

Lassen County Board of Supervisors
Mr. Bob Pyle, Chairman
221 S. Roop, Suite 4
Susanville, CA 96130

Dear Mr. Pyle:

In response to your inquiry, this is an update to the Board, as to current watershed planning and management activities within the Eagle Lake Basin. The three activities listed below may be of interest to the Board:

- 1) **Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP).** The development of an Integrate Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP) allows regions and watersheds to become eligible for state funding, most notably Prop 84 watershed management funds. Access to this funding is one of the main objectives or incentives to completing an IRWMP. The development of the IRWMP is a two-step process. The first step is referred to as the Regional Acceptance Process through which DWR approves specific geographic regions which are then allowed to pursue funding for an IRWMP. The RAP defines the boundary, the water management issues, state and local agencies with statutory water authority, local stakeholders, and a process by which an integrated water management approach can be implemented. The area to be covered by this plan includes Eagle Lake Basin, Honey Lake Basin, and Madeline Plains.

The original time-line proposed by DWR for the 2010 RAP cycle was to open solicitations for new RAP's in mid-summer. That timeline has been pushed back, and we are now hearing mid to late October although no firm date has been released. Even so, we have begun moving forward at the local level developing our RAP document so that when the new call does come out we will be ready to respond within the allotted time frame. We have an ad-hoc committee that is moving forward on the RAP and in fact we are meeting with DWR representative this afternoon (Sept 28).

- 2) **Pine Creek Surface and Groundwater Hydrology** grant proposal to Sierra Nevada Conservancy. This project is being led by Forest Hydrologist Shawn Wheelock from the Lassen N.F. Mr. Wheelock hopes to complete his PhD on the basis of this work, and his proposal has been supported by County Planning and Cooperative Extension Depts. The objective of the proposed study is to examine surface and groundwater interactions within the Pine Creek watershed to better understand surface water flows that are important for Eagle Lake trout migration and influence lake level. The results of Mr. Wheelock's work should help define priority sites/actions for watershed restoration. If the grant proposal is successful, field work should be able to take place in spring/summer of 2011.

- 3) **Re-establish the gauging station at the mouth of Pine Creek.** For several years there has been no accurate record of outflow from Pine Creek into Eagle Lake. In a previous round of budget cutting and program constraints, DWR pulled the recorder out of the gauging station that had been established at the Pine Creek fish trap/weir. However, the stand-pipe is still in place and appears to be in good condition. Lassen N.F. indicates an interest and potential willingness to provide maintenance and oversight of the station if a new recording device can be installed. Recently, I spoke to John Clements at DWR who recommended a recording device, offered DWR support for installation and can provide flow curves that are used to calculate water levels recorded within the stand-pipe to volume of flow. A proposal will be submitted to the Lassen N.F. Resource Advisory Committee to provide funding for a new recorder.

Once operational the gauging station will provide fundamental data for the surface water inflow to Eagle Lake from the largest tributary in the basin. This data can and should be used when assessing and managing water resources within Pine Creek and the Eagle Lake Basin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Lile". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "L".

David Lile
County Director, UC Cooperative Extension