



SWTF Weekly Digest

May 26, 2020

Executive Directors Message of the week:

Welcome to the first – most likely of many, weekly SWTF digests. As you may have noticed, I try to send a lot of information to our members and partners about things that are going on in the fisheries world and other news and tribal issues stories that I think you might find of interest. This ends up creating a huge amount of mail to go through for you. As an experiment, I am trying putting it into digest format. There will be a lot of links in each of these documents, and a few stories and maybe even pictures – if you send them to me. I will still send urgent topics directly, and if there is something specific to one of you, I will send that directly also.

As we move forward in though the current crisis, I'm sure we are all interested in how your tribe is changing its operations to meet the new future, and how that is impacting your department, so please share your stories if that is permitted.

Have a great week!

Adam Ringia, Executive Director

SWTFC Business:

1. [Minutes from the April 23rd Annual meeting held via WebEx](#)
2. [Request for feedback on Brochure](#)
3. FERC Pumping – As you may recall, we had significant discussion about this issue on the little Colorado last year. On 5/21/2020, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), Washington D.C., issued the attached documents regarding their issuance of preliminary permits to Pumped Hydro Storage for their proposed Little Colorado Pumped Storage Project (No. 14994) and the Salt Trail Canyon Pumped Storage Project (No. 14992). A preliminary permit, issued for up to four years, does not authorize construction; rather, it maintains priority of application for license (i.e., guaranteed first-to-file status) while the permittee studies the site and prepares to apply for a license.

Member News Items of the week:

Pyramid Lake Update:

Here's our update during this Covid-19 period. Pyramid Lake Fisheries (PLF) had to severely limit its operations due to of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe's declaration of a state of emergency & stay at home order and increase of positive Covid-19 cases.

Every year on an average, PLF produces an average of 500,000 Lahontan Cutthroat trout (threatened) and 1 million Cui-ui (endangered) fish. This keeps Fishery staff busy for the year. Due to working in close conditions obtaining eggs and rearing fish, we decided 'not' to risk putting PLF staff at risk of Covid-19 exposure. This occurred when the

Tribe had a rise of positive Covid-19 cases, right during the fish spawning period. This was the first time in our history of operations that PLF could not obtain eggs from spawning fish.

Due to lack of work from having no fish to rear in our hatcheries for 2020, and the Tribe's state of emergency, stay at home order, we furloughed seven (7) full-time staff for four (4) months per the Tribe's Furlough Policy. When staff returns (mid Sept), we'll have to find other tasks for them. We currently have 3 employees, including myself, working reduced hours at 32 hours/week until the Tribe's state of emergency, stay at home order is lifted.

Pyramid Lake Fisheries loss of 500,000 Lahontan Cutthroat trout comes to about \$1 per fish when you factor in all the costs to raise these fish. Not counting the Cui-ui. This loss is compounded by the loss of opportunity available to fisherman to catch these fish over the years. Fisherman usually practice catch and release. There was also a loss of fish that would have made it to their spawning years, where they contribute (dna) to future generations. Except for what will occur through natural spawning in the lower Truckee River, we lost a whole year-class of Lahontan Cutthroat trout & Cui-ui.

There's also a loss to the Tribe for boating, camping and fishing permit sales and loss to the Tribal enterprises related to the opportunity to fish/recreate during the lake's closure. And when it is back open to fishermen, there is a loss of opportunity to catch Lahontan Cutthroat trout over the next 3-8 years if we were able to plant those 500,000 trout.

Interesting times! We'll get through this, be safe!

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Other organization newsletters and news links:

[National Fish Habitat Partnership May 2020 newsletter](#)

[Western Native Trout Initiative May 2020 newsletter](#)

Interesting Science:

[California Urban Water – there may be some lessons here for the rest of the southwest](#)

[Climate Change and the Aridification of North America](#)

[Fate of Mercury in the Colorado River depends on Food Web](#)

Upcoming Webinars and Educational Opportunities:

Here are two links to start with for registering for courses on DOI Talent and DOI University.

1. DOI Talent: https://www.doi.gov/doitalent/nondoil_learners

2. DOI University Classes: <https://doiu.doi.gov/reg.asp?id=>

...and a variety of upcoming (with dates) and pre-recorded (without dates) webinars:

1. [Freshwater Mussel Conservation Series: June 16th](#)
2. [AFS-Aging stock assessment – June 23rd](#)
3. [River Connectivity-AFS](#)
4. [Creating a movement to save migratory fish – from local to Global](#)

Updates and meeting information:

1. NM ESA-Tribal Webinar/Meeting: **May 27, 2020 from 9:00am to 12:00pm** to give the most relevant updates. Agenda and Webinar instructions attached to email.
2. USFWS – Arizona Tribal Coordination materials – From John Nystedt (sent 5/26) – attached to email as zip file.

Job Postings:

[USFWS- TERM Fisheries Biologist – GS-9 - Albuquerque: Closes June 8](#)

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