



Update No. 10 Caples Lake emergency drawdown and outlet works repair project



For immediate release
December 9, 2008

Fish monitoring a success

Placerville, CA . . . In mid-November, staff from El Dorado Irrigation District (EID), the California Department of Fish and Game, and the United States Forest Service (USFS), along with volunteers from Trout Unlimited, conducted a fisheries survey at Caples Creek. The survey was an early step in the fisheries monitoring plan, developed by EID and required by USFS, to monitor fish populations in the creek following emergency repairs at Caples Lake.

“The monitoring is needed because we had to deviate from streamflow requirements specified in our FERC license to facilitate the emergency repairs at Caples Lake main dam,” explained Brian Deason, EID senior hydroelectric compliance specialist. “Crews used backpack electrofishing units and dip nets to capture fish during the survey. Fish were identified, measured, and weighed before being released back into the stream.” Deason said that a follow-up survey will be conducted next year after normal license minimum streamflows are returned and the survey sites can be safely accessed.

Deason had kudos for Trout Unlimited volunteers Jim Della Santa, Dustin and Cindy Rocksvold, John Sikura, and Stanley Backlund. “Their participation really made this monitoring effort a success,” he said.



Volunteers helped transport equipment to and from the survey sites, which involved hiking more than one mile through snow.



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