



# Summit Lake Paiute Tribe Newsletter

March 2014

(Photo Courtesy of Rachael Youmans)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Spring! We begin this March 2014 Newsletter with several announcements, listed below. These are followed by descriptions of completed and upcoming projects that the Natural Resources Department will be undertaking in 2014.



### **Fishing Permits Included With Newsletter**

Your Fishing Permit for 2014 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" (over the age of 16) Tribal members and should be in your possession while fishing on the Reservation. The catch limit for 2014 was set by the Summit Lake Paiute Council at their February 15, 2014 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 that Tribal employees can scan your fish for PIT tags (more information on PIT tags found later in this newsletter).

### **Tribal Job Openings**

The Noxious Weed Management Program efforts will continue during the spring/summer of 2014. The Tribe will soon hire seasonal Noxious Weed Crew staff to assist with noxious weed control on the Reservation. The Tribal Member Preference Period begins on March 3, 2014 and extends until the close of business on March 17, 2014. Noxious Weed positions will open to the general public March 18, and remain open until filled. Interested applicants should visit the Tribal website ([www.summitlaketribe.org/Employment\\_Opportunities.html](http://www.summitlaketribe.org/Employment_Opportunities.html)) to view job announcements and download an application. Completed applications must be hand delivered or mailed to 1708 H Street, Sparks, NV 89431, or submitted by email to Environmental Specialist, Heather Lyons. She can also be reached with any questions regarding the application process by phone at 775-827-9670, or by e-mail at [heather.lyons@summitlaketribe.org](mailto:heather.lyons@summitlaketribe.org).



To enhance outreach to Tribal members and reduce mailing costs, the Summit Lake Natural Resources Department maintains an employment notification list for Tribal job opportunities. All interested Tribal Members should provide the office with current contact information (including e-mail addresses) if they would like to be informed of future opportunities. All job announcements will also be posted to the Tribal website listed above during the open application period.

### **Additional Employment Opportunities**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Carson City District Office is currently accepting applications for Administratively Determined (AD) Emergency Firefighter, Camp Crew, and/or Single Resource Casual Hire positions. Applications will be accepted until April 1, 2014. For additional position and application information, please contact Adrian Grayshield, the Assistant Fire Management Officer for the Western Nevada Agency BIA/BLM Fire Management Program, either on his office phone of (775) 887-3521 or on his cell phone: (775) 720-7443.

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## 2014 FISHING REGULATIONS

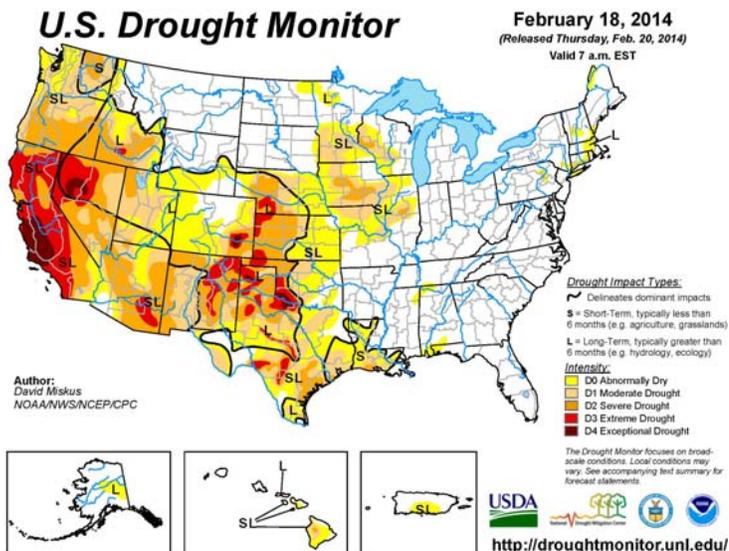
Although other regulations are under consideration, the regulations below are in place for the 2014 fishing season.

### 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 15, 2014 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 for August and September, 2014. (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.

*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 (775) 827-9670.*

## WEATHER UPDATE



### Drought Conditions

Due to the dry winter, much of the Western U.S., including the area around Summit Lake, is currently in a severe drought. This means that vegetation is extremely dry and ready to ignite, making the possibility of wildfire very high. Please use extreme caution when camping or operating vehicles in areas where fires could ignite. Make sure your campfires are completely out and carry a fire extinguisher when driving over dry vegetation.

If you see a wildfire on the Reservation, please alert a Tribal employee at the Tribal compound or follow the directions at the kiosk to contact emergency response authorities if no employees are available.

### Snowpack Monitoring

Reminder! It has been a very dry winter, but you can monitor the amount of snowpack in the upper watershed of Snow Creek by viewing the Tribe's Snotel data online at: <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/nwcc/site?sitenum=1194&state=nv>. The Snotel site records snowpack, temperature, and other parameters that help keep an eye on the climate at Summit Lake.

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## PROPOSED HUNTING AND FISHING REGULATION AMENDMENTS

The following proposed amendments to the Hunting and Fishing Regulations were discussed by the Summit Lake Paiute Council at the February 15, 2014 meeting. Language proposed for removal from the regulations are in red type and with a strikethrough, while language proposed for addition to the regulations is in green, bold, italic type. Written comments by tribal members on the proposed amendments should be submitted to the Tribal Administrative office and addressed to the attention of the Council no later than April 16, 2014. The Council plans to act on these proposed amendments at the April 19, 2014 meeting.

### Proposed Hunting and Fishing Regulation Amendments February 15, 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 ~~without further regulation~~ 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.  
~~Members of the Summit Lake Tribe may catch 50 Lahontan cutthroat trout per year for adult members and 25 Lahontan cutthroat trout for members under the age of 18 years.~~  
*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.

## 2013: THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### **Fish Run Management**

The Natural Resources Department managed the annual spawning run at the Mahogany Creek fish trap from April 01 through June 05, 2013. A total of 894 Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) were manually counted, which includes 876 fish caught at the fish trap and released upstream, as well as, 18 fish harvested by Tribal members. 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 in the upper section of the stream near the Reservation's northeastern boundary. The "Riverwatcher" systems recorded the number of fish passing through those two points from April 2 through July 10, 2013, providing the Tribe with information on where fish travel during the spring spawning run. This was the seventh year that the Tribe has used this technology to collect data on spawning LCT.



Maintenance Worker Lonnie Jackson helped out with the 2013 annual LCT spawn run.

### **Stream Habitat Surveys**

In addition to monitoring the fish run, Natural Resources Department staff conducted fish habitat surveys along Mahogany Creek during the spring and summer of 2013. During mid-June, Tribal staff members were trained to collect General Aquatic Wildlife Survey or "GAWS" data by three Nevada Department of Wildlife employees at sites located off the Reservation. GAWS data has been collected on and near the Reservation in the past and is useful for describing the general health of streams, especially fish spawning habitat. During the second week of July, Natural Resources Department staff applied what they learned in training by assessing six sites along Mahogany Creek within the Reservation boundaries. GAWS data collected at each of these points will be compared to historic data to better understand how stream conditions have changed over the last two decades.



Environmental Specialist Heather Lyons conducts benthic macroinvertebrate sampling.

### **Stream Invertebrate Surveys**

The term "benthic macroinvertebrates" – "BMI" for short – refers to a variety of aquatic insects and invertebrates that live in streams and lakes. For example, mayflies, caddisflies, stoneflies, dragonflies, beetles, aquatic worms, snails and leeches are all considered BMI. Larger animals, like fish and birds, rely on these tasty bugs for food. In general, high BMI diversity indicates healthy streams.

During the summer of 2013, significant progress was made toward developing a BMI monitoring program for Mahogany Creek. The Tribe hired Dan Mosley of Native Environmental Services to train Natural Resources Department staff in BMI collection and identification. He also provided professional guidance toward the development of a BMI Index specific to the Summit Lake Watershed.

### **Noxious Weed Management**

The Natural Resources Department continued with Noxious Weed control efforts during the spring of 2013. Due to funding delays, the noxious weed field season was shorter than usual and focused on sensitive areas near Mahogany Creek and Snow Creek. Luckily, funding has already been secured for the 2014 season and the Natural Resources Department is looking forward to a fully funded Noxious Weed Management Program.

In addition, three noxious weed informational signs and one kiosk, which have been in development for several years, were completed and installed at the entrances to the Reservation, as well as, the Tribal Compound. The signs and kiosk will keep

both Tribal Members and visitors up-to-date on how they can help prevent the spread of invasive weeds. The kiosk will also provide information about where and when herbicides will be applied on the Reservation, drought condition updates and fire threat levels in the area. Please take a moment to look at these new resources the next time you visit Summit Lake.

### **Watershed Monitoring**

The Natural Resources Department hired two Watershed Monitors during the late summer and early fall of 2013 to assess the condition of the Reservation boundary fence by horseback. The Watershed Monitors spent several weeks riding the entire perimeter of the boundary fence documenting damaged sections. Natural Resources Department staff will use this information to prioritize future fencing projects. The Watershed Monitors also herded 28 wild horses off of the Reservation in accordance with the Tribe's feral horse management plan. Trespass wild horses are considered a nuisance because they damage fences and natural springs, and run-off from their waste pollutes Summit Lake and its tributaries. Please keep all gates on the Reservation boundary fence closed to prevent trespass livestock and wild horse access inside the Reservation. A map depicting the Reservation boundary can be found later in this newsletter.



One of the new noxious weed informational signs now installed on the Reservation.

### **Capital Improvements**

Tribal Maintenance Workers continued improvements to the Tribal Compound throughout the 2013 field season. The major project of 2013 was installing water lines to serve facilities within the Tribal Compound. Also, porches were constructed for the newly installed mobile homes. Structural improvements that enhance Tribal accommodations will continue in 2014.

### **Stream Gage**

In the fall of 2013, the Tribe contracted Innovative Hydrology of Auburn, California to assist with the installation of flow gaging stations at several points along Mahogany Creek and Snow Creek. Of particular interest to the Tribe was reactivating the former U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) gaging station located in Upper Mahogany Creek. Innovative Hydrology has participated in similar projects throughout the world and was a valuable partner to the Tribe in this effort. The former USGS station was retrofitted with a continuous flow monitoring system equipped with a satellite transmitter and solar-powered batteries. Transmission of flow data by satellite makes it possible to monitor stream conditions remotely.



In 2013 this weather station was installed in the Tribal Compound.

In November, additional gaging stations were installed on Snow Creek and the lower section of Mahogany Creek. Data collected from all gaging stations will be used in conjunction with stream discharge data measured manually by staff to develop accurate stream flow models, which will lead to a better understanding of the Summit Lake hydrologic system and how climate affects stream flow of the tributaries to Summit Lake.

### **Weather Station**

To track current weather conditions and long term climate trends at the Reservation, the Tribe, in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Bureau of Reclamation, purchased and installed an Onset HOB0 weather station and data logger with the ability to transmit data wirelessly. Installation of the weather station was completed in December 2013. The station is located in the Tribal Compound and records many variables – precipitation, temperature, wind speed, etc. – on a continuous basis. Recorded data is then sent to an external website that can be accessed by Natural Resources Department staff in the Sparks office. This makes it possible for staff to monitor weather conditions without travelling to the Reservation. In the future, the weather station may be relocated to lower Mahogany Creek, near the mouth of the lake.

## UPCOMING WILDLIFE POPULATION STUDIES AT SUMMIT LAKE

During the 2014 field season, the Natural Resources Department will begin population studies on two different species: Lahontan cutthroat trout and sage grouse. Information gathered from these studies is important to understanding the health and size of the population and in making future management decisions.

### **Sage grouse**

In 2012, the Tribe was awarded a Tribal Wildlife Grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to study the population of Greater sage grouse living on and around the Reservation and determine the habitats that they are using at various times of the year. To do this, Tribal employees will be catching sage grouse with nets and putting a small, necklace-type transmitter on them. Monthly throughout the rest of the year, employees will use handheld antennas and receivers to relocate the birds and note the type of habitat where they are found.



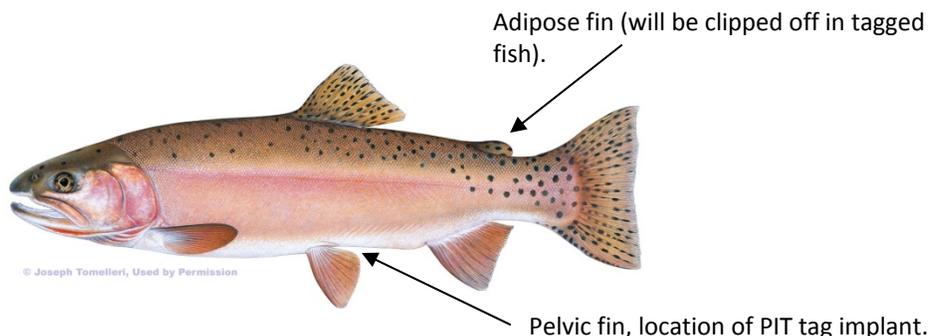
A sage hen with a radio telemetry collar attached. Similar collars will be used in the Tribe's study.

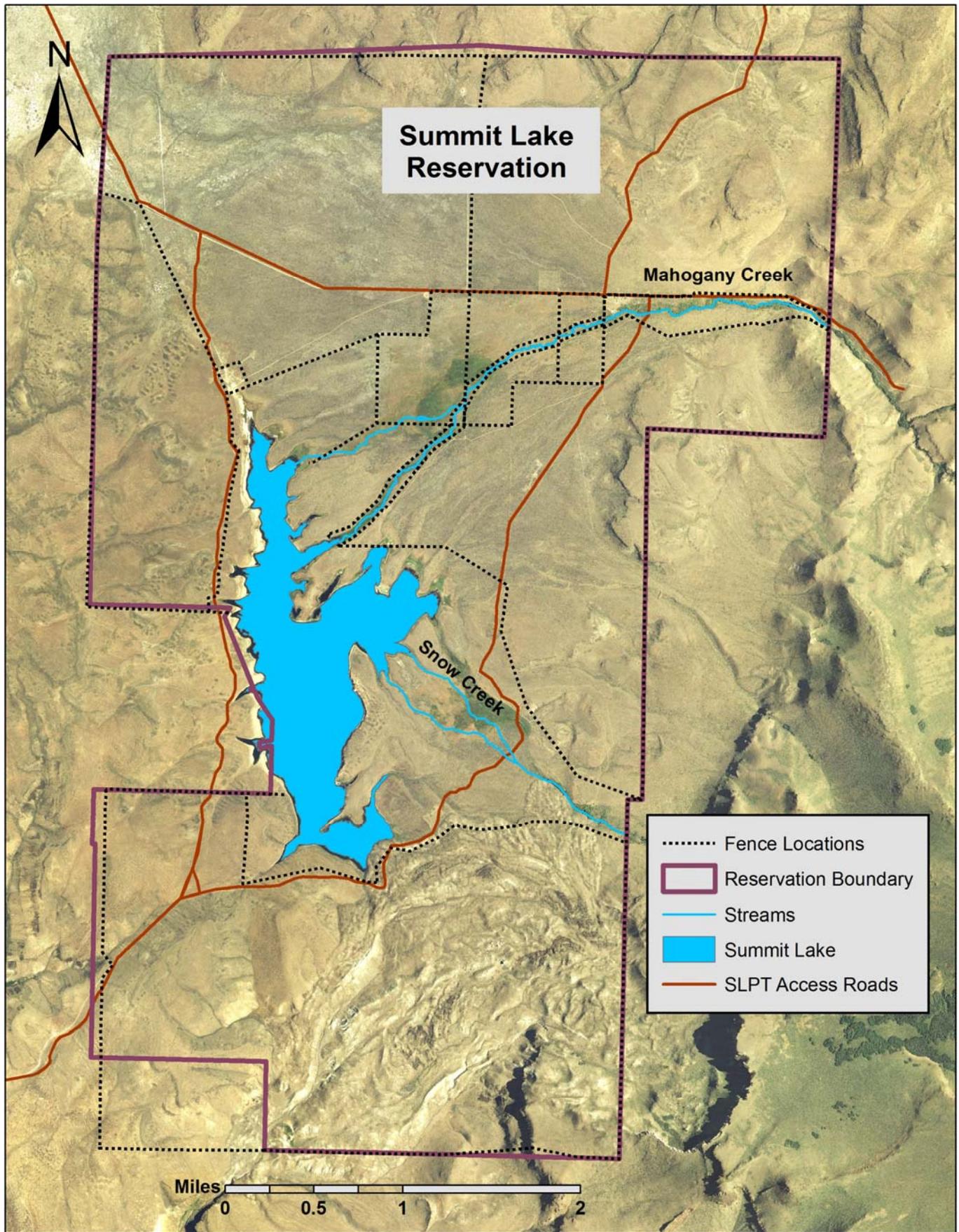
Due to declines of sage grouse observed on the Reservation the past 20 or more years, and the need to gather as much data as possible on this population, your reports of sage grouse sightings or mortalities would be very helpful. In addition and similar to PIT tags for fish, if you hunt sage grouse and recover one wearing a collar or metal leg band, please bring the bird to a Tribal employee so that information on that bird can be recorded and the equipment recovered. The equipment can be reused to further the study. Staff can be contacted about this information by stopping at the Tribal Compound, calling the Tribal Administrative Office at (775) 827-9670, or emailing Tribal Fish and Wildlife Biologist Rachael Youmans at [Rachael.Youmans@summitlaketribe.org](mailto:Rachael.Youmans@summitlaketribe.org).

### **Lahontan cutthroat trout**

The Tribe also received a Tribal Wildlife Grant in 2013 to begin a study on Summit Lake's Lahontan cutthroat trout population. Throughout the summer of 2014, Tribal employees will catch large numbers of fish and insert passive integrated transponder (PIT) tags in fish that are at least 6-inches long. A remote PIT tag scanner installed near lower Mahogany Creek will read and record individual tag numbers of any fish that passes by, allowing employees to track fish movement throughout the system.

PIT 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 (see diagram below). In addition, due to the need to estimate natural mortality and to tag as many fish as possible captured from the stream and lake for this study, recreational and subsistence (i.e., for food) fishing will be closed for August and September 2014.





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### MISSING ADDRESSES

The Tribe does not have a correct address on file for the members listed below. If you are in contact with these individuals, please have them call the Tribal office at (775) 827-9670 to update their information.

Chanell Barlese	Jennifer Barlese	Richard Barlese	Robyn Burdette	Jeffery Burke
Kimberly Cabrera	Melissa Eller	Utahna Enriquez	Jacklyn Frank	Kourtney Frank
Loren Frank	Craig Garfield	Christina Gonzalez	Michele Haas	Chrystyna Hernandez
Eagle Huitt	Jessica Jacobs	Bonnie Larios	Lisa Myers	Lisa Sterns
Christopher Townsend	Marcella Townsend	Ashley Trujillo	Elisa Trujillo	Katheryn Trujillo
Ryan Trujillo	Sydney Williams	Gina Wilson		

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:delgadina.gonzalez@summitlaketribe.org)

Liaison for: Education Assistance

##### **Elizabeth DeLaLuz, Secretary/Treasurer**

Phone: (775) 741-6088      Email: [elizabeth.delaluz@summitlaketribe.org](mailto:elizabeth.delaluz@summitlaketribe.org)

Liaison for: Indian Child Welfare Act

##### **Jerri Barlese, Council Member**

Phone: (775) 453-3028      Email: [jerrilynn.barlese@summitlaketribe.org](mailto:jerrilynn.barlese@summitlaketribe.org)

Liaison for: Sex Offender Registry

##### **Jerry Barr, Council Member**

Phone: (775) 685-6467      Email: [jerry.barr@summitlaketribe.org](mailto:jerry.barr@summitlaketribe.org)

Liaison for: Enrollment Activities