

Memorandum

To : FILES

Date: November 23, 1964

From : Department of Fish and Game

Subject: Survey of Calaveras County Waters -- Browns Reservoir, Wallace Reservoir, Pride Lake, Bear Creek Reservoir (Wilson Lake), Hunter Reservoir, Schaads Reservoir.

A survey of six Calaveras County lakes was made on October 26-28, 1964, with Seasonal Aid Norman Delarm.

BROWNS RESERVOIR

Located two miles above Mountain Ranch on the Sheep Ranch Road, this 5-acre pond has a locked gate on the road to it. Good fishing for largemouth bass is had by the few local people allowed to fish this water.

WALLACE RESERVOIR

There are at least two reservoirs near the town of Wallace but none are locally known as Wallace Reservoir. There is a large reservoir (50-100 acres) about $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile behind the town of Wallace on a dirt road on the left as you go toward Valley Springs. The access road has a locked gate on it. This reservoir is used for stock water and gravel washing. It is part of the Crocker Estate with cattle grazing rights currently leased to Mr. Frank Pedesta and gravel rights to Claude Woods. It was nearly dry in 1963 but now has a deep pond on the southern end due to gravel removal operations. Local use by walking in yields fair bass and catfish fishing.

Going toward Valley Springs from Wallace, there is a private posted ranch pond of 7-8 acres reached by going left on a dirt road about 400 yards beyond the Rocabella Olive Ranch, then right on a bad dirt road for about $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile. Local use of this reservoir is light, if at all. A flock of 20 widgeon were using the pond.

PRIDE LAKE

This small (1-1 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres) lake was surveyed on October 27. It is tributary to the North Fork of the Stanislaus River and can be reached by a dirt jeep road going south to Utica Reservoir near the Lake Alpine campground. After crossing Silver Creek, turn right and go to the end of the road, walk down the North Fork to the gaging station, then climb over the rocks going north for 300 yards. There was no inlet or outlet at the time of survey. A search of the area was made but no other water is nearby. The lake is about 300 ft. long by 100 ft. wide. Most of it is under five ft. deep with a maximum depth estimated at 8-10 ft. The lake is lightly fished and not well known even

File note!
Schaads Res. was drained dry ^{fall} 1964
except for a pool near the dam which probably supported all present. Warden Kendall's report.

locally. In 2 man-hours of fly fishing, we caught 6 EB - 4.6", 4.6", 5.0" 7.9", 7.9", 7.1". The 3 large fish were ripe and their stomachs contained dragonfly and damselfly naiads, diving beetles, and their naiads. An angler contacted at Tamarack Lodge had a 12" EB he had taken in Pride Lake. The yearly allotment for Pride Lake is 3,000 EBF by air plant. The 1964 plant was 3,000 EBF at 10/oz. planted on July 13. From the three size classes of fish recorded, we can assume that growth and survival is good here. This is strange since a stocking rate of 2,000 fingerlings per acre should lead to stunted trout and a maximum depth of 10 feet should lead to winter kill. Since this hasn't happened, there is no reason to change the current program.

BEAR CREEK RESERVOIR (WILSON LAKE)

This is a 2-acre pond located 4.6 miles east of West Point on the right hand side of the Winton highway. It serves as the water supply for West Point. It has a mud bottom and the banks are covered with cattails and willows. There was no inflow on October 28 even though it had rained lightly the night before. Fishing with flies for $\frac{1}{2}$ -hour produced nothing, but one seine haul in a cove caught 12 golden shiners. This lake was drained in 1956 and 1961. Our current policy is to stock 4,000 RTF annually if the lake is not to be drained that year. This lake would make a good catch-out pond if it wasn't a source for domestic water. Heavy use with its companion, litter problems, is not desirable here. I recommend planting 2,000 BNF once to initiate a trophy trout fishery and utilize the golden shiners. The year after the browns are planted, we could shift the 1,500 RTC allotment for Lone Creek to this water. This would be a better place for the RTC since they would not be so vulnerable to fish hogs or natural predators.

HUNTER RESERVOIR

This 12 acre reservoir is owned and operated by PG&E largely for domestic water supply use. There is a small Forest Service sign reading "Hunter Reservoir, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile" located 1 mile southeast of Avery on Highway 4. On October 26, we seined 30 speckled dace from 2-4" long near the mouth of the inflowing canal. This canal enters on the south side of the dam and the outflow goes out near the bottom of the dam which leads me to think there is very little turnover of the lake water. The Moran Creek inflow was about 1 c.f.s. on October 26. We set a 200 ft. floating gill net perpendicular to shore in the northern cove and a diving 200 ft. gill net in the middle of the lake. Retrieved the following morning, the floater had caught 1 brown bullhead 6.5" - 2 oz. and 1 brown trout 13.9" and 1 lb. 6 oz. The brown trout was a ripe female and age III+. The diving net caught nothing. No boats and artificial lures only are allowed on this reservoir. Current management is with 10,000 RTC per year. To improve the natural production of this lake to the angler I recommend an experimental plant of 5,000 RTF at 5/oz. in October, preferably adipose-clipped, to be checked the following spring for growth, survival, and contribution to the angler catch.

SCHWADS RESERVOIR

This 45 acre reservoir is operated by the Calaveras Public Utility District for domestic water for the San Andreas and Mokelumne Hill area. It dams the water of the Middle Fork of the Mokelumne River. Access is: from Wilseyville take Mitchell Mill (Mountain) Road east, left at Ham Place (Blue Mtn. Rd.) then a dirt road to the lake. On October 27, a 200 ft. floater and a 200 ft.

diving sampling gill net were set at about 1900. Retrieved at 0700 the next day, the floater caught 6 hitch, 1 brown trout, and 1 rainbow trout, and the diver caught 2 rainbow trout, 1 green sunfish and 5 hitch.

1 BN - 19.2", 3 lbs. unripe or spawned-out male.
3 RT - 11.2", 7 oz.; 9.0", 4 oz.; 8.9", 3 1/2 oz.; 1GSF - 5.8".
11 HCH - average size 6.2", range 5.5 - 7.8"

Mrs. Effie Schaad and Mr. Dewey Laughlin own the resort and charge \$1 for boat launching in order to maintain the road. Mrs. Schaad reports the only fish taken are trout, green sunfish and hitch.

I recommend planting an initial stock of smallmouth bass in this water to improve the natural production to the angler and create a fishery outside the catchable planting season (to July 1 only now). The present 6,000 RTC allotment is adequate unless the access facilities are improved.

GENERAL COMMENTS

All of the area in Calaveras County we looked over is gradually turning into a recreation-based economy. Developments such as motels, access facilities, and such are lacking now. All development in this area is proceeding very slowly due to a lack of capital. In the next few years, we should watch this area's growth, since water is a limited quantity here and intensive management, as opposed to our present extensive management, will be called for.

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Fishery Biologist III

FAM/lk

cc: Warden Kendall
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Beland