

Sups Budget Meeting 8-13

I am Don Morton, June Lake business owner and a Commissioner on the Mono Co Fish Commission. I am speaking as a concerned fisherman, not on behalf of Fish Commission.

- Every year we have the same “the sky is falling” discussion about spending \$100,000 on stocking mutant, sterile trout.
- At the same time, no money is committed towards changing the future of fishing in Mono County.

I would like to encourage the Board of Supervisors to:

- Restrict the amount of funds spent on stocked fish to what is approved in the budget meetings
- Require a % of funds be dedicated to enhancing the future of fishing in Mono County.
- Emergency request DF&W to reduce limits from 5 to 2 fish daily. I would recommend it be done permanently.

The old defenses of fish stocking no longer apply

- Fishing IS NOT the backbone of the general economy of Mono County.
- Tourism has been exploding, while at the same time, our fisheries continue a decades long decline.
- The sport is called fishing, NOT catching. We cannot compete with the likes of Santa Ana River Lakes.
- The Supervisors should look to the future and explore funding alternatives to stocking mutant sterile trout
- There are alternatives!
- We must find them.
- Or, just record this budget discussion and replay again next year.

Possible change to the future of stocking trout in Mono County

Objective:

1. Replace stocking triploid rainbows with stocked LCTs
2. Identify Grant sources
3. Identify strains that can be used
4. Identify hatchery
5. Hire consultant as required to explore and identify issues

Replace stocking triploid rainbows with diploid LCT

- Begin with North Mono County as it is a native fish
- Stock no other trout in waters above Conway summit

Identify Grant sources

- Search out grants available for restoring LCT's to native water
- Identify how to secure services of Grant writer and pay for the service
- Identify other potential interested participants

Identify Strain that can be used

- Consult with California, Nevada, and Federal agencies to locate acceptable strain
- Secure source for brood stock

Hatchery

- Identify potential suitable hatchery locations
- Explore possible leasing of CDF&W hatchery