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Upper Truckee River Erosion Control Project

Since our last discussion about the Upper Truckee River Erosion Control Project, we have talked with a number of people, and I have had time to organize my thoughts. I believe that final success on this project will require four things:

1. Permission from the landowners.
2. Money to do the work.
3. Guarantee that the work will not be destroyed.
4. Some arrangement for maintenance after the work is completed.

#### Permission From The Landowners

There are approximately 45 landowners along the stream from Alpine Campground down to Lake Tahoe. There are four large landowners on the stream between the Pie Shop and the Alpine Campground. Two of these are agreeable. One wishes to continue gravel removal, and one has not yet been contacted.

#### Money To Do The Work

Our estimate of the cost is \$57,000.00. Our plans are to request the Wildlife Conservation Board for funds. At our meeting with Calhoun and Nesbit last month, it was agreed that we should not obtain matching funds from the landowners.

#### Guarantee That Work Will Not Be Destroyed

This is the most difficult problem. Many of the landowners have plans for development of the land that will affect the river itself. Wilson wants to lower the channel on part of his land by two feet. Broder wants to remove gravel. Hall plans to dredge to remove sediment and perhaps to cut across some of the numerous ox bows. Those who control the Barton property, want to put the stream back in the old channel. Other owners have other plans. All of these plans affect other parts of the river and will affect the success of each landowner's program as well as our own program.

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I believe that if we are to be successful, there must be some authority, with clearly defined rules, about what can and what cannot be done to the river. I believe that we need a general coordinated plan that will enable the landowners and ourselves to achieve our separate goals without conflict. This is obviously a job for a competent and experienced engineer. Such a plan could be adopted by the County and future work on the river could be made to conform to that plan. I am going to discuss this problem with the Tahoe Area Council on St. Patrick's Day.

#### Arrangement For Maintenance

I now believe that we cannot leave maintenance up to any district or the landowners. For many years to come, the landowner's picture on the Upper Truckee River will be unstable. Some people will be buying land to live on, but many will be purchasing it for speculation. The absentee landowner will be the rule, and to depend upon the landowner for maintenance is unrealistic. I believe the Department of Fish and Game should take an easement to maintain the stream banks. If the work is properly done and guarantees are affected to prevent its destruction, maintenance costs will be very slight.

#### Future Work

I have asked Curly to find out as much as possible about the plans of each landowner. When this is done, we want to discuss the problem with a competent engineer and get an estimate of a general coordinated plan.

D. W. Kelley  
Fisheries Biologist III

DWK/rs

cc: Calhoun  
Nesbit