

File WCB Proj.
Letts Valley Dam.

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USES-State of California
Letts Valley Dam (Proposed)

October 14, 1957

Wildlife Conservation Board
State of California
722 Capitol Avenue
Sacramento 14, California

Attention: Mr. Everett Horn

Gentlemen:

As you recall, in 1954 you allocated \$25,000 for the construction of the Plaskett Meadow dams in Glenn County in the Mendocino National Forest. These dams resulted due to the untiring efforts of the Willows Sportsmen Association, their spokesman, Mr. Tom Maloney, and others. The Dams were contracted and constructed in 1956 by the County of Glenn. They are being operated under the jurisdiction of the Department of Fish and Game under a special use permit from the Mendocino National Forest. The lakes were filled in the spring of 1957 and fingerlings were planted in June. Already there has been considerable use of these lakes by youngsters and this use will increase next year as the fish become larger.

When this project was presented it was pointed out that there is a lack of good fishing waters on the west side of the Sacramento Valley in the Colusa, Glenn and Tehama County mountains area. It was also mentioned that several other good dam sites were available and would be presented to the Wildlife Conservation Board for consideration as possible projects. Work has progressed to the point where the Willows Sportsmen Association as well as interested groups in Colusa County are now asking you to consider the proposed Letts Valley Dam as a Wildlife Conservation Board Project.

Mr. Horn has requested me to present a brief run down of pertinent statistics on this project.

Recd. Reg. H
10/16/57

As shown on the attached index map the proposed lake lies 14 miles west of Stonyford on the newly constructed timber access road which, when completed, will become part of a through road from Stonyford to Ukiah via Lake Pillsbury. Fout Springs lies seven miles northeast and Cedar Camp five miles south from Letts Valley.

The proposed reservoir site is spring fed wet mountain meadow surrounded by timbered slopes. All the land involved is government owned, part of the Mendocino National Forest. Timbered areas were logged this summer by the Diamond Match Company under Forest Service timber sale contract. Areas below a contour line four feet above the high water line have been cleared of all merchantable timber. In adjacent timbered areas only a light selected cut was made in which trees dangerous for recreationists, were removed.

The Mendocino National Forest plans to construct and maintain roads, campgrounds, picnic areas and parking facilities suitable to meet the requirements of people using the lake. All of the area in the immediate vicinity of the lake will be reserved for public use only. Summer homes, resorts or other similar facilities will be located away from this watershed area.

The Mendocino National Forest applied for water rights for this project on October 8. Protests are not expected.

The proposed lake will be 33.2 acres in size with a capacity of 319 acre feet. Because evaporation losses are expected to be less than current transpiration losses, construction of the dam will result in a greater outflow into Letts Creek which will make that a bigger and better trout fishing stream.

This project is proposed on the basis that it will be handled much as was the Plaskett Meadow dams. Namely: Financing would be by Wildlife Conservation Board funds. Water rights will be secured and held by the U. S. Forest Service. The dam and lake area would be under Forest Service special use permit to the California Department of Fish and Game and would be operated and maintained by them for fish culture, fishing and related recreational use. Local sportsmen groups will cooperate with the Department on the latter. The Mendocino National Forest will construct and maintain facilities for the public as previously outlined.

Preliminary engineering was done by the Forest Service. Detailed engineering has been done by Department of Fish and Game personnel.

The preliminary estimate of total cost is \$19,000. This covers cost of construction of the dam, spillway and clearing of brush and small trees

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and stump removal in the reservoir site.

A more accurate estimate and further detailed data can be secured from the Department of Fish and Game.

Very truly yours,



ROBERT E. DASMANN
Forest Supervisor

Attachment

RED:vi

cc: D-2
cc: Bob Montgomery
cc: RO
cc: Tom Maloney
cc: Willows Sportsmen Assoc.
cc: RED