devine, DFG Biologist, would prefer to establish some of the weirs in locations early to minimize efforts later in potentially heavy snow. He will evaluate equipment on hand and advise his needs. More nets will definitely be required for fish rescue efforts to enable volunteers to transport fewer fish per net.

Streamwatchers will play a vital role and it was unanimously agreed that Gwen Beck will become the volunteer coordinator. She will work with Paul Devine who will obtain authorizations as needed. This is usually done within 48 hours and her volunteers can then begin rescue operations. PELT/CIFFI efforts in fish rescue will more than offset a request to DFG for more or larger fish, and the surviving fish will be bigger and hardier. Also, ways to minimize or control natural predation will be evaluated.

A discussion took place regarding the importance of increasing warden activity at the Lake and the establishment of check points. This will definitely be a future agenda item. Also, signs will be created and posted regarding Lake limits, Heritage Lake status, etc.

Close attention to the Bly Tunnel water issue will be paid as any water taken out of the Lake does have an impact. However, this is not a PELT/CIFFI project at this time.

The PELT/CIFFI Steering Committee – placed into position by individuals in attendance, are:

Randy Aubry
George Walker
Kate Arnold
Paul Chappell
Dave Meserve
Griz Griswold
Gwen Beck
Vern Hart
Ron Harrison
Tim Noxon.

The next meeting will be held in January, date to be established.

Submitted by, Marilyn Hendrickson