



Fish Passage Update

3/6/24

Dear Membership and Lake Community:

I have recently been advised that the Forest Service has decided to put the proposed Fish Passage Project on hold for the immediate future. Let me share with you what Forest Service Project Manager Nicholas Berndt wrote to me: **“District Ranger Dan Eklund wants to keep gathering input and data. I would expect no changes for 2024 as we are going to stay in the planning phase. The Fish Passage Project will be removed from the district’s Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) for the time being.”**

As we all know there have been a lot of concerns and unanswered questions about the Fish Passage Project so putting the project on hold, I believe, is a wise decision. Putting the project on hold will:

- Enable the Forest Service to gather more information on how the Fish Passage will be designed and engineered.
- It will allow the Forest Service to gain more information on how the Fish Passage could affect water levels and all aquatic life in our chain.
- It will allow the Forest Service to gather more information on how Fish Passages built on lakes in neighboring states have affected these lake’s water levels and aquatic life.
- As more information becomes available to us, in future educational/listening sessions, it will allow each of us to critically examine that information and make an informed decision about this project.
- Finally Delaying the Fish Passage will give all of us more time to determine if a Fish Passage will or will not enhance our chain of lakes for future generations.

Given the fact that the Fish Passage has been removed from the Forest Service Schedule of Proposed Actions we will not be voting on this issue at our annual meeting on June 1st. However, even though a vote will not be taken we will continue to offer opportunities to dialogue with the Forest Service Project Manager and learn more about the Fish Passage Project, because even though the project is on hold, I do expect that it will eventually go back onto the Forest Service SOPA. On May 11th at 9:00 AM, at the Fire Hall, Project Manager Nicholas Berndt will show a PowerPoint presentation of the project and answer questions. I do encourage you to attend this event.

If you have any questions about this new turn of events, with regards to the Fish Passage, please feel free to contact me at president@pikelakechain.net.

Sincerely,

Mike Ida
PLCLA President