

Jim Richard

(916) 355-7020

November 7, 1984

Mr. Gary D. Luis  
6252 Red Robin Lane  
Placerville, California 95667

Dear Mr. Luis:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding your fishing experience at Icehouse Reservoir, Union Valley Reservoir, and Loon Lake. Our planting allotments have remained about the same over the last three years. The number of catchable fish planted in the three lakes has been as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Icehouse</u>	<u>Union Valley</u>	<u>Loon</u>
1982	34,120 rainbow	25,365 rainbow 5,400 brown	30,590 rainbow
1983	24,400 rainbow 5,100 brown	22,660 rainbow 9,900 brown	26,440 rainbow
1984	30,110 rainbow 4,080 brook 1,040 brown	24,960 rainbow 4,000 brown	25,900 rainbow

In 1980, a study was conducted on Union Valley to measure the harvest rate of planted trout. We found that over 50% of the fish stocked were caught in the year planted and the number surviving to the following year was small. If this is still the case, closing the lake as you suggest would have little effect on increasing the future number of trout available.

Each water has its own capacity for producing food items that sustain trout. Competition from nongame fish such as suckers and chubs can reduce a water's ability to grow trout, and as nongame fish population increase, game fish populations generally decrease.

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This is occurring in Union Valley and Loon. Nongame fish are increasing. To counter this, we have planted smallmouth bass and lake trout in Union Valley. These predatory fish may curtail the increase in sucker numbers and at the same time provide a sport fishery.

This change will take a few years to accomplish, during which we will continue to plant catchable-sized trout.

We appreciate the constructive tone of your letter. Our proposed solution, while not immediate, was proven to be successful in other waters. If it works in Union Valley, we will consider it elsewhere in the El Dorado County area.

If you have problems with any of this, please write us.

Sincerely,

Paul T. Jensen  
Regional Manager

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