St ia

The Resources Agency

Memorandum

To : Files

Date : June 14, 1989

From : **Department of Fish and Game**

Subject : Upper Truckee River, El Dorado County

In 1988, the first of two scheduled rotenone applications was carried out in the headwaters of the Upper Truckee River. This was mandated by the recovery plan for Lahontan cutthroat trout.

The Upper Truckee River brook trout population was salvaged prior to the chemical treatment.

During mid-August, five days of electroshocking were utilized to electrofish the project area and capture brook trout (five inches and larger) with a four-person crew to capture and transport approximately 2,200 brook trout to adjacent lakes.

Most of the project area was shocked to help insure that the larger trout were salvaged. Because of limited holding facilities and adjacent recipient waters, only the larger fish were kept.

The fish were held in a 4x4x8' live car in Meiss Lake. The 128 cubic foot container held most of the fish but approximately 400 other fish were horse packed into Showers Lake to relieve the overcrowding.

The remaining 1,800 fish were planted by helicopter in Dardanelles Lake. This took four air trips utilizing a fire control bucket to transport the fish. The bucket was opened from within the helicopter and the planting went smoothly.

Approximately 2,200 brook trout were removed from the Upper Truckee River, which was later determined to be about 44% of the trout in the stream (Gerstung, 1/18/89 draft letter). The remaining fish, less the larger fish which were transported out of the area, included 61% in the range 2.9 to 3.9 inches, 25% in the range 4.0 to 5.9 and 14% at six inches or larger.

Following the chemical treatment, all observed fish were removed from the system. Numerous bags of trout were packed out of the area and deposited outside of the Upper Truckee basin.

The chemical treatment will be conducted again in 1989 to ensure a complete eradication of the fisheries in the cutthroat restoration project area prior to re-introduction of the cutthroats.

J. A. Ryan
for Russell Wickwire
Fishery Biologist

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