



U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office

Conserving the Biological Diversity of the Great Basin, Eastern Sierra, and Mojave Desert

Frequently Asked Questions

90-Day Finding for Lahontan Cutthroat Trout

Q. What is the Lahontan cutthroat trout and where is it found?

A. The Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi*) is the largest of the cutthroat species and is the state fish of Nevada weighing up to 41 pounds. They are named “cutthroat” because of the bright red coloration they develop on the underside their jaw during spawning. This moderately long-lived predator (5 to 9 years) feeds on chub, suckers, and other fish species that are less than 15 inches in length.

Lahontan cutthroat trout occur in cool flowing water with available cover from well-vegetated and stable stream banks. They prefer areas where there is stream velocity breaks and relatively silt free, rocky riffle-run areas. They also occupy five lakes, including Pyramid Lake, Walker Lake, Fallen Leaf Lake, and two small populations in Summit and Independence Lakes.

Q. Why did the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) prepare a 90-Day Finding for Lahontan cutthroat trout?

A. The Service received a petition dated December 18, 2006, from Dynamic Action on Wells Group, Inc. (DAWG), requesting the Service delist the Lahontan cutthroat trout. Under the Endangered Species Act (Act), the Service is required to review the petition to decide whether it contains substantial scientific information that removing the species from protection under the Act may be warranted.

Q. What was the result of the 90-day finding?

A. The Service found the petition did not contain substantial scientific information to warrant removing the Lahontan cutthroat trout from the Federal List of Threatened and Endangered Wildlife and Plants.

A species may be delisted for one of three reasons: extinction, recovery, or original data error. Recovery needs for Lahontan cutthroat trout are discussed in a 1995 range-wide recovery plan and 2003 short-term action plans for the Truckee and Walker River basins. Recovery criteria set in these documents has not been met.

The focus of the petitioners claim was on recovery in the Walker and Truckee River basins. However, there is no evidence that the Lahontan cutthroat trout has been

recovered in those basins or throughout its range and petitioner's claims were not supported by data they provided or data in the Service's files.

Q. Where can more information about the finding be found?

A. A copy of the finding about Lahontan cutthroat trout is available on the Internet at <http://www.fws.gov/nevada> or at <http://www.regulations.gov>, or by contacting Bob D. Williams, Field Supervisor or Selena Werdon, Assistant Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office, 1340 Financial Blvd., Suite 234, Reno, NV 89502; telephone (775) 861-6300; facsimile (775) 861-6301.