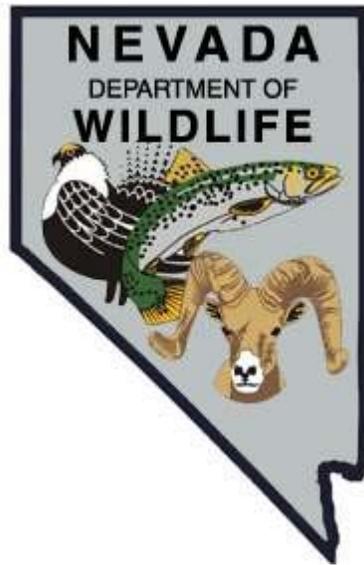


NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
STATEWIDE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT



FEDERAL AID JOB PROGRESS REPORTS
F-20-52
2016

EUREKA COUNTY
SMALL LAKES and RESERVOIRS
EASTERN REGION



**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES DIVISION
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

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**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES DIVISION
ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT**

State: *Nevada*
Project Title: *Statewide Fisheries Program*
Job Title: *Eureka County Small Lakes and Reservoirs*
Period Covered: *January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016*

SUMMARY

In April of 2016, Tonkin Reservoir was stocked with 517 Shasta strain rainbow trout. Tonkin Reservoir was not electroshocked due to water being drawn down for a construction project on the dam that started in August. The objective for JD Reservoir was not completed in 2016, but it is expected to occur in the spring of 2017.

BACKGROUND

JD Reservoir

JD Reservoir, constructed prior to 1955, is on a privately owned ranch, which was purchased by Barrick Goldstrike Mining Company in 2012. The reservoir is located 40 miles north of Eureka and covers approximately 10 to 12 surface acres, with a maximum depth of nine feet and an average depth of 3.7 ft. Historic surveys, prior to 1988, documented northern pike, largemouth bass, rainbow trout, brown trout, speckled dace, redbreast shiner, sucker, and chub in the reservoir. On May 16, 1984, the dam structure failed, completely draining the reservoir. In March of 1985, the dam was reconstructed and the reservoir was presumed void of fish, as it was determined that all the fish had washed downstream. Access for surveys and angling at the reservoir has been restricted for several years, with the last documented survey occurring in 1987 finding only northern pike. On September 29, 2015, a chemical treatment was conducted to remove northern pike from this system. The landowners, Barrick Goldstrike Corp, have expressed that they have no desire to make the reservoir into a public fishery.

Tonkin Reservoir

Tonkin Reservoir was constructed in the early 1960's and repairs/upgrades to the dam have been done twice since then. The most recent improvement to the dam occurred in 2008 that increased its height and water level by several feet. The reservoir covers less than 10 surface acres and has a maximum depth of 18 ft. The reservoir sits at an elevation of 6,470 ft and receives water from Denay Creek, which originates from a spring approximately one mile above the reservoir. The reservoir receives 500 to 1,000 hatchery trout every spring and relies heavily on natural reproduction in the inflow creek. Starting in August of 2016, repairs were made to the dam structure by the current landowner, Barrick Goldstrike Mining Company. The water level was reduced

for this project to allow work to occur on the outlet structure. After completion of the dam work, the water level was allowed to increase as the fall season progressed.

OBJECTIVES and APPROACHES

JD Reservoir

Objective: General Sport Fisheries Management

Approaches:

- Conduct a single nighttime, electrofishing survey of three established transects during the summer.

Tonkin Reservoir

Objective: General Sport Fisheries Management

Approaches:

- Conduct a pre-stocking evaluation of road conditions and water quality/quantity.
- Conduct a single nighttime electrofishing survey during late summer.

PROCEDURES

Electroshocking surveys are conducted using the electroshocking barge with the fixed probes used as the anode and the barge serving as the cathode. The majority of the reservoir shoreline is shocked due to the small size and the need to evaluate the entire reservoir.

FINDINGS

JD Reservoir

After the chemical treatment to remove northern pike from JD Reservoir in 2015, it was felt that a 1.5-year delay between the treatment and a post-treatment survey would be best. This delay allowed for at least one spawning season, which would increase the chances of locating any surviving pike. This post treatment survey was not completed in 2016, but a survey is scheduled to occur in the spring of 2017.

Tonkin Reservoir

On April 21, 517 Shasta strain rainbow trout were stocked into the reservoir from Spring Creek Rearing Station. The electroshocking survey of Tonkin reservoir was not conducted due to work on the reservoir dam structure. This work required the reservoir

water level to be dropped, which restricted access to the reservoir. This survey will be rescheduled for 2017 to monitor the reservoir after the water fluctuations occurred in 2016.

MANAGEMENT REVIEW

The single approach for JD Reservoir was not completed in 2016, but a survey is expected to occur in the spring of 2017.

Only one of the two approaches for Tonkin Reservoir was completed in 2016, with fish being stocked in April. The objective of electroshocking will be pushed back one year to 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS

JD Reservoir

A new lessee is now at the JD Ranch, but it is expected that the spring electroshocking survey will still occur.

Tonkin Reservoir

Reschedule the fish population survey for 2017 to evaluate carryover in rainbow trout and monitor changes in the fishery due to construction and angling impacts.

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Date: January 2017