



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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Media Advisory

MARBLE BLUFF FISH PASSAGE FACILITY, PYRAMID LAKE, NV...The US Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) will provide an opportunity at 1:00 pm, April 4, 2005, at the Marble Bluff Fish Passage Facility, for media to get a first-hand look at the beginning of the 2005 endangered cui-ui spawning migration.

The redesigned fish lock is moving approximately 2,000 of the cui-ui through every 5 minutes. "I anticipate this years above average snow-pack will support a large cui-ui migration for spawning in the Truckee River this year," said Lisa Heki, the Service's Fisheries Program Manager. "We already have 150,000 fish above Marble Bluff Dam and anticipate a long migration season. We have the potential to see a record run this year." This years run follows a four-year drought with only small runs in 2002 and 2003, with no runs at all in 2001 and 2004.

"I'm extremely encouraged with the age and quantity of the fish that are coming through this year," said Heki. "There is a good mix of very healthy, large size males and females averaging from five to eight pounds."

The cui-ui were listed as endangered in 1967 and were on the original Endangered Species List when the Act was passed in 1973. The cui-ui are only found in Pyramid Lake and use the lower portions of the Truckee River for spawning. Cui-ui are known to be long lived. A female with viable eggs was documented to be 51 years old.

It is hoped that the protracted cui-ui migration will have a positive impact on the successful fledging of white pelicans nesting Anaho Island in the Pyramid Lake area. Pelican fledgling success over the past four years has been low since the pelicans are dependent on the runs for nourishment.

The fish lock at Marble Fish Passage Facility was reconstructed in 1998 into a fish lock system. The Bureau of Reclamation maintains the fish lock and it is operated by the Service. The Dam was designed to stop head-cut in the river and as an impoundment for fish passage.

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