

**Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project
Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District**

With funding from the Sierra Nevada Conservancy, the District will be able to restore a valuable economic and natural watershed resource by restoring Finnion Lake back to its original operating capacity of 350 acre-feet while enhancing fishery and aquatic habitats, improving wetland habitat, improving upland forest habitats, and securing a sustainable water supply to combat wildfires.

The Finnion Lake Recreation Area and the surrounding project site are 55 acres in size. The lake was constructed using a hydraulic fill placement method in 1905 by PG&E. In 1956 the facility was purchased by the Department of Fish and Game and maintained as a cooperative El Dorado County/Wildlife Conservation Board project. In 1990, the Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) evaluated the seismic stability of the embankment and found the hydraulic fill material could liquefy if subjected to a Maximum Credible Earthquake. In 1997, the Mosquito Volunteer Fire Association (MVFA) purchased the facility (\$1). The lake is presently operating under a storage restriction of 50 acre feet. Restoration involves reconstruction of the embankment, restoring 350 acre-feet of water storage, enhancement of fishery and aquatic habitat, improving 5.5 acres of wetland habitat, improving 5.9 acres of forested habitat and securing a sustainable water supply to combat wildfires. Indirect benefits include supporting beneficial uses such as public access, camping, swimming, fishing, hiking, boating and other uses associated with the facility that are currently not supported. Project partners include the following: EDC Fish & Game Commission, Community coordination and volunteer organization; International Union of Operating Engineers: On-site job training and labor force; DWR: Red-Legged Frog Survey & wetland delineations; USFS: Red-Legged Frog Surveys & fish rescue & relocation assistance; NRCS: wetland delineation; Department of Conservation: environmental permit coordination; High Sierra RC&D: Archeology surveys, forest stand improvement; El Dorado County RCD: Storm Water Prevention Pollution Plan and monitoring; MVFA: community involvement and outreach.

For more information visit the Georgetown Divide RCD website
<http://www.georgetowndividercd.org>