

S. Taylor Creek

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
INTRAOFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: January 12, 1961

TO: Warner

FROM: Kelley

SUBJECT: Water Conditions in Taylor Creek During the Winter of 1960 - 1961

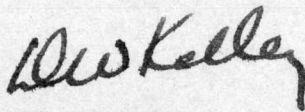
When we left the dam at Fallen Leaf Lake on November 7, I set the valve so that it would flow at slightly less than 8 c.f.s. This was calculated to reduce the lake level to the old dam spillway about January 1. I had expected that we would either blow this old dam up or cut a notch in the spillway so that additional water could be used to maintain the kokanee that we expected would spawn on the 8 c.f.s. flow in Taylor Creek. More than 1800 kokanee salmon spawned in Taylor Creek this fall, and it is very important that their eggs be constantly bathed with fresh flowing water.

On December 22, Almo Cordone told us that the water in Taylor Creek was getting quite low. We made arrangements with the U. S. Forest Service and the South Tahoe Rod and Gun Club to remove a portion of the old dam, but at the last moment objections were raised by the Fallen Leaf Lake Protection Association. They informed Ranger Mullen that if the dam was disturbed, they would take legal action. On the morning of December 24, I drove to Tahoe, conferred with Warden Jim Leamon, and called Walter Ruppel and Harold Pischel of the Protection Association. They offered no objection to our installing a siphon to temporarily relieve the present situation. Warden Leamon, Ranger Mullen and I then inspected Taylor Creek and found that most of the redds where kokanee had spawned were still covered with water. We calculated that we had approximately one week to either install a siphon or find some other way of increasing the flow of Taylor Creek. Neither I nor the U. S. Forest Service knows exactly what the rights of the Fallen Leaf Protection Association are, but my discussion led me to believe that we could probably work out a permanent solution to this problem without difficulty provided that we did not antagonize this group at this time.

The siphon was completed on December 31 by Mr. Murphey and installed on January 1 by Murphey, Potter, Mullen, two other USFS men, and I. We did not measure its flow, but would judge it to be running about 4 or 5 c.f.s. By the time we did get it installed, Taylor Creek had dropped to about 2 c.f.s., and when I inspected it on December 30, the water had dropped below the sites of some of the kokanee redds. I do not know how much damage was done but would be surprised if it were negligible. The siphon

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can only be considered as a temporary measure because it can so easily be put out of order. Ranger Mullen is going to organize a meeting of the Fallen Leaf Lake Protection Association, U. S. Forest Service, and ourselves so that we can agree to a permanent solution of this problem. Actually I do not believe that there is a real problem. It appears to me that Fallen Leaf Lake Protection Association has some fears about the future handling of lake levels and they are being ultra conservative about agreeing to any changes in the past operation of the dam. The Forest Service owns the dam. I think that our three agencies should sit down together with an attorney who understands California water law. We should determine what each of us wants and on a method of obtaining that. I think when this is done, the arguments will fade away. At any rate Mullen has the ball. I hope that he will call a meeting before anything happens to our siphon.



D. W. Kelley
Fisheries Biologist III

cc: Cordone
U. S. Forest Service
Meyers, California
Leamon