



Auction of Lake Canyon Wildlife Management Area uplands

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources will sell property to fulfill commitment.

The Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (DWR) plans to auction 1,070 acres of Lake Canyon Wildlife Management Area uplands on June 25, 2014. The sale of this property addresses a commitment made to Duchesne County, at the time of purchase, to dispose of a portion of the property acquired.

Background

The primary reason for the initial purchase of this property was to use Lake Canyon Lake as habitat for brood stock of Colorado River cutthroat trout.

Lake Canyon Lake was located within the boundaries of a private ranch. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) acted as an interim owner of the ranch until DWR was able to arrange sufficient funding and political support necessary to purchase the property from TNC. DWR acquired the ranch, approximately 4,880 acres, from TNC in three phases. Approximately 1,754 acres total were acquired in the third phase; DWR proposes to dispose of about 1,070 of these acres and retain ownership of the remaining 684.

The ranch owner would not sell Lake Canyon Lake and its upstream tributary alone without the remainder of the ranch; TNC and DWR were required to purchase all or nothing.

How was the property chosen?

The property selected for disposal by DWR biologists is downstream, approximately one mile to the northeast from Lake Canyon Lake. The channel downstream of Lake Canyon Lake is intermittently watered and is not suitable trout habitat. Additionally, there are four working oil and gas wellpads on the property. It is not frequented by big game.

There is a population of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep established south of the subject property on U.S. Forest Service and DWR-owned lands. The DWR will retain a restrictive easement prohibiting the keeping of domestic sheep and goats on the sale property to reduce the risk of communicable diseases being transmitted to the bighorn sheep.

The auction of this property will not affect Colorado River cutthroat trout spawning operations, nor will it affect angling opportunities at Lake Canyon Lake.

Results and approach

The subject property being offered for disposal has no significant aquatic habitat and very limited big game habitat and therefore will be sold in keeping our commitment to Duchesne County. DWR will offer the property for sale at an auction held by the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) on June 25, 2014.

See a map of the area, and the disposal parcels, on page 2.

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