

Memorandum

Fisheries Management, R5
Long Beach

Date: August 14, 1981

XRA 8/14/81

From : Department of Fish and Game - Glenn Black, Fishery Biologist, CFWB

Subject: Transplant of Desert Pupfish and Reconnaissance Survey of San Felipe Creek

On August 10, 1981, myself and two seasonal aids transplanted 910 desert pupfish from the original refugium pond (Palm Canyon) at Anza-Borrego State Park to Palm Spring refugium pond, also within the State park. Only 10 pupfish died during this operation. Palm Spring was established approximately 2 years ago when 15 males and 30 females were introduced from the Palm Canyon refugium.

An additional 347 desert pupfish were removed from Palm Canyon Pond and brought back to CFWB for temporary holding until the wildlife drinkers along the Coachella Canal are ready for pupfish introduction. The Palm Canyon Pond is being drained of all water this week and will be concrete-lined in order to prevent leakage.

As a follow-up to my 8/7/81 memo, the San Felipe Creek water situation was checked out on 8/11/81. Intermittent pools of water with fish were first found at approximately 3/4 miles above (west) Harper's Well Wash (A on enclosed map). Contiguous (flowing) water was not found until approximately 1 mile above (west) Harper's Well Wash (B on enclosed map). The contiguous flow contained numerous schools of desert pupfish, however, it represents a reduction in pupfish habitat of almost 60% from other years. Before the end of this summer the amount of habitat will certainly be further reduced.

The loss of water from San Felipe Creek presents a critical situation in which there is a need for swift, yet not hasty, action. Therefore, I propose that 300 to 400 desert pupfish be removed from San Felipe Creek and placed in Palm Canyon Refugium in three to four weeks, after which time the pond will have been concrete-lined and filled with water. This should give sufficient time for the pond to age before the fish are introduced.

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I talked with Louis Courtois in the DFG's endangered species project and he agrees with my assessment of the situation and for plans to move the 300 to 400 pupfish from San Felipe to the refugium pond. This action would not preclude the later introduction of more San Felipe Creek fish to natural areas, but only after thorough aquatic inventories had been completed.

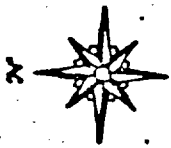
One hundred and seven desert pupfish were rescued from intermittent pools east of the contiguous flow portion of San Felipe Creek. They were taken to CFWB for temporary holding until the pond at Palm Canyon within the State park is ready. Twenty of these fish died in transport and were preserved in formalin.

Glenn Black

Glenn Black
Fishery Biologist

GB:bw

Attach.

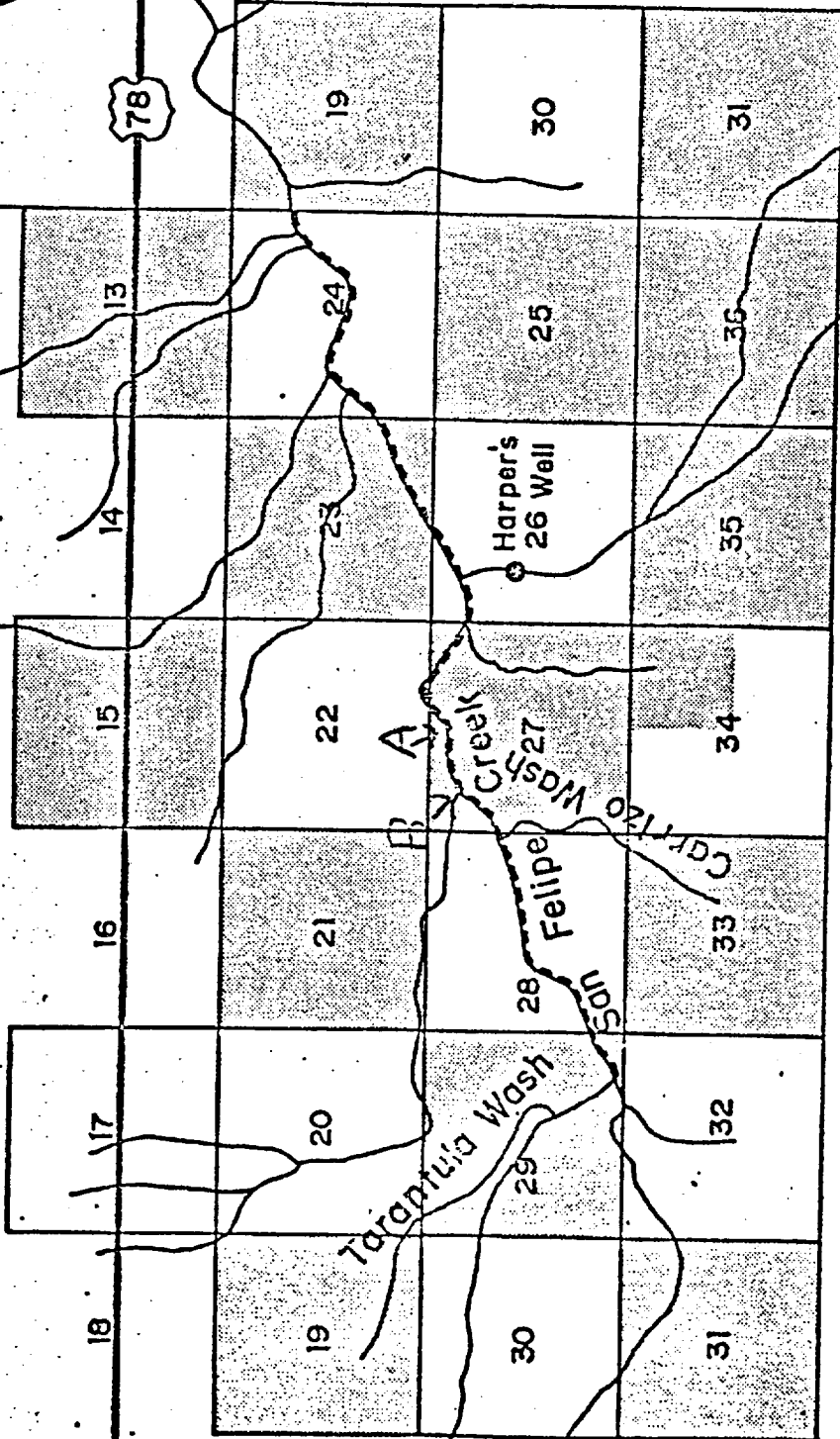


TO SALTON SEA

RIDE RITE

78

86



◇ PUBLIC LAND
◇ PRIVATE LAND

--- PERMANENT FLOW