

# Memorandum

To : Survey Files

Date : December 22, 1986

From : Department of Fish and Game

Subject: Taylor Creek, El Dorado County

On December 19, I met Don Breitingger, Steve Widowski and Andrea Holland of Tahoe Basin Management Unit, U.S. Forest Service at the Visitors Center on Taylor Creek. Also present was Bill Branch, Channel 13, ABC network affiliate, and a camera man.

We had a trap for salmon eggs and fry built by Richard Flint, shovels and associated gear. The net consists of a wooden hoop, flat on the bottom and half round above. The bag is of graduated woven mesh with a detachable cod end of 1/8 inch mesh. The net frame is about four-feet wide and the bag is about 12-feet long.

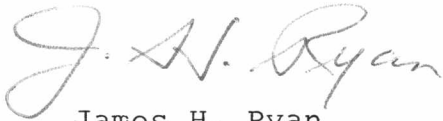
In practice two persons held each side of the net frame against the bottom and across the current. Two persons dug into the gravel bed and the current carried eggs into the bag. We dug up kokanee redds in three main areas of the stream. The purpose of the digging was to determine what fraction of the deposited eggs were dead.

The first area was about 100 yards downstream from the viewing chamber, the second was under the Highway 89 bridge and the third was about 200 yards below the Fallen Leaf Lake Dam. By digging in each area we sampled every depth where redds were observed. Flow was 13 cfs which was within one cfs of the flow during most of the kokanee spawning in October and November. We found live kokanee eggs in every location. Dead eggs made up less than three percent of the total eggs dug. It was concluded that the reduction in flow on November 25 from 12 cfs to 4 cfs for a period of 20 to 24 hours had not harmed the deposited eggs. The temperature on December 19 of 38-39°F was cold enough to preserve any dead eggs in the gravel if any had been present.

Many live eggs were well eyed. Developing larvae exhibited strong movement within egg shells. Along with the kokanee eggs were substantial numbers of much smaller eggs of a yellowish color. We speculated that these might be eggs of whitefish.

Also observed in contents of the cod end were several aquatic insect larvae and aquatic worms. Dead kokanee carcasses littered the bottoms of pools and quiet reaches of stream. A number of large live brown trout and at least one dead one were noted.

The flow was to be dropped to 7 cfs on 12/22 and would remain at that level through April. Review of the flow regime and operating criteria will be the subject of a meeting to be held at Region 2 headquarters in early February, 1987.



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JHR:ds

cc: R. Wickwire