



In this FACTivity, you will explore whether it is in society's interest to stock the Sierra Nevada lakes with fish or to stop stocking the lakes. You will use the following method:

1. Divide the class into five groups. Group 1 will consist of three students. The remaining students will be divided into four equal-sized groups. Two of those groups will be arguing in favor of continued stocking of the lakes with trout. The remaining two groups will be arguing in favor of stopping the stocking of fish.
2. Using the Internet and other sources, research the topic of stocking high mountain lakes with trout. Use search words such as:

Sierra Nevada fish stocking
Nonnative trout
Sierra Nevada fishing
Mountain yellow-legged frog
3. Prepare a list of reasons for and against fish stocking in the Sierra Nevada lakes. Depending on which side of the argument you will take, you will want to highlight your position. It is important to understand the other position as well, so do research on both sides of the argument. You may want to

prepare visual aids to support your position. Each group should meet to decide on its approach to the debate. You may appoint one or two spokespersons to represent the group. The group of three students should be excused from doing this research.

4. The group of three students will function as a citizen advisory committee to the governor. While the other students are doing their research, this group will decide how they will make their decision about stocking. Will they vote? Will they insist on unanimous agreement? After listening to the arguments for and against stocking, the advisory committee will meet privately and discuss the issue. Then, the three students will make a decision about stocking and explain to the class why they made their decision.
5. Following the advisory committee's decision, hold a class discussion to review the entire exercise. How did the four groups feel about the advisory committee's decision? Did they feel that their position was fairly considered? Do all groups feel that the best interests of society have been served? Why or why not?

If you are a Project Learning Tree-trained educator, you may use PLT Pre K–8th Activity Guide #33, "Forest Consequences" or Pre K-8 Activity Guide #45, "Web of Life," as additional activity

resources. These activities teach how different types of land management affect ecosystems and introduce how nonnative species change the web of life.