



*Upper Truckee R*  
SETH GORDON  
*El Dorado Co*  
DIRECTOR

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## Department of Fish and Game

722 Capitol Avenue  
Sacramento 14, California

August 1, 1956

Mr. Cyril H. Heusner, Chairman  
County Board of Supervisors  
El Dorado County  
County Court House  
Placerville, California

Dear Mr. Heusner:

As you requested in your letter to us dated May 23, 1956, we have investigated the feasibility of constructing a deep water channel from Lake Tahoe to Highway 50, via the Upper Truckee River.

It is the opinion of our field men that usually the fish can migrate upstream above Highway 50 with no difficulty. At times, during low flows in the Upper Truckee River, the mouth is closed for brief periods with a sand bar. We have never seen this barrier impede a fish migration for any serious length of time.

Fish runs are often held up by a large beaver dam above the lowest Highway 50 crossing. For the past few years we have blasted this dam or cut holes in it with hand tools to allow the fish to go upstream. We have also had our State trapper attempt to remove the beavers from this area. All these measures have been temporary and although they do offer some relief, they are not satisfactory solutions. We are seriously considering opening the beaver trapping season this year, with the hope that enough local trappers will be interested so that the beaver population in the valley will be considerably reduced.

As you may know, we have been greatly concerned about the erosion on the Upper Truckee River. Most of the bottom spawning gravel from the Pie Shop downstream has been covered with decomposed granite that comes from the eroding banks. Each year more of the spawning gravel upstream becomes covered. During the floods of the past winter a great deal of spawning area was lost because of this erosion. Fish do lay their eggs in this decomposed granite, but our investigations have shown that a large percentage of the eggs

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