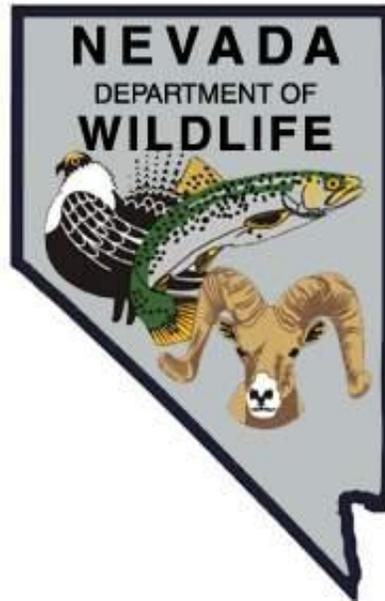


NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE
STATEWIDE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT



FEDERAL AID JOB PROGRESS REPORTS
F-20-49
2013

URBAN FISHERIES
WESTERN REGION



**NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE, FISHERIES DIVISION
ANNUAL PROGRESS 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, 2013 through December 31, 2013*

SUMMARY

Western Region Urban Fisheries performed well in 2013 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 accounts 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 angler 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.
- Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler 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 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).
- Rock (Stoney) Lake (Forest Service property in Washoe County) will receive a new release of 500 brook trout taken from Franktown Creek. Rock Lake drains into Ophir Creek, which already has a reproducing population of brook trout. Water then flows into Washoe Lake, a shallow, warmwater playa-lake too warm to support trout.
 - Establish a new fishery in Tracy Pond (near Reno) by stocking (new release) 100 largemouth bass. A self-sustaining population of largemouth bass exists in the Lower Truckee River adjacent to the pond. The pond was originally a gravel quarry that became infiltrated with water from the Truckee River.

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 the purpose of collecting creel survey data. Information on angler harvest, effort, and origin were recorded on standard forms. Harvested fish were measured to fork length in millimeters. Angler contacts occurred primarily concurrent to other scheduled work at or near the ponds.

Angler use and success at urban fisheries were also assessed through the Mail-in Angler Questionnaire Survey conducted in 2012. Angler questionnaire data was derived from a survey mailed to about 10% of license purchasers.

Coordinate trout stocking with the hatchery based on water levels, habitat conditions, and angler use. Annual stocking programs and schedules were provided to the Fisheries Division and hatchery personnel in the spring of 2013. 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.

Coordinate stocking with Conservation Education Division to coincide with angler fishing clinics. Consultation was maintained with the Conservation Education Division in an effort to address stocking needs as they pertain to free fishing day, angler education activities, and fishing clinics.

Manage and/or develop new urban fisheries as opportunities arise. Biologists remained vigilant for new opportunities pertaining to urban pond development and improvement.

As part of the annual stocking program, 4,000 channel catfish will be stocked in each of Paradise Ponds (City of Reno), Mitch Park Pond (Town of Gardnerville), Sparks Marina (City of Sparks), 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, 1,000 bluegill and 1,000 redear sunfish, if available. Channel catfish were purchased from approved sources from outside the agency and delivered to the ponds. Largemouth bass, bluegill, and redear sunfish were not stocked into urban ponds during 2013.

Rock (Stoney) Lake (Forest Service property in Washoe County) will receive a new release of 500 brook trout taken from Franktown Creek. Rock Lake drains into Ophir Creek, which already has a reproducing population of brook trout. Water then flows into Washoe Lake, a shallow, warmwater playa-lake too warm to support trout. This objective was not completed due to time spent conducting surveys for the newly discovered New Zealand mud snails in the Truckee River.

Establish a new fishery in Tracy Pond (near Reno) by stocking (new release) 100 largemouth bass. A self-sustaining population of largemouth bass exists in the Lower Truckee River adjacent to the pond. The pond was originally a gravel quarry that became infiltrated with water from the Truckee River. Several attempts were made to discuss the idea of opening the pond to public fishing with NV Energy, the owner of the pond; however, at this time they are not interested in exploring the opportunity.

FINDINGS

Baily Fishing Pond (Carson City)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The results from the 2012 Mail-in Angler Questionnaire Survey estimated angler use at 592 anglers and 5,407 angler days. Total catch during 2012 was 11,803 fish and success rate was 2.18 fish per angler day. This represents a 37% increase in angler days and an 11% increase in angler success from what was reported in the 2011 questionnaire, which estimated angler use at 7,429 angler days and a success rate of 2.42 fish per angler day. Baily Fishing Pond continued to be very popular among anglers during 2013.

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 most of the year. Stocking occurred each month (except July and August) between February and November. Coordination occurred between Conservation Education and the hatchery for providing fish during clinics and events.

Stocking Program

Table 1. Baily Pond Stocking Summary – 2013.

Date	Species	Number	Size	Strain
11/21/2013	Rainbow	605	10.1	TAHOE
10/28/2013	Rainbow	525	10.6	JUMPER
10/7/2013	Rainbow	1524	9.9	TAHOE
9/13/2013	Rainbow	1500	9.8	TAHOE
6/7/2013	Brown	500	9.9	SHEEP CREEK
6/7/2013	Rainbow	502	11.5	MT. SHASTA
5/10/2013	Rainbow	500	10.4	MT. SHASTA
4/24/2013	Rainbow	501	10.1	MT. SHASTA
4/17/2013	Brown	202	10.1	SHEEP CREEK
4/1/2013	Rainbow	498	10.5	MT. SHASTA
3/14/2013	Rainbow	498	10.8	EAGLE LAKE
2/26/2013	Rainbow	221	10.3	EAGLE LAKE
2/26/2013	Rainbow	280	11.6	MT. SHASTA
Total		7,856		

Table 2. Baily Pond Stocking History 2010 – 2012.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range
2012	Rainbow	6313	9.7-11.5
	Brown	500	10.4
	Rainbow	150	17
2011	Rainbow	9004	9.6-11
	Brown	1073	10.8-11.2
	Rainbow	220	14
2010	Rainbow	3404	10.1-11
	Bowcutt	1507	9.7-10.9

Davis Creek Park Pond (Washoe Valley)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated angler use at 830 anglers and 1,673 angler use days in 2012, which was considerably lower than the 955 anglers and 3,143 angler days estimated in 2011. The total catch for 2012 was 2,905 fish and the success rate was 1.70 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 pond was free of ice and filled with water in early spring. Habitat and water temperatures were suitable for trout stocking throughout the spring and again in early-fall. From April 12 through September 17, 2,505 catchable Mt. Shasta strain and 585 catchable Tahoe strain rainbow trout were stocked on six separate occasions (Table 3).

Stocking Program

Table 3. Davis Creek Park Pond Stocking Summary – 2013.

Date	Species	Number	Size (in.)	Strain
4/12/13	Rainbow	504	10.5	Mt. Shasta
4/19/13	Rainbow	1,000	10.6	Mt. Shasta
4/24/13	Rainbow	501	10.1	Mt. Shasta
5/9/13	Rainbow	500	10.4	Mt. Shasta
9/4/13	Rainbow	300	9.7	Tahoe
9/17/13	Rainbow	285	9.9	Tahoe
Total (All Fish)		3,090		

Table 4. Davis Creek Park Pond Stocking History 2008 – 2012.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range (in.)
2008	Rainbow	3,354	9.4 – 10.4
2008 Total		3,354	
2009	Rainbow	4,135	10.5
2009 Total		4,135	
2010	Rainbow	7,058	9.7
	Tiger	90	11.8
2010 Total		7,148	
2011	Rainbow	7,029	9.6 – 10.8
	Brown	623	11.2
2011 Total		7,652	
2012	Rainbow	3,670	9.8 – 10.6
2012 Total		3,670	
Total		25,959	

Idlewild Pond (Reno)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated angler use at 81 anglers and 468 angler use days at Idlewild Pond in 2012, which was substantially lower than the 196 anglers and 632 angler days estimated in 2011. An estimated 576 fish were caught resulting in 1.23 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. Water supply and habitat conditions were inadequate for consistent trout stocking. As a result, the pond was stocked only once in 2013. A total of 1,230 triploid rainbow trout were stocked in June to support a Conservation Education Division fishing event (Table 5).

Stocking Program

Table 5. Idlewild Pond Stocking Summary – 2013.

Date	Species	Number	Size (in.)	Strain
6/5/13	Rainbow	1,230	10.1	Triploid
Total (All Fish)		1,230		

Table 6. Idlewild Pond Stocking History 2008 – 2012.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range (in.)
2008	Rainbow	2,546	9.6
2008 Total		2,546	
2009	Rainbow	2,006	9.8
2009 Total		2,006	
2010	N/A	0	N/A
2010 Total		0	
2011	Rainbow	3,129	10.4
2011 Total		3,129	
2012	Rainbow	3,129	10.2
2012 Total		3,129	
Total		10,810	

Lampe Park Pond (Gardnerville)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated no angler use. However, anglers were observed fishing during stocking events as well as during the annual fishing derby.

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 quality and habitat at Lampe Park Pond was adequate for trout stocking during May.

Stocking Program

Table 7. Lampe Park Stocking Summary – 2013.

Date	Species	Number	Size	Strain
5/30/2013	Rainbow	4,000	10.5	Mount Shasta

Table 8. Lampe Park Stocking History 2008 – 2012.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range
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	9-11.3

Liberty Pond (Fallon)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated angler use at 163 anglers in 2012, which was slightly down from 197 during 2011. Total catch was 778 fish, which was down from 2,346 in 2011. The success rate in 2012 was 2.31 fish per angler day and was down from 3.55 fish per day reported during 2011. There was a summertime mortality event during 2012, which was likely to have contributed to the reduction in catch rate and angler use during 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 habitat remained adequate for trout stocking during the spring. Fall stocking occurred as water temperature declined. The water level at Liberty Pond generally drops during winter and refills once the irrigation season begins in Lahontan Valley typically around April 1.

Stocking Program

Table 9. Liberty Pond Stocking Summary – 2013.

Date	Species	Number	Size	Strain
10/30/2013	Rainbow	1,000	10.2	JUMPER
10/11/2013	Rainbow	1,086	10.3	JUMPER
6/27/2013	Channel Catfish	1,000	4	COLORADO
5/16/2013	Rainbow	715	9.6	MT. SHASTA
4/25/2013	Rainbow	634	10.8	MT. SHASTA
4/25/2013	Brown	448	10.3	SHEEP CREEK
4/15/2013	Rainbow	699	10.5	MT. SHASTA
3/29/2013	Rainbow	734	10.4	EAGLE LAKE
3/11/2013	Brown	502	8.8	SHEEP CREEK
2/25/2013	Rainbow	600	10	EAGLE LAKE
Total		7,418		

Table 10. Liberty Pond Stocking History 2008 – 2012.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range
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
2010	Rainbow	3,847	9.5-10.0
	Brown	1,005	9.8
	Tiger Trout	650	11.8
	Channel Catfish	675	7
	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
	Tiger Trout	199	8.6
	Bowcutt	1,001	12

Marilyn's Pond (Galena)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated angler use at 1,154 anglers and 5,726 angler use days at Marilyn's Pond in 2012, which is on par with 1,390 anglers and 5,096 angler days in 2011. An estimated 24,746 fish were caught in 2012 resulting in 4.32 fish per angler day.

Opportunistic angler contacts were made once at Marilyn's Pond in 2013. Eight anglers fished for a total of 10 hrs and caught 20 rainbow trout. Two rainbow trout were harvested while the remaining 18 were released. Anglers were from Washoe County and Lake Tahoe.

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. Due to the proximity and presence of a constant, cool source of inflow from Galena Creek, no water quality issues were encountered in 2013. From April 12 through October 28, 5,741 rainbow trout were stocked on 10 occasions (Table 11).

Stocking Program

Table 11. Marilyn's Pond Stocking Summary – 2013.

Date	Species	Number	Size (in.)	Strain
4/12/13	Rainbow	504	10.5	Mt. Shasta
4/24/13	Rainbow	501	10.1	Mt. Shasta
5/9/13	Rainbow	500	10.4	Mt. Shasta
6/12/13	Rainbow	833	11.1	Mt. Shasta
6/17/13	Rainbow	563	10.0	Mt. Shasta
6/27/13	Rainbow	1,226	9.4	Tahoe
8/16/13	Rainbow	504	10.1	Tahoe
9/4/13	Rainbow	300	9.7	Tahoe
9/17/13	Rainbow	285	9.9	Tahoe
10/28/13	Rainbow	525	10.6	Jumper
Total (All Fish)	5,741			

Table 12. Marilyn's Pond Stocking History 2008 – 2012.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range (in.)
2008	Rainbow	10,534	9.0 – 10.9
2008 Total	10,534		
2009	Rainbow	6,729	10.4
2009 Total	6,729		
2010	Rainbow	7,113	10.1
	Tiger	161	12.0
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		
Total	39,168		

Martin Slough (Gardnerville)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated 56 anglers fished in 2012. The total catch was 479 fish and the success rate was 1.08 fish per angler day. In 2011, 59 anglers caught 923 fish for a success rate of 2.33 fish per angler day. Use and catch were down from 2011. The slough was not stocked during 2012 due to concerns over low water levels.

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 in the spring and late fall since warm temperatures and low water levels during the summer were not considered suitable for trout stocking.

Stocking Program

Table 13. Martin Slough Stocking Summary – 2013.

Date	Species	Number	Size	Strain
10/28/2013	Rainbow	525	10.6	JUMPER
5/10/2013	Rainbow	500	10.4	MT. SHASTA
4/12/2013	Rainbow	504	10.5	MT. SHASTA
	Total	1,529		

Table 14. Martin Slough Stocking History 2008 – 2012.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range
2012		0	
2011	Rainbow	2093	10.1-11.0
2010	Rainbow	2608	9.3-10.2
2009	Rainbow	996	9.9-11.7
2008	Rainbow	3064	9.7-10.8
	Channel Catfish	242	14

Mountain View Park Pond (Yerington)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The 2012 mail-in angler questionnaire estimated 124 anglers caught 771 fish with a success rate of 0.88 fish per angler day. In 2011, 48 anglers caught 317 fish for a success rate was 0.97 fish per angler day. Number of anglers and total catch was up from 2011; however, the catch rate was lower.

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 warm water temperatures at Mountain View Park Pond limited trout stocking to only spring and early summer.

Stocking Program

Table 15. Mountain View Park Pond Stocking Summary – 2013.

Date	Species	Number	Size	Strain
10/22/2013	Rainbow	562	10.2	JUMPER
9/4/2013	Rainbow	200	9.7	TAHOE
5/23/2013	Rainbow	235	10.6	MT. SHASTA
5/14/2013	Rainbow	235	10	EAGLE LAKE
4/23/2013	Rainbow	346	10	MT. SHASTA
4/8/2013	Rainbow	304	10.2	EAGLE LAKE
3/12/2013	Rainbow	130	10.2	EAGLE LAKE
	Total	2,012		

Table 16. Mountain View Park Pond Stocking History 2008 – 2012.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range
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

Paradise Pond (Sparks)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated angler use at 45 anglers and 376 angler use days in 2012, which was well below the long term average of 612 anglers and 4,691 angler days for Paradise Pond. No were caught 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 conditions at Paradise Pond were conducive for trout stocking only in early spring and again in late-fall of 2013. From March 27 through October 1, a total of 2,022 catchable rainbow trout and 3,000 subcatchable channel catfish were stocked on 4 separate occasions (Table 17).

Stocking Program

Table 17. Paradise Pond Stocking Summary – 2013.

Date	Species	Number	Size (in.)	Strain
3/27/13	Rainbow	501	9.8	Mt. Shasta
4/30/13	Rainbow	206	9.9	Eagle Lake
10/1/13	Rainbow	1,315	10.5	Tahoe
Rainbow Total	2,022			
6/27/13	Channel Catfish	3,000	5.0	-
Channel Catfish Total	3,000			
Total (All Fish)	5,022			

Table 18. Paradise Pond Stocking History 2008 – 2012.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range (in.)
2008	Rainbow	2,374	8.8 – 9.2
	Channel Catfish	363	14.0
2008 Total	2,737		
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		
Total	13,937		

Rancho San Rafael Pond (Reno)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated no use at Rancho San Rafael Pond 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. Habitat and water conditions were conducive to trout stocking of 310 rainbow trout in April.

Stocking Program

Table 19. Rancho San Rafael Pond Stocking Summary – 2013.

Date	Species	Number	Size (in.)	Strain
4/30/13	Rainbow	310	9.9	Eagle Lake
Total (All Fish)	310			

Table 20. Rancho San Rafael Pond Stocking History 2008 – 2012.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range (in.)
2008	N/A	0	N/A
2008 Total	0		
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		
Total	3,398		

Sparks Marina (Sparks)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated angler use at 1,788 anglers and 17,978 angler use days at Sparks Marina in 2012, which was on par with estimates from recent years. An estimated 19,704 fish were caught resulting in 1.10 fish per angler day in 2012.

Opportunistic angler contacts were made once at Sparks Marina Park in 2013. Seven anglers fished for 9 hrs and caught no fish. All anglers were from Washoe County.

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. Sparks Marina remained at full capacity throughout 2013. Surface water temperatures and water quality were conducive for trout stocking throughout the year. From February through October, 45,917 rainbow trout were stocked on 9 occasions. In addition, 7,681 brown trout and 4,000 subcatchable channel catfish were also stocked (Table 21).

In late December, a major fish kill occurred at Sparks Marina. Initially thought to be contained only to the north cove, subsequent investigations revealed nearly all fish at Sparks Marina to have been lost. Water quality testing immediately after the fish kill revealed an extremely low dissolved oxygen (DO) concentration throughout the reservoir at all depths. This condition occurred throughout the remainder of the year. In addition, both the Nevada Division of Environmental Quality (NDEP) and the Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility conducted in-depth analysis of a number of water samples collected on various occasions at various depths. Other than low DO, no alarming parameters were observed in any of the testing conducted. An initial theory as to the cause of the fish kill is described as a “violent turnover” caused by such a rapid cooling of the upper column of water during an extreme (and unusual) cold snap that occurred in the area in early to mid December. When this happens, the reservoir turns over so rapidly that it scours the bottom of the reservoir, brings decomposing organic

matter into the water column, and utilizes the dissolved oxygen throughout. Throughout the remainder of 2013, dissolved oxygen levels throughout Sparks Marina remained at lethal levels to fish populations.

Stocking Program

Table 21. Sparks Marina Park Pond Stocking Summary – 2013.

Date	Species	Number	Size (in.)	Strain
2/14/13	Rainbow	2,115	9.6	Eagle Lake
3/26/13	Rainbow	2,001	10.3	Mt. Shasta
4/17/13	Rainbow	3,337	10.0	Mt. Shasta
4/29/13	Rainbow	2,550	10.9	Mt. Shasta
6/6/13	Rainbow	6,000	10.1	Mt. Shasta
6/26/13	Rainbow	515	10.3	Tahoe
9/9/13	Rainbow	4,253	9.8	Tahoe
9/17/13	Rainbow	20,887	4.4	Mt. Shasta
10/14/13	Rainbow	4,259	10.4	Tahoe
Rainbow Total	45,917	4.4 – 10.9		
2/14/13	Brown	1,500	8.6	Sheep Creek
3/5/13	Brown	1,553	9.0	Sheep Creek
8/20/13	Brown	4,628	5.9	Sheep Creek
Brown Total	7,681	5.9 – 9.0		
6/27/13	Channel Catfish	4,000	5.0	-
Channel Catfish Total	4,000	5.0		
Total (All Fish)	57,598			

Table 22. Sparks Marina Park Pond Stocking History 2008 – 2012.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range (in.)
2008	Rainbow	25,545	6.6 – 10.3
	Bowcutt	19,065	3.2
	Tiger	2,916	8.3
	Channel Catfish	1,043	14.0
2008 Total	48,569		
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		
Total	174,218		

Virginia Lake (Reno)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated angler use at just 24 anglers and 30 angler use days at Virginia Lake in 2012, which is far lower than the 137 anglers and 315 angler days estimated in 2011. No fish were caught 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. Virginia Lake remained at full capacity throughout the year. In October, the lake received a load of 1,890 Jumper-strain catchable rainbow trout (Table 23).

Stocking Program

Table 23. Virginia Lake Stocking Summary – 2013.

Date	Species	Number	Size (in.)	Strain
10/29/13	Rainbow	1,890	10.6	Jumper
Total (All Fish)	1,890			

Table 24. Virginia Lake Stocking History 2008 – 2012.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range (in.)
2008	Bowcutt	3,130	10.6 – 120.
2008 Total	3,130		
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		
Total	11,001		

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 angler use at 599 anglers and 1,497 angler use days at Wilson Common Park Pond in 2012, which was on par with the 504 anglers and 2,574 angler days estimated in 2011. An estimated 1,389 fish were caught resulting in 0.93 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 pond remained at or near capacity throughout 2013. A total of 3,279 catchable rainbow trout was stocked on 8 occasions from February through September (Table 25).

Stocking Program

Table 25. Wilson Common Park Pond Stocking Summary – 2013.

Date	Species	Number	Size (in.)	Strain
2/26/13	Rainbow	502	10.3	Eagle Lake
3/14/13	Rainbow	498	10.8	Eagle Lake
4/1/13	Rainbow	501	10.5	Mt. Shasta
4/19/13	Rainbow	500	10.6	Mt. Shasta
5/9/13	Rainbow	500	10.4	Mt. Shasta
5/23/13	Rainbow	236	10.6	Mt. Shasta
9/4/13	Rainbow	257	9.7	Tahoe
9/17/13	Rainbow	285	9.9	Tahoe
Total (All Fish)		3,279		

Table 26. Wilson Common Park Pond Stocking History 2008 – 2012.

Year	Species	Number	Size Range (in.)
2008	Rainbow	8,166	9.4 – 10.8
	Tiger	397	8.6
2008 Total	8,563		
2009	Rainbow	16,463	10.2
2009 Total	16,463		
2010	Rainbow	5,959	10.1
	Tiger	166	12.0
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		
Total	40,959		

Verdi Pond (Washoe Co.)

Conduct a general fisheries assessment through opportunistic angler contacts and mail-in angler questionnaire data. The mail-in angler questionnaire estimated angler use at 136 anglers and 136 angler use days at Crystal Peak Park Pond (now named Verdi Pond) in 2012, which is unrealistic because, although the pond held water, it was not stocked until this year.

Opportunistic angler contacts were made once in 2013. There was a single angler just beginning to fish so no data was collected.

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 remained at or near capacity throughout 2013. A total of 7,736 triploid rainbow trout, 3,115 brown trout, and 11,932 Pilot Peak strain LCT were stocked on 10 occasions from March through September (Table 27).

Issues related to bottom leakage in Verdi Pond were resolved in 2012. Washoe County and NDOW provided funding to install a plastic lining along the bottom, which stopped the leak. Water filled the pond in late 2012 and brown trout were first stocked in February of 2013. In an effort to provide fishing opportunities for native Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT), NDOW and the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Lahontan National Fish Hatchery) have agreed to utilize Pilot Peak strain LCT exclusively to meet angling demand at Verdi Pond.

After many delays, the area’s newest urban fishery will be a boon to anglers and will undoubtedly diversify the portfolio of Washoe County urban fisheries. Verdi Pond is anticipated to provide numerous opportunities for the Conservation Education Division’s angling events as well.

Stocking Program

Table 27. Crystal Peak Park Pond Stocking Summary – 2013.

Date	Species	Number	Size (in.)	Strain
3/18/13	Rainbow	1,052	9.8	Triploid
4/9/13	Rainbow	514	9.7	Triploid
4/22/13	Rainbow	500	9.7	Triploid
4/22/13	Rainbow	5,670	9.7	Triploid
Rainbow Total	7,736			
2/27/13	Brown	2,095	8.6	Sheep Creek
5/6/13	Brown	1,020	10.1	Sheep Creek
Brown Total	3,115			
5/16/13	LCT	3,000	8.7	Pilot Peak
6/19/13	LCT	1,000	8.9	Pilot Peak
9/26/13	LCT	4,290	10.8	Pilot Peak
9/19/13	LCT	3,642	11.2	Pilot Peak
LCT Total	11,932			
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.

Manage and/or develop new urban fisheries as opportunities arise. NDOW biologists continued to assist with the development of two new urban ponds in the Western Region as described below.

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). A total of 4,000 and 3,000 channel catfish stocked into Sparks Marina and Paradise Ponds, respectively, in June. Mitch Park pond did not receive catfish this year, however, 1,000 were planted into Liberty pond during June.

Establish a new fishery in Tracy Pond (near Reno) by stocking (new release) 100 largemouth bass. A self-sustaining population of largemouth bass exists in the Lower Truckee River adjacent to the pond. The pond was originally a gravel quarry that became infiltrated with water from the Truckee River. Several attempts were made to discuss the idea of opening the pond to public fishing with NV Energy, the owner of the pond; however, at this time they are not interested in exploring the opportunity. Since public access is not permitted at this time, the largemouth bass introduction will be postponed until public access is assured.

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 2013 and stocking occurred nearly monthly from March through October. 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.

Idlewild Pond

Due to increased sedimentation and siltation in recent years, shallow depths resulting in increased summertime water temperatures characterize the Idlewild Pond complex. Additionally, abundant waterfowl produce a heavy nutrient load. The ponds provide limited fish habitat and do not warrant year round trout stocking. The ponds do provide a good setting for fishing activities and clinics conducted by the Conservation

Education Division since stocking can be timed prior to events assuring high success.

NDOW has proposed a dredging project for the Idlewild Pond complex to the City of Reno; however, the project is expected to be very expensive due to the volume of fill and the high cost of disposal. A funding source for the project has not been secured.

Lampe Park Pond

No data was collected from the Mail-in Angler Questionnaire Survey for 2012. Observations confirmed the pond received little use, however, anglers were observed fishing during events in 2013. Water temperature during the summer exceeded the trout tolerance level and fishing was only optimal during the spring and early summer.

Liberty Pond

Liberty Pond remained very popular among anglers living in Fallon. 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 well, but the water level decreased 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 2013.

Martin Slough

Martin Slough met the management objectives of an urban fishery in 2012 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 steadily increased since 2003 when the pond first opened to fishing. The 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 allowing for trout stocking throughout the warmer summer months, the pond provides summer angling opportunities when other urban ponds typically cannot.

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. The 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 on Mountain View Park Pond. However, fishing pressure has continued, possibly in response to renewed interest in fishing smaller ponds.

Paradise Ponds

Between 2002 and 2008, the level of angler use at Paradise Ponds declined dramatically. After rebounding in recent years, angler use has precipitously dropped once again to a degree that no fish were reported in 2012. It is assumed the development of other urban fisheries such as Sparks Marina Park Pond and Marilyn's Pond is the cause of this decrease. Anglers fishing Paradise Ponds have expressed positive interest for continued channel catfish stocking.

Rancho San Rafael Pond

Due to its shallow nature, increased summertime temperatures, and aquatic vegetation, Rancho San Rafael Park Pond offers limited opportunity to anglers. Nevertheless, fish stocked in the spring provide an additional recreational option in a park that already offers a diverse array of activities in which to participate.

Sparks Marina Park Pond

A major fish kill in December appears to have eliminated the majority of fish inhabiting Sparks Marina Park. When water quality conditions prove favorable, the process of rebuilding this fishery should begin. 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 occurring on the island. Due to a variety of political components, the island has not been removed. In 2012, discussions were renewed with the City of Reno and the Reno Airport Authority in an effort to modify and/or remove the island. No progress was made toward removal of the island in 2013. Trout will continue to be stocked when cormorants migrate out of the area, 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 is consistent with 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.
- As part of the annual stocking program, 4,000 channel catfish will be stocked in Sparks Marina (City of Sparks) and Paradise Ponds (City of Reno), Martin Slough (Town of Minden), and Liberty Pond (Churchill County Parks and Recreation) and Mitch Park Pond (Gardnerville Ranchos).

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