



Summit Lake Paiute Tribe Newsletter

March 2016

(Photo Courtesy of Rachael Youmans)

Happy Spring! This March 2016 Newsletter contains several announcements, the introduction of a new employee, descriptions of work completed in 2015 and planned for 2016, and an exciting announcement about a workshop being planned for Tribal Members for May 15, 2016!

Announcements

Road conditions are still inaccessible to the Reservation. A note stating this was placed on the Tribal website and at the Reservation boundary. When road conditions improve, the notice will be revised on the Tribal website and the sign removed.



The Tribe has become more reliant on the Tribal website to communicate announcements with Tribal members in an effort to reduce the cost of mailings. Please frequently check the Tribal website at www.summitlaketribe.org for Job Announcements, Council Meeting agendas, and other announcements and updates.

The Natural Resources Department is currently accepting applications for several open positions including Maintenance Worker, Creel Census Taker, and Natural Resources Technician. Please see the Employment Opportunities webpage for job descriptions and the Employment Application. Positions are open until filled. This year the duties of noxious weed technicians have been integrated into the Natural Resources Technician positions so several openings exist.



Your Fishing Permit for 2016 should be included in the envelope with this newsletter. If it was not, please contact the Tribal Administrative Office for a replacement. Fishing Permits are only issued to "adult" Tribal members over the age of 16, and should be in your possession while fishing on the Reservation. The catch limit for 2016 was set by the Summit Lake Paiute Council at their February 20, 2016 meeting at 5 fish per adult Tribal member and 2 fish per minor Tribal member. Transportation permits can be obtained by contacting Tribal employees at the Tribal Compound. After fishing, please remember to bring your catch of fish to the Tribal Compound so employees can scan your fish for PIT tags.

PIT (Passive Integrated Transponder) tags are small, bead-like capsules inserted just below the skin of a fish. Tribal members fishing this spring should bring their fish to the Tribal Compound to be scanned for the presence of a PIT tag so that it can be removed before eating. Fish with PIT tags will have the adipose fin clipped off, which does not harm the fish but allows for better identification of marked fish. A diagram on the next page shows where PIT tags are located in fish.

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2016 HUNTING AND FISHING REGULATIONS

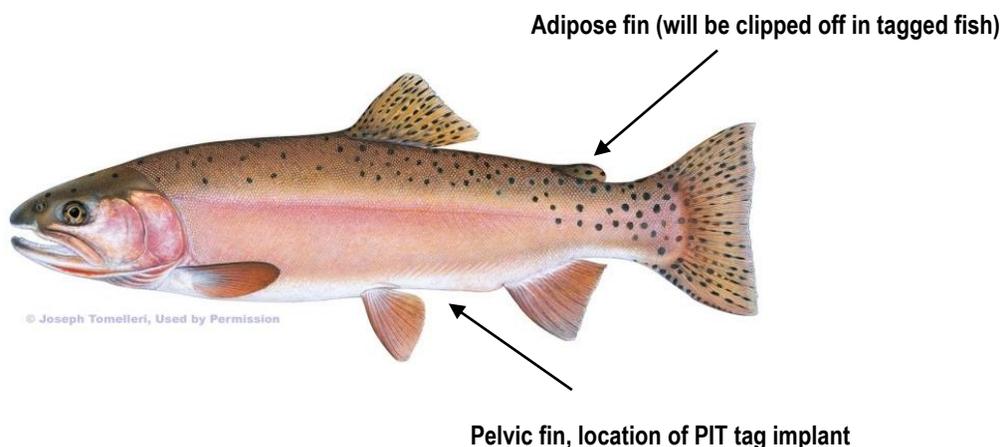
If you will be traveling to the Reservation to fish, please observe the regulations below. In addition, make sure you are prepared for any circumstance: bring extra food and water, a shovel, appropriate clothing, and two spare tires. Also, the ground may be wet or saturated near the creek and lake, so test how solid the ground is before driving on it.

The regulations below are in place for the 2016 fishing season:

- ◆ In 2016 fishing limits remain unchanged from previous years at **2 fish allowed per minor Tribal member** (under 16) and **5 fish allowed per adult Tribal member** as established by the Council at the February 20, 2016 meeting.
- ◆ Tribal members must be present on the Reservation to take their limit of fish.
- ◆ Except for spouses of Tribal members, fishing by non-tribal members is prohibited.
- ◆ A non-tribal member married to a Tribal member may assist their spouse in fishing or fish in place of their spouse, as long as the Tribal member is present on the Reservation. Their take in fish per year is limited to the number to which the Tribal member is entitled.
- ◆ Mahogany Creek is closed to all fishing in and above the fish trap and 100 yards below the fish trap (marked by the fence crossing the stream) from March 1 to June 15.
- ◆ **All of Mahogany Creek is closed to fishing from September-December 2016. (new)**
- ◆ Tribal members may use dip nets and fishing poles to catch fish. The use of live bait, chumming, gaff hooks, spears, traps, wire fences, or other implements to take fish is prohibited.
- ◆ Remember- the fish you catch could potentially have been tagged. Please have a Tribal employee scan your catch before cleaning it.

The regulations below are in place for the 2016 hunting season:

- ◆ Hunting within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation is permitted provided that hunting is conducted in a safe manner.
- ◆ Firearms are not to be discharged within 300 feet of buildings, land assignments, or areas known to be occupied by Tribal members or employees. Firearms are not to be discharged from motorized vehicles, or at night.
- ◆ The Tribal Council set the limit to **harvest sage grouse at ZERO** for 2016 so that hunting does not interfere with the ongoing population study. This was approved at the March 19, 2016 Council Meeting.



Hunting and fishing regulations for the Summit Lake Reservation were initially adopted January 31, 1981 by Council Resolution SL-81-2. They were amended and enacted on May 17, 2014 by the Summit Lake Paiute Council. If you would like a copy of these regulations please contact the Natural Resources Department at (775) 827-9670.

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As a reminder, the following amendments to the Hunting and Fishing Regulations were passed by Council approval at the May 17, 2014 meeting. If you have any questions, please contact the Natural Resources Department.

Hunting and Fishing Regulation Amendments Adopted May 17, 2014

Section 2: 2.2 Hunting: Tribal Members and Spouses.

Hunting by Tribal members and their spouses within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation is permitted provided that such hunting shall always be conducted in a safe manner, to include:

- firearms shall not be discharged within 300 feet of buildings, land assignments, or areas known to be occupied by tribal members or tribal employees;
- firearms shall not be discharged from motorized vehicles;
- firearms shall not be discharged during night time or dark periods (e.g., spotlighting is prohibited)

3.5 Wading. Wading in the stream to chase and harvest fish during spawning season of Lahontan cutthroat trout (typically April – July) in the waters on the Reservation is prohibited.

Section 6: SIZE, CATCH & POSSESSION LIMITS FOR TRIBAL MEMBERS

6.1 Catch and Possession Limits.

6.1.1 Lahontan Cutthroat Trout.

The Tribal Council shall prescribe annual limits to harvest Lahontan cutthroat trout.

6.1.2 Sage grouse.

The Tribal Council shall prescribe annual limits to harvest sage grouse.

6.1.3 Deer.

The Tribal Council shall prescribe annual limits to harvest deer.

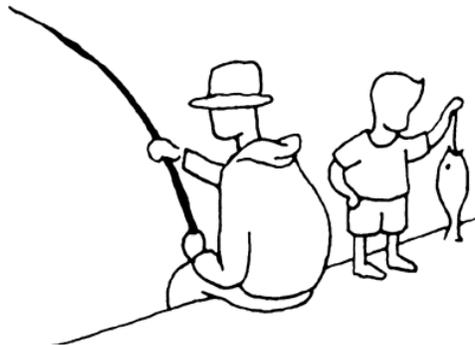
6.1.4 Pronghorn.

The Tribal Council shall prescribe annual limits to harvest pronghorn.

6.2 Other Fish and Game Species. There are no size, catch or possession limits for fish or game species not mentioned above.

Section 8: RELEASE OF FISH ,WILDLIFE, AND PLANT SPECIES

Except as authorized by permit, license or other entitlement lawfully and validly issued by the Tribal Council, and after inspection of the matter sought to be implemented or planted, it shall be unlawful for any person to plant any fish, fish fry, spawn or any aquatic organism or plant in any waters within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation or to release any exotic or non-native mammals or birds on any lands within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation.



2015: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Fencing Projects

The last portions of repairs on the Reservation boundary fence were completed in 2015. Both the South East and South West Reservation boundary fence were repaired, including replacing broken wires, replacing wooden braces with metal pipe braces, and generally strengthening the fence. We are very excited that these projects could be completed last year and that all the Reservation boundary fences are now intact and should require only regular maintenance.

Additionally, a grazing enclosure fence around One Mile Spring has been started. When complete this fence will protect the spring from unauthorized grazing and other sources of pollution. Restoration activities are planned for One Mile Spring throughout 2016 and will include cleaning up the area and making the springhouse more rodent proof. Also, the road to access One Mile Spring is being rerouted with entry to the spring area through a newly installed cattle guard rather than through the previous wire gate.

Sage Grouse Study



During 2015 Tribal employees continued the sage grouse population and telemetry study. In the early spring, employees counted male and female sage grouse attendance at three different leks (dancing grounds) in the five mile area surrounding the Reservation and also captured and put radio collars on 28 birds, both males and females. Throughout the rest of 2015 the locations of the radio collared birds was tracked with a combination of ground and aerial efforts. On a near monthly basis, a fixed wing aircraft flew over the Reservation and surrounding area to determine locations of birds. Employees would use aerial locations to find birds on the ground to

document sage grouse habitat, life history, homing range, and behavior.

Road Realignment

WH Pacific was contracted through BIA to conduct engineering and design work on a proposed reroute of the road West of Summit Lake. This project started in 2015 and may continue over the next ten years, due to federal road construction and environmental analysis requirements. The reroute will move the existing road west of Summit Lake farther away from lake shorelines and will subsequently reduce nonpoint source pollution into Summit Lake. Survey work for the road realignment was initiated in 2015 and will continue into 2016. Tribal Members are likely to see an increase in survey markers throughout this area into the future, and may also encounter WH Pacific employees doing survey work. Additionally a sensitive plant survey as part of another proposed reroute of a steep rocky section of road ~3 miles south of the Reservation, near Tollhouse Canyon and known by many tribal members as "Hells Canyon", was also completed in 2015.

Wildland Fire Prevention

Reminder: the next time you visit Summit Lake check out the recently installed fire prevention informational signs. The signs located near entrances to the Reservation encourage both Tribal Members and visitors traveling through the area to prevent wildland fires. The signs were provided to the Tribe by the BIA and will be updated annually.



Capital Improvements

Capital improvements continue on the Reservation to add storage space for additional equipment being acquired and to improve working conditions. During 2015, a new metal Fish Trap building was constructed in place of the existing wooden structure. Additionally, a new boat shelter was constructed near the existing shed near the mouth of Mahogany Creek. A

similar structure was erected within the Tribal Compound to house equipment, and the old wooden Fish Trap building was reconstructed to house heavy equipment.

Noxious Weed Management

The Natural Resources Department continued with Noxious Weed control efforts during 2015. Herbicide and manual treatments were successfully applied to over 125 acres within the Reservation. The 2015 focus was on areas where Hoary Cress, the most invasive noxious weed on the Reservation, was found. Additional weeds of concern are Perennial Pepperweed, Canada Thistle, Scotch Thistle and Bull Thistle. Treatments of these noxious weeds will continue in 2016.

Fisheries Work

2015 was the fourth consecutive drought year throughout Nevada and the Great Basin. This drought has also impacted the behavior of fish and wildlife in the area. Although the Natural Resources Department managed the annual spawning run of Lahontan cutthroat trout at the Mahogany Creek Fish Trap, only a total of 269 fish were caught at the fish trap and released upstream. Low water flows in Mahogany Creek made it difficult for fish to enter the creek from the lake, and employees manually dug out the channel on several occasions to provide passage for the fish.



In addition to manual counts performed by employees, two electronic fish observation systems were placed in Mahogany Creek- one near the inflow into Summit Lake and one upstream, just outside of the Reservation's northeastern boundary on Bureau of Land Management land. These "Riverwatcher" systems record the number of fish passing through those two points, providing the Tribe with information on where fish travel during the spring spawning run. This was the ninth year that the Tribe has used this

technology to collect data on spawning LCT. In addition, systems to read PIT (passive integrated transponder) tags placed in fish were located near the Riverwatchers. These systems can pick up the code carried by a PIT tag, which is unique to an individual fish. This provides even more information on fish movement throughout the watershed both during and after the spawning run.

Throughout 2015 Natural Resources Department Employees conducted extensive fisheries work outside of managing the Fish Run. In the spring and fall, employees used boats and nets to capture fish from the lake. These fish were PIT tagged and released back into the lake. Their movement (being caught in another net in the lake or being scanned by one of the stationary tag readers or at the fish trap) was then tracked throughout the year, allowing employees to better estimate fish numbers and track movement patterns. Fish were also captured and PIT tagged from Mahogany and Summer Camp Creeks using various methods throughout the year.



Additionally, employees conducted habitat surveys throughout the Mahogany and Summer Camp Creek watersheds during the summer of 2015. These surveys included classifying and measuring pool or riffle habitat, determining stream bottom gravel composition, amount of sunlight reaching the stream, and categorizing streamside vegetation.

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
NATURAL RESOURCES TECHNICIAN, (Multiple Positions)

Rate of Pay: \$13.00 - \$16.00 per hour (DOE)

Opening Date: January 25, 2016

Closing Date: March 30, 2016

Duration of Employment: Variable, dependent on project. May not exceed 1040 hours per project. Field season extends from February – November.

Sage Grouse Project: February –April or February-November

Fisheries Project: March-June or March-November

Noxious Weed Project: April-July

Duty Station: Summit Lake Indian Reservation, Humboldt County, Nevada

JOB SUMMARY: Incumbent is responsible for assisting Fish and Wildlife Biologist(s) and other Natural Resources Department employees to perform a variety of natural resources projects, including but not limited to fish and wildlife surveys and assessments, noxious weed treatments, and range improvements on or near the Summit Lake Paiute Reservation.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Responsible for performing all tasks associated with surveying, counting, trapping, collaring, and tracking Sage Grouse in the study area.
2. Responsible for performing all tasks associated with surveying, counting, capturing, and tagging Lahontan cutthroat trout.
3. Responsible for performing all tasks associated with noxious weed treatments.
4. Responsible for assisting with range improvement projects such as repair and construction of fences, and livestock water facilities.
5. Responsible for assisting with monitoring water quality, stream flows, and weather.
6. Responsible for the maintenance of Tribal property and facilities.
7. Responsible for operating, repairing, and maintaining various types of equipment and tools, including handheld GPS units, passive integrated transponder tagging equipment, radio telemetry receivers, transmitters, and antennae.
8. Assisting with data collection and data entry.
9. Responsible for the operation, repair, maintenance, and record keeping for GSA and Tribal vehicles (if and when applicable).
10. Additional duties as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Must be at least 18 years old and have a high school diploma or GED.
2. Must be in good physical condition with the ability to hike for extended periods of time over uneven terrain in inclement weather, often in the dark.
3. Incumbent must be able to live and work as a team member in an extremely remote area of Northern Nevada for extended periods of time.

4. Incumbent must be comfortable working in both extremely cold and extremely hot temperatures, and enjoy primitive living conditions for extended periods of time.
5. Incumbent must be able to maintain a flexible work schedule – i.e. working until very late at night (2am or later) and/or beginning the work day pre-dawn (3am or earlier) for most of the field season.
6. Must be self-motivated, have a positive attitude, and demonstrate excellent verbal and written communication skills.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Previous experience with tracking wildlife using radio-telemetry.
2. Experience trapping and handling large birds.
3. Experience surveying Sage Grouse leks and nests.
4. Experience handling, measuring, electrofishing, and setting trap nets to capture and tag fish.
5. Experience measuring, monitoring and analyzing water quality, stream flow, and weather.
6. Experience identifying plant and applying herbicides to treat noxious weeds, or current certification to apply herbicides.
7. Experience constructing and repairing rangeland fences
8. Ability to interpret and follow instructions, work at own initiative, and apply various rules, regulations policies and procedures.
9. Ability to keep records and accurate data, be flexible with work schedules and maintain data inventory.
10. Bachelor's degree in fisheries, wildlife ecology or related field.
11. Valid state drivers license and insurable by Tribe's insurance carrier.
12. Experience driving on unmaintained dirt/gravel roads.
13. Experience operating ATV's and familiarity with safe operation practices, or current safety certification.
14. Experience operating boats and familiarity with safe operation practices, or current boating safety certification.
15. Experience using handheld GPS units.
16. First aid and CPR certified.

TO WHOM POSITION REPORTS: Fish and Wildlife Biologist, or Environmental Specialist as delegated by the Natural Resources Director.

DRIVER'S LICENSE: Required. Applicants must have a valid driver's license and must be insurable by the Tribe's insurance carrier, and a **copy of applicant's driving record issued by the State Department of Motor Vehicles issued 30 or less days prior to of the date of application, must accompany the application.**

OVERTIME STATUS: Non-exempt

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT: Depending on place of residence, employee may be required to provide their own transportation to and from the work place on the Reservation. Primitive and rustic housing is provided.

Job application forms may be obtained by contacting the tribal office or website cited in header of this announcement. Submit applications to the tribal office by mail or in person.

TRIBAL MEMBER AND INDIAN PREFERENCE

Summit Lake Paiute Tribe is a Tribal member and Indian preference employer, in accordance with Section 7(b)(c) of Public Law 93-638, the Indian Self-Determination Act. However, in all other instances the Tribe complies with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, creed, sex, sexual orientation, religion or national origin.

New Natural Resources Department Employee

Please join the Natural Resources Department in welcoming Renee Aldrich, hired as our new Environmental Specialist. Existing Fish and Wildlife Biologists Jessica Saenz, Robert Zeyer, and Rachael Youmans are glad to have her help for the busy field season ahead!

Renee Aldrich, Environmental Specialist



My name is Renee Aldrich and I am excited to join the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe's Natural Resource Department team as an Environmental Specialist. I will be working primarily on the noxious weed program and the long-range transportation plan, along with a variety of other projects. I grew up in Carson City, Nevada and received my degree in Conservation Biology from the University of Nevada, Reno. While at the university I spent time roaming throughout Nevada searching for and collecting data on western toads. Most recently I worked with Friends of Nevada Wilderness as their Stewardship Coordinator, leading volunteers on a variety of restoration projects throughout northern Nevada. I have spent many wonderful days working and recreating in areas around Summit Lake such as the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Wilderness Study Area on Mahogany Creek, Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge, High Rock Canyon, the Black Rock and Pine Forest Ranges, and the Black Rock Desert. I

love northwestern Nevada and I look forward to learning more about the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe and the reservation. I hope to meet you in the near future!

2016 Upcoming Activities

There are many exciting projects scheduled to take place during 2016.

One of these will work to protect the Reservation and its cultural and natural resources from catastrophic wildland fire. Approximately 30 miles of fire breaks are planned for construction on the Reservation. These fire breaks will be created by mowing vegetation a distance of ~15 feet from the edge of roads or prominent fence lines to help prevent the spread of wildland fire. This initiative is part of a Fire Resilient Landscape Cooperative which includes the Tribe and several federal partners including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Land Management.

The sage grouse study will continue throughout 2016 by collaring more birds and continuing to track those that are collared. Fixed wing aircraft flights will also continue, so you may see an airplane flying relatively low and slow over the area around the Reservation. It is important that if Tribal members find a sage grouse mortality or a collar to report it to the Natural Resources Department so that it can be added to our data. Also, there will be a workshop about sage grouse for Tribal members later in the year so be on the lookout for an announcement!

Fisheries projects will also continue in 2016. Planned projects include managing the spawn run at the Mahogany Creek Fish Trap, additional capture of fish from the lake and streams for PIT tagging, water quality and meteorological monitoring, a minnow trapping study, and an exciting workshop in May 2016! See the inserted flyer for more information!

