

fish mgt. file
Ryan
Memorandum

To : Deputy Director

Date: August 8, 1968

From : Department of Fish and Game - Region II
Regional Manager

Subject: Request for WCB Agenda Item: Taylor Creek, Lake Tahoe, Kokanee Egg Collecting Station

The Tahoe Fisheries Study, a cooperative California-Nevada Federal Aid Research Project, recommended massive stocking of kokanee fry in Lake Tahoe on the order of 10 million fish annually. Kokanee hold great promise for Tahoe because they would realize maximum production of game fish directly from plankton in the open waters of the lake to game fish. Thus, kokanee have a potential for producing about ten times as much game fish flesh per surface acre of lake as the lake trout, a predator game fish species dependent upon small fish for food.

Spawning runs of kokanee in Taylor Creek, a tributary to Lake Tahoe, have been large enough during the period 1963 to present to provide 5 to 10 million eggs if proper egg taking facilities had been available.

Temporary egg taking facilities have been utilized for three seasons. In 1964, 3,408,000 were taken. An estimated 3,800 adult kokanee escaped upstream above the temporary rack. The total run was estimated in excess of 10,000 fish. Eggs were not taken in 1965. On October 22, 1965, we estimated there were 6,000 kokanee in Taylor Creek. The total run for that year probably exceeded 10,000 fish.

In 1966, 3,769,000 eggs were taken. High water washed out the temporary weir early in December. On December 12 an estimated 15,000 kokanee, both dead and alive, were seen. Possibly as many as 40,000 to 50,000 may have been in the run.

In 1967, 1,961,000 eggs were taken. The numbers of fish in the spawning run into Taylor Creek was considerably less than the 1966 run. Water temperatures were unusually low. In November temperatures ranged from 42 to 36 degrees. As temperatures dropped below 45 degrees the run noticeably lessened and as the water became colder the fish began moving downstream, thus, a number of potential spawning fish were lost for egg taking purposes. If these fish could have been contained in suitable holding facilities, more eggs could have been taken.

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Deputy Director

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Facilities to incubate the required number of eggs have been constructed at Moccasin Creek Hatchery with Wildlife Conservation Board funds.

With the present primitive operation, it is doubtful that 10,000,000 eggs can be taken at Taylor Creek. The installation is subject to washing out with the first heavy rains and as there is no provision to contain the fish as they arrive at the weir, many fish drift downstream and are lost for egg-taking purposes.

It will require 7,000 females and 3,000 males to produce 10,500,000 eggs. To accomplish this, the fish holding and egg-taking facilities would consist of two concrete tanks, 50 feet long, 10 feet wide, and 3 feet 6 inches deep, constructed in the Forest Service "Profile Chamber" diversion channel where the channel enters Taylor Creek. A fish barrier would be constructed across Taylor Creek to divert the fish into the tanks. The tanks would be covered by a building suitable to the area.

The Engineering Section has estimated the cost of the project as follows:

Plant and equipment	\$ 2,000.00
Excavate and backfill 300 cu. yds. @ \$5.00	1,500.00
Concrete 100 cu. yds. @ \$120.00/cu. yd.	12,000.00
Building with misc. iron, doors, etc., @ \$20.00/sq. ft.	40,920.00
Barrier racks 120 sq. ft. @ \$8.00/sq. ft.	960.00
Screens, 317 sq. ft. @ \$5.00/sq. ft.	1,585.00
Electric panel, lights, etc.	3,600.00
Subtotal	<u>\$62,565.00</u>
OAC fees 21%	<u>13,139.00</u>
Subtotal	<u>75,704.00</u>
10% contingencies	<u>7,570.00</u>
Total	<u>\$83,274.00</u>

The original plans for the proposed station, which did not include the building, were approved by the U. S. Forest Service and a Special Use Permit was issued. It will be necessary to submit the present plans for Forest Service approval.

Robert D. Montgomery
Regional Manager
Region II
JAH:ejs

cc: Inland Fisheries Branch
J. Ryan
P. Baker
J. Hinze
Wildlife Conservation Board

Taylor Creek

REGIONAL VISITORS SERVICE CENTER, TAYLOR CREEK, CALIFORNIA

Region II, P. O. Box 19176
1001 Jedsmith Drive
Sacramento, California 95819

December 23, 1968

Mr. Robert Rice, District Ranger
U. S. Forest Service
P. O. Box 8465
So. Lake Tahoe, California 95705

Dear Bob:

It appears at this time that we cannot expect consideration by the Wildlife Conservation Board of the proposed Taylor Creek spanning facilities until their April meeting. Therefore, we do not believe it would be possible to complete the project prior to your scheduled dedication of the Visitors Service Center in July. However, if we can do so, every effort will be made to complete the work before the dedication.

Sincerely,

Robert D. Montgomery
Regional Manager
Region II
RDB:ejs
cc: Capt. White
Wdn. Hart
J. Hinze