



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service  
Lassen  
National  
Forest

2550 Riverside Drive  
Susanville, CA 96130  
(530) 257-2151 Voice  
(530) 252-6624 TTY  
(530) 252-6428 Fax

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File Code: 2300

Date: October 6, 2010

Bob Baiocchi  
President  
California Fisheries and Water Unlimited

Dear Mr. Baiocchi:

I am in receipt of your letter dated September 24, 2010, which I received via email regarding your concerns pertaining to boating and fishing access at the Eagle Lake Gallatin Marina. The Lassen National Forest (LNF) also has special interest in the declining water level of Eagle Lake and recognizes that boating access for fishing is being compromised by this unfortunate current trend. We understand the importance of Eagle Lake's trophy trout fishery and its recreational values for fishing and recreating enthusiasts.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide you with an update of our efforts that have recently been attempted and that are now underway to help facilitate continued access for boat launching at the Gallatin Marina. Annual dredging has been taking place at the Gallatin Marina, but just as soon as it has been done, northerly winds redeposit silt back into the harbor. Dredging at the Gallatin Marina is no longer an effective means of improving access to the lake, as the water is simply not coming into the harbor.

The Forest has just very recently entered into an agreement with California Department of Boating and Waterways that secured emergency funding and design specifications for construction of a low water boat launch at the Gallatin Marina. From an engineering perspective, the Lassen National Forest is ready to go to contracting to advertise construction of a low water boat launch.

However, before the contract can be advertised, all of the necessary permits with all involved regulatory agencies must be in place. The Forest is currently working through the permitting process with all pertinent regulatory agencies, such as the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, California Department of Fish & Game, and California State Lands Commission. As you know, the Forest must also comply with NEPA and CEQA requirements. We are scheduled to meet with an Army Corps representative this week at the Gallatin Marina. As soon as we can get through all of the necessary prerequisite steps and obtain the required permits, construction can commence for the low water boat launch.

As per your second request contained in the second email, the LNF does not have management plans specific to the trout fishery and boating facilities. Management of the trout fishery is consistent with the Department of Fish and Game's Eagle Lake Management Plan (2005) and LNF facilities management is consistent with our Land and Resource Management Plan.



We understand and appreciate your concern regarding continued boating access to Eagle Lake and we are working toward accommodating continued use for that purpose at this time. However, we also recognize that if lake levels continue to decline, we may need to explore other long-term low water launching access options.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Jack T. Walton for*  
**JERRY BIRD**  
Forest Supervisor