

Subject: : Paflyfish General Forum

Topic: : Lahontan Cutthroat - Great Story

Re: Lahontan Cutthroat - Great Story

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Date: : 2013/4/25 20:00:44

URL:

It is amazing that they found the fish. 10,000 years ago in wetter times Lake Lahontan was 1000 ft deep and covered much of Northern Nevada. The Lahontan cutthroat was the native trout of this massive lake system. When the west dried out it left a handful of Lahontan strains in isolated drainages. Pyramid Lake had two populations, a small and a large one. When the dam on the lower Truckee was built that stopped the spawning runs the average size of the fish in the last attempted run was 24 lbs. That's getting up to King Salmon size.

When they reintroduced Lahontan cutts to Pyramid Lake they got them from Walker Lake further south, but they weren't the same strain that got huge. They have been looking for a way to breed back the original Pyramid lake strain when they discovered an isolated population. The trout populations in both the Lahontan and Bonneville basins of the desert great basin have been isolated for 10,000 years and there is a lot of debate about what strains are native or mixed by bucket brigade or state rainbow stocking and what is a subspecies and what is a strain. Until recently there hasn't been a lot of respect for the local native trout, but that appears to have changed. Desert trout fishing is fascinating.