

# Summit Lake Paiute Tribe Natural Resources Department

# Newsletter

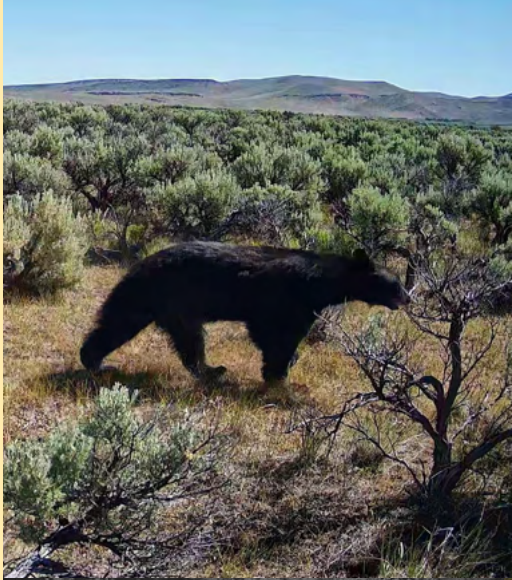


April 2026

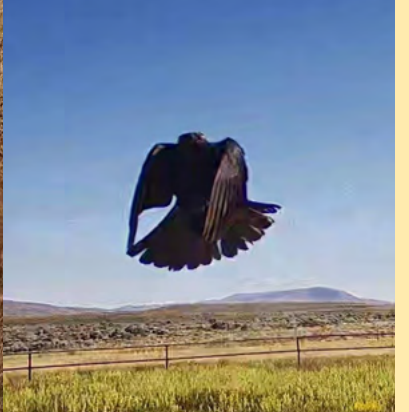
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42 FRI



22:17:26 WED





## Road Conditions

On March 9, 2026 the SnoTel weather station on Summit Lake Mountain recorded 8 inches of snow, and temperatures ranged from highs around 54 to lows around 37 degrees Fahrenheit. The SnoTel Station has recorded continuous presence of snow since December 21st, with the deepest amount recorded as 18 inches on February 18th.

Soldier Meadows road to the Reservation has some mud, and lingering puddles in places, but is passable. Travelers are still advised to use caution. Bring a shovel in case of getting stuck, and extra food, water, and appropriate clothing in case you need to wait for or get help. Be sure to tell someone of your planned travel and when to expect to hear from you.

Road cameras have recently been added to the Tribe's SWEON network and provide daily images of road conditions around the Reservation. They can be accessed at <https://summitlake.science/public-map.html> or by scanning the QR code below.



# Natural Resources Staff

## James Waddell-Fish & Wildlife Biologist



Hello, my name is James Waddell, and I am beginning my eighth year as a Fish and Wildlife Biologist with the Natural Resources Department. I have a master's degree in Natural Resource Management from Oregon State University, and I have decades of field experience working on several diverse projects ranging from bear and wolf research to private consultation with government agencies. I am captivated by natural resource management issues with particular concern regarding the conservation of threatened and endangered species. I am excited to continue projects investigating bat and bird species diversity on the Reservation this summer and I am proud to serve the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe in their efforts to conserve these species and the landscape upon which they rely.

## Audrey Dufresne-Fish & Wildlife Biologist



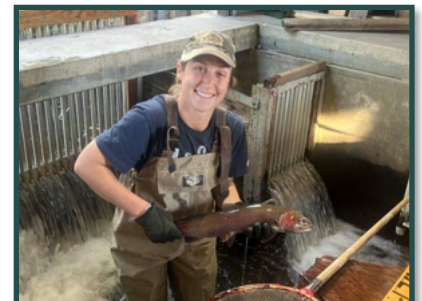
Hello! My name is Audrey, and I am one of your Fish and Wildlife Biologists! I will be entering into my fifth field season with the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe, and I'm excited to help continue to manage your Lahontan cutthroat trout. In 2021, I graduated from the University of Nevada, Reno with a degree in Environmental Science emphasizing in restoration and conservation and a minor in Spanish. Over the past four years working on various projects through the Natural Resources Department I have seen myself grow tremendously and am excited to continue to develop my skills this next field season. In my free time I enjoy playing rugby, traveling, painting, and spending time with family and friends. I can be reached at [audrey.dufresne@summitlaketribe.org](mailto:audrey.dufresne@summitlaketribe.org).



## Megan Yount-Fish & Wildlife Biologist



Hi, I'm Megan Yount, a Fish and Wildlife Biologist with a passion for bird conservation. Originally from Texas, I've worked in wildlife research, habitat monitoring, and outdoor education across the western U.S., and I am set to complete my master's degree this May. I'm excited to begin leading the sage grouse and migratory bird programs and to be entering my third year with the Tribe. Outside of work, I enjoy life in Lake Tahoe—snowboarding in the winter, swimming or paddleboarding in the summer, and spending time outdoors with my dog. Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns! [megan.yount@slptnv.org](mailto:megan.yount@slptnv.org).



# Natural Resources Staff

## Keane Flynn-Fish & Wildlife Biologist



My name is Keane Flynn and I work part-time as a Fish and Wildlife Biologist III for the Tribe and this will be my 6<sup>th</sup> year of working at the Reservation. I hold a bachelor's degree from the University of California Berkeley in conservation science and a master's degree from the University of Nevada Reno in Ecology with my thesis focusing on movement patterns of the stream-rearing Lahontan cutthroat trout in the Summit Lake watershed. While I still assist with pure biology-related work, most of my efforts these days are surrounding field sensor technology and how our department can leverage it to improve data collection for informed management actions as well to improve transparency of environmental conditions to the tribe.

## Meghan Munn-Program Coordinator/Biologist



Hello! My name is Meghan Munn, and this will be my fourth year as the Natural Resources Program Coordinator/Biologist. I grew up in Auburn, California and received my Bachelor of Science in Wildlife and Conservation Biology from UC Davis. Previously, I worked with the USGS in the California Central Valley on the monitoring project for the threatened giant garter snake, I have also worked at UC Davis in a teaching biology lab, and at UNR as a Laboratory Animal Technician. I am passionate about conservation, and look forward to continuing herpetofauna work this season on the Reservation. Please feel free to email me at [mghan.munn@slptnv.org](mailto:mghan.munn@slptnv.org) if you have any questions or concerns.



## Elizabeth Mast-Environmental Specialist



Hello! My name is Elizabeth Mast, and I am your Environmental Specialist. I have been working for the tribe for a year and a half now. I earned my master's degree in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology from the University of Nevada, Reno, in the fall of 2024. I grew up in Las Vegas and completed my bachelor's degree in Environmental and Resource Science at Nevada State University. I am passionate about conserving and protecting beautiful and wild places and sharing my love for aquatic ecosystems with others. At Summit Lake, my work focuses on water quality sampling, nonpoint source pollution monitoring, vegetation management, and community outreach. Outside of work, I am a landscape artist, angler, and avid hiker—I enjoy spending time

outdoors in every way possible. I am grateful for this opportunity to work with you and can be reached at [elizabeth.mast@summitlaketribe.org](mailto:elizabeth.mast@summitlaketribe.org).



# Natural Resources Staff

## MaryAnne Hafen-Natural Resources Technician



Hello, I'm MaryAnne Hafen, and it is my second year as a Natural Resources Technician. I look forward to continuing work primarily with the native seed and sage grouse programs in 2026. Wildland seed collection will be a focus, particularly for restoration of some of the sensitive ecosystems on the Reservation, as well as identifying and collecting plant specimens. Working with the flora and fauna at Summit Lake is truly a joy and a privilege. I can be reached at [mary.anne@slptnv.org](mailto:mary.anne@slptnv.org).



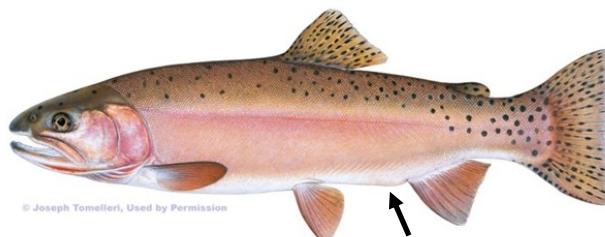
# Fishing Regulations

Fishing limits for 2026 were established by the Tribal Council at the February 2026 meeting:

**3 fish allowed per adult Tribal member and 1 fish allowed per minor Tribal member per year.**

- ◆ Tribal members must be present on the Reservation to take their limit of fish.
- ◆ Except for spouses of Tribal members, fishing by non-Tribal members is prohibited.
- ◆ A non-Tribal member married to a Tribal member may assist their spouse in fishing or fish in place of their spouse, as long as the Tribal member is present on the Reservation. Their take in fish per year is limited to the number of fish to which the Tribal member is entitled.
- ◆ Mahogany Creek is closed to all fishing in and above the fish trap and 100 yards below the fish trap (marked by the fence crossing the stream) from March 1 to June 15.
- ◆ **All of Mahogany Creek is closed to fishing from September-December 2026.**
- ◆ Tribal members may use dip nets and fishing poles to catch fish. The use of live bait, chumming, gaff hooks, spears, traps, wire fences, or other implements to take fish is prohibited.

Remember- the fish you catch could potentially have been tagged. Please have a Tribal employee scan your catch before cleaning it. PIT (Passive Integrated Transponder) tags are small, bead-like capsules inserted just below the skin of a fish. Tribal members fishing this spring should bring their fish to the Tribal Compound to be scanned for the presence of a PIT tag so that it can be removed before eating.



Location of PIT tag implant

# Hunting Regulations

Hunting within the boundaries of the Reservation is permitted to Tribal members provided that hunting is conducted in a safe manner.

- ◆ A non-Tribal member married to a Tribal member may assist their spouse in hunting or hunt in place of their spouse, as long as the Tribal member is present on the Reservation.
- ◆ Firearms are not to be discharged within 300 feet of buildings, land assignments, or areas known to be occupied by Tribal members or employees. Firearms are not to be discharged from motorized vehicles, or at night.
- ◆ **When hunting or fishing on the Reservation, it is strongly recommended that you carry your state issued ID, SLPT member ID, Harvest tag, and any hunter safety documentation.**



Sage-grouse harvest limits for 2026 were established by the Tribal Council at the February 2026 meeting:

Sage-grouse hunting season at Summit Lake is **September 1, 2026 to September 30, 2026**

**Harvest limit: 1 per adult member per year, no take for minors**

- Except for spouses of Tribal members, hunting by non-Tribal members is prohibited.
- A non-Tribal member married to a Tribal member may assist their spouse in hunting or hunt in place of their spouse, as long as the Tribal member is present on the Reservation. Their harvest per year is limited to that which the Tribal member is entitled.
- Spotighting sage-grouse while hunting is strictly prohibited

Please report any sage-grouse harvest to the Natural Resources Department using the provided harvest reporting tag

# Harvest Reporting

The Council approved a harvest tagging and reporting process for fish and game taken on the Reservation. Currently, this process is completely optional, but the Department strongly recommends that all members who harvest any fish and/or game on the Reservation properly fill out the harvest tag and return the reporting card. This process has three main benefits:

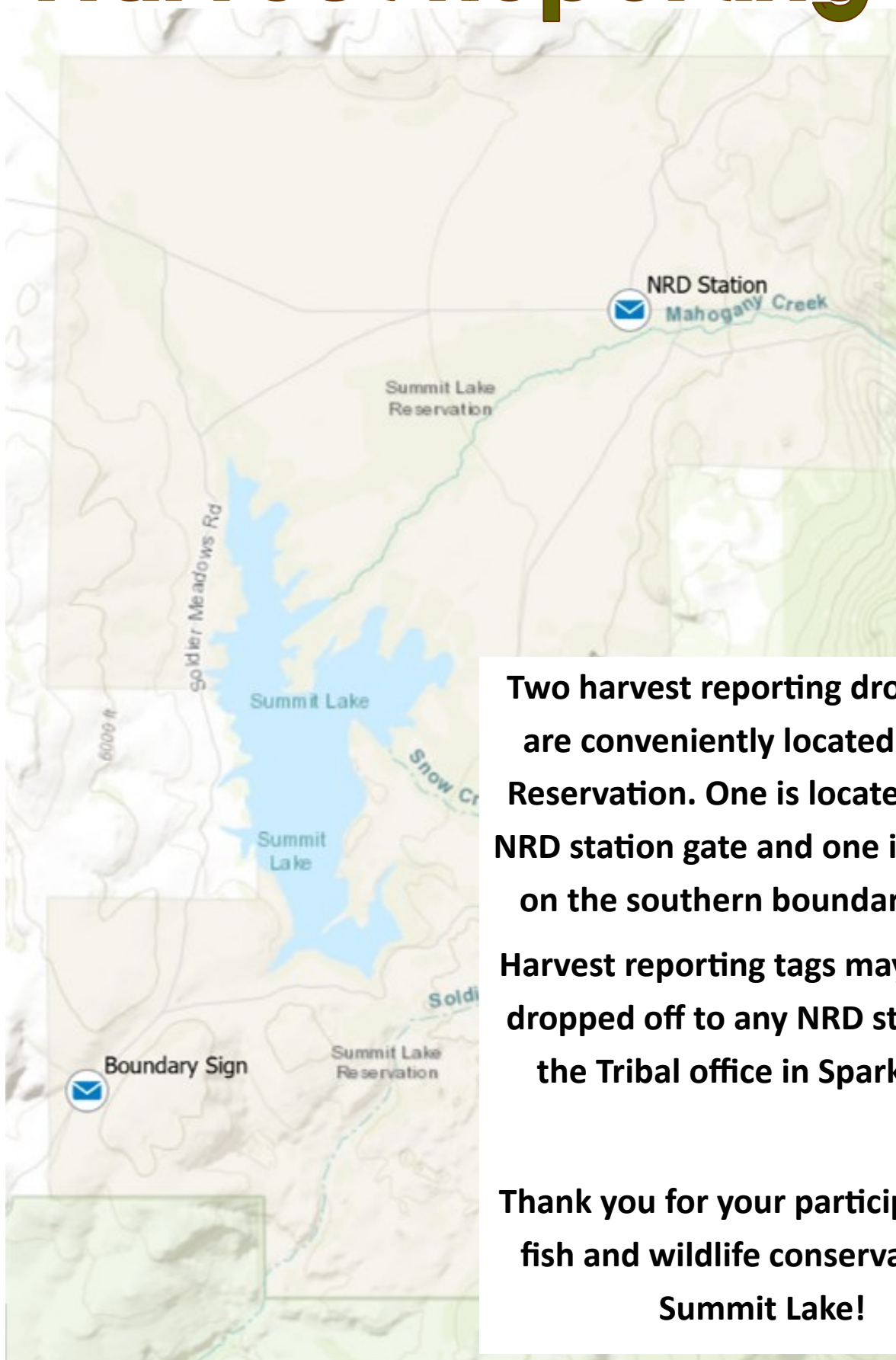
1. Proper tagging of harvest provides clarity to state game wardens in the event that any member is stopped outside the Reservation boundary with harvest taken on Summit Lake Tribal lands.
2. Harvest reporting provides valuable information to the NRD to more accurately monitor fish and wildlife populations at Summit Lake.
3. Annual harvest regulations (as approved by the Council) are detailed on the back of the harvest tag to provide a friendly reminder of any limits, restrictions, and/or seasons on fish and wildlife species within the Reservation boundary.

Additional harvest tags may be mailed on request or picked up at the Tribal office in Sparks, NV, and any questions about harvest tagging and reporting may be directed to the Natural Resources Department.

**Harvest reporting cards are found on the bottom, tear-off portion of the harvest tag. These cards can be dropped in either of two harvest reporting drop boxes located at the Reservation (see map on next page), or dropped off at the Tribal office in Sparks, NV.**



# Harvest Reporting



**Two harvest reporting drop boxes are conveniently located on the Reservation. One is located at the NRD station gate and one is located on the southern boundary sign . Harvest reporting tags may also be dropped off to any NRD staff or at the Tribal office in Sparks, NV.**

**Thank you for your participation in fish and wildlife conservation at Summit Lake!**

# Harvest Reporting

FRONT

**Summit Lake Paiute Tribe Harvest Tag**

Tag #: \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal Enrollment #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Location (Lat/Lon): \_\_\_\_\_

Species: Mule Deer Antelope Sage Grouse

Sex: Male Female

LCT #: \_\_\_\_\_

Harvest Year: 

24
25
26
27

Harvest taken on Summit Lake Paiute Tribal lands per Tribal Ordinance V. Take limits on reverse side.

For questions or concerns, please contact:

SLPT Natural Resources Director  
2255 Green Vista Dr. Suite 402  
Sparks, NV 89431

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Tag #: \_\_\_\_\_ Tribal Enrollment #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Location (Lat/Lon): \_\_\_\_\_

Species: Mule Deer Antelope Sage Grouse

Sex: Male Female

LCT #: \_\_\_\_\_

Please tear off and return to station, office, or dropbox

Record location of harvest (latitude/longitude preferred)

Circle appropriate species/sex for upland game and/or number of fish for LCT

Current harvest year will be punched out.

This portion will show the current annual harvest limits/seasons as approved by the Tribal Council

This information should match the top portion. Tear off bottom and return to NRD station, Tribal office or harvest tag drop box.

BACK

**Summit Lake Paiute Tribe Harvest Limits**

LCT (Per Adult Member): 

No Take	1	2	3	4	5
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LCT (Per Minor Member, 17 & Under): 

No Take	1	2	3	4	5
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Sage Grouse: 

No Take	1	2	3	4	5
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Sage Grouse Season: \_\_\_\_\_

Mule Deer & Antelope: No limit; any sex and size

No harvest regulations on any other game animal

**THESE REGULATIONS APPLY ONLY TO HARVEST TAKEN ON SLPT RESERVATION**

Any fish or game harvested outside SLPT Reservation boundary requires appropriate state license(s) and is subject to Nevada state regulations. For additional information contact NDOW at (775) 688-1500.

NRD respects privacy of Tribal members and will never release personal information related to harvest without Council authorization

# Preventing the Spread of Invasive Species & Disease

## *Preventing Invasive Species on the Reservation*

Invasive species are non-native species whose introduction causes harm to the environment that they have been introduced to. Invasive species are often called “hitchhikers” because of the primary way they spread into new environments, which is by “hitching” a ride on clothing or equipment. <sup>1</sup> A few simple practices can help stop the spread of invasive species on the Reservation:

**Invasive Plant Species:** Remove all seeds and stickers from hiking shoes and clothing before wearing them on the Reservation. Boot brushes can work well for this.

**Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):** In order to prevent the spread of AISs on the Reservation, waders, shoes/boots, and nets should be disinfected before being placed in the water.

To disinfect waders and equipment, you will need <sup>2</sup>:

- Bucket of soapy water
- Scrub brush
- 3% bleach solution in a spray bottle (1:32 dilution)
- A hose or gallon of fresh water

Steps to disinfect <sup>2</sup>:

1. Remove all visible debris with hose and/or scrub brush
2. Wash with soapy water
3. Rinse with fresh water
4. Spray equipment thoroughly with diluted bleach solution, including bottoms of boots/waders
5. Wait 5 minutes
6. Rinse with fresh water

## *Preventing the Spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza*

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) is a disease that occurs naturally in waterfowl and can infect other bird species and animals (including humans), but currently poses a low risk to the public according to the CDC <sup>3</sup>. It is spread through infected birds’ saliva, nasal secretions, and feces <sup>3</sup>. HPAI has been detected in birds on the Reservation. To prevent its spread, any shoes worn on the Reservation (especially near the lake where waterfowl feces is present) should be cleaned then disinfected (using a 3% bleach solution) as soon as possible after leaving the Reservation. HPAI is not transmissible through harvested birds as long as meat is properly cooked.



## References

1. [https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/invasives/Documents/Action/Training\\_AISDeconModule\\_NoQuiz\\_ADA.pdf?rev=3bf97924c633467f84cdf0a124fc45e](https://www.michigan.gov/-/media/Project/Websites/invasives/Documents/Action/Training_AISDeconModule_NoQuiz_ADA.pdf?rev=3bf97924c633467f84cdf0a124fc45e)
2. <https://dem.ri.gov/sites/g/files/xkgbur861/files/programs/bnatres/fishwild/pdf/wildlife-wetland-sanitation.pdf>
3. <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/avianflu/avian-in-birds.htm>



# Fisheries Management & Activities

## Spawn Run Monitoring

The Natural Resources Department (NRD) fisheries program had a very successful season in 2025. Staff monitored the annual spring spawning run at the fish trap from April 14<sup>th</sup>-June 18<sup>th</sup>. This year, we had 711 spawning Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) pass through the trap on Mahogany Creek, a dramatic increase from 2024. The population of LCT in the watershed varies quite a bit depending on the time of year (pre-spawn versus post-spawn) and therefore enumerating the size of the spawning run and monitoring trends across time is a key factor in understanding the population dynamics of this species.

## Redd Surveys

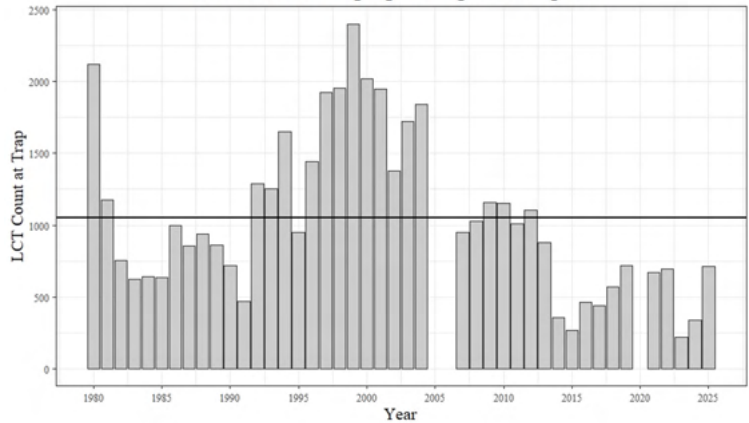
To better understand LCT spawning activity three redd surveys were conducted during the spawn run along Mahogany, Snow and Summer Camp Creeks. The surveys were conducted early in the spawn run, during the peak and late in the spawn run. Redd surveys consisted of staff walking along the Creeks to map the distribution of redds encountered, and to record specific data associated with each redd such as average substrate size, redd dimensions, and water temperature. Data from these surveys will inform future restoration efforts by identifying key characteristics and habitat type that are needed for LCT to spawn.



## Lake Sampling

One lake sampling survey was completed pre-spawn (April 1<sup>st</sup>-April 16<sup>th</sup>) to better understand the LCT lake population. Lake sampling consists of utilizing large fyke nets distributed randomly around the lake to capture and process LCT from the lake. These fish are measured, weighed, and checked for a PIT (passive integrated transponder) tag, and tagged if one was not already present. Tagging fish is an important tool that allows us to do capture-mark-recapture studies, which helps us estimate the size of the population at any given time based on the proportion of fish that are new captures versus fish that are recaptures during a particular sampling period.

Historic Fish Trap Spawning LCT Captures



Historic uprun count of LCT spawners ( $\geq 300$  mm) at the fish trap from 1980-2025. Total 2025 uprun spawners was 711 LCT. Average over the years was 1,053 LCT.



# Fisheries Management & Activities

## *PIT Antenna Monitoring*

PIT tag antennas situated throughout the watershed allow us to track LCT movement to better understand habitat usage and identify areas for targeting restoration efforts. The NRD has four PIT tag antennas distributed along the main channel of Mahogany Creek and two additional antennas located at the mouth of the Mahogany Creek overflow channel and at the mouth of Snow Creek. These antennas record the date, time, and PIT tag number of fish passing by the antenna. The antennas are linked to the SWEON network and data is automatically uploaded to the database allowing staff to download and analyze the data remotely whenever needed.



## *Stream Electrofishing Surveys*



NRD staff completed an electrofishing survey within Mahogany and Summer Camp Creeks. Eleven sections of creek were non-lethally surveyed across four days in mid-August. These surveys are our primary source of data on stream resident LCT and help us determine the density and distribution of LCT throughout the watershed. For the first time, an additional electrofishing survey took place along five sections of Snow Creek. Due to upcoming restoration planned to take place along Snow Creek in 2026, the NRD wanted to collect baseline electrofishing data to be able to compare LCT density and distribution pre and post restoration effort. Throughout the surveys a total of 36 stream resident LCT were found within the five creek sections and while spot shocking pools along Snow Creek.

## *Juvenile Monitoring*

Juvenile LCT monitoring took place in the spring utilizing two miniature fyke nets within lower Mahogany Creek. These nets were set in the creek and checked daily to process and tag juvenile LCT. Juvenile sampling is important because it provides information on juvenile LCT population estimates and assesses the timing of juvenile outmigration.



## *LCT Population Viability Analysis Model*

In partnership with researchers at the University of Nevada Reno, a Summit Lake Population Viability Analysis (PVA) model is being created to assess the probability of LCT's long-term persistence. This model is a complex tool that takes into account all the different life history stages of LCT to provide much more accurate information on the health and size of the population at every life stage. The PVA model will also be a valuable tool to inform future management and restoration efforts. Recently, collaboration with researchers and other LCT managers has occurred to finalize the PVA model. The NRD hopes this can be a reliable tool for use in the near future.



# Fisheries Management & Activities

## Future Monitoring

Much of this work is expected to continue through the 2026 field season. Expected sampling includes collecting important LCT data in support of the PVA model, such as: spawn run monitoring at the fish trap, redd surveys, lake sampling, PIT tag antenna monitoring, stream electrofishing, juvenile fyke net monitoring, and a new fry trap project to assess LCT hatch rate.



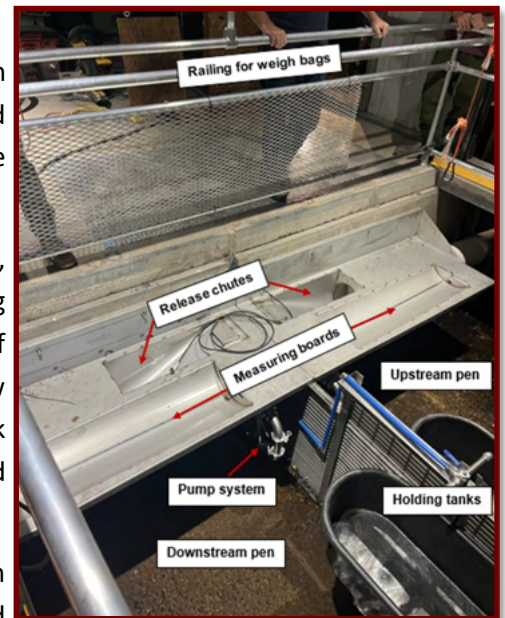
## Trap Upgrades

On August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the NRD was awarded a BIA Hatchery Maintenance Program grant to improve safety, increase efficiency of fish processing, and improve in-stream structures within the Summit Lake fish trap facility. The Tribe decided to collaborate with a fisheries consulting company, FishBio, to help design, fabricate and install the proposed facility upgrades.

To enhance safety at the fish trap facility, anti-slip grip tape was installed on floor surfaces, and existing railings and ladders were replaced. The updated railing design also incorporates expanded metal between the railing and toe guards to further reduce the risk of fall-related injuries.

To increase efficiency and reduce cost of LCT processing within the fish trap, new processing stations were designed and constructed. These new processing stations allow for more efficient workflow and decrease the number of staff members needed to process fish in the trap from 2 to 1. Some of these new features include fish holding tanks, recessed measuring boards to collect fork length measurements, overhead cameras to notify staff of fish presence and release chutes equipped with a pump system to draw water through them.

The old wooden and metal weir features within the trap were replaced with stainless steel weir features. All the new features were designed and constructed to fit within the pre-existing concrete channel. The opening of the v-weir where fish swim through in the uprun pen is now easily adjustable by a crank system and is fitted with crab fingers to deter fish from escaping. New trap features should remain durable overtime and no set up or break down will be required.



In early 2025 the NRD worked closely with FishBio to revise design plans to ensure all proposed upgrades were included in our final design plan. Fabrication of new trap features occurred over the summer, and installation occurred mid-august of 2025. The NRD is looking forward to testing out the new workflow while monitoring the spawn run in 2026.

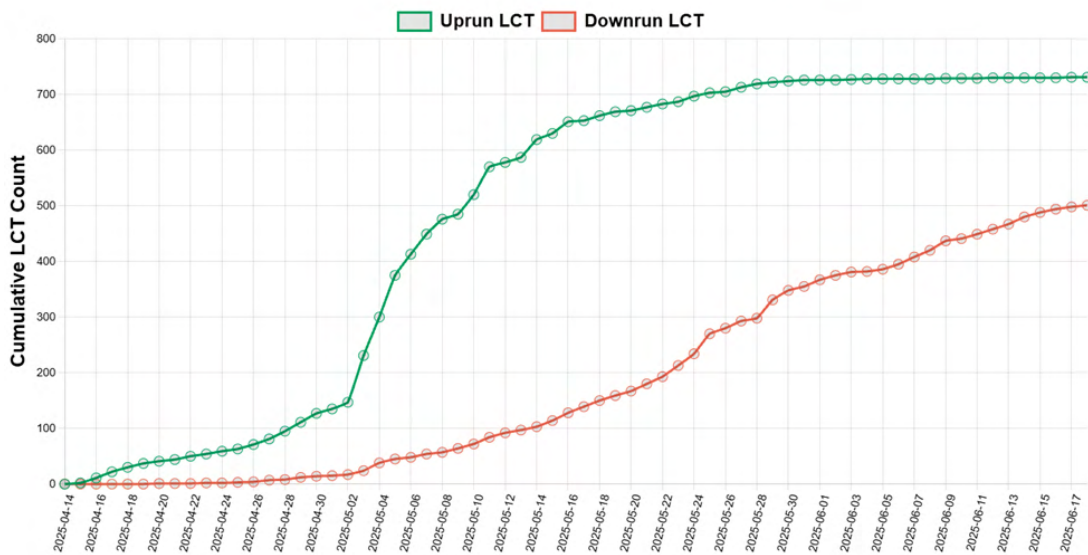


# Fisheries Management & Activities

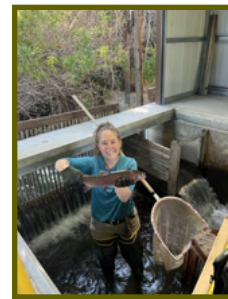
## LCT Spawn Run Counter and Fish Trap Livestream

In 2026, the Natural Resources Department (NRD) will continue operating the new link found on our website that is focused on sharing information about the Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) population at the Reservation. This link will provide a graph that will display the current cumulative count of LCT we have captured migrating upstream before spawning and back downstream after spawning at the Mahogany Creek fish trap. With the addition of some new equipment we have installed on the Reservation, this daily count will be updated every few hours so you will know (in real time) exactly how many fish we have processed this year! The link can be found under the 'LCT' link within the NRD's home page of the Summit Lake Paiute Tribes website or by using the link or QR code below. This fish counter will be operational for the 2026 LCT spawn run in April 2026.

### Mahogany Creek Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Spawn Run in 2025



This webpage will periodically feature a live stream of NRD staff catching and processing LCT at the fish trap. Viewers will be able to watch in real time as fish are captured, measured, weighed, tagged, and released. We will announce specific dates and times for each live stream on our social media pages. If you're unable to tune in live, recorded videos will be available on our YouTube channel (SummitLakeNRD) following each broadcast. During the peak of the spawning run—typically in May—we plan to host a live stream once a week to ensure plenty of opportunities to see fish in action. Stay tuned for more information and updates on the exciting projects we look forward to sharing with you.



The LCT count and live stream will be available at <https://www.summitlaketribe.org/lct.html>, or by scanning the QR code above.



# Network Fire Camera

In late 2024 the Nevada Seismological Laboratory installed a wildfire monitoring camera on the mountain overlooking the reservation to the east. This camera is part of a statewide point-to-point network that can provide early detection for natural disasters such as wildfire and earthquakes. Thankfully, we have not had to make full use of this camera system yet, but the New York Peak camera, approximately 15 miles to the east, did detect a fire within hours of its start, and BLM wildfire crews were able to extinguish it promptly. This exemplifies that early fire detection throughout the state can drastically improve emergency response times which leads to less spread and collateral damage. These cameras, including the Summit Lake camera, are available at <https://alertwildfire.org/>.



The QR code above will direct you to the Summit Lake Alert Wildfire camera.

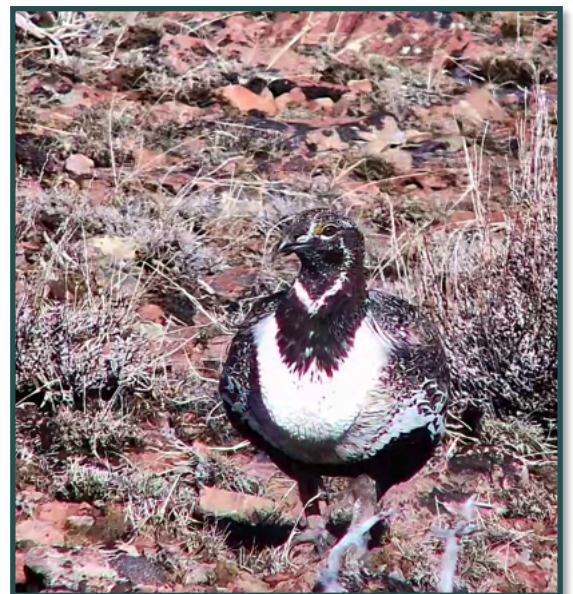


*Image from the Summit Lake wildfire camera*

# Sage-Grouse Study

Greater Sage-grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) are the largest of seven grouse species in North America and occupy sagebrush-steppe ecosystems, which dominate the western portion of the continent. Sage-grouse were historically found throughout sagebrush communities in 15 states and along the southern border of two western Canadian provinces. The remaining core sage-grouse populations are located in areas of Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, and Wyoming, with remnant populations in other states. Over the last 30 years, sage-grouse populations have declined dramatically and currently occupy less than 50% of their historic range. Habitat loss, degradation, and fragmentation have reduced the quantity and quality of sagebrush-steppe habitat leading to widespread population declines. Wildfire, invasion of nonnative flora and fauna, grazing pressures, energy development and mining, agriculture and rural/ suburban development, disease, and climate change are all factors impacting sagebrush-steppe habitats. Because of these sources of habitat degradation and their contribution to sage-grouse population declines, sage-grouse have been petitioned multiple times for listing under the Endangered Species Act. To date, they have yet to be listed, largely in part due to state and federally enacted conservation efforts and monitoring programs throughout the West.

Tribal members have observed a sharp decline in sage-grouse populations on the Reservation over the past few decades similar to documented state- and range-wide trends. In response, the Summit Lake Paiute Tribe Natural Resources Department (NRD) began a sage-grouse study in 2014 to assess population trends over time and determine factors impacting the local sage-grouse population. This study focuses on collecting a wide range of sage-grouse population demographics such as lek attendance, adult and juvenile survival, nest and brood success and seasonal habitat utilization and movements. These data will help the Tribe monitor short and long term changes both in sage-grouse population and habitat condition and prioritize and implement habitat restoration and conservation for sage-grouse at Summit Lake.



# Sage-Grouse Study

## Lek Counts

The Department staff conducted 130 lek counts in 2025, doubling our record last year, which was the most counts conducted per season since the Tribe began monitoring sage-grouse in 2014. These were both on foot and camera monitored lek counts. This was a great accomplishment in population monitoring for sage-grouse at Summit Lake and the department anticipates meeting or exceeding that effort in the 2026 field season. Department staff has continued monitoring the new lek located on the Reservation. This lek had consistently high attendance in 2025 which was very encouraging. In 2024 the department installed a camera system to monitor this lek remotely and record additional information about sage-grouse lek attendance. The department is again well staffed going into the 2026 field season and will continue to prioritize lek counts around Summit Lake and collaborate with NDOW and Sheldon biologists to accurately and efficiently monitor the sage-grouse population at Summit Lake.



## Capture Effort

Department staff successfully captured and collared 34 hens in 2025. These hens were fitted with GPS collars which provide more accurate and frequent location information compared to VHF collars. Location information helps determine seasonal sage-grouse habitat use to inform sage-grouse-conscious management decisions and reduce potential disturbance to sage-grouse across the Reservation.

## Nest/Brood Monitoring

Staff monitored 11 sage-grouse nests in 2025. Staff were able to improve nest monitoring efforts with the use of nest camera systems. Nest success was above 45% and hatch rate was approximately 47% showing a lower sage-grouse reproductive season in 2025 from 2024. While this is worrisome, research shows this is still in the average range of sage-grouse nest success.

## Habitat Surveys

Department staff conducted 17 habitat surveys at sage-grouse locations throughout 2025. These surveys provide valuable information on the fine-scale habitat characteristics and improve decision-making processes for sage-brush habitat restoration and management around Summit Lake.



# Noxious Weed Management

2025 was a successful year for noxious weed control on the Summit Lake Paiute Reservation! Invasive species pose a significant threat due to their ability to outcompete native plants. With few natural competitors or predators, these species quickly dominate, depleting key resources and reducing native plant populations. To address this issue, we partnered with Progressive Pest Management to conduct two treatments—one in



the spring and one in the fall. This year, we targeted perennial pepperweed, hoary cress, Canada thistle, bull thistle, tamarisk, Scotch thistle, and cheatgrass. Treatments covered 479.42 acres, including Mahogany Creek, Summit Lake, field station, roads, springs, fuel breaks, and the landing runway. Noxious weed control efforts will continue in the upcoming field season.





# Paleoclimatology Project

This past year, our partners at the University of Nevada-Reno, along with other academic institutions, continue to analyze sediment cores collected from the deepest part of Summit Lake to better understand the geologic and climatic history of the Summit Lake watershed. After collecting two overlapped 11-meter-long sediment cores (one of which ended up drilling into an ancient tree!) and radiocarbon dating the extracted sediment, they were able to reconstruct some of the major geologic and climatic events in the watershed's history. Approximately 11,500 years ago Summit Lake was created by a landslide from Summit Lake Mountain. The deep-water lake conditions of the next 4,000 years helped to solidify the formation of the lake, but the period from approximately 8,000 to only 600 years ago shows that there were prolonged drought events with large fluctuations in lake level. In addition to these exciting results and insights into the lake's history the researchers plan to extract DNA remnants from the cores and examine tree rings from the surrounding region to better understand how changes in climate may have impacted the ecology and species composition of the watershed. We look forward to sharing more results from this study with you all in 2027 as our partners at the University continue their research!



# Management Plans



## *Multispecies Conservation Plan*

Since late 2024, Department staff have been designing and compiling a Multi-Species Conservation Plan to guide the future of conservation and management of at-risk fish, wildlife and plants at Summit Lake. Species are included in this plan based on a rigorous and thoughtful process. Currently, species included in this plan are Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, Greater Sagegrouse, Sierran Tree Frog, and Western Pearlshell Mussel. Each included species receives a comprehensive analysis including cultural significance, population and habitat status, monitoring plans, potential restoration activities and risks and impacts. With continued revision and re-assessment of included species, this plan will serve as a valuable adaptive management tool for decades to come.



## *Climate Adaptation Plan*

The future climate and its impacts and mitigations will not be the same across the United States and its communities, which have different needs. Therefore, climate projections and their impacts and mitigations need to be tailored for communities. The Summit Lake Paiute Tribe Climate Adaptation Planning For Ecosystems and Community is the critical first attempt by the Tribe to tailor its planning for the expected future climate in the Reservation and watershed. The purpose of the plan to be living document that is updated periodically to maximize the resiliency of the Tribe and its resources. The plan focuses on future climate projections and considerations that the Tribal Council and membership may consider for community infrastructure and the management of the fish and wildlife populations.

## *Vegetation Management Plan*



During 2025, staff worked to develop a vegetation management plan to guide future management efforts and decisions on the Reservation. Staff reviewed historical management actions to assess current conditions and inform future priorities. With assistance from contractors, staff drafted management goals, protocols, and guidelines to standardize implementation. Projects included invasive weed monitoring and treatment, creation of an herbarium, surveying for plant populations, native seed collection, compilation of plant lists (including native, culturally significant, and special-status species), and monitoring of habitat types to support plant and wildlife health and protect Tribal resources.

# Reptile & Amphibian Inventory Project



This past field season NRD staff wrapped up the “herp”, or reptile and amphibian, inventory study on the Reservation. The goal of the study was to gain a better understanding of the species composition on the Reservation as well as allow the NRD to get a baseline dataset of herpetofauna species to facilitate future monitoring of their populations. Reptile and amphibian species play a vital role in the ecosystem, especially as members of the food web as they serve as both predators and prey and contribute greatly to the flow of nutrients. Due to their sensitivities to changes in environmental factors they can also serve as indicator species, meaning monitoring their populations can serve as an early warning for changes occurring in the environment. Both reptiles and amphibians face a variety of threats today, so monitoring their populations is important for both the conservation of herp species and as an indication of the ecosystem’s health as a whole.

NRD staff completed 158 reptile and amphibian surveys these past two seasons, including surveys around the springs, lake, and creeks for amphibians, and in a variety of habitats around the Reservation for reptiles. 15 different amphibian and reptile species were found this year on the Reservation during surveys, and more species are believed to be present. Below is a table of the species found throughout this project. Additional reptile and amphibian monitoring on the Reservation is planned for upcoming field seasons.



Great Basin Spadefoot



Western Terrestrial Gartersnake



Sierran Treefrog

Common Name	Scientific Name
Amphibian Species	
Great Basin Spadefoot	<i>Spea intermontane</i>
Sierran treefrog	<i>Pseudacris sierra</i>
Reptile Species	
Western skink	<i>Plestiodon skiltonianus</i>
Pygmy short-horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma douglasii</i>
Sagebrush lizard	<i>Sceloporus graciosus</i>
Desert horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma platyrhinos</i>
Western whiptail	<i>Aspidoscelis tigris</i>
Great Basin collared lizard	<i>Crotaphytus bicinctores</i>
Western fence lizard	<i>Sceloporus occidentalis</i>
Western terrestrial gartersnake	<i>Thamnophis elegans</i>
Western yellow-bellied racer	<i>Coluber constrictor mormon</i>
Great Basin rattlesnake	<i>Crotalus lutosus</i>
Great Basin gophersnake	<i>Pituophis catenifer deserticola</i>
Stripped Whipsnake	<i>Masticophis taeniatus</i>
Northern rubber boa	<i>Charina bottae</i>



Pygmy Short-horned Lizard



Western Whiptail



Great Basin Rattlesnake

# Migratory Birds on Summit Lake Lands

Each spring and summer, hundreds of birds pass through or settle on Summit Lake Paiute Tribe lands. Some arrive to nest, while others stop briefly to rest and feed before continuing their journey north. Over the past two field seasons (2024–2025), the Natural Resources Department has been working to better understand when these birds arrive, where they spend time, and which parts of the Reservation are most important to them.

To do this, surveys were conducted in main types of areas:

- Springs
- Riparian
- High and Low sagebrush
- Wooded areas
- High Elevation sagebrush

At each location, surveys were completed at least three times during the season. Arrivals start between late May–early June and starts to decline late June–mid-July, depending on the weather conditions at the beginning of the season. During each

visit, birds were recorded by sight and sound during short morning surveys that began around sunrise. These surveys help build a long-term picture of how birds use the lands and how those patterns may change over time.



## What We Are Seeing

When the results from both years were combined, several clear patterns appeared. The largest variety of birds was observed during the middle part of the season, when migration is at its busiest. Riparian and spring-fed areas consistently had more kinds of birds than open sagebrush areas. These green corridors provide water, food, and shelter from predators and weather. This makes them especially valuable resting and nesting places for both migratory and resident birds. This is just one of many reasons why restoration and protection of desert springs and riparian areas are critical for wildlife at Summit Lake.

## Long-Term Monitoring Matters

Repeating these surveys each year allows the Tribe to:

- Track changes in bird populations
- Identify important habitats that need protection
- Understand how weather and climate may affect migration timing
- Guide future land management and restoration projects

In addition to in-person surveys, sound-recording devices have also been placed in some areas to detect birds that are active at night or difficult to see.

## Why This Matters

Migratory birds depend on healthy land across huge distances. Summit Lake Paiute Tribe lands are a critical resource as part of that larger network of places birds rely on each year during breeding and migration. By continuing this monitoring work, the Tribe is building knowledge that supports wildlife conservation, habitat protection, and responsible land stewardship for future generations.

# Bat Monitoring & White-nose Syndrome Testing

## Bat Monitoring on the Reservation

Over the past several years, the Natural Resources Department has shared updates in this newsletter about the Tribe's bat inventory and monitoring work. Those past efforts focused on learning which bat species use the Reservation, where they occur, and how often they are active across different habitats. Using acoustic detectors, staff have been building a growing picture of bat diversity on Summit Lake Paiute Tribe lands and how bats move across the landscape.

Last year's work builds on that foundation. In addition to continued acoustic monitoring, NRD conducted a short capture effort to screen bats for *White-nose Syndrome*. Two nights of mist-netting were completed to collect swabs for disease testing. Conditions during those nights were cold and windy—weather that limits bat activity—so we did not expect many captures.

Two bats were caught, and both tested **negative** for White-nose Syndrome.

While the number was small, these results are encouraging and add an important new layer to the long-term bat work already underway. The bat grant that supported this project wraps up this year, but with White-nose Syndrome now confirmed in southern Nevada, bat monitoring has become even more important. The Department looks forward to finding new opportunities to continue this work and protect bats on the Reservation.

## What is White-nose Syndrome?

White-nose Syndrome is a disease caused by a fungus that grows on bats while they hibernate. It has caused major bat declines across North America. In some areas, more than 90% of bats in a cave have died after the disease arrived.

The fungus wakes bats too often during winter, causing them to use up the fat they need to survive until spring. Many die before insects return.

Now that White-nose Syndrome has reached Nevada, early monitoring is critical. Testing bats helps us:

- Detect the disease as soon as possible
- Track how it spreads
- Identify areas that may need protection
- Act before major losses occur

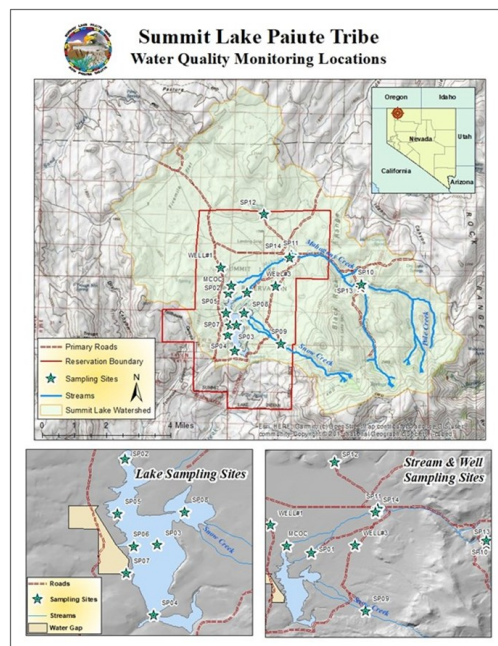
The bat work shared in past newsletters including acoustic surveys, species lists, and habitat use, has given the Tribe a strong baseline. This year's disease screening adds to that foundation and prepares us for what may come next. Together, these efforts help ensure that bats remain a healthy and lasting part of the Reservation's ecosystem.





# Water Quality Monitoring

The Summit Lake watershed requires the protection of water quality to guard human and environmental health. NRD staff were able to successfully complete seasonal water quality testing, streamflow measurements, BMI testing, and spring monitoring. Each spring, summer, and fall NRD staff collect water samples from Summit Lake, Mahogany Creek, Snow Creek, water wells, and natural springs. The samples are analyzed in a laboratory for several different water quality parameters such as inorganic nutrient levels (i.e., magnesium, fluoride, iron, etc.), organic nutrient levels (i.e., ammonia, nitrogen, phosphorus, etc.), and bacteria presence. Field measurements which include pH, temperature, specific conductivity, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen are taken on site when the samples are collected. The water quality parameter's results are compared with past results to track changes over the years. To further enhance water quality management, staff submitted draft Water Quality Standards to the EPA. These standards will guide monitoring efforts and help assess whether water bodies meet the necessary conditions for protecting fish, wildlife, and other uses. Creek flow measurements were taken every month from April through September, allowing staff and members to understand how water quantity is changing throughout the year and between years. The Summit Lake Paiute Tribe added their water quality results to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) water quality exchange. This data is not available to the public but will increase the ability for staff to track water quality on the Reservation. Staff updated our quality assurance protection plan to include more parameters for our 2026 field season, including expanding testing to include more



metals, and testing the lake for cyanobacteria. Staff recommend only drinking from our approved drinking water well at the Reservation and remember to always filter or boil other stream/springs water before drinking!

Benthic macroinvertebrates (BMI) are small critters- such as snails, leeches, mussels, fly larva, and many more- that live on the bottom of the lake, creeks, and springs. These invertebrates help NRD staff understand the health and diversity of these ecosystems. Samples were sent in for ID testing and when the results are finalized, staff will know the different species of BMI within the watershed along with a rough estimate of the density of each species. Staff surveyed Mahogany Creek for Western Pearlshell Mussels to understand where they inhabit the creek and how dense their population is. Continued surveying in 2026 will improve our understanding of their population health.

# Nonpoint Source Pollution & Game Cameras

Nonpoint source pollution refers to contamination that cannot be traced to a single source, with common examples including agriculture, drainage runoff, animal waste, and human-related pollutants like oil or fertilizer. This year, our staff conducted vegetation surveys, water quality sampling, and invertebrate sampling at Lakeview, Tollhouse, Tule, Slide, and One Mile Springs. Slide and Tule are located in the southern part of the Reservation, One Mile Spring is in the north, and Tollhouse and Lakeview are west of Summit Lake. Water quality samples were analyzed for bacteria, metals, and inorganic materials to assess contamination levels, while vegetation surveys documented plant species around the springs to provide valuable data for future restoration projects aimed at preventing nonpoint source pollution. Staff monitor 18 wildlife cameras around water bodies, and footage has confirmed that cattle and horse interactions at the springs have ceased while native wildlife continues to access these critical water sources.



# Riparian Restoration

## *Mahogany Creek*

### Reed Canary Grass Management Project:

The Tribe has continued to work closely with consultants from Wildscape Engineering and Native Ecosystems, Inc. (NEI) to plan and carry out restoration efforts proposed within the 2024 Mahogany Creek Reed canary grass (RCG) management plan. This plan focuses on implementing RCG control efforts, revegetation and overall floodplain restoration to benefit Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT). Using a combination of RCG removal methods consisting of mowing, aquatic-rated herbicide application and manual in-stream removal, a total of 5.73 acres of RCG was controlled along 1.5 miles of Mahogany Creek. From fall 2024 to spring 2025 approximately 63,000+ wetland



plant plugs were propagated through two different vendors (California, Montana) to be used for revegetation efforts in 2025. These plant plugs were used to revegetate around 3.3 acres of area where RCG removal efforts occurred in 2024. NEI collected 47 pounds (processed dry weight) of wetland seed to be utilized in future revegetation efforts, either through direct seeding or plant plug propagation. RCG control methods, seed collection/propagation, revegetation, and monitoring efforts are planned to continue for this project through 2026.

### Mahogany Creek Irrigation Diversion Removal & Adaptive Management

In August, with assistance from Wildscape Engineering (restoration design) and Delta Dirtwork (on-ground work) progress was made on two in-stream concrete irrigation diversion removal projects along Mahogany Creek just downstream of the fish trap. Both projects were implemented within a stretch of Mahogany Creek that is heavily utilized for LCT spawning and were aimed at restoring stream conditions to enhance available spawning habitat for the species. One project focused on adaptive management of a stream segment where an irrigation diversion was removed in 2024. Although the diversion removal was successful, the subsequent creek restoration resulted in streamflow exceeding levels considered ideal for spawning LCT. To address this issue, adaptive management actions were implemented to decrease streamflow. Prior to initiating this effort, full-depletion electrofishing was conducted to remove all LCT from the affected stream segment, allowing flows to be diverted and the reach to be dewatered. Following that, log features were added within the channel to create minor sinuosity, thereby resulting in decreased streamflow and conditions more suitable for spawning. The other project focused on removing an additional irrigation diversion just downstream of the first project location. This project also involved full depletion electrofishing, flow diversion, and dewatering prior to removing the in-stream concrete structure. Following the structure removal, the stream bank was stabilized, and appropriately sized gravel was placed within the channel to increase LCT spawning substrate.



# Riparian Restoration

## Lateral Floodplain Connectivity

Adjacent to these diversion removal sites, advanced floodplain restoration and revegetation efforts were also implemented to maintain lateral floodplain connectivity with Mahogany Creek. Through this work, 720 linear feet of ditches were filled and compacted, 1,250 square feet of berm was removed, and six keyed logs were installed to redirect flow to the channel. In addition, 1.3 pounds of on-site collected native seed was used to re-seed within these disturbed areas. This project resulted in restoration of a total of 0.6 acres of Mahogany Creek floodplain.

## *Snow Creek*

### Assessment to Determine Restoration Recommendations

With assistance from Wildscape Engineering, a full Snow Creek assessment occurred to determine restoration recommendations to restore stream connectivity and benefit LCT. This assessment included geomorphic stream surveys and intensive riparian vegetation surveys. Geomorphic stream surveys took place at 5 standardized survey locations along Snow Creek within Reservation boundaries. These surveys consisted of collecting data on the creek to identify areas in need of restoration and to assess habitat changes over time. Some of these measurements include width of flow, channel width, thalweg depth, and Wolman pebble counts. Channel type was defined (single/secondary), primary riparian vegetation was noted, and flow measurements were also taken at all survey locations. These surveys are important to assess stream health and will provide important baseline habitat data prior to planned restoration effort in 2026. In addition to the stream surveys, riparian vegetation surveys were conducted to map invasive species throughout the entire riparian corridor along Snow Creek. These vegetation surveys occurred from the mouth of Snow Creek upstream to the Reservation boundary. The vegetation surveys identified scattered populations of invasive thistle, cheatgrass and a few isolated patches of RCG within the riparian corridor. This assessment resulted in a report presenting recommendations to restore Snow Creek to improve stream connectivity and increase available habitat for LCT.





# Fire Break Mowing & Reseeding

In September 2025, the Tribe worked with a regional contractor to mow approximately 100 acres of fuel breaks on the Reservation. These fuel breaks are strips in the landscape, usually adjacent to roads or fences, that can prevent or slow the spread of wildfire by breaking up continuous patches of thick vegetation. To ensure that these fuel breaks are resilient against invasive annual grasses and are wildlife friendly, herbicide and native seed mixes were applied following mowing activities. The Department will continue to monitor these fuel breaks each year to assess their effectiveness in preventing or slowing spread of potential fires and to manage any threats from invasive annual grasses.



# SWEON



The Summit Lake Watershed Environmental Observation Network, or SWEON, is moving into its second year of development and its initial and primary phase of development is nearing



completion. Our goal of this project is to create a wireless network at the Reservation by which our field science sensors are able to be remotely monitored by staff and Tribal members. This project has been made possible in part by partners at the University of Nevada Reno's Nevada Seismological Lab and the Nevada System of Higher Education.

They are able to provide a point-to-point internet connection to the Reservation through the state wildfire camera network and data center space to process and securely store our environmental data.

Some of you that have been up to the Reservation this past year may have noticed cameras alongside the roads at the entrances. These are an example of the network sensors put in place to provide a better idea of conditions at the Reservation for the Tribe. This data can be accessed at <https://summitlake.science/public-map.html> where we currently display daily road camera condition images, data from bird audio sensors, and daily data from our PIT antenna stations which tells us when Lahontan cutthroat trout are moving within the stream.

In the next few months, the website will be updated to include data from our climate stations as well as stream gauges. Additional information about environmental conditions—like spawning LCT count and sage grouse monitoring efforts—will be available from the website.

**Commitment to Conservation and Tribal Stewardship**

The Natural Resources Department (NRD) is dedicated to supporting the Tribe's mission...to Promote Conservation, with Protection and Enhancement of Tribal Natural Resources. We passionately work on diverse conservation initiatives and environmental protection programs and continually reinforce our commitment to Tribal sovereignty and stewardship of the environment.

**Empowering Our Ecosystem through a collaborative effort: The Summit Lake Watershed Environmental Observation Network (SWEON)**

A key initiative for conservancy and Tribal sovereignty is the Summit Lake Watershed Environmental Observation Network (SWEON). The SWEON project is a collaborative effort between the NRD, the University of Nevada, Reno, the Nevada Seismological Lab, NDRS System Computing Services, the Tahoe Institute for Global Sustainability, and the Bureau of Land Management.

This dynamic project focuses on observing, collecting data, researching, and restoring the Summit Lake Reservation and its watershed. By establishing an advanced real-time monitoring network, SWEON will significantly enhance our ability to protect the vital habitats of the Lahontan cutthroat trout and other significant cultural species, strengthen creek and lake ecosystems, and support the Tribe's cultural heritage and future sustainability.

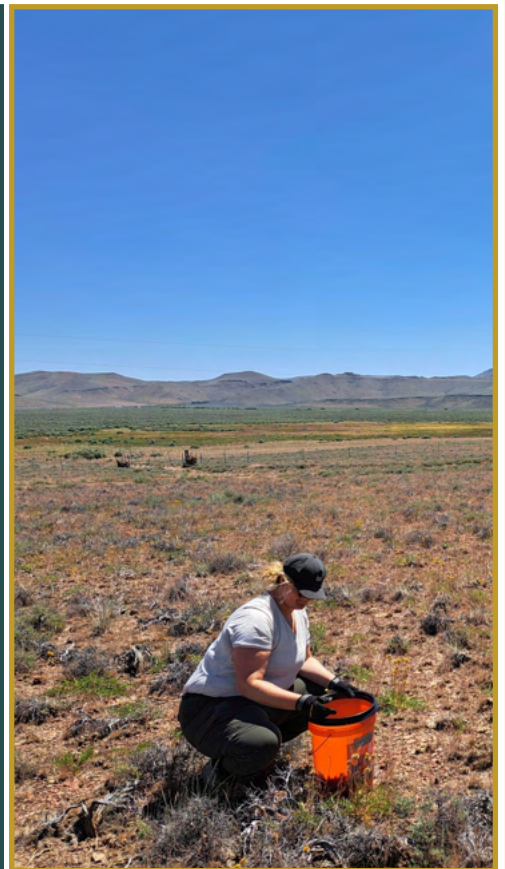
The SWEON project integrates cutting-edge technology to streamline data collection and real-time analysis, empowering efficient resource management and reducing workload demands on Tribal staff. Through SWEON, we aim to foster ecological resilience, cultural vitality, and a thriving environment for generations to come.

# Native Plant/Seed Program

In the inaugural year of the Native Seed Program, staff accomplished the following:

- Identified 98 plants on the reservation additional to existing records.
- Identified and mapped ~90 plant populations suitable for seed collection.
- Completed 6 seed collections totaling 3.4 pounds of seed. That may not sound like much, but it amounts to an estimated 2.2 million seeds!
- Partnered with UNR to have collected seed cleaned and tested.
- Developed processes for future native seed work.

To collect seed, we first visit or “scout” a plant population and collect information about the plants and the site. We revisit the population as fruits mature and natural dispersal approaches. With some exceptions, the key is to collect the seeds when they have matured but have not yet dispersed, or separated, from the parent plant. Some seed disperses as soon as it has matured, while other seed stays on the parent plant for weeks after. Seed like daisy or sagebrush is dispersed by the wind; seed from plants like wild cherry or serviceberry rely on frugivores to spread their seed; lupines and violets disperse their seed “ballistically” (stiff seed pods explode in the air); and many other plants rely on gravity or waterflow to move their seed. Every plant species is different, and therefore every seed collection is a little different.



# Native Plant/Seed Program

We use our hands or shears to pick seed or carefully cut fruiting material into buckets or bags. Then we dry the collected material and treat it for pests. Next, seed is cleaned before conservation use or storage. Machinery or handheld sieves and screens are used to separate the seeds from inert plant material. This reduces storage space for seeds, improves restoration delivery, and sometimes improves germination. SLPT's seed is cleaned and tested for germination potential and viability at the UNR Native Seed Bank. Then, we store our seed at cold temperatures to prolong the life of the seed and protect it from pests.

Native seed can be difficult to find on the market and expensive to purchase. Moreover, seed on the market is often not locally adapted to where it will be planted. The SLPT Native Seed Program allows us to self-source desired seed that will be best adapted to Tribal land.

To learn more about native seed work, *Native Seeds: Supplying Restoration*, a recent documentary that features many Great Basin landscapes, seed producers, and specialists, can be viewed online for free (International Network for Seed-Basin Restoration, <https://ser-inr.org/native-seed-film>). More seed collection for restoration is planned for 2026.



In 2025, the plants described below were selected for collection based on their excellent restoration, wildlife, and cultural value. Some of that seed is already slated for restoration work on the Reservation in 2026. The rest is safe in storage and will be used in coming years.



Yellow rabbitbrush or sigupi (*Chrysothamnus viscidiflorus*) (pictured left) is an excellent late-season plant for pollinators and acts as an early and prolific colonizer after disturbance and in poor soils. It is used medicinally by some Paiutes.

# Native Plant/Seed Program



Hooker's balsamroot or kusiaki (*Balsamorhiza hookeri*) (pictured left) is important forage and an early season flower for pollinators and grouse. Seeds and roots of this plant are eaten.

Thurber's needlegrass or huki (*Achnatherum thurberianum*) (pictured middle right) is a valuable forage species. It is an early colonizer of disturbed areas. The seeds of some needlegrass species have cultural use as food.

Taper-tip onion or kyyga (*Allium acuminatum*) (pictured middle left) is a preferred species for sage grouse and native pollinators. Wild onions are a widely favored Paiute food.



Basin big sagebrush or sawabi (*Artemisia tridentata*) (pictured bottom left) is an obligate species for sage grouse. It provides important forage for many animals and is a host plant for a variety of insects. Cultural uses are extensive and include medicinal (leaves), food (galls), fiber (bark), and fuel (branches). The seed collected in 2025 will be used to produce nursery plants that will be planted in priority restoration areas in 2026.



Cushion wild buckwheat (*Eriogonum ovalifolium*) (pictured bottom right) has a long bloom period for pollinators and also supports sage grouse.

NRD wants your input on native plants and seeds. Follow the QR code link or check out the enclosed flyer to learn more.





During the 2025 Outreach Event, 'Nanosoo Tamme Wunu', we had Tribal Members, UNR, BLM, and others gather at Summit Lake for educational activities. We demonstrated Natural Resources Department tasks and projects and included boat rides, scavenger hunts, benthic invertebrate identification, sage grouse tracking, reptile show and tell, visiting the fish trap, and plant gathering and pressing. We also had Paiute bingo and cultural activities. UNR faculty provided updates on Summit Lake projects and the exciting science happening. Notably, the Council and UNR sign a memorandum of agreement (MOA), formally recognizing a cooperative relationship between UNR and the Summit Lake Paiute to support collaboration on initiatives and projects. We are planning our Reservation event for June 5-7! This year will include similar activities and updates on NRD projects. We hope to have you join us! RSVP's can be filled out on our website, found through our social media, or by scanning the QR code below.



A photograph of two deer in a field. One is a larger buck with small antlers, and the other is a smaller doe. They are standing on a dirt path in a field of dry grass and shrubs. The title "Chronic Wasting Disease Information" is overlaid in large, orange, outlined letters.

# Chronic Wasting Disease Information

## What is Chronic Wasting Disease?

Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a highly contagious neurological disease like Mad Cow Disease (BSE) but instead affects deer, elk, reindeer, and moose. To date, there have been no reported cases of CWD infection in people. However, CWD has been found to pose a risk to non-human primates like monkeys, which raises concerns that there may also be a risk to people.<sup>1</sup>

CWD and BSE are prion diseases that cause abnormal folding of prion proteins that lead to brain damage. Prion diseases are also known as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) and are a family of rare progressive disorders that affect both humans and animals. TSEs typically progress rapidly and are always fatal.<sup>1</sup> CWD is transmitted directly through animal-to-animal contact, and indirectly through contact with objects or environment contaminated with saliva, urine, feces, or carcasses of CWD-infected animals. There are no treatments or vaccines currently available.<sup>1</sup>



## Why are you being told about CWD?

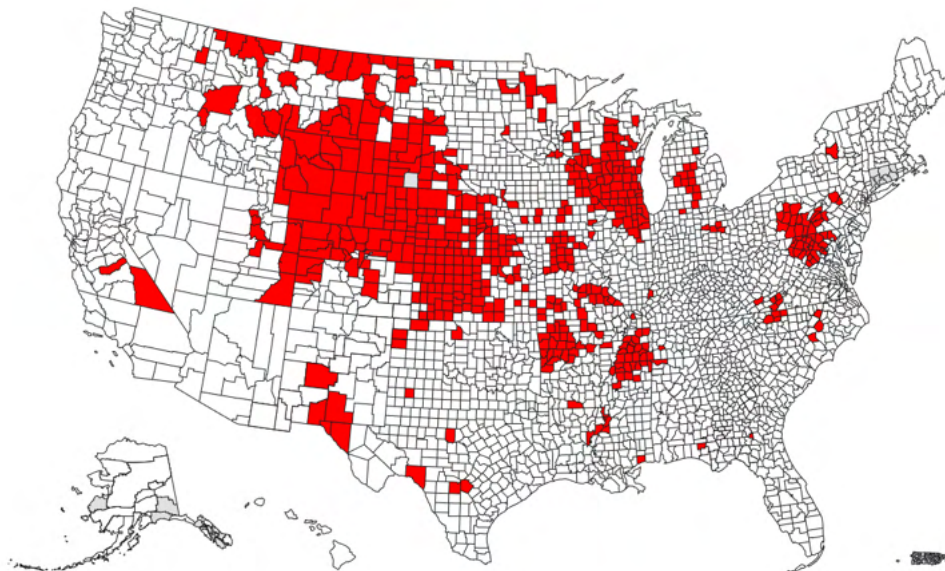
Because of CWD's long incubation period, infected mule deer may be difficult to detect from appearance or behavior alone. So, by distributing information about CWD, Tribal members can make informed decisions about harvesting or consuming mule deer from the Reservation. Additionally, by providing information and gathering samples for CWD testing, Tribal members can assist with statewide monitoring and early detection efforts.

## What are the signs of CWD?

The most obvious sign of CWD is progressive weight loss. Other signs include loss of fear of humans, excessive salivation, decreased social interaction, and loss of awareness.<sup>3</sup> CWD has a long incubation period, averaging 18 – 24 months between infection and the onset of noticeable signs. During the incubation period, animals look and act normally.<sup>3</sup>

# Chronic Wasting Disease Information

## Where is CWD Found?



\*Occurrence of CWD based on best-available information (www.cdc.gov).

*As of April 2025, 36 states have reported CWD in free ranging cervids such as mule deer and elk.<sup>1</sup> Although CWD has not been detected in Nevada yet, it is likely to arrive in the future based on its continued spread across the United States and presence in neighboring states.*

## How can a Tribal member get a harvested deer tested?

*Hunter participation is voluntary but critical in CWD testing at Summit Lake.*

**General Field Dressing Safety Precautions:** It is recommended to not use household knives or other kitchen utensils, wear protective gloves, minimize handling brain and spinal tissues, and wash your hands and instruments thoroughly when field dressing is completed.

\*If you wish to shoulder-mount your deer, cape and remove antlers first.

Tribal members have the following 2 options for submitting lymph nodes for testing. All testing will be performed by NDOW.

1. Tribal member collection then submission to NRD or NDOW.

a. Tribal member follows the following video or written instructions to collect the lymph nodes.

b. Tribal member drops off the lymph nodes at one of the following locations:

i. NRD station at the Reservation

1. Staff are likely present at the station or on the Reservation Monday–Thursday during the field season (approximately April to mid-November).

2. NRD will submit the lymph nodes to NDOW.

# Chronic Wasting Disease Information

## ii. NRD department at the Tribal office

1. Please notify the NRD department in advance that the lymph nodes will be dropped off. Please call the main office number at 775-827-9670, Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm
2. Location: 2255 Green Vista Dr. #402, Sparks, NV 89431
3. NRD will submit the lymph nodes to NDOW.

## iii. Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW)

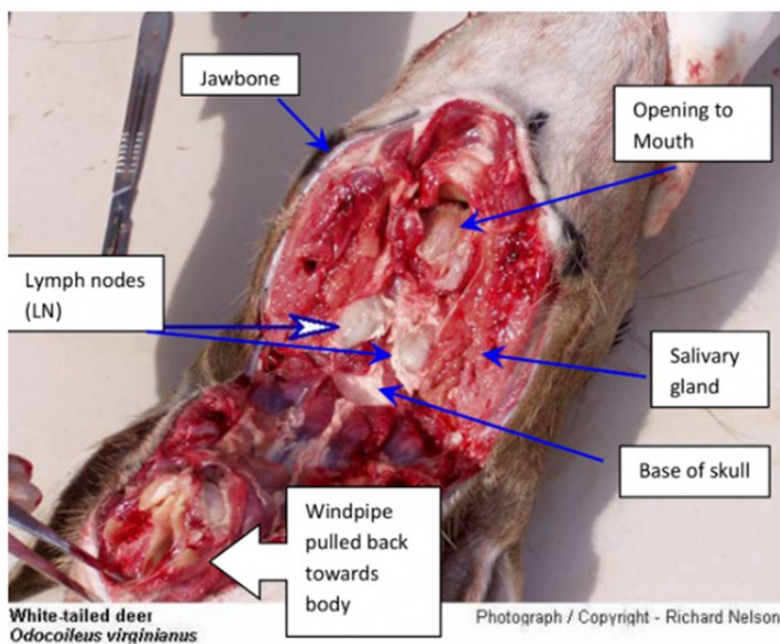
1. Please notify NDOW in advance that the lymph nodes will be dropped off. Please call 775-688-1506, Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm.
2. Location: 1100 Valley Rd., Reno NV 89512.
3. **IMPORTANT:** You must present your SLPT harvest tag so that NDOW is aware that the harvest was valid on the Reservation.

## 2. NDOW Collection

- a. Please notify NDOW in advance that the harvest will be presented for lymph node removal. Please call 775-688-1506, Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm.
- b. Location: 1100 Valley Rd., Reno NV 89512.
- c. **IMPORTANT:** You must present your SLPT harvest tag so that NDOW is aware that the harvest was valid on the Reservation.

**NOTE:** Please leave your name and phone number or email with SLPT or NDOW so that you can be notified of the results.

Locate Lymph Nodes



# Chronic Wasting Disease Information

Video instructions to remove the lymph nodes:



<https://youtu.be/xsLhOqNiTWA>

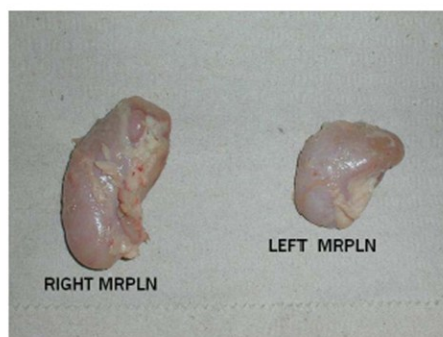


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUls5iVO1J4>

Written instructions to remove lymph nodes (\*Source: Idaho Fish and Game):

1. Cut across the neck and under the jawbone. Cut towards the ears, through the windpipe until you hit bone.<sup>2</sup>
2. Pull back the windpipe and cut the muscles towards the base of the skull. Locate the left and right lymph nodes, half-way between each angle of the jawbone and the base of the skull and beneath the opening to the mouth. Lymph node consistency is much firmer and rounder than the surrounding tissue.<sup>2</sup>
3. Avoid the salivary glands, which are found next to the lymph nodes and are more segmented. Salivary glands are not a CWD testable sample tissue.<sup>2</sup>
4. Remove the left and right lymph nodes. Remove excess fat and connective tissue from the lymph nodes.<sup>2</sup>
5. NRD will have sample bags (located in a mailbox near the front gate of the field station) available at the Reservation. Write the sex of the harvest and your name, phone number, or email with ballpoint pen (provided in mailbox) to prevent smearing.<sup>2</sup>
6. Keep the samples frozen until you can drop them off at the NRD station at the Reservation, the Tribal office in Sparks, or the NDOW office in Reno.

View Lymph Nodes



- Lymph nodes are normally light pink or bluish color. They could be red if the animal is head shot.
- Rounded, kidney shaped and roughly the size of the tip of a finger.
- If you cut them in half, you will see marbled coloring.

The Natural Resources Department wishes you safe and successful hunting and thanks you for your participation!

## References and Additional Information

<https://www.cdc.gov/prions/cwd/index.html> <sup>1</sup>

<https://idfg.idaho.gov/cwd/sampling/how-to> <sup>2</sup>

<https://www.usgs.gov/diseases-of-terrestrial-wildlife/chronic-wasting-disease> <sup>3</sup>

# Hunter Safety Information



The NRD is exploring options to make hunter safety education more accessible both financially and logistically for Tribal members. Existing resources for completing hunter safety education can be found at <https://www.hunter-ed.com/> or <https://www.huntercourse.com/>. Taking a hunter safety course is not required to hunt on the Reservation but is encouraged. Both courses are recognized by Nevada Department of Wildlife.



Additionally, Target shooting is permitted on the Reservation, but please pick up casings. Firing from main public roads (Soldier Meadows Rd, Summit Lake Rd, and Cedarville Rd) is prohibited per Nevada law NRS.202.280.



<https://www.hunter-ed.com/>



<https://www.huntercourse.com/>

# A Note From the Director

Members and Council, thank you for the honor of serving as your Natural Resources Department Director for a fourth year now. Your support is critical to the department's success. Additionally, thank you to our smart, skilled, hardworking, and committed team and our partnerships with federal and state agencies, the University of Nevada Reno and other universities, consultants, and other organizations.

Last year was more productive than the year before, and here are just some of the highlights of last year's achievements:

- Department completed all major projects for the second year
- 730 spawners caught at the Fish Trap, most since 2013
- Second full year of data collection of the sage grouse lifecycle
- Third full year of water quality and streamflow monitoring
- Start of the native seed program with several seed collections
- Continued reed canary grass treatments in lower Mahogany Creek
- Continued installation of the watershed observation network
- Completion of the reptile and amphibian inventory project
- Completion of a restoration assessment of Snow Creek
- Next phase of the LCT population viability analysis (PVA) model
- Completion of several new management plans: Multi Species Conservation Plan, Vegetation Management Plan, Climate Adaptation Plan, EPA Tribal Environmental Plan, Solid Waste Management Plan
- Maintenance of the fuel breaks and several invasive plant treatments
- Removal of another concrete diversion in Mahogany Creek and site restoration
- And the third straight Reservation event last June

And the upcoming year looks to be busier than last!

I wish you and your families the best for the upcoming year and hope to see you at the Reservation event on June 5 - 7 – we are looking forward to it!



# Reservation Emergency Information



In case of an emergency on the Reservation, evacuation routes on the Reservation are Summit Lake Road to the North (highlighted in white), and Soldier Meadows Road to the South (highlighted in orange). The Tribe also installed a helicopter landing pad (pictures below, helipad) for use in an emergency, and is located just to the east of the field station on the north side of the road. Coordinates for the helipad are: 41.54682, -119.02406.



## Emergency Numbers

### Medical:

- 1) 911
- 2) Humboldt General Hospital (closest hospital): 775-623-5222

### Law Enforcement:

- 1) 911
- 2) BIA Owyhee Dispatch: 775-757-3624
- 3) Chief Wayne Hubanks: 775-546-3020
- 4) Humboldt County Sherriff Dispatch: 775-623-6429

### Fire:

- 1) BLM Fire (8 AM-6 PM): 775-623-1555
- 2) BLM Fire (24 hr Line): 1-800-535-6076

# Upcoming Activities

## Primary Reservation Projects (approximate timelines)

### Year Round (or every season)

- Sage Grouse: tracking collared birds.
- Reptiles/amphibians/migratory birds: surveys and monitoring to identify species and their habitats.
- Streamflow, water quality, lake level and springs: streamflow measurements in Mahogany and Snow Creeks, water quality sampling in the lake, streams, springs, and wells, and surveys of the conditions and wildlife at the main springs. In addition, maintenance of the weather station, bubbler, and stream gage network at the lake and Mahogany and Snow Creeks.
- Range management: Reservation surveys and collaboration with ranchers and BLM for timely removal of trespass cattle/feral horses.
- Observation Network (April – May): installation and testing of the remaining components of the new observation network (SWEON).
- Roads: maintenance of the Reservation roads and road firebreaks.
- Field station: maintenance of the buildings, equipment, and grounds.

### Spring (March – May)

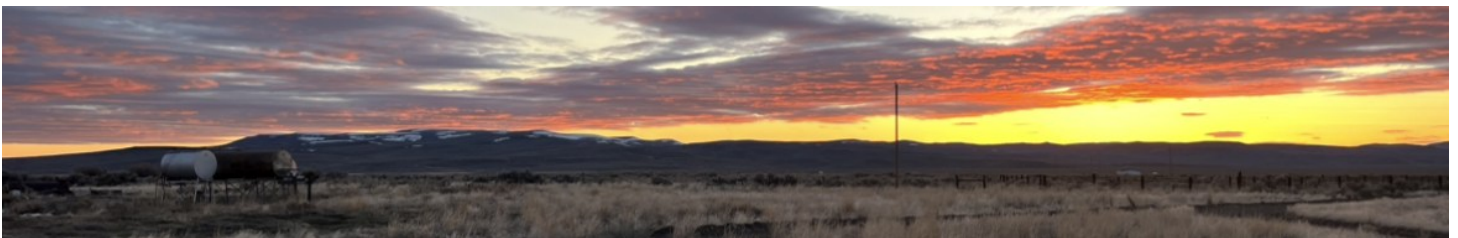
- LCT (Mar - Apr): mark-recapture sampling of LCT in lake.
- LCT (Apr – May): monitoring the LCT spawning run at the Fish Trap and redd surveys in mainstem Mahogany, the north channel, and Snow Creek.
- Sage-grouse (Mar – May): capturing/collaring birds, nest monitoring, and habitat and raven surveys.
- Range management (Apr or May): Scout plant populations, collect herbarium specimen vouchers, monitor restoration treatment areas. Additionally, boundary fence upgrade to improve wildlife safety and migration.

### Summer (June – August)

- LCT (Jun - Aug): finish up monitoring the spawning run at the Fish Trap and redd surveys in mainstem Mahogany, the north channel, and Snow Creek, electrofishing surveys in Mahogany and Snow Creeks. Continued reed canary grass treatment on Mahogany Creek with native plant plantings, seed collection, and seed spreading.
- Sage-grouse (Jun – Aug): brood checks, chick diet sampling, habitat and raven surveys, and capturing/collaring birds.
- Outreach/education (Jun): 2025 Reservation event for Members, June 5-7.
- Range management (Jun – Aug): Continue restoration treatment area monitoring and plant population scouting; begin native seed collections. Herbicide treatment of invasive plants/noxious weeds at multiple locations within the Reservation.
- Water quality (TBD): benthic macroinvertebrate sampling in Mahogany Creek and the lake.

### Fall (September – November)

- LCT (Sept): mark-recapture sampling of LCT in lake. Continued reed canary grass treatment on Mahogany Creek with native plant plantings, seed collection, and seed spreading. Instream and riparian restoration activities lower Snow Creek, including spawning gravel augmentation.
- Sage-grouse (Sept – Nov): habitat surveys.
- Range management (Sept - Oct): Aerial application of herbicide on northeastern area of the Reservation, and herbicide treatment of invasive plants/noxious weeds in various locations. Continue seed collections and broadcast native seed and plant sagebrush for revegetation. Additionally, several fencing projects to improve wildlife safety and migration.
- Field station (Nov): closed for winter.



## 2026 Reservation Event

June 5-7 we are planning another Reservation event! Like last year, Tribal members will be able to see and participate in some of the projects going on at the reservation including Sage Grouse, LCT, boat rides, herps, and more! Please RSVP by April 18th.

Connect with us on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date on current activities and events.



# Summit Lake Paiute Tribe Enrollment



Summit Lake Paiute Tribe 2255  
Green Vista Dr  
Suite 402  
Sparks, NV 89431

(775) 827-9670 office  
(775) 450-0996 cell

[enrollment@slptnv.org](mailto:enrollment@slptnv.org)

[www.summitlaketribe.org](http://www.summitlaketribe.org)

## Members

**Resolution (SL-05-2020) from Summit Lake Paiute Tribal Council amends the Articles of Association concerning membership, changing eligible member status to descendency.**

### **Members:**

To maintain our enrollment records and to ensure we can send important information to you, we must have your correct contact information on file.

Please contact the office or send us your new contact information when changes occur. When making any changes to your contact information please include the names of all family members that are included with the changes.

It is the responsibility of each tribal member to notify the Enrollment Office of any changes in address, phone numbers, emails, or your name, and to inform the Enrollment Office of any changes related to adoptions, marriages, divorces, or child custody, and providing all supporting documents.

The Tribal ID Request and Name/Address change forms are available under the Enrollment Tab on the tribe's website <http://www.summitlaketribe.org>. The forms can be filled out online or printed and returned to our office.

Some of our members do not have a photo or signature saved in their profile; you can call the office to set a time to come in and do this in person or speak with me about ways to get this accomplished.

**Tribal Enrollment Cards:** When requesting an Enrollment Card please submit the following with your request.

**Photo:** Passport photo is preferred, a headshot with a white/light background may be used if it is a clear photo. **No hats, sunglasses, outdoor or side profile pictures.** The picture must be able to be transferred clearly on the card.

**Signature:** Use a black sharpie to sign on a white sheet of paper. The signature must be large enough to reproduce on the card.

**Height:**

**Eye color:**

**Hair color:**

**Address:** If you have a mailing and physical address, please indicate which address you want to appear on the card.

Any questions please contact me by calling or texting my cell phone 775-450-0996 or emailing me at [enrollment@slptnv.org](mailto:enrollment@slptnv.org).

Delgadina Gonzalez  
Enrollment Coordinator