NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
STATEWIDE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

FEDERAL AID JOB PROGRESS REPORTS
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URBAN FISHERIES
WESTERN REGION

NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES DIVISION
ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

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NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES DIVISION
ANNUAL PROJECT REPORT

State: *Nevada*
Project Title: *Statewide Fisheries Program*
Job Title: *Western Region Urban Fisheries*
Period Covered: *January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014*

SUMMARY

Although environmental conditions were less than favorable, Western Region Urban Fisheries performed well in 2014 and continued to provide easy-to-access fisheries for local anglers. Management of these fisheries is typically dependent on annual stocking programs that primarily encourage use in the spring and fall when water temperatures are favorable for trout stocking and angling.

BACKGROUND

As the State of Nevada grows, its population continues to become increasingly urbanized. Urban sprawl is making it more difficult for people to find fishing opportunities near town. In addition, changing family dynamics is resulting in fewer children being exposed to the sport of fishing. Nevada's urban ponds are an invaluable means of providing angling opportunities to people living in an urban setting. Nevada currently has 18 urban fisheries throughout the State, which account for nearly 87,000 angler days per year.

Urban pond fisheries management includes meeting angler-approved goals, recruiting anglers, providing facilities for free-fishing day events and fishing clinics, providing stocking programs that support diverse sport fisheries (coldwater and warmwater), and providing effective and timely outreach to anglers regarding fishing opportunities. The Urban Pond Fisheries Management Concept specifies angler success rates of 0.25 to 0.75 fish per hour and 1.0 to 2.0 fish per angler day.

OBJECTIVES

General Management Objectives:

- Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data.
- Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use.
- As part of the annual stocking program, 4,000 channel catfish will be stocked in each of Sparks Marina (City of Sparks), Paradise Ponds (City of Reno), Mitch Park Pond (town of Gardnerville), and Liberty Pond (Churchill County Parks and Recreation). Liberty Pond may also receive 500 largemouth bass, if available. Mitch Park Pond may receive 500 largemouth bass and 1,000

bluegill, if available.

PROCEDURES

All Western Region Urban Ponds

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. Unscheduled visits were made to various urban fisheries throughout the year for collecting creel survey data. Information on angler harvest, effort, and origin were recorded. Harvested fish were measured to fork length in millimeters. Opportunistic angler surveys occurred primarily during other scheduled work at or nearby the ponds.

Angler use and success were assessed through the Mail-in Angler Questionnaire Survey conducted in 2013. Angler questionnaire data was derived from a survey mailed to 30,000 license purchasers.

Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics. Annual stocking programs and schedules were provided to the Fisheries Division and hatchery personnel in the spring of 2014. Prior to scheduled trout stocking and during the course of other duties, trips were made to Western Region urban fisheries to visually ascertain water levels and measure water temperatures. As water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use fluctuated, stocking programs were altered as needed.

As part of the annual stocking program, 4,000 channel catfish will be stocked in each of Sparks Marina (City of Sparks), Paradise Ponds (City of Reno), Mitch Park Pond (Town of Gardnerville), and Liberty Pond (Churchill County Parks and Recreation). Liberty Pond may also receive 500 largemouth bass, if available. Mitch Park Pond may receive 500 largemouth bass and 1,000 bluegill, if available. Channel catfish were not purchased and stocked in 2014. Ongoing drought conditions hampered efforts to introduce or augment warmwater fish populations throughout the region; neither Liberty Pond nor Mitch Park Pond received warmwater fish in 2014.

FINDINGS

Baily Fishing Pond (Carson City Co.)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated use at 227 anglers and 1,308 angler-days in 2013. Total catch was 3,653 fish and the success rate was 2.79 fish per angler-day. Baily Fishing Pond continued to be very popular among anglers during 2014.

Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics. Water conditions for Baily Fishing Pond were suitable for trout stocking throughout the year. Stocking occurred monthly between February and November (Table 1). Coordination occurred between Conservation Education Division and the hatchery for providing fish during clinics and events.

Table 1. Baily Fishing Pond Stocking Summary – 2014.

Date	Species	Number	Size	Strain
2/3/2014	RB	999	9.8	JUMPER
2/10/2014	BN	1002	9.2	SHEEP CREEK
3/4/2014	BN	753	9.8	SHEEP CREEK
3/12/2014	RB	766	9.8	MT. SHASTA
4/7/2014	RB	489	9.8	TRIPLOID
4/14/2014	RB	489	9.8	TRIPLOID
4/21/2014	RB	499	9.3	TRIPLOID
4/30/2014	RB	518	9.6	EAGLE LAKE
5/15/2014	RB	499	9.6	EAGLE LAKE
5/22/2014	RB	499	9.6	EAGLE LAKE
10/1/2014	RB	719	10.3	TAHOE
10/21/2014	RB	906	9.3	TAHOE
11/19/2014	RB	491	9.5	triploid
11/19/2014	RB	197	9.8	TAHOE
11/26/2014	RB	500	9.6	TAHOE
	Total	9,326		

Table 2. Baily Fishing Pond Stocking History 2010 – 2013.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range
2013	Rainbow	7,654	9.8-11.5
	Brown	202	10.1
2012	Rainbow	6,313	9.7-11.5
	Brown	500	10.4
	Rainbow	150	17
2011	Rainbow	9,004	9.6-11
	Brown	1,073	10.8-11.2
	Rainbow	220	14
2010	Rainbow	3,404	10.1-11
	Bowcutt	1,507	9.7-10.9

Davis Creek Park Pond (Washoe Co.)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. Mail-in angler questionnaire data estimated use at 409 anglers and 1,000 angler use days in 2013, which was considerably lower than 830 anglers and 1,673 angler-days found in 2012. Total catch for 2013 was 2,637 fish and the success rate was 2.6 fish per angler-day, which was up from the 1.74 fish per angler-day in 2012.

Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics. Due to extremely low snowpack and lower than average precipitation, Davis Creek Park Pond was not stocked in 2014. By late summer, the pond was nearly dry and unable to support fish.

Idlewild Pond (Washoe Co.)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. Mail-in angler questionnaire data estimated use at 62 anglers and 95 angler use days in 2013, which was substantially lower than 81 anglers and 468 angler-days estimated in 2012. This was likely a result of the extended drought. An estimated 43 fish were caught resulting in 0.45 fish per angler-day.

Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics. Due to an extremely low snowpack and lower than average precipitation, Idlewild Pond was not stocked in 2014. By late summer, the pond was nearly dry and unable to support fish.

Lampe Park Pond (Douglas Co.)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. Mail-in angler questionnaire data for 2013 estimated 11 anglers spent 11 days to catch 33 fish for 3 fish per angler-day.

Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics. Water quality and habitat was adequate for trout stocking during May (Table 3) and was similar to previous years (Table 4).

Table 3. Lampe Park Pond Stocking Summary – 2014.

Date	Species	Number	Size
5/29/2014	Rainbow	4,735	10.1

Table 4. Lampe Park Pond Stocking History 2008 – 2013.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range
2013	Rainbow	4,000	10.5
2012		0	
2011		0	
2010	Rainbow	4,000	10.7
	Tiger Trout	153	11.8
2009	Rainbow	1,800	11.9
2008	Rainbow	5,491	9.0 - 11.3

Liberty Pond (Churchill Co.)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated use at 94 anglers in 2013, which declined from 163 the previous year. Total catch was 870 fish, which was up slightly from 778 in 2012. The success rate was 1.94 fish per angler-day, slightly down from 2.31 in 2012.

Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics. Water quality and fish habitat remained adequate for stocking, and fish were planted in 2014 from March through June (Table 5). Fall stocking occurred in October and November as water levels increased due to the late start of the irrigation season (October) and cooling water temperatures. Generally, the water level drops in winter and the pond refills once the irrigation season begins by April 1. Historical stocking is presented in Table 6.

Table 5. Liberty Pond Stocking Summary – 2014.

Date	Species	Number	Size	Strain
3/14/2014	RB	310	9.3	TRIPLOID
4/30/2014	RB	980	9.6	EAGLE LAKE
5/29/2014	RB	674	10.1	TRIPLOID
10/16/2014	RB	532	9.3	TAHOE
11/26/2014	RB	509	9.6	TAHOE
	Total	3,005		

Marilyn's Pond (Washoe Co.)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated use at 821 anglers and 4,574 angler use days in 2013, being the lowest since 2008. Anglers caught 21,742 fish resulting in a catch rate of 4.75 fish per angler-day,

up slightly from 4.32 fish per angler day in 2012.

Table 6. Liberty Pond Stocking History 2008 – 2013.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range
2013	Rainbow	5,468	9.6 - 10.8
	Brown	950	8.8 - 10.3
	Channel Catfish	1,000	4.0
2012	Rainbow	8,072	9.7 - 10.3
	Brown	1,000	10.5
2011	Rainbow	5,002	10.0 - 10.8
	Channel Catfish	1,000	5.0
2010	Rainbow	3,847	9.5 - 10.0
	Brown	1,005	9.8
	Tiger Trout	650	11.8
	Channel Catfish	675	7.0
	Bowcutt	2,008	9.5 - 9.7
2009	Rainbow	6,959	9.7 - 11.1
2008	Rainbow	6,408	9.3 - 10.5
	Channel Catfish	252	14.0 - 18.0
	White Crappie	60	6.0
	Tiger Trout	199	8.6
	Bowcutt	1,001	12.0

Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics. The water level at Marilyn's Pond remained at capacity throughout the year and its proximity to a constant, cool source of inflow from Galena Creek provides for good water quality. From April 9 through October 7, 1,825 Eagle Lake strain, 1,510 Tahoe strain, and 4,625 triploid rainbow trout were stocked (Table 7). Table 8 shows historical trout stocking.

Table 7. Marilyn's Pond Stocking Summary – 2014.

Date	Species	Number	Size (in.)	Strain
4/2/2014	Rainbow	2,500	9.9	Triploid
4/9/2014	Rainbow	473	9.3	Eagle Lake
5/7/2014	Rainbow	753	9.6	Triploid
5/30/2014	Rainbow	820	9.7	Eagle Lake
6/11/2014	Rainbow	1,008	10.0	Triploid
6/16/2014	Rainbow	364	9.9	Triploid
8/28/2014	Rainbow	532	9.8	Eagle Lake
9/25/2014	Rainbow	809	9.9	Tahoe
10/7/2014	Rainbow	701	10.3	Tahoe
Total (All Fish)		**7,960**		

Table 8. Marilyn's Pond Stocking History 2009 – 2013.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range (in.)
2009	Rainbow	6,729	10.4
2009 Total		**6,729**	
2010	Rainbow	7,113	10.1
	Tiger	161	12
2010 Total		**7,274**	
2011	Rainbow	6,025	9.6 – 11.0
	Brown	400	10.8
2011 Total		**6,425**	
2012	Rainbow	8,206	9.7 – 10.7
2012 Total		**8,206**	
2013	Rainbow	5,741	9.4 - 10.6
2013 Total		**5,741**	
Total		**34,375**	

Martin Slough (Douglas Co.)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated 28 anglers fished in 2013. Total catch was 324 fish and the success rate was 1.57 fish per angler-day. In 2012, 56 anglers fished to catch 479 fish for a success rate of 1.08 fish per angler-day.

Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics. The water level at Martin Slough was influenced by water flow coming from the Carson River. The pond was stocked only in the spring (Table 9) since warm water temperature and limited inflow occurring during the summer were not suitable for trout stocking. The history of stocking is presented in Table 10.

Table 9. Martin Slough Stocking Summary – 2014.

Date	Species	Number	Size	Strain
4/21/2014	Rainbow	499	9.3	TRIPLOID
4/30/2014	Rainbow	504	9.6	EAGLE LAKE
5/22/2014	Rainbow	499	9.6	EAGLE LAKE
6/11/2014	Rainbow	756	10	TRIPLOID
	Total	1,502		

Table 10. Martin Slough Stocking History 2008 – 2013.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range
2013	Rainbow	1,529	10.4 - 10.6
2012		0	
2011	Rainbow	2,093	10.1 - 11.0
2010	Rainbow	2,608	9.3 - 10.2
2009	Rainbow	996	9.9 - 11.7
2008	Rainbow	3,064	9.7 - 10.8
	Channel Catfish	242	14.0

Mountain View Park Pond (Lyon Co.)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The 2013 mail-in angler questionnaire estimated seven anglers spent 65 days fishing and catching 130 fish for a success rate was 2.0 fish per angler-day. By comparison, 124 anglers spent 878 days fishing in 2012 to catch 771 fish for a success rate of 0.88 fish per angler-day.

Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics. Trout stocking was limited to the spring since water temperatures were warm most other times of the year (Table 11). Historical stocking is presented in Table 12.

Table 11. Mountain View Park Pond Stocking Summary – 2014.

Date	Species	Number	Size	Strain
3/7/2014	Rainbow	486	10.3	MT. SHASTA
4/21/2014	Rainbow	208	9.3	TRIPLOID
4/30/2014	Rainbow	252	9.6	EAGLE LAKE
5/11/2014	Rainbow	310	9.3	TRIPLOID
	Total	1,256		

Paradise Pond (Washoe Co.)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated use at 126 anglers and 274 angler-days in 2013, which was well below the long term average of 597 anglers and 4,560 angler-days, but higher than the 18 year low experienced in 2012. An estimated 271 fish were caught resulting in 0.99 fish per angler day in 2013.

Table 12. Mountain View Park Pond Stocking History 2008 – 2013.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range
2013	Rainbow	2,012	9.7 - 10.6
2012	Rainbow	1,223	10.0 - 10.4
2011	Rainbow	1,678	10.0 - 11.0
2010	Rainbow	1,395	9.5 - 10.0
2009	Rainbow	2,286	9.8 - 12.0
2008	Rainbow	2,275	8.9 - 9.7
	Bowcutt	286	12.0

Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics. Water conditions at Paradise Pond in 2014 were conducive for trout stocking only in early spring. On two occasions, 1,499 catchable rainbow trout (Mt. Shasta strain) were stocked (Table 13). Table 14 shows the historical stocking.

Table 13. Paradise Pond Stocking Summary – 2014.

Species	Strain	Number	Size (in.)	Date
Rainbow	Mt. Shasta	1,001	9.3	2/11/2014
Rainbow	Mt. Shasta	498	9.8	3/20/2014
Total (All Fish)		**1,499**		

Table 14. Paradise Pond Stocking History 2009 – 2013.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range (in.)
2009	Rainbow	3,020	10.0
	Bowcutt	993	9.5
	Channel Catfish	374	18.2
2009 Total		**4,387**	
2010	Rainbow	1,506	9.8
2010 Total		**1,506**	
2011	Rainbow	1,038	10.2
	Channel Catfish	1,499	5.0
2011 Total		**2,537**	
2012	Rainbow	2,330	9.2 – 10.4
	Channel Catfish	440	8.0
2012 Total		**2,770**	
2013	Rainbow	5,022	9.2 - 10.4
2013 Total		**5,022**	
Total		**16,222**	

Rancho San Rafael Pond (Washoe Co.)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated use at five anglers with nine angler-days in 2013. No fish were reported.

Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics. Habitat and water conditions were conducive to trout stocking of 586 Eagle Lake-strain rainbow trout in March (Table15 and historical stocking is presented in Table 16).

Table 15. Rancho San Rafael Pond Stocking Summary – 2014.

Date	Species	Number	Size (in.)	Strain
3/5/2014	Rainbow	586	9.1	Eagle Lake
Total (All Fish)		**586**		

Table 16. Rancho San Rafael Pond Stocking History 2009 – 2013.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range (in.)
2009	Rainbow	1,006	9.8
2009 Total		**1,006**	
2010	Rainbow	1,007	9.4
2010 Total		**1,007**	
2011	Rainbow	1,000	10.2
2011 Total		**1,000**	
2012	Rainbow	385	10.4
2012 Total		**385**	
2013	Rainbow	310	9.9
2013 Total		**310**	
Total		**3,708**	

Sparks Marina Park Pond (Washoe Co.)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated use at 1,573 anglers and 14,153 angler-days in 2013, which was similar to estimates from recent years. An expanded estimate of 25,203 fish was caught resulting in 1.78 fish per angler-day, but the actual number of fish caught was 1,824 was the highest total reported catch on record. It is important to note that the fishery suffered from a winter die-off in 2013 and 2014. The mail-in angler questionnaire data for 2014 will help to understand the extent of these events.

Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat

conditions, and angler use. Sparks Marina Park Pond remained at full capacity throughout 2014 and surface water temperature and water quality were conducive for stocking most of the year. From April through November, 43,740 rainbow trout were stocked on seven occasions (Table 17) and stocking history is shown in Table 18.

During late December, it was reported that dead fish were accumulating in the cove near the marina. Five monitoring locations were established and DO levels were near lethal levels for trout. This die off was not as severe as last year, possibly due to fewer fish in the reservoir. The cause of oxygen depletion is unknown, but options for aeration and other possible treatment methods are being explored. Stocking practices in the reservoir may be adjusted to account for possible future events.

Table 17. Sparks Marina Park Pond Stocking Summary – 2014.

Date	Species	Number	Size (in.)	Strain
4/1/2014	Rainbow	6,287	9.4	Mt. Shasta
4/21/2014	Rainbow	5,270	9.3	Triploid
5/7/2014	Rainbow	3,408	9.6	Triploid
6/12/2014	Rainbow	7,421	9.5	Triploid
9/24/2014	Rainbow	4,986	9.7	Triploid
10/7/2014	Rainbow	5,168	10.0	Triploid
11/13/2014	Rainbow	11,200	8.0	Marlette
Total (All Fish)		**43,740**		

Table 18. Sparks Marina Park Pond Stocking History 2009 – 2013.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range (in.)
2009	Rainbow	18,287	10.0
	Bowcutt	4,249	9.5
	Tiger	16,200	2.6
	Channel Catfish	504	18.2
2009 Total		**39,240**	
2010	Rainbow	27,791	10.0
	Tiger	497	11.8
	Brown	2,998	9.7
2010 Total		**31,286**	
2011	Rainbow	18,536	10.0 – 10.5
	Bowcutt	4,034	10.0
	Brown	3,000	9.8 – 10.6
	Channel Catfish	2,000	5.0
2011 Total		**27,570**	
2012	Rainbow	24,553	9.8 – 10.8
	Brown	3,001	10.0 – 10.2
2012 Total		**27,553**	
2013	Rainbow	45,917	4.4 - 10.9
	Brown	7,681	5.9 - 9.0
	Channel Catfish	4,000	5.0
2013 Total		**57,598**	
Total (All Fish)		**183,247**	

Virginia Lake (Washoe Co.)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated use at 126 anglers and 704 angler-days in 2013, up from record lows in 2012. An estimated 938 fish were caught resulting in 1.33 fish per angler-day, which was higher than the 33-year average of 0.97 fish per angler-day.

Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics. Due to ongoing drought the region is experiencing and along with warmer than average summer temperatures, Virginia Lake was not stocked in 2014. Historical stocking is presented in Table 19.

A large population of double crested cormorants that resides on the manmade island has made spring and early summer stocking unproductive. Cormorant predation effectively eliminates all catchable fish within a few days of stocking. A controversial proposal is currently in place with the city of Reno to remove the island. Until this issue is eliminated, early fall stocking has been implemented in order to avoid overlap in stocking and when cormorants are most prevalent. Water conditions in the fall of 2014, however, were not conducive to stocking rainbow trout.

Table 19. Virginia Lake Stocking History 2009 – 2013.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range (in.)
2009	N/A	0	
2009 Total		**0**	
2010	Bowcutt	1,008	9.5
2010 Total		**1,008**	
2011	Bowcutt	3,259	10.0
2011 Total		**3,259**	
2012	Rainbow	3,604	9.2 – 9.7
2012 Total		**3,604**	
2013	Rainbow	1,890	10.6
2013 Total		**1,890**	
Total		**9,761**	

Wilson Common Park Pond (Washoe Co.)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated use at 303 anglers and 1,029 angler-days in 2013, which was the lowest since the pond's inception in 1996. An estimated 2,438 fish were caught resulting in

2.37 fish per angler-day, which was substantially higher than the 0.93 fish per angler-day in 2012. Fewer anglers fishing resulted in more fish caught by those who did fish.

Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics. The water elevation remained at or near capacity throughout 2014. A total of 3,073 catchable rainbow trout of various strains were stocked on six occasions from February through September (Table 20). Table 21 shows historical stocking.

Table 20. Wilson Common Park Pond Stocking Summary – 2014.

Date	Species	Number	Size (in.)	Strain
2/3/2014	Rainbow	501	9.8	Jumper
3/12/2014	Rainbow	776	9.7	Mt. Shasta
5/7/2014	Rainbow	497	9.6	Triploid
5/30/2014	Rainbow	500	9.7	Eagle Lake
10/7/2014	Rainbow	499	10.3	Tahoe
11/26/2014	Rainbow	300		Tahoe
Total (All Fish)		**3,073**		

Table 21. Wilson Common Park Pond Stocking History 2009 – 2013.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range (in.)
2009	Rainbow	16,463	10.2
2009 Total		**16,463**	
2010	Rainbow	5,959	10.1
	Tiger	166	12
2010 Total		**6,125**	
2011	Rainbow	5,406	9.6 – 10.5
	Brown	400	10.8
2011 Total		**5,806**	
2012	Rainbow	4,002	9.0 – 10.6
2012 Total		**4,002**	
2013	Rainbow	3,279	9.4 – 10.8
2013 Total		**3,279**	
Total		**35,675**	

Crystal Peak Park Pond (Washoe Co.)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated use at 1,311 anglers and 4,080 angler-days in 2013. An estimated 11,174 fish were caught resulting in a catch rate of 2.74 fish per angler day. Historical stocking is presented in Table 23.

Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics. The pond level remained at or near capacity throughout 2014. A total of 13,199 catchable Pilot Peak strain Lahontan cutthroat trout was stocked on seven occasions from February through September (Table 22). All trout stocked into the pond originated from Lahontan National Fish Hatchery (USFWS), which provided LCT under agreement with NDOW for native fish urban fishing opportunities.

Table 22. Crystal Peak Park Pond Stocking Summary – 2014.

Date	Species	Number	Size (in.)	Strain
2/21/2014	Cutthroat	2,478	11.0	Pilot Peak
3/13/2014	Cutthroat	3,721	11.0	Pilot Peak
5/1/2014	Cutthroat	1,000	8.3	Pilot Peak
5/6/2014	Cutthroat	1,000	9.0	Pilot Peak
5/20/2014	Cutthroat	2,000	8.5	Pilot Peak
5/29/2014	Cutthroat	2,000	8.3	Pilot Peak
9/24/2014	Cutthroat	1,000	11.3	Pilot Peak
Total (All Fish)		**13,199**		

Table 23. Crystal Peak Park Pond Stocking History – 2013.

Year	Species	Number	Size (in.)	Strain
2013	LCT	11,932	8.7 - 11.2	Pilot Peak
	Brown	3,115	8.6 - 10.1	Sheep Creek
	Rainbow	7,736	9.7	Various
Total (All Fish)		**22,783**		

All Western Region Urban Ponds

Evaluate annual stocking recommendations based on water levels, habitat conditions and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division fishing clinics. When appropriate, enhance, and/or augment existing warmwater fish populations. Annual stocking programs were evaluated and recommendations were made in early spring.

As part of the annual stocking program, 4,000 channel catfish will be stocked in each of Sparks Marina (City of Sparks), Paradise Ponds (City of Reno), Mitch Park Pond (Town of Gardnerville), and Liberty Pond (Churchill County Parks and Recreation). Liberty Pond may also receive 500 largemouth bass, if available. Mitch Park Pond may receive 500 largemouth bass and 1,000 bluegill if available. Channel catfish were not purchased in 2014 since ongoing drought conditions hampered efforts to introduce or augment warmwater populations. Neither Liberty Pond nor Mitch Park Pond received warmwater fish in 2014.

MANAGEMENT REVIEW

Baily Fishing Pond

The completion of Baily Fishing Pond during 2010 was well received by residents of Carson City. Angler catch rates and fish per angler day remained high throughout 2014 and stocking occurred each month of the fishing season, February through November. Per an agreement with downstream water users, no warmwater species will be stocked into Baily Fishing Pond.

Davis Creek Park Pond

Angler success at Davis Creek Park Pond exceeds guidelines set in the Coldwater-Urban Fishery Management Concept. It is managed as a put-and-take fishery since water conditions typically exceed what trout can tolerate in both winter (anchor ice) and summer (temperatures above 80°F). Although the pond provides limited angling opportunity during the summer and winter, a considerable amount of use is realized in the spring when conditions permit.

Idlewild Pond

Due to increased sedimentation and siltation in recent years, Idlewild Pond complex is characterized by shallow depths resulting in increased summertime water temperatures. Additionally, abundant waterfowl produce a heavy nutrient load. The ponds provide limited fish habitat and do not warrant year round trout stocking. This pond has suffered from the ongoing drought in the region and some relief is needed before this popular urban fishery can return to pre-drought conditions. The ponds do provide a good setting for fishing activities and clinics conducted by NDOW's Conservation Education Division since stocking can be timed prior to events, assuring high success.

Lampe Park Pond

Observations confirmed the pond received little use, however, anglers were observed fishing during events in 2014. The water temperature during the summer exceeded the trout tolerance level and fishing was only optimal during spring and early summer.

Liberty Pond

Liberty Pond remained very popular among anglers living in Fallon and angler use was high during spring, summer, and fall. Consistent fishing activity begins in early February and continues until October. The water level is controlled through an irrigation canal as well as a small supplemental, however, the water level decrease throughout the winter. The irrigation season typically begins on April 1 and the pond level is quickly brought to capacity and is kept full throughout the summer. Occasional stocking of channel catfish occurs during the summer, which provides additional angling opportunity when trout stocking is not recommended due to warm water temperatures. The pond met the goals of an urban fishery in 2014. Coordination with the Habitat Division allowed the pond to be filled during October due to the late irrigation season that occurred after stocking. Angler use increased during October and November.

Martin Slough

Martin Slough met the management objectives of an urban fishery in 2014 based on mail-in questionnaire data. Water temperature during the summer exceeded what trout can tolerate and fishing was only optimal during spring and early summer.

Marilyn's Pond

Marilyn's Pond continued to grow in popularity among local anglers. On average, angler use has increased steadily since 2003 when the pond first opened to fishing. Angler questionnaire data suggests the fishery is exceeding the guidelines of the Urban Fishery Management Concept. Due to its constant source of cool, oxygenated water, trout can be stocked throughout the warmer summer and additionally sustain a population of brook trout. When other urban ponds in the area have reached temperatures too high for stocking, Marilyn's Pond generally remains cool enough to allow for fishing throughout the warm summer months.

Mountain View Park Pond

Mountain View Park Pond is the only urban pond in Lyon County and continues to be popular among locals living in Yerington. Based on angler catch rates, the pond is meeting the management objective of an urban fishery. An annual kids fishing derby had intermittent success and the Yerington Lyons Club (derby sponsor) moved the derby to Mason Valley Hatchery out ponds in 2010, which was expected to reduce fishing pressure at Mountain View Park Pond.

Paradise Ponds

Due to the shallow depths and heavy load of organic matter in Paradise Ponds opportunity to stock trout is limited. Early spring stocking is generally best but only supports a coldwater fishery for a limited amount of time. Warm-water species appear to do well and anglers have expressed positive interest for continued channel catfish

stocking. A limited die off was observed in 2014 and further investigation is needed to understand its extent.

Rancho San Rafael Pond

Due to its shallow nature, increased summertime temperatures, and aquatic vegetation, Rancho San Rafael Park Pond offers limited fishing opportunity. Early spring stocking is generally best and generally provides a productive fishery for a few months every year.

Sparks Marina Park Pond

Two consecutive years of winter fish die offs has undoubtedly had a negative impact on this extremely popular urban fishery. At this point, the root cause of the die offs is unknown, but investigations are under way in an attempt to not only uncover the problem but to develop a solution. The reservoir will continue to be managed with a put and take fishery until carryover of stocked fish will occur. In cooperation with the City of Sparks, the Sparks Rotary Club, and other local sponsors, Sparks Marina provides an excellent backdrop for a Conservation Education Division event on Free Fishing Day that is the largest in the state.

Virginia Lake

Virginia Lake continues to support a population of cormorants due to nesting habitat found on the island. Due to a variety of political components, the island has not been removed. In 2014, funding to remove the island was approved; however, push back from several special interest groups threatened to derail this project. Discussions are ongoing with no decision imminent. Trout will be stocked when cormorants leave the area and environmental conditions permit, generally in October to December. This management strategy allows trout to grow and acclimate over the winter, providing limited angling opportunity in spring prior to cormorant nesting. Despite low stocking rates and angler use, the estimated catch rate was above the guidelines of the Urban Fishery Management Concept.

Wilson Commons

Wilson Commons provides a good urban fishery option for anglers who live in south Reno, Washoe Valley, and Carson City. The angler success rate is consistent with the Urban Fishery Management Concept. The stocking program appears to be consistent with angler use and no changes are proposed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

General Management Objectives:

- Conduct a general assessment of angler use, success, and harvest through

opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data.

- Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division for fishing clinics.
- Manage and/or develop new urban fisheries as opportunities arise.
- As part of the annual stocking program, 4,000 channel catfish will be stocked each in Sparks Marina (City of Sparks), Paradise Ponds (City of Reno), Martin Slough (Town of Minden), Liberty Pond (Churchill County Parks and Recreation), and Mitch Park Pond (Gardnerville Ranchos.)
- Develop a new urban fishery at Rose Creek Reservoir in Mineral County.

Prepared By: Travis Hawks, Biologist III, Western Region; Kris Urquhart, Biologist III, Western Region

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