

Soil Plan Approval Requested

A costly act of mischief by an unknown person which resulted in the death of many fish in the Upper Truckee River last Friday afternoon, may have been the mask of a blessing in disguise.

The unauthorized person removed a portion of the barricade below Echo Lake and allowed approximately 10 second feet of treated water from the lake to flow through the river clear to Lake Tahoe, according to Don Kelley, associate fisheries biologist for the California Department of Fish and Game, and Jim Leamon, Lake Valley fish and game warden.

Before the missing barricade was discovered and put back into place on Saturday afternoon, the damage had been done. No estimate on the number of fish lost was given.

It was stressed, however, that there would be no loss in Lake Tahoe since the hugeness of the water expanse and a long distance of shallow depths would soon dilute what treated water reached the lake.

Kelley and Leamon also explained that both Echo Lake and the Upper Truckee River will be completely restocked before next season opens.

The state biologist said Echo Lake was chosen last October for a treatment of Rotemone to clean out the rough fish in the lake, such as suckers, etc. The lake is planned for restocking of trout and Kokane salmon, he said.

Work also has been progressing towards correcting a long standing soil erosion problem in the Truckee River and other Lake Valley areas.

Kelley expressed the hope that an allocation will be forthcoming so that this correction can be made.

The soil erosion problem has beset the area for many years and previous efforts to obtain funds to start the work were not forthcoming. Kelley cited this type of project would not only beautify the area and be a great boon to fishing, but would stop many private and public lands from being damaged by the erosion.