

*Upper Truckee R.
El Dorado County
El Dorado*

1215 16th Street
Sacramento, California
November 2, 1955

Mr. John Winkleman, Chairman
County Board of Supervisors
El Dorado County
PLACERVILLE, CALIFORNIA

Dear John:

You have probably heard by now that our erosion control program on the Upper Truckee River has suffered a serious setback. We planned to grade the banks, fence, and plant with native grasses on the 1/2 mile section along the river belonging to Mr. Walter Broder of Folsom, California. This was to be an experimental area, and if we were successful in controlling the erosion on it, we planned to do similar work downstream.

Eventually, we hope to grade, fence, and replant the entire section of stream that is eroded so badly now. It is our sincere belief that this is the most sensible approach to fish management on Lake Tahoe. We had almost reached an agreement with Mr. Broder when a gravel concern from Napa entered the picture offering to buy from him the gravel in the stream. They offered Mr. Broder a guaranteed minimum of \$500 a year, and would remove gravel at \$.50 a yard. Mr. Broder generously offered us a five year lease on the section, prohibiting such operations, for \$1500 in advance. Unfortunately, State law prohibits us from paying for anything in advance, and we were unable to meet Mr. Broder's terms. We investigated every angle, but there was apparently no solution to the problem.

You may rest assured that we will do our best to see that no Fish and Game Law is violated during the gravel removal operations. We have contacted the Water Pollution Control Board, and have asked them to set and maintain standards of purity on the stream, that would prevent a gravel washing operation from damaging fish, eggs, or spawning areas downstream. There is, however, no law that prohibits a man from selling his own gravel, even though that gravel is of great importance to the fish that spawn there.

We strongly believe that the rehabilitation of the Lake Tahoe spawning tributaries is the most important fisheries management work that can be done for the lake. With your help we completed the Taylor Creek outfall structure, that is doing a good job of keeping Taylor Creek open. Our next step is to put the Upper Truckee River back into production as a spawning stream. Its a large stream and could produce a good many trout for the lake.

November 2, 1955

The problem of keeping the gravel in the stream for spawning purposes is an obstacle that we have no ready solution for under present laws. We know that you have been concerned about this, and if you have any suggestions to offer, we would greatly appreciate your letting us know. We would be glad to meet with you, or anyone else interested in this problem, to discuss it at any time.

Very truly yours,

J. C. Fraser
Fisheries Management Supervisor
Region II

DWK/bw

cc: South Tahoe Rod and Gun Club