

3/27/84

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Ryan —

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3/23/84

Fish kill planned to return natives

By KURT DAVIS
Staff writer

MEYERS — A fish kill that could affect fishing for as much as five years is being planned for the headwaters of the Upper Truckee River to make way for the reintroduction of the threatened La Hontan trout species.

The La Hontan "Cutthroat" trout was native to the Tahoe region, but was displaced when Eastern Brook and Rainbow trout were introduced in the early part of the century. The "brookies" were native to the areas east of the Rockies, and the rainbow was introduced from the McCloud River basin near Mt. Shasta, according to Jim Ryan, fishery biologist for the state Fish and Game Department.

The fish are called "cutthroats" because of the reddish marks they have under their lower jaws.

Ryan said the Fish and Game Department had a federal mandate requiring that the La Hontan Trout be reintroduced to as much of its historical range as possible. But there are very few areas that are really suitable for the program, he pointed out.

Ryan said the kill, which is planned for late September or October, will affect the upper five miles of the Truckee headwaters. All the fish living in Meiss Lake, Four Lakes and an unnamed "frog pond" will be exterminated as well as those in the river above a waterfall that will provide a natural barrier to preserve the isolation of the reintroduced species.

An organic insecticide called Rotenone will be used to kill the fish, Ryan said. The poison is made from the roots of a South American plant and has essentially no effect on mammals, birds, snakes and frogs, he said. The poison is used routinely to eradicate "non-game" fish. Ryan pointed out.

And the cards and
leathers are starting
to dribble in.

ing. "Name any coin and I'll tell you about the history of it," he says. According to Tyson, a coin can be beautiful and of a high mintage and be worth only \$1, or a coin can be very worn and of low mintage and be very valuable. "It depends on the vintage," he says. If the coin is older it also has antiquity value, explains Tyson. Tyson is looking for low mintage coins. He says he will save them for 10 to 20 years and sell them for good value. He is also interested in helping others get started with a coin collection. He can be reached at 677-5113 to answer questions. Tyson attends Marina Village School in El Dorado Hills and is interested in starting a coin club there. He has several friends who share his interest and have volunteered themselves to help organize a group. When it comes to Tyson's coin collection and his business he does everything on his own. His parents provide the transportation, but from then on it's up to him. I have this \$10 gold piece. I wonder how much it's worth?