

Contact: Lynne Foster, Nevada Department of Wildlife, (775) 688-1997
Jeannie Stafford, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, (775) 861-6336

Date: 11/3/05

Private Landowners Offered “Safe Harbor” in Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Recovery

A safe harbor agreement was signed on Wednesday, offering private landowners an opportunity to enter into agreements guaranteeing no further restrictions on the use of their land if they improve, restore, or create habitat for Lahontan Cutthroat Trout. Steve Thompson, California/Nevada Operations Manager for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Terry Crawforth, Director of the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), signed the agreement covering privately-owned lands in the northwest portion of the state.

Threatened and endangered species often occur on private land. “Safe harbor” agreements guarantee that landowners won’t incur any new restrictions on the use of their land if they improve, restore, or create habitat for endangered species.

Because of the habits of the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT), landowner cooperation is crucial across a wide geographic area to ensure the survival and recovery of the species.

“NDOW, as the permit holder, will be working with individual landowners to develop written agreements,” explained Crawforth. “These agreements make landowners critical partners in conservation. Together we’ll work towards de-listing of Lahontan cutthroat trout by bringing private land, which is usually the richest in soil and water, into play so restoration and enhancement of the species can occur.” he continued.

-more-

Nevada Department of Wildlife
Experience Nevada’s Wildlife . . . It’s Worth It!

Southern Region
4747 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89108
Ph (702) 486-5127 Fax (702) 486-5133

Headquarters / Western Region
1100 Valley Road Reno, NV 89512
Ph (775) 688-1500 Fax (775) 688-1595
www.ndow.org

Eastern Region
60 Youth Center Road Elko, NV 89801
Ph (775) 777-2300

“Recovery of endangered species takes strong partners and cooperative landowners; it’s a group effort. We’re hopeful that this agreement will allow landowners to pursue the conservation ethic that comes naturally to them,” said Thompson. “I would like to thank NDOW and their staff for being proactive and looking for innovative ways to further the recovery of Lahontan cutthroat trout in the State.”

Many agencies have worked cooperatively in habitat restoration and networking populations of LCT. Efforts began with the formation of the Northwest Distinct Population Segment team in 1999. Team members included NDOW, the Bureau of Land Management’s Vale and Winnemucca districts, the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, the University of Nevada, Reno, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife’s Fisheries Program.

In the mid-1800s, Lahontan cutthroat trout occupied 11 lakes and 3,600 miles of streams in northern Nevada, eastern California, and southern Oregon. Today, LCT occupy five lakes and 482 miles of streams. The species was listed as endangered in 1970 and reclassified as a threatened species in 1975.

The Nevada Department of Wildlife is the state agency responsible for the protection, restoration and management of fish and wildlife resources, and the promotion of boating safety on Nevada’s waters. Wildlife offices are located in Las Vegas, Henderson, Winnemucca, Fallon, Elko, and Reno. For more information, contact the agency web site at

-more-

Nevada Department of Wildlife <i>Experience Nevada’s Wildlife . . . It’s Worth It!</i>		
Southern Region 4747 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89108 Ph (702) 486-5127 Fax (702) 486-5133	Headquarters / Western Region 1100 Valley Road Reno, NV 89512 Ph (775) 688-1500 Fax (775) 688-1595 www.ndow.org	Eastern Region 60 Youth Center Road Elko, NV 89801 Ph (775) 777-2300

www.ndow.org.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

-30-

Photo captions:

(1) Steve Thompson, California/Nevada Operations Manager for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and Terry Crawford, Director, Nevada Department of Wildlife, sign the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Safe Harbor Agreement.

(2) Steve Thompson, California/Nevada Operations Manager for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), and Terry Crawford, Director, Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), sign the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Safe Harbor Agreement while Stephanie Byers, USFWS biologist, Lisa Heki, USFWS Fisheries Program Manager, and Alan Jenne, NDOW biologist, look on.

Nevada Department of Wildlife <i>Experience Nevada's Wildlife . . . It's Worth It!</i>		
Southern Region 4747 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89108 Ph (702) 486-5127 Fax (702) 486-5133	Headquarters / Western Region 1100 Valley Road Reno, NV 89512 Ph (775) 688-1500 Fax (775) 688-1595 www.ndow.org	Eastern Region 60 Youth Center Road Elko, NV 89801 Ph (775) 777-2300