

June 29, 1964

From: Frederick A. Meyer

Subject: Upper Letts Valley Lake

On June 18, we checked Upper Letts Lake. Weed growth, mostly Potamogeton natans, was normal compared to the last three years. Water temperature ranged from 58° F. on the bottom to 64° F surface; air temperature was 68°F at 1230. It looks like a good year for this marginal trout water.

Seining proved the abundant minnow population to be golden shiners. This minnow is abundant enough to constitute a rough fish problem by competing with the trout. It is therefore proposed to treat this lake in the middle of September (after the major part of the angling season is over). The lake has an area of 33.2 acres and a volume of 319 acre-feet. Using 0.025 ppm active rotenone, we will need 53 gallons of 5% emulsion costing approximately \$180. A special effort to locate and treat the springs in the lake will be necessary but eradication of the golden shiners should be a well worthwhile project.

Six anglers checked had 17 rainbow trout. Over half were about 6" long arising no doubt from our March 2 plant of 14,000 RTF at 3.5/oz. The rest seemed to be catchables. Anglers reported catching eastern brook trout but none were seen. I saw, on a walk around the shore of the lake, the following:

Six-inch RT are abundant near shore with a few 8-12" RT seen.

Some 2" trout were seen which looked like rainbows but I couldn't be sure.

About 300 GSH were spawning on the gravel on the south side of the "beach" in one big school, eggs were collected, two rainbows about 1 lb. each were moving near this school but didn't catch any while I watched.

Forestry has filled in the gully below the old spillway and are trying to get grass to grow on the fill.

The anglers are now removing the spring planted fingerlings at a rather small size. I think the productivity of this lake could be more fully utilized if the fingerlings were planted in the fall near the end of the trout season. This would give them a full winter to utilize the lake's food and would insure their being catchable size by the opening of trout season. At present, they are slightly below catchable size and may not be fully vulnerable to the fishery. A low water, high water temperature year could cause a heavy loss of trout in mid-summer so it is most desirable to have as many trout caught out by mid-summer as possible. Manipulating the size and time of our trout fingerling plants will achieve this goal.

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cc: Pollitt, Meyer, Beland