

# **EAGLE CREEK**

**Mono County, California**

## **2005 Stream Habitat Survey Report**



**Prepared by:**

**Humboldt- Toiyabe National Forest, Bridgeport Ranger District**

## **Introduction**

Eagle Creek is located in Mono County, California. The mainstem of Eagle Creek flows for approximately 6.5 miles in a north direction to its confluence with Buckeye Creek. Buckeye Creek flows into Bridgeport Reservoir near Bridgeport, California located on Highway 395. The mainstem of Eagle Creek ranges from approximately 7005 feet elevation to 10,220 feet elevation. Most of the Eagle Creek watershed is located on Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest (HTNF) lands. A small parcel of private land is located near the bottom of the Eagle Creek watershed near its confluence with Buckeye Creek. Eagle Creek was surveyed from the Eagle Creek-Buckeye Creek confluence at Site 1 upstream to the top of the watershed above Site 9 (see map).

The Short-Term Action Plan for Lahontan Cutthroat Trout in the Walker River Basin (Walker RIT 2003) recommended habitat surveys be conducted as a high priority task to identify and evaluate fish passage and existing barriers within the Walker River Basin, to develop a watershed analysis of the physical components of the Walker River Basin, and to evaluate potential LCT introduction streams and validate against existing LCT inhabited streams. These high priority tasks were deemed necessary to initiate Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) (*Oncorhynchus clarki henshawi*) recovery in the Walker River Basin. The Eagle Creek watershed was surveyed during summer 2005. Merri Meldi and Francisco Rayos from the HTNF were the surveyors who conducted the stream habitat survey.

## **Methodology**

Forest Service personnel hiked upstream along side Eagle Creek and photographed and GPS'ed all interesting features (road crossings, fish sightings, permanent fish barriers, seasonal fish barriers, tributaries, springs, beaver dams, areas with high amounts of erosion, and any other features that appeared interesting). All tributaries that appeared to possibly provide LCT habitat were also surveyed using the same methodology. All photographs taken and a map are included in this report. Based on the overall gradient of the watershed, the number of permanent and seasonal fish barriers, and the overall condition of the stream habitat, the Forest Service personnel who conducted this survey determined in the field what areas of the Eagle Creek watershed provide potential LCT habitat.

Seasonal and permanent barriers are referenced a few times in this report. Seasonal barriers are features that appear to be fish barriers under base flow; however, during high flow events fish may be able to migrate up through the seasonal barrier. Permanent barriers are features that are greater than 5 feet high, or are cascades sheeting across bedrock material. These are features that appear to serve as fish barriers during all seasons of the year. Some seasonal barriers may actually be permanent barriers and some permanent barriers may actually be seasonal barriers.

## **Results**

Approximately 6.5 miles of the Eagle Creek watershed was surveyed. No permanent or seasonal fish barriers were identified. Six tributaries were identified (Sites 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, & 8), and one spring was identified (Site 5). Photo points were taken at Site 1 and Site 9. No fish were seen

within the watershed. The overall gradient of Eagle Creek between Site 1 and the top of the watershed is 9.4%. No potential LCT habitat was identified within the Eagle Creek watershed. No other interesting features were photographed or GPS'ed.

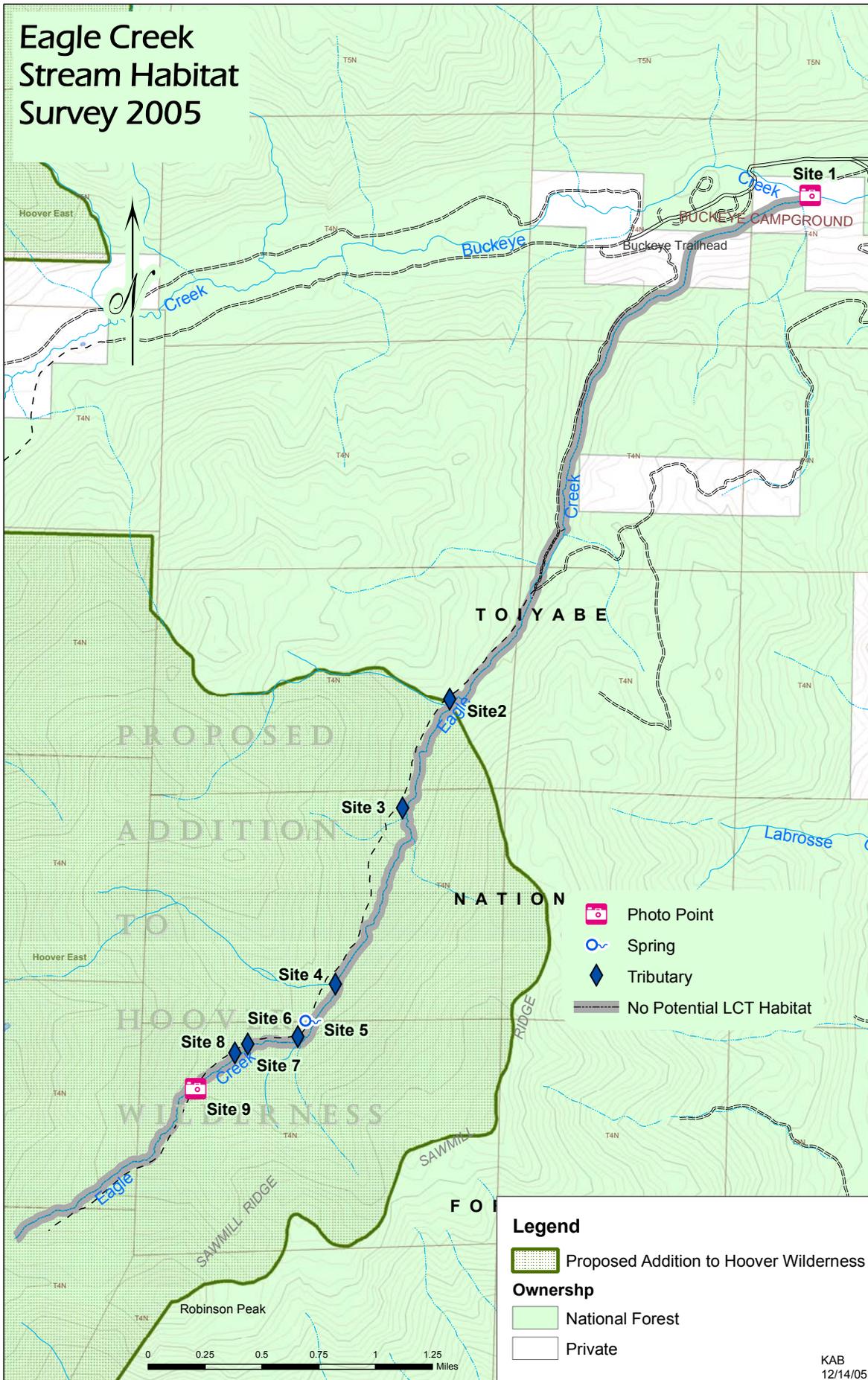
### **Discussion**

The Eagle Creek watershed does not provide potential LCT habitat. The overall gradient of Eagle Creek between Site 1 and the top of the watershed is 9.4%. Although no permanent or seasonal fish barriers were identified within the Eagle Creek watershed, the overall gradient within the watershed is high. The Forest Service personnel who conducted this survey characterized the watershed as being high gradient, with lots of steep-long riffles, and very few pools. Based on these habitat characteristics and not seeing any fish, the Forest Service personnel determined that the Eagle Creek watershed does not provide potential LCT habitat.

### **Recommendations**

1. Do not consider the Eagle Creek watershed as having potential LCT habitat.

# Eagle Creek Stream Habitat Survey 2005





**Site 1:** Eagle Creek, Bridgeport Ranger District, photo point looking downstream at the Eagle Creek-Buckeye Creek confluence. This site is where the stream habitat survey started. This site is located at UTM N: 4234578 & E: 295542.



**Site 2:** Eagle Creek, Bridgeport Ranger District, looking downstream at a tributary that enters on the river left side. This tributary is contributing approximately 10% to the overall flow in Eagle Creek. This site is located at UTM: N: 4230982 & E: 293002.



**Site 3:** Eagle Creek, Bridgeport Ranger District, looking downstream at a tributary that enters on the river left side. This tributary is contributing approximately 5% to the overall flow in Eagle Creek. This site is located at UTM: N: 4230208 & E: 292665.



**Site 4:** Eagle Creek, Bridgeport Ranger District, looking downstream at a tributary that enters on the river left side. This tributary is contributing approximately 15% to the overall flow in Eagle Creek. This site is located at UTM: N: 4228955 & E: 292189.



**Site 5:** Eagle Creek, Bridgeport Ranger District, looking downstream at a spring that enters on the river left side. This spring is contributing approximately 5% to the overall flow in Eagle Creek. This site is located at UTM: N: 4228694 & E: 292014.



**Site 6:** Eagle Creek, Bridgeport Ranger District, looking downstream at a tributary that enters on the river right side. This tributary is contributing approximately 20% to the overall flow in Eagle Creek. This site is located at UTM: N: 4228584 & E: 291923.



**Site 7:** Eagle Creek, Bridgeport Ranger District, looking downstream at a tributary that enters on the river left side. This tributary is contributing approximately 15% to the overall flow in Eagle Creek. This site is located at UTM: N: 4228531 & E: 291569.



**Site 8:** Eagle Creek, Bridgeport Ranger District, looking upstream at a tributary that enters on the river left side. This tributary is contributing approximately 15% to the overall flow in Eagle Creek. This site is located at UTM: N: 4228464 & E: 291480.



**Site 9:** Eagle Creek, Bridgeport Ranger District, photo point, looking upstream. The stream habitat survey ended at this site. This site is located at UTM: N: 4228212 & E: 291201.