



Summit Lake Paiute Tribe Newsletter

March 2013

(Photo Courtesy of Rachael Youmans)

Happy 2013! We hope that you have had a good winter and are looking forward to the year ahead. This newsletter has lots of information about activities that have been taking place on the Reservation and some that are planned for the next year. In addition, it has important information for Tribal members about fishing, and introduces two new Tribal employees.

2013 FISHING LIMITS AND REGULATIONS

All Tribal members age 16 and older are issued a hunting and fishing permit, which is enclosed with this newsletter. If you or someone you know did not receive this announcement and fishing permit, please give us a call at 1-800-335-7978 or stop in to the office. Your fishing permit must be signed and in your possession while fishing to be valid. If you forget your permit, Tribal employees may issue you one on the Reservation with proof of Tribal membership and picture identification.

While fishing, please observe the following regulations:

-  In 2013 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 16, 2013 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.
-  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.

Hunting and fishing regulations for the Summit Lake Reservation were initially adopted January 31, 1981 by Council Resolution SL-81-2. If you would like a copy of these regulations please contact the Natural Resources Department at 1-800-335-7978.

After fishing, please remember to bring your catch of fish to the Tribal Compound so that Tribal employees can scan your fish for PIT tags (see the next page for what a PIT tag is!) and can issue you a transportation permit required for you to take your catch off the Reservation. In agreement with the Nevada Fish and Game Commission, Tribal members transporting fish off the Reservation must have a transportation permit in their possession to do so. Tribal employees also keep track of how many fish were caught by Tribal members throughout the season, which helps us assess the total fish population and health. As a courtesy, please request to have your transportation permit issued between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm.

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PIT TAGGED FISH

As the 2013 spawning run of Lahontan cutthroat trout is arriving 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 working with tribal biologists will again install 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 will also again be implanting PIT tags near the base of the pelvic fin in even more trout this year. PIT tags are smaller than a dime and are similar in size to a grain of rice (see photographs below).



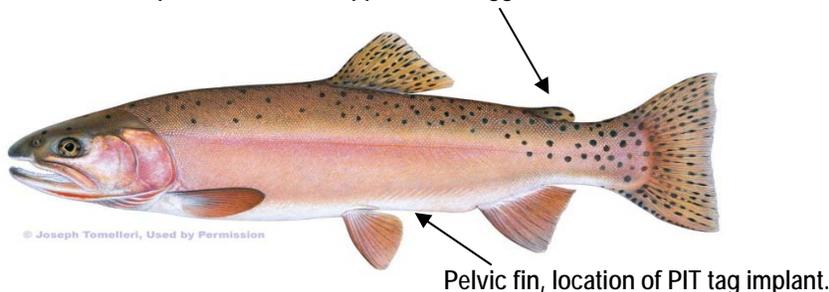
PIT tags function as “microchips” similar to the ones used for identification of lost pets. Each PIT tag, or microchip, has a unique number that is recorded by the reader when the fish passes upstream. This information allows us to gather valuable data on the movement of individual fish in our waters. 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. 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!

Adipose fin (will be clipped off in tagged fish).



PLEASE BE SAFE WHILE FISHING-WATER MAY BE COLDER AND DEEPER THAN IT APPEARS!

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NEW EMPLOYEES

In 2012, the Natural Resources Department hired two new employees: Heather Lyons as an Environmental Specialist and Lonnie Jackson as a Maintenance Worker. Below are short introductions, but feel free to say hello if you see them!



Heather Lyons

My name is Heather Lyons and I would like to introduce myself as the Environmental Specialist with the Natural Resources Department. I began working for Summit Lake in October of 2012. In my new role with the Tribe I contribute to several Natural Resources programs including Noxious Weed Management, Fish Run activities, water quality sampling, and Emergency Management. The Environmental Specialist position represents an exciting opportunity to develop my professional skills while experiencing a remote and beautiful area of Nevada. I look forward to learning more about the Reservation and meeting Tribal Members.

Prior to working for the Tribe, I divided my time between Nevada and Idaho where I worked for non-governmental conservation organizations. I am excited to now call Nevada my full-time home. Originally, I was raised in Arizona and went to school in Colorado where I studied Biology and Forestry. After college, I spent several years collecting field data in a variety of backcountry settings that ranged from Alaska to Florida. In addition to travelling, I enjoy hiking, running, cross-country skiing, and watching truly terrible television (with a few great movies mixed-in). If you have any questions I can be contacted at heather.lyons@summitlaketribe.org.

Lonnie Jackson

Lonnie Jackson is beginning his second season as SLPT's Maintenance Worker II. Born and raised in Duck Valley, Lonnie graduated from Owyhee High School. He then moved on to study at community college in Tsaille, AZ before attending sheet metal school with Union Local 88 in Las Vegas. Lonnie spent the next 17 years working in southern Nevada as a sheet metal fabricator and installer. Last summer, Lonnie moved to Reno with his wife Angel and daughter Lanita, and began to work for the Tribe. He feels that his greatest accomplishment so far has been the installation of electricity to several of the previously powerless trailers at the reservation compound, including the new Council trailer. About being a Maintenance Worker for SLPT, Lonnie says that he "enjoys the new experiences and responsibilities that the job brings. I'm thankful to the Tribe for giving me this opportunity for employment."



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

The 2012 field season was a busy one for the Natural Resources Department. Some major accomplishments included:

Fish Run Management- A total of 1090 fish were manually counted at the Fish Trap by employees during the 2012 spawn run. The average number of fish counted at the fish trap for the past several years is about 1,000, and employees were encouraged that so many fish made the run when water levels were so low due to the dry winter. In addition to counting, measuring, and sexing the fish, employees were also looking for fish that had PIT tags, and tagging those that did not already have a tag. These tags will help us keep track of where fish move throughout the lake and streams, and will tell us how fast and how often they go between certain locations. This is valuable information that we are excited to collect.



LCT spawning below the Fish Trap.



A cattleguard installed on the south side of Summit Lake.

Continuing boundary fence construction and repair- Repair and reconstruction continued on the eastern Reservation boundary fence. In addition to patching existing holes and fixing broken wires, the fence crew is replacing wooden braces with stronger metal pipe braces and the bottom strand of barbed wire with smooth wire. This is a common range practice that does not diminish the integrity of the fence for keeping livestock in or out, but provides safer passage for pronghorn and other wildlife that crawl under the fence to travel on and off the Reservation. This project is nearly completed and is projected to finish up in the summer or fall of 2013. In addition, several cattleguards were installed around the Reservation to take the place of gates where roads pass through fencelines.



A noxious weed technician treats weeds on the Reservation.

Noxious Weed Management- During the Spring/Summer of 2012, the Natural Resources Department continued to actively manage noxious weed populations and prevent known infestations from spreading. Two noxious weed crews spent six weeks treating Hoary Cress and Thistle species with chemical and mechanical methods on more than 200 acres of the Reservation. Nineteen separate projects sites were treated. In most of the sites that have been treated for multiple years, there was a significant decrease in the amount of noxious weeds present in 2012 as compared to previous years.

Additional Capital Improvements in Tribal Compound- Additional improvements installed in the Tribal Compound on the Reservation include a front and back porch and electricity for the new Tribal Administration trailer, and installation of septic systems, leveling and skirting for all new trailers received the past two years. Improvements will continue in 2013 to further enhance accommodations for the Council, Tribal members, and employees.

Connecting With Nature Event- From June 30-July 1, 2012, the Natural Resources Department hosted a Connecting With Nature event for Tribal members and their families. The nearly 100 participants enjoyed a boat ride on the lake demonstrating how employees take water quality samples, a presentation by partners from the University of Nevada Reno on the aquatic food web of Summit Lake and Mahogany Creek, and the chance to get a "closer look" at the birds and plants commonly found at the Reservation. Recently, you should have received a 2013 calendar filled with pictures of the event and Reservation mostly taken by participants ages 2-18. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this event a success!



The participants pause for a group photograph before the event ends.

MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATES



The Natural Resources Department was busy over the winter as well, and two Tribal management plans received updates: the Nonpoint Source Management Plan and the Range Management Plan. Below are descriptions of what changed in each plan. If you have any questions or would like an electronic or hard copy of either of them, please contact Fish and Wildlife Biologist Rachael Youmans either by calling the Tribal Office or by email at rachael.youmans@summitlaketribe.org.

Nonpoint Source Management Plan

The Tribe's Nonpoint Source Management Plan identifies nonpoint source pollution both on and off the Reservation and outlines actions to address and mitigate those concerns. Nonpoint source pollution occurs when rainfall, snowmelt, or irrigation water runs over land or through the ground, picks up pollutants, and transports them into surface or ground water. The Tribe's first Nonpoint Source Pollution Report and Management Plan was adopted in 2001, and was revised in 2010 to include nonpoint source pollution concerns that had come up in the time since the first plan was drafted. In February 2013, the Natural Resources Department revised the plan to incorporate additional updates that had taken place in the previous two years. This plan will help guide Natural Resources Department management decisions in the next several years.

Range Management Plan

Updating the Range Management Plan fulfilled a grant objective for an EPA Nonpoint Source Pollution Management grant. The original Range Management Plan was written in 1986 by a Range Conservationist from the BIA and approved by the Tribe. An update of the plan was drafted by BIA in 1996 but never approved by the Tribe.

Throughout 2012, the Natural Resources Department partnered with personnel from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to revise the Range Management Plan with two main objectives:

1. Update the plan with current fences and range improvements, in preparation for grazing permits to be issued for the Reservation in the future.
2. Provide the Tribe with options to deal with trespass cows on the Reservation.

In addition to achieving the objectives above, this update of the Range Management Plan also served to update the estimated amount of forage available on the Reservation for grazing by conducting a vegetation survey which validated work conducted by BIA in 2006.

Updates between 2013 Range Management Plan and previous plans:

- Added information about soils, ecological sites, rangeland health and assessments, rangeland insects, wildfire risk, brush management, prescribed grazing, wildlife-friendly fences
- Recommended certification requirements for domestic and permitted animals
- Updated descriptions of Range Units with vegetation communities, AUMs (Animal Unit Months - a common unit of measure which determines how much forage is consumed by one cow and calf within one month), and existing, planned, or recommended range improvements.
- Recommended monitoring techniques.
- Updated maps of current fences, range improvements, etc.

Changes to Range and Livestock Management Practices:

| | 1986 Plan | 1996 Plan | 2013 Plan | Reason for Change |
|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|
| # Range Units | 6 | 8 | 17 | Construction of new fences in recent years. |
| Available AUMs | 2428 | 2432 | 1784 | When originally calculated, the available AUMs for the 2013 plan were similar to the 1986 and 1996 plans, but after critical wildlife areas that are not planned for permitted grazing were removed from the calculation, the number came to 1784 AUMs. |
| Stocking Rate | 405 animal units/ 6 months | 405 animal units/ 6 months | 297 animal units/ 6 months | Change in available AUMs, adjusted rate of forage consumption/ animal unit based on contemporary estimates. |
| Permitting Period | May-November | May-November | June – December | Avoid critical nesting period of sage grouse and other sage brush dependent species. |



Trespass cows grazing on the Reservation.

LOOKING AHEAD

Many exciting activities are planned for the 2013 field season, including the continuation of regular activities annually conducted by the Natural Resources Department, as well as several new projects. Regular activities include LCT spawn run management, noxious weed management, water quality sampling, and maintenance of facilities. Projects continuing from previous years include capital improvements to the Tribal Compound, and Reservation boundary fence construction and repair. New projects planned for the 2013 field season include installation of solar operated livestock water facilities, clean up and renovation of the One Mile Spring area, installation of a new building to enclose the Mahogany Creek fish trap, and initiation of a sage grouse study on and immediately surrounding the Reservation.

Sage Grouse

The Natural Resources department recently received funding from a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Tribal Wildlife Grant to begin a study of Greater Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) populations, movement, and habitat utilization on the Reservation and in the area immediately surrounding the Reservation. This will involve capturing and putting radio transmitters on birds and tracking their movement throughout various seasons. This will allow us to gather information about how many sage grouse there are, where they move when, and what types and conditions of habitats are needed to support various life stages. This research effort is just getting started, so look for more information later in the year!



http://www.redorbit.com/media/uploads/2004/10/45_b3eb6be7152c9860d20befed6f55f981.jpg

Job Openings

The Noxious Weed Management Program will also continue during 2013, and we need people to help! Several employment opportunities are currently being advertised on the Tribe's website. The Tribe is hiring seasonal Noxious Weed Crew Leaders and Technicians for Spring/Summer 2013. The Tribal Member Preference Period remains open until Thursday, March 7 at 5 pm. Noxious Weed positions will open to the public on March 8. Interested applicants should visit the Tribal website (www.summitlaketribe.org/Employment_Opportunities.html) to view the job announcements and download an application. Completed applications must be hand delivered, mailed, or faxed (775-827-9678) to 1708 H Street, Sparks, NV 89431. Please contact Environmental Specialist, Heather Lyons, with any questions regarding the application process. She can be reached at heather.lyons@summitlaketribe.org or at 775-827-9678.



To enhance outreach to Tribal members and reduce cost to mail printed announcements, the Summit Lake Natural Resources Department is in the process of creating an employment notification list for future Tribal job openings. All interested Tribal Members should provide the office with current contact information (including e-mail addresses) if they would like to be electronically informed or receive mailings of future opportunities. Also, all job announcements are posted on the Tribal website or bulletin board in the Tribal Administrative Office in Sparks.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

To better serve the Tribal membership, each Council Member has adopted a specific area of Tribal business to oversee and act as a liaison for. If you have questions or concerns in any of the areas listed below, please contact that Council Member directly. Employees at the Tribal Office are not permitted to answer Tribal Member questions in the specific areas listed, and are only able to take a message to leave for the appropriate Council Member to be picked up at a later time. Council Members can be contacted either by phone or by email as indicated below, to discuss concerns related to any of these subjects or other topics you wish to discuss with them.

COUNCIL MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Randi DeSoto, Chairwoman

Phone: (775) 622-7520 Email: randi.desoto@summitlaketribe.org
Liaison for: Tribal Governance, general business of the Tribe

Delgadina Gonzalez, Vice-Chairwoman

Phone: (775) 622-7472 Email: delgadina.gonzalez@summitlaketribe.org
Liaison for: Education Assistance

Elizabeth DeLaLuz, Secretary/Treasurer

Phone: (775) 741-6088 Email: elizabeth.delaluz@summitlaketribe.org
Liaison for: Indian Child Welfare Act

Jerri Barlese, Council Member

Phone: (775) 453-3028 Email: jerrilynn.barlese@summitlaketribe.org
Liaison for: Sex Offender Registry

Jerry Barr, Council Member

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