

August 7, 1957

George H. Warner

Don W. Kelley

PROPOSED RECREATIONAL AREA, LETTS CREEK, COLUSA COUNTY

On July 1, 1957, I made a trip with Bob Montgomery, Bob Dasmann, Supervisor of the Mendocino National Forest, Assemblyman Lloyd Lowry, and the District Forest Ranger in the Letts Creek area, to look over the site of a planned recreational development.

The Forest Service has plans for constructing a lake of about twenty acres over what is now a wet meadow on Upper Letts Creek. Their engineer has surveyed the meadow and has drawn plans which they promised to submit to us. The creek was flowing at about 1 cfs. The water temperature as the creek entered the meadow was 51°F and as it left the meadow was 63°F. The Forest Service also has records of the water flow and plan to release adequate flows to keep the stream alive down below. The main purpose of the lake is, however, not stream flow maintenance but lake recreation.

Below Upper Letts Valley and to the northeast there is a lily pond of about 6 to 10 acres in size. The pond is covered with star duckweed and yellow water lilies. The depth of this pond is not more than 4 or 5 feet. I took dissolved oxygen samples at about 1:00 P.M. and most of them were too low to support trout. I did get a DO of 7.2 in one place but over most of the pond the DO is about 3 ppm. I expect that the abundant weed growth uses up all of the oxygen during the night. Dissolved oxygen concentrations may increase toward the late afternoon. I explained this to Bob Dasman and to the others of the group and Dasmann is going to attempt some weed control on the pond. I rather doubt that this pond is deep enough to support fish life without severe or possibly total winter kills. My own experience has, however, been that the only way to find out is to plant some fish and see if they are killed. It is my recommendation that we allot about 500 eastern brook fingerlings to be put in the lily pond after the Forest Service controls the weed growth and as soon as we have them available.

DWK

Don W. Kelley
Fisheries Biologist III
Region II

DWK/bw