

5967 Williams Lane  
Loomis, California 95650  
Phone - 652-7954  
January 3, 1974

Wrights Lake Fish Fund Members

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

As the new year begins, I would like to bring you up to date on the progress made toward obtaining improved fishing at Wrights Lake. As of now, we have \$735.26 (excluding interest) in the bank in a Wrights Lake Fish Fund. We had two expenses, one of \$14.88 for building two holding pens for fingerlings, and one of \$16.00 for having the fingerlings' fins clipped. These expenses were paid from the fund prior to establishing the bank account.

Our negotiations with a private hatchery for purchase of fingerlings broke down late this fall after the owner raised his price and had problems with being able to deliver to Wrights Lake.

The Fish and Game supplied 2,500 German Brown fingerlings late in the fall as part of an experiment to test survival through the winter. We paid to have the fins clipped by a professional after we learned that the skill and care required was probably beyond our reach. The fingerlings were planted in late September in front of Kisler Wagys place and they moved rapidly toward the weeded areas.

A group of us located about ten deep spots in the upper and lower lake and identified the spots by compass and measurement on a map for use by the Fish and Game. In February or March they will study water and oxygen availability of Wrights Lake under winter snow and ice conditions.

Next year and also in 1975, the Wrights Lake group will be asked to conduct a rather thorough fish creel count on a specified number of days. The major purposes of this study will be to identify natural and planted fingerling trout (especially those Browns with the clipped fins) that have survived the winter snows, and also to provide a count that will enable the Fish and Game to make an estimate of fingerling survival rate.

If the winter oxygen and water study, plus our summer creel count study, obtain acceptable results, the Fish and Game (Mr. Jim Ryan) have agreed to take over a program of planting appropriate numbers of fingerlings on an annual basis.

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Since this study will require the summer of 1974 and 1975, it appears that we should attempt to use our Wrights Lake Fish Fund to purchase fingerlings for planting during the 1974 year. I will work through the Fish and Game to explore new sources of obtaining fingerlings and make preliminary contacts with those sources.

All in all, it has been an exciting year (for dreams of better fishing!) and I feel we have made progress. The Fish and Game personnel have been great and want basically the same thing we want - the best fishing possible. They of course have the whole state to consider, while we are more concerned with the Wrights Lake area.

If you have any suggestions or comments, please write or call. Incidentally, when talking to the Fish and Game personnel, I try to include Dark Lake in the discussion and hope that once we have the Wrights Lake study plans under way we can develop a plan for Dark Lake.

Have a happy and successful new year and I hope to hear from you or see you at the Lake this summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Phil".

Phil Oakes

cc: Fish and Game-Jim Ryan