

Mt. Tallac Fish Hatchery
Camp Richardson, Calif.

Sept. 6, 1940

Brian Curtis

Bur. of Fish Cons.

Taylor Creek Dam.

Dear Sirs:

At this time, when the matter of the next biennial budget is to the fore, I should like to suggest that consideration be given to the desirability of raising the dam just above this hatchery on Taylor Creek be given consideration. Raising it about two feet would have these advantages:

1. Glochidia: no mussels have yet been found in Taylor Creek above the hatchery. However, an eastern brook found by Mr. Murphy below the bridge had on its gills what looked like glochidia, which unfortunately were lost before they could be examined under the microscope. (This loss was due to the action of a person not in this office). I intend to investigate the lower creek in the immediate future, but it is evident that introduction of mussels into this creek is a very real danger, and that if they did become established they would cause much difficulty in this hatchery. A dam which would definitely bar all fish except at such times as we wished to make it passable could be operated in such a way as to prevent completely the passage of glochidia-bearing fish into the waters which supply the hatchery. I believe such a preventive measure to be highly desirable.
2. Control of Fish: Taylor Creek has been closed for years as a nursery for Lake Tahoe. At present there are so many eastern brook and Loch Leven in it, as well as rough fish, that its rainbow capacity is far below what it should be; and rainbow are the only fish of those named which directly supply the lake fishery. A dam which could be opened to permit the entrance of spawning rainbow, but used as a barrier to all other fish, would help this situation, especially if after its completion steps were taken to reduce the numbers of the other species. It might be possible at the same time to install traps for both up and down stream migrants, and thus, with complete control of the stream, both at its upper (Fallen Leaf dam) and lower end, to create an experimental set-up of considerable value.
3. Control of Water: The increased head furnished by such a dam would beneficially affect the regulation of the hatchery water supply.

I fully believe that the long-range benefits to be derived from this project would amply repay its cost, and I urge that provision for it be made in the forthcoming budget.

Yours very truly,

BRIAN CURTIS (signed)