



Taylor Creek
El Dorado Co.
Seth Gordon
DIRECTOR
Truesen

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Fish and Game

1215 - 16th Street
Sacramento, California

April 13, 1955

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Mr. John A. Winkleman
R. F. D. 1, Box 319
Placerville, California

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4/14/55

Dear John:

Your letter of April 9 was received today. I was very much interested in your comments, and likewise was perturbed about the situation at Lake Tahoe.

I have checked with Captain Whitesell, in charge of patrol for El Dorado, Amador, Calaveras and San Joaquin Counties, which includes the south end of Lake Tahoe. I can advise you that the situation is very much in hand. 9 arrests had been made at the mouth of the Upper Truckee River and at Taylor Creek by the 7th of April.

We have had almost constant patrol from the 5th through this date at the mouth of the Upper Truckee and at Taylor Creek. Warden Johnson patrolled both areas on April 1 and 2. Captain Whitesell and Warden Johnson were on duty there on the 5th from early morning until 10 a.m.; then Warden Brown and Captain Whitesell remained on duty there until after dark (some time after 7 p.m.) on the 5th, as Ed Johnson had to leave.

Captain Whitesell and Warden Brown were again on duty on the 6th and 7th and Warden Johnson and Warden Brown were on duty over the weekend of the 9th and 10th.

The situation at the start of the season was aggravated by the fact that unscrupulous fishermen had removed the "No Fishing" signs at the mouth of the Upper Truckee. It is our understanding that on April 4 there were some fish caught illegally in what might be called the delta of the river.

To clarify the situation as to the limits of the stream and lake, Captain Whitesell checked with the judge, and they agreed that permanent posts put in at the mouth of the delta would be the best way of designating the boundary between the "No Fishing" zone and the open lake area. These were established on the 7th along with several new signs set up with iron posts along the borders of the stream and at the mouth of the stream. These will be checked frequently to make sure that they have not been removed again.

There is no doubt that some of the spawners taken came from the area that

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is supposed to be closed to fishing. As a matter of fact, Captain Whitesell himself forced the party shown in the "Bee" picture which you mentioned to leave the area on the 5th. They moved into the closed area after Captain Whitesell temporarily left the area. Whitesell saw them through glasses from some distance in the closed area, but by the time he got over there, everyone had moved into the open area and he was unable to prove that they had been in a closed zone.

He did, however, force all of the group to leave the area. At that time they had three fish. Where the balance of the 15 shown in the picture came from is unknown.

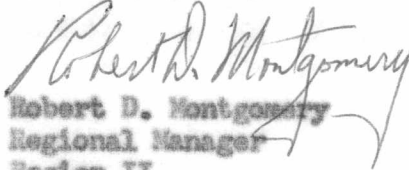
As far as the 300 foot limitation for creeks flowing into Lake Tahoe is concerned, this regulation was superseded in 1951 by our present Section 620 of the Code which permits fishing to the mouth of the stream. I have not been able to determine the background for this change, but I will investigate it further and if it seems advisable to reinstate this regulation after we get the channeling structure in the mouth of the river, we will make every effort to do so next year.

I might point out that the channeling at the mouth of the Upper Truckee and Taylor Creek will further assist us in delineating between closed and open zones as we will have a specific land mark to describe in our closures and can thereby protect spawning fish more adequately.

Please be assured that we are doing everything possible to protect our spawners and also to facilitate natural reproduction of our native trout wherever possible. All phases of our program must work concurrently and one without the other is relatively ineffective in maintaining and increasing populations.

I am sure that we can depend upon you for continued support in our fish and game program.

Sincerely yours,


Robert D. Montgomery
Regional Manager
Region II

BDM:vle

cc: Whitesell
Ed Johnson
Artie Brown
Fraser
El Dorado Co. Bd. of Superv.

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