



Summit Lake Paiute Tribe Newsletter

April 2012

(Photo Courtesy of Rachael Youmans)

AN INTRODUCTION FROM OUR NEW FISH AND WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

My name is Robert Parker and I have recently joined the Tribe's Natural Resources Department team to serve as a Fish and Wildlife Biologist. I graduated in 2011 from Humboldt State University in Arcata, California with a Bachelor of Science degree in Fisheries Biology. During my undergraduate career at HSU I conducted research, in addition to my regular coursework, in the classification of rough sculpin, a small stream fish native to the Pit and Fall Rivers near Burney, California. I was also fortunate to work as a research assistant under one of our graduate students who was studying Klamath River salmon in cooperation with the Yurok and Hoopa tribes.

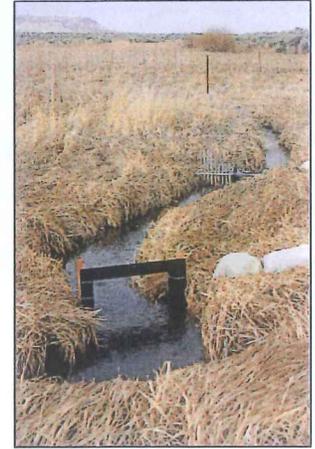
Prior to my career in science my life's work and pursuits have taken me around the world as a whitewater and fly fishing guide. I've also worked with non-profit conservation organizations using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to successfully protect salmon runs and ancient redwood forests in northern California. One area that I am interested in as it relates to my new job is the integration of traditional values and beliefs in natural resources management, and I am eager to learn more as I pursue my work. I am honored to have been selected by the Tribe to work at Summit Lake and hope that I can make a lasting contribution to protecting the Tribe's valuable resources. Please feel free to stop and say hello if you see me on the Reservation or in the office. Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to introduce myself.



Summit Lake Paiute Tribe Natural Resources Department
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Dear Tribal Members,

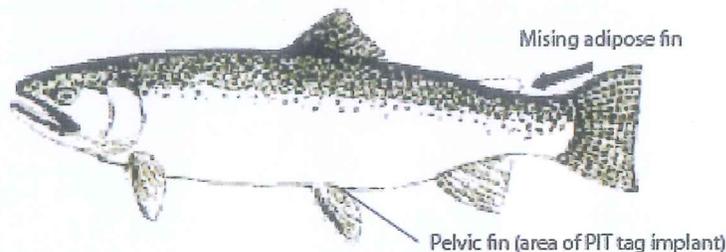
As the 2012 spawning run of Lahontan cutthroat trout has begun and many of you will be fishing soon we would like to share some new information on current research at Summit Lake and how you can help. Graduate student researchers from the University of Nevada, Reno have recently installed a Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag reader in the lower section of Mahogany Creek. This device can be seen in the photo on the right (the black frame in the foreground, downstream from our VAKI Riverwatcher electronic fish counter). In conjunction with the PIT tag reader researchers have also implanted PIT tags near the base of the pelvic fin in a number of trout. PIT tags are smaller than a dime and are similar in size to a grain of rice (see photographs below).



PIT tags function as “microchips” similar to the ones used for identification of lost pets. Each PIT tag, or microchip, has a unique number that is recorded by the reader when the fish passes upstream. This information allows us to gather valuable data on the movement of individual fish in our waters. To more easily identify fish that have been tagged, the adipose fin has been clipped off on these individuals (a procedure that doesn't harm the fish).



Although we encourage all members who catch fish on the reservation to please register their catch with Tribal Natural Resources Department staff to receive transportation permits, we are asking that everyone be especially on the lookout for fish with missing adipose fins. The diagram below shows how to identify these fish.



Before you leave the Reservation please allow our staff the opportunity to scan fish that are missing an adipose fin so that we can retrieve the code and tag. Information about where and when you caught the fish will also be helpful. Your assistance will help us to ensure the health of the Tribal fishery for today and for future generations. We hope to see you at Summit Lake soon!

Sincerely,
Summit Lake Paiute Tribe
Natural Resources Department

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