

July 2, 1963

TO: Files

FROM: Larry Nygren, Wildlife Biologist

SUBJ: Field trip of July 1, 1963, to proposed Texas Hill damsite,
El Dorado County, California.

General: Personnel included Eric Gerstung, water projects, California Department of Fish and Game; George Barker, seasonal aid, California Department of Fish and Game; Larry Nygren, wildlife biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and Jerry Stroebel, seasonal aid, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Transportation was provided by California Department of Fish and Game. Time of departure (9:15 a.m.) and returned (6:00 p.m.).

Table 1. Estimated stream flows and ^{water} temperatures, July 1, 1963

System	Location	Flow, sec.ft.	Temp.	Time PDT
Weber Creek	State Hwy 49 bridge ^{above diversion dam}	4.0	58F	1025
Weber Creek	Reservoir east-end	5.0	60F	1145
Weber Creek	Confluence Cold Sp. Cr.	5.0	71F	1455
Weber Creek	Road above damsite	4.0	65F	1600
Ringold Creek	Coon Hollow Rd. bridge	0.2	62F	1130
Cold Sp. Creek	Confluence of Weber Cr.	1.6	-	1445
Hangtown Creek	Below Disposal Plant	4.0	-	1400

Estimated streamflows on March 4, 1963, were 15 second-feet for Weber Creek and 1 second-foot for Ringold Creek.

A concrete dam (ht. 6 ft.) is constructed across Weber Creek approximately 75 yards upstream from state highway 49 bridge. An unscreened, concrete canal (2 ft ht. x 3 ft.) carried approximately 3 second-feet downstream and parallel to the right bank. The canal diverted approximately three-fourths of the streamflow at the dam.

Untreated sewage was being dumped into Hangtown Creek at the new City of Placerville Disposal Plant. The plant superintendent explained that a leak had developed in one of the filter tanks and repairs were being made. The sewage was entering from a 18-inch drain pipe from the plant grounds. A flow meter on the inlet system indicated 0.6 million gallons (or 0.93 c.f.s.) entered the plant daily. Temperature of the dumped sewage was 71F. Caddis larvae, suckers, squawfish, and roach were abundant in the

stream below the plant. One dying bluegill was observed. Dissolved oxygen measurements should be conducted in this area to determine suitability for game fish.

No wildlife survey was conducted in the reservoir site. Tracks of deer and raccoon were observed along Weber Creek. Valley quail were heard at most stops. Approximately ten rainbow trout were observed in Weber Creek in the reservoir site.

Public roads provide access to most sections of Weber Creek below the proposed damsite. However, much of the streambank is posted to no trespass and/or no fishing. The fisherman pressure on Weber Creek is unknown.

Comments:

- (1) At least 10 second-feet may be required (in summer) to maintain a fishery in Weber Creek.
- (2) Texas Hill Reservoir and adjoining south fork Weber Creek may have potential for a trout fishery. An extensive poisoning program would have to be conducted to remove existing rough-fish. Additional studies would have to be conducted to determine the feasibility of such a fishery.

Larry Nygren
Wildlife Biologist

Here are additional notes from my telephone call to BR -

- (1) BR has gauges on S.F. Weber Cr. and on "Farmer Free Ditch" (from diversion dam on Weber Cr., gauge just below State Hwy. 49 bridge between Placerville & Diamond Springs).
- (2) BR measured 3.19 second-feet on "Farmer Free Ditch" on May 15, 1963
- (3) Our measurement on "FFD" (gauge ht. of 1.4 ft.) recorded 3.17 second-feet for July 1, 1963.

Larry