



May 5, 2023

Valerie Aubrey
Eagle Lake Guardians
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Spalding Tract Eagle Lake
Susanville CA 96130

Sent via email eaglelakeguardians@yahoo.com

Dear Valerie,

Thank you for reaching out and requesting an update on the activities of Trout Unlimited (TU) in the Eagle Lake and Pine Creek Watersheds. Since it sounds like it's been a while since you have heard from us, I will go back to 2016, then to more recent activities, and then look ahead to activities we hope to be involved in.

When we spoke, you mentioned your familiarity with the work of Sabra Purdy in the watershed. Since I just began with TU in November of last year, I called Sabra to make sure I could represent her work in this update. Sabra told me that, working on behalf of American Rivers and in partnership with TU, she conducted Stream Condition Inventories (SCI) at three Locations along Pine Creek in 2016, at Bogard Meadow, Confluence Meadow, and Logan Springs Meadow (see attached map).

As you may already know, SCI is an inventory and monitoring program that collects "intensive and repeatable data from stream reaches to document existing stream conditions and allow reliable comparisons over time within or between stream reaches" (USFS 2005). Following Sabra's work, both the Bogard Meadow (2021) and Confluence Meadow (2022) have undergone restoration implementation with an aim to improve overall ecological function, including to improve spawning habitat for Eagle Lake Rainbow Trout (ELRT).

In November 2020, TU secured a grant from the Wildlife Conservation Board to prepare a restoration design and secure permits for restoration implementation at Logan Springs Meadow. I would be glad to send you a copy of the restoration design if helpful. Based on that design, and in partnership with Lassen National Forest and the Eagle Lake Ranger District (ELRD), TU has applied for funding to implement restoration at Logan Springs Meadow, beginning in the fall of this year and continuing through the fall of 2024. We expect to hear within the next month if our proposal will be funded. Like the restoration designs at Bogard and Confluence meadows, the goals of the project are to restore hydrologic and geomorphic processes at the site, and improve overall ecosystem health, including spawning habitat and late season base flows for ELRT.

TU is also actively participating in the Pine Creek Watershed Coordinated Resource Management Planning Group (CRMPG) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The TAC has met twice this year, and one of the emerging priorities is to begin the restoration planning and design process for Champs Flat Meadow and McCoy Flat Meadow. As you know, these two meadows are much bigger than the three mentioned above. They are also both closer to the lake, and thus potentially of greater near-term importance to Eagle Lake and ELRT. TU and American Rivers are in the early stages of developing a proposal to raise funds to begin the design process, and ELRD is considering including both meadows in its program of work to begin the NEPA process necessary to authorize restoration. TU may begin some preliminary monitoring – including SCI and vegetation mapping based on satellite imagery – at these sites as early as this summer.

Finally, TU is also considering the viability of some community outreach projects in the region, and two ideas that have surfaced in conversations with ELRD include a possible volunteer tree planting at Bogard Meadow, and the collection of native seed material for future revegetation efforts in Pine Creek.

I think that about covers all of TU's activities. I would be glad to discuss any of these in more detail with you if helpful. And I look forward to meeting you in person soon, as I plan to make several trips to Pine Creek in the coming months.

Sincerely yours,



Michael Cameron
Northern Sierra Project Manager

C: Jessica Strickland, TU Inland Trout Program Director
Dan Johnson, TU Desert Terminal Lakes Project Coordinator

Meadows in the Pine Creek Watershed

