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News Release



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SERVICE WILL NOT CONDUCT IN-DEPTH REVIEW TO CONSIDER REMOVING THE LAHONTAN CUTTHROAT TROUT FROM FEDERAL PROTECTION

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced today that a petition filed by the Dynamic Action on Wells Group, Inc. (DAWG), does not contain substantial scientific information to warrant removing the Lahontan cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi*) from the Federal List of Threatened and Endangered Wildlife and Plants. A species may be removed from the list for one of three reasons: extinction, recovery, or original data error.

The focus of the petitioners claim is that the species had been recovered in the Walker and Truckee River Basins. However, there is no evidence that the Lahontan cutthroat trout, listed as Threatened in 1970, 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. 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 and the recovery criteria set in these documents has not been met.

“We did not find that the petition presented substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that removing Lahontan cutthroat trout from the list may be warranted,” said Bob Williams, Field Supervisor for the Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office. “Therefore, we will not be initiating an in-depth status review in response to this petition.”

Historically, Lahontan cutthroat trout occurred in a wide variety of cold-water habitats including large terminal alkaline lakes, alpine lakes, slow meandering rivers, mountain rivers and small headwater tributary streams. Generally, 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 there are two small populations in Summit and Independence Lakes.

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,

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The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov>.