

**Memorandum**

To : Wildlife Management Branch

Date: April 3, 1981

Attention: E. Hunt

From : **Department of Fish and Game** - Region 2

Subject: Nongame Advisory Committee

Because the following two projects may be of concern to the subject committee I am providing you with supporting material. In addition, if you feel it necessary, we can have a representative present to provide greater detail.

Planting of Smallmouth Bass in Union Valley Reservoir, El Dorado County

The attached letter explains the program. I would point out the reservoir is an unnatural environment now fully occupied with nonnative fish, i.e. green sunfish, golden shiner, kokanee and brown trout. The species to be introduced, the smallmouth bass, is in downstream waters.

Chemical Treatment of the North Fork Feather River

The attached document explains the project. The river along Highway 70, below the proposed project area, was treated in 1977 with great success in that the production of native trout was greatly increased. The target species, the Sacramento sucker, is present in great abundance above and below the project area as are the several other nongame species.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY  
RICHARD D. BELAND



Paul T. Jensen  
Regional Manager

Enclosures (2)

bc: Ryan  
R. Flint  
J. Richard

RDB:ss

# Memorandum

To : Chief of Operations

Date: January 19, 1981

From : Department of Fish and Game - Region 2

Subject: Union Valley Reservoir, El Dorado County

Subject reservoir covers 2,860 surface acres and contains 271,000 acre feet when full. It lies at 4,883 feet elevation. Its primary purpose is hydroelectric power production by SMUD. It has never spilled. The dam was completed in 1963. The reservoir was managed with fingerlings for five years after completion, then with catchables and fingerlings for seven or eight years. No fingerlings have been stocked since 1976. The planting record (attached) shows occasional plants of kokanee and brown trout. Lake trout were planted in 1979. Management in 1980 and in 1981 will be principally with rainbow catchables.

Union Valley had 191,600 user days in 1980 according to the Eldorado National Forest. A major portion of this use was for angling. The Eldorado National Forest maintains four campgrounds at the reservoir during the summer. All are fully used. Two others at nearby Icehouse Reservoir are also heavily used (although closed in 1980 for repairs).

Our planting program costs the Department about \$16,000 annually to plant 45,000 catchables. It is doubtful that this program could be expanded in view of production ceilings and needs at other waters. However, the quality of fishing hovers around 0.30 trout per hour. We would like to provide higher catch rates at no additional cost to the Department. The use of smallmouth bass for this purpose is an alternative option. Union Valley contains abundant forage; golden shiners, suckers, green sunfish, and crayfish (Ecological Analyst's report attached).

Jenkinson Lake, some 12 miles from Union Valley, has a catchable trout fishery and also a high quality fishery for smallmouth bass. There are differences between the two lakes, but the smallmouth fishery is self-supporting and offers desirable diversity for fishermen. One expert angler caught and released more than 300 smallmouth over one pound each in 1980. About 100 of these were over two pounds and 10 or 12 were over three pounds. There is no apparent conflict at Jenkinson between either the bass and trout or the fishermen

January 19, 1981

Water released from Union Valley passes through Union Valley and Jay Bird powerhouses before joining the South Fork American River about two miles upstream from Slab Creek Reservoir. Slab Creek Reservoir contains smallmouth at present, so any additional smallmouth from Union Valley would not impact established trout fisheries if they survived the journey through the turbines.

We request approval to introduce smallmouth in Union Valley in 1981. Appropriate sizes and numbers would be worked out with Inland Fisheries Branch. We have informal approval from the Eldorado National Forest for this proposal.

*A. Boland*

*for* John B. McKusick  
Acting Regional Manager

APPROVED:

*E. T. Hoff*

Acting Chief of Operations

MAR 23 1981

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attachments (2)

cc: IFB - Fisk