

Vandals Cause Upper Truckee Fish Poisoning

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ECHO LAKE, El Dorado Co. — The unauthorized removal of a flash board from a power company dam at Echo Lake has resulted in the poisoning of all fish in the Upper Truckee River from the foot of Meyers Grade to Lake Tahoe.

Game Warden James Leamon said the flash board apparently was removed last Friday by an unknown person, thus releasing water from the lake which had been poisoned last October to destroy rough fish.

Leamon said the poison used was rotenone and it ordinarily becomes inactive after it has been in the water for about 60 days. He said the fact the lake froze over soon after it was poisoned may have had something to do with the fact the poison still was potent.

The state department of fish and game plans to plant rainbow trout and kokanee salmon in upper and lower Echo Lake next spring. Leamon said the part of the Upper Truckee River affected by the poison also will be restocked.

A spokesman for the fish and game department said last September maintenance of stream flow in Echo Creek made possible by the new dam at Ralston Lake will improve spawning conditions to the point where the kokanee will reproduce and very nearly maintain themselves without further planting.