

D. Ward

June 14, 1972

Draining of East Park Reservoir

Please have Gus go to subject soon and size up all the possibilities of salvaging major game fish. This is an important bass lake and it must be taken seriously. I realize the basic futility of attempting salvage in most lakes. East Park's major problem is the deep layer of silt over the entire bottom. In some places it may be over 10 feet thick. The lake will be completely dry by the end of July. Obviously, any salvage work - seining, trapping or whatever will have to be started while men can still launch boats and get close enough to load fish in a truck. Please ask Gus to study the stream below the dam, too. The stream will dry up and trap a lot of the fish that are now leaving the lake. If a successful salvage program can be carried out in the stream, we may escape public criticism.

Orland Unit Water Users has a right to take all the water in the lake for irrigation. They also have a periodic need to service the outlet gates on the dam. Since this is a dry year they thought this was an opportune time to service the gates. Service will probably not be necessary again for at least 10 years, possibly 20. Outflow at present is about 250 cfs or 500 acre-foot daily.

A rotenone program probably will not be necessary because the lake will be dry until fall rains fill it sometime between September and January. For at least two months the basin will be baked by the sun. There will be no measurable inflow from tributaries during this time.

Gus should discuss problem with the head of Orland Irrigation District. Would the irrigation district be willing to hold reservoir at a given level for a longer period to facilitate salvage? Also check with Bill Thornton as to help available from Fouts Sp. Boys Camp and with Max O'Neal as to cost of his participation.

Have Gus in at 0800 June 21 to review his plan.

Richard D. Beland
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cc: G. Ceibel
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