

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
MENDOCINO NATIONAL FOREST
WILLOWS, CALIFORNIA

IN REPLY REFER TO

2710

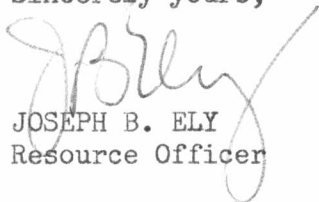
September 8, 1964

Mr. Robert Montgomery, Regional Manager
Calif. Dept. of Fish & Game
1001 Jed Smith Drive
Sacramento, California

Dear Bob:

Attached is a copy of Ranger Torvinen's report on conditions at Upper Letts Lake. With regard to his third item, it seems to me, from my own observation this summer, that the bog is increasing.

Sincerely yours,


JOSEPH B. ELY
Resource Officer

Attachment



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

2710

TO : R. R. MILLAR - Forest Supervisor

DATE: Sept. 2, 1964

FROM : J. W. TORVINEN - District Ranger

SUBJECT: Special Use - Upper Letts (State of California) 3/14/58

On Sept. 1, 1964 I inspected the above Special Use. The following conditions were noted:

1. Water level was about 5 feet below the high water mark and 4.5 feet below spillway level.

This is the lowest water level since the area was flooded in Jan. 1959.

2. The dam gate control head screw has been stripped and should be repaired. This was during the last inspection by the Dept. of Fish & Game and Board of Water Resources personnel.

impractical
Jm

3. Vegetative growth is excessive, Islands, Aquatic weeds, Cat Tails, etc. Some type of vegetation control should be attempted before all that is left is a swamp.

agreed with Range G-5h

4. Fishermen report an excessive number of Carp and Golden Shiners now in the lake. This is the results of the lake being open for several years for live bait fishing.

5. Other than #2 above, the structure is in good shape.

John W. Torvinen

Joe Ely
I presume notifying the inttee should be handled by you i.e. Fish & Game items Andy.

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Region II
1001 Jedsmith Drive
Sacramento, California 95819

*Upper Letts
Lake
Colusa County*

October 14, 1964

Subject: Special Use - Upper
Letts (State of Cali-
fornia) 3/14/58

County Board of Supervisors
Colusa County
Hall of Records Building
546 Jay Street
Colusa, California

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of a letter of September 8, 1964, from Joseph B. Ely, Resource Officer, Mendocino National Forest, in which he included an inspection report involving Upper Letts Lake. I am writing to you in regard to this inspection report with the hope that suitable action will be taken to correct the situation at Upper Letts Lake.

Item 2 of the report indicates that the dam gate control head screw has been stripped and should be repaired or replaced. We have had considerable trouble with vandalism throughout the Sierras with the lake level maintenance dams with control structures being damaged and water released in excessive amounts. It would be well if this structure could be replaced before winter so that we can take full advantage of spring run-off to store water in the reservoir. This would come under provision of the County's maintenance agreement with the Wildlife Conservation Board to maintain the reservoir.

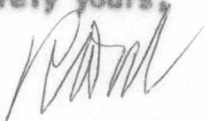
The report also indicates excessive vegetative growth around the reservoir and an increase in floating bog islands in the reservoir. If County fine funds are available, I would like to explore with you further the possibility of use of chemicals to reduce aquatic weeds and possibly to reduce the floating islands as well. It may also be possible to break up these islands with the use of dynamite so that the vegetative materials would sink to the bottom and not create a hazard. Such action would require approval by the Fish and Game Commission and we should work closely ~~to~~ together in developing a program in this regard.

County Board of Supervisors
Page 2
October 14, 1964

Finally, the report indicates a large number of "carp" and golden shiners now in the lake. Actually, the carp, according to our fishery biologists who have inspected the area, are not carp, but rather large golden shiners. The presence of these fish in the lake results from the lake being open to live bait fishing for several years. Corrective action in this regard could be taken by chemical treatment of the lake to destroy all fish in the lake and then restocking. But this should not be done until such time as the regulations can be changed to prohibit use of live bait in the lake.

We would like to explore the desirability of such action with the local sportsman's groups before this is recommended to the Fish and Game Commission. I would be pleased to meet with you at your convenience to discuss these matters further and develop a plan of corrective action.

Sincerely yours,



Robert D. Montgomery
Regional Manager
Region II

RDM:lh

cc: A. E. Rhodes, Jr., Director of Public Works
Joseph B. Ely, Resource Officer, Mendocino National Forest
R. R. Millar, Forest Supervisor, Mendocino National Forest
John W. Torvinen, District Ranger, Stonyford
Wildlife Conservation Board